

The Revival Core

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2 Chronicles 7:13–14 (NKJV) “When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

America is a troubled nation. America is sick with sin, blinded by pride, deaf to the truth, and in need of a cure. God has the prescription for what ails America. That prescription is revival in the church.

Revival is the need of a generation of Christians suffering from spiritual amnesia. Amnesia is a condition of memory loss. People with severe amnesia can forget who they are. I believe this generation of Christians have forgotten who they are in Christ. They have forgotten the Jesus they once loved and followed. They have forgotten that they are redeemed from sin and rescued from the coming wrath. They have forgotten that they are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. They have forgotten that they are set apart by God for Himself and His purpose. They have forgotten that they are pilgrims on this earth and that this world is not their home. They have forgotten who their enemy is. They have forgotten that they are descendants of a long lineage of heroes of the faith found in the Bible and in church history. They have forgotten that the torch has been passed off to them in their generation and now is their time to run the race. They have forgotten that souls are in the balance. They have forgotten that Christ is coming again. They have forgotten that time is running out. They have forgotten their destiny in God. Jeremiah lamented about the tragic destruction of Judah and Jerusalem, “*She did not consider her destiny; therefore her collapse was awesome.*”¹

Have you failed to consider your destiny in Christ? Mario Murillo once said, “You are a child of God. That means that to do anything below what you were created to do will bore you. Your supernatural origin and the legacy of triumph that makes up the Christian faith demands that you do something great with your life.”² Are you content to live a boring life? Are you content to waste your life being average or are you ready to live an exemplary life and make an eternal difference for God in your generation? Is the God who decided that you were worth dying for also worth living for?

Revival in the church is God’s prescription for a troubled nation. Revival does not begin with the politicians, educators, or economic wizards. How can the dead care for the dying? Revival in the church begins with a godly core—“*If My people who are called by My name...*” This godly core is known as a holy “remnant”. What is a “remnant”? In fabric, a remnant is a left over piece of the original cloth. In goods, a remnant is a remaining trace of the product. In agriculture, a remnant is seed set aside from a previous harvest to plant for a new harvest. God always preserves for Himself a holy remnant for His purpose and glory.

A godly core are like those awakened to the smell of smoke and realize the house is on fire. They are like those asleep at the wheel who are awakened to the sound of the rumble strips and realize the church is about to go off the cliff. God’s rumble strips are known as “remedial judgments”. Remedial judgments are corrective measures of God’s mercy intended to alert His people to change course before certain destruction comes. God said to King Solomon, “*When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people,*”³ Remedial judgments are God’s way of saying to a sleeping church that it is time to WAKE UP! In His mercy God will SHAKE US UP to WAKE US UP so that we will GET UP, DRESS UP, STAND UP, LOOK UP, SEE WHAT’S UP and LIFT JESUS UP so heaven can be FILLED UP and the devil SHUT UP!

¹ Lamentations 1:9 (NKJV)

² Mario Murillo, *Critical Mass* (Chatsworth, CA; Anthony Douglas Publishing Co.), p. 1

³ 2 Chronicles 7:13 (NKJV)

How important is a holy remnant in God's plan of redemption? Consider the following Scripture passages:

Ezra 9:8 (NKJV) *"And now for a little while grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage."*

Isaiah 1:9 (NKJV) *"Unless the LORD of hosts had left us a remnant, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been made like Gomorrah."*

Isaiah 28:5 (NKJV) *"In that day the LORD of hosts will be for a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty to the remnant of His people."*

Zephaniah 3:13 (NKJV) *"The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness and speak no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed their flocks and lie down, and no one shall make them afraid."*

Zechariah 8:12 (NKJV) *"For the seed shall be prosperous, the vine shall give its fruit, the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew--I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these."*

Even now there is a godly remnant—a revival core—who are waking up across this land. Are you one of them? Do you smell the smoke and hear the sound? Will you be a part of a revival core who will help wake up believers and turn the direction of the church back toward God?

Where there is no godly core, judgment cannot be averted. In reality, cities and nations are not destroyed because of the sin that is in them. Sin is everywhere. Most often they are destroyed because there is no righteous remnant who stand up to plead God's cause and turn sinners from the error of their ways. We see this clearly when God was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah:

Genesis 18:23–33 (NKJV) *"And Abraham came near and said, 'Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?'²⁴ Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?'²⁵ Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?'²⁶ So the LORD said, 'If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.'²⁷ Then Abraham answered and said, 'Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:²⁸ Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?' So He said, 'If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it.'²⁹ And he spoke to Him yet again and said, 'Suppose there should be forty found there?' So He said, 'I will not do it for the sake of forty.'³⁰ Then he said, 'Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: suppose thirty should be found there?' So He said, 'I will not do it if I find thirty there.'³¹ And he said, 'Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: suppose twenty should be found there?' So He said, 'I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty.'³² Then he said, 'Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: suppose ten should be found there?' And He said, 'I will not destroy it for the sake of ten.'³³ So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place."*

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed not because of their sin, but because there was no godly core in the city.

God spared Israel because of the intercessions of one man, Moses:

Psalms 106:23 (NKJV) *"Therefore He said that He would destroy them, had not Moses His chosen one stood before Him in the breach, to turn away His wrath, lest He destroy them."*

God judged Israel because of false prophets who did not plead the cause of God:

Ezekiel 13:4–5 (NKJV) *“O Israel, your prophets are like foxes in the deserts. ⁵ You have not gone up into the gaps to build a wall for the house of Israel to stand in battle on the day of the Lord.”*

God seeks a godly man who will build up the wall and stand in the gap to save those marked for destruction:

Ezekiel 22:30 (NKJV) *“So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.”*

It is not enough to take a stand on popular issues; the servant of God must take a stand on the very issue that is at this moment under attack. German Reformer Martin Luther said: “If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at the moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved and to be steady on all the battle front besides, is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.”

God will use a holy remnant to restore the righteous structure and order that the enemy has destroyed: *“Those from among you [those who participate in the LORD’s fast] shall build the old waste places; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.”⁴*

The world and the devil would like us to believe that there is no hope for rescue. But the Bible is filled with instances of what seemed like hopeless situations that turned around because of one man or a holy remnant who stood in faith even in the midst of insurmountable odds. Never under-estimate the impact of a godly remnant. The God we serve is greater than all the demons of hell and all of the armies of men. 1 John 4:4 (NKJV) assures us: *“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”*

No matter how bad the world gets or how dark it seems, it is important to remember that God has always had a people who will not compromise and who will not quit. Gospel artist Bill Gaither eloquently stated in one of his gospel tributes, *“God has always had a people. Many a foolish conqueror has made the mistake of thinking that because he has driven the church of Jesus Christ out of sight, he has stilled its voice and snuffed out its life. But God has always had a people. The powerful current of a rushing river is not diminished because it’s forced to flow underground. The purest water is the stream that bursts crystal clear into the sunlight after it has fought its way through solid rock. There have been charlatans who like Simon the magician sought to barter on the open market that power which cannot be bought or sold. But God has always had a people. Men who could not be bought and women who were beyond purchase. Yes, God has always had a people. There have been times of affluence and prosperity when the Church’s message was nearly diluted into oblivion by those who sought to make it socially attractive, neatly organized and financially profitable. It has been gold plated, draped in purple and encrusted with jewels. It has been misrepresented, His church, ridiculed, blotted and scorned. These followers of Jesus Christ have been, according to the whim of the times elevated as sacred leaders and martyred as heretics. Yet through it all their marches on that powerful army of the meek, God’s chosen people who could not be bought, flattered, murdered or stilled. On through the ages they marched. The church, God’s church, triumphant, alive and well! Now listen child of God. It’s alive! Discouraged pastor it’s His Church and it’s alive! Lonely Missionary sow your seeds with confidence! It’s alive my broken hearted friend! Old saint you’re not alone and forgotten, the Church is alive! Busy mother cast your cares on Jesus! It’s alive young student. You’re not alone in serving the Lord! Faithful father there is rest in the Lord! The Church is alive! Cynical skeptic you haven’t killed God with your noisy unbelief. He’s alive! So family of God raise your hands and praise the Lord. For the Church, God’s Church Triumphant is Alive and Well! To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” Revelation 2:21-22”*

⁴ Isaiah 58:12 (NKJV)

Will you be a part of a revival core that God can use to bring revival to a generation on the brink of destruction? God has the prescription for what ails America. That prescription is revival in the church!

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