

DIGEST DAY 1 (10 July 2017)

REVIVE US AGAI

Psalm 85:6

INTRODUCTION

In his introductory remarks, the Rev. Angelo Scheepers highlighted that because of its bright pictures of peace, reconciliation and fruitfulness of the land, Psalm 85 is often read on Christmas Day. This Psalm is an amazing prayer with verse 4 and 6 as the focal point, “Restore {or ‘revive’} us again, O God our Savior

He then gave the background to Psalm by pointing that this Psalm was written by the Sons of Korah, the man who is seen in the wrong light according to Scripture. Korah alongside the others despised and inappropriately accused God’s appointed leadership of Moses and Aaron. But God, showing His approval of Moses and Aaron’s leadership destroyed Korah and his followers by having the earth open up and bury them alive (Numbers 16). But God showed His abundant grace to the descendants of this evil man, Korah, to even become the authors of Scripture, including Psalm 42-49; 84-85, and 87-88. How appropriate that such people should call their generation and ours back to God! In Psalm 85 they present a fourfold request:

Structure of Psalm 85 --- 4 Stanzas/Requests

- Request 1. Grant us your restoration as in times past (85:1-3)
- Request 2. Grant us your joy and love in our times (85:4-7)
- Request 3. Grant us your peace and presence in our land (85:8-9)
- Request 4. Grant us your harmony among your people (85:10-13)

These are pleas, requests, longings, aspiration and prayer for revival, restoration of joy and love, of the peace and presence of God and unity among God’s people. For Israel, revival was the time when God restored the fortunes of Israel (Acts 3:19).

Three components formed the basis of Israel’s revival, namely, (1) confession of sin; (2) forgiveness of sin; and the removal of God’s wrath (Num. 25:1-4).

While revival comes from God, how else will we be revived to rejoice in the Lord if we are not forgiven? In applying the request, “Will you not revive us again?” Rev. Scheepers focused on the three following areas of our lives:

Revival for our membership

Revival for Pastors and leaders

Revival for the church in Zimbabwe

I. **GOD NEEDS TO REVIVE OUR MEMBERSHIP** – we who claim to be His children.

A. **Revive our fellowship with Him.**

Our primary calling as disciples is not to minister but to fellowship with God through Jesus Christ. “God who called you into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord is faithful” (Cor 1:9). Our fellowship is with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3). Mark 3:1 says, “and He appointed the twelve designating them disciples, first of all that they might be with Him and secondly that He might send them out to minister”.

The level of our personal fellowship and communion with God impacts our witness for God, our giving, our passion for the lost, our attitude towards God’s servants and children, our value system, our commitment and involvement in church and missions.

B. **Revive us in our commitment to the church (Fellowship with other)**

Our fellowship has the vertical and horizontal dimensions. Our commitment to God almost invariably leads to our commitment to church, the gathered people of God.

Quotes

“We are members of the body of Christ and we are members of one another and both ideas call for total commitment to God and to each other, we do not belong to a club, we belong to Christ and to the body of Christ” David Watson

“If fail praying, we fail everywhere.” Leonard Ravenhill

C. Revive our marriages

D. Revive our homes and family altars

E. Revive our personal witness for Him

II. GOD NEEDS TO REVIVE OUR PASTORS AND LEADERS

Christian leaders should be careful not to become academically and theologically sophisticated that they forget the fundamentals of the Christian faith.

- *Revive our ministry.* Pastors are called to teach the whole counsel of God, which includes evangelism, missions , equipping, and compassionate ministries (2Tim. 4:5; Eph. 4:11-13)
- *Revive our passion for souls.* Pastors/Leaders cannot teach, lead and inspire God’s people with regard to evangelism when they themselves have no passion for it. “Evangelism is the opposite of maintenance ministry”.
- *Revive our Pastors and Leaders in their conduct.*

III. GOD NEEDS TO REVIVE HIS CHURCH WITHIN ZIMBABWE

The need for morality is acute. God has placed His church, which includes Baptists, in this country for such a time as this.”

- *God has given us a message of hope, peace, reconciliation, joy and salvation (Col. 1:27; 1 Pet. 1:3; 2 Cor. 5:17-18; Prov. 14:34)*
- *“The more wicked society is, the greater the challenge to the church.”* Let us rise up to the challenge.

CONCLUSION

- 1 Thess 4:7 – “For God did not call us to be impure but to live a holy life” – the sin of unholiness in everyday affairs. Everything that offends the holiness of God is one more reason why we ought to cry out to God in repentance for His reviving power in our lives (Psalm 85:6).
- The apostle John advised 5 of the 7 churches, to “repent”: Ephesus (Rev. 2:5). Repent and do the things you did at first”. Similar challenge was given to Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis and Laodicea.

Remember, Repent and repeat

- “Revival does not begin with a program. It begins with God working in you and me” Are you allowing God to work through you? “You must desire, be willing and be open to God’s revival”