

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 23A
Definition of Revival

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We will begin this lesson in Psalm 85, as we study God's word on the topic of revival. The word revival is not in the Bible, yet revival is relevant throughout the scriptures. God desires His children to be in a state of continued revival. God is not willing that any should perish. (2 Peter 3:9) We, the saved, are His representatives to bring the gospel to those who are lost and dying in their sin.

While examining the Scripture, we are going to examine our hearts and take a good long look at ourselves. This lesson is not being taught for someplace or time in the distant future, but for now. It is not being taught so you can think of someone else that needs to hear it, but for you and me. (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Before we start, I would like each of you who is reading this lesson to get a mirror and look at yourself, and say to that person in the mirror, "What are you doing for the Lord?" If you are sincere, God may reveal to you what your spiritual condition is with Him.

Psalm 85:6 *Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?* The psalmist here is very obviously praying for revival. That would be a good prayer for all of us. Instead of wondering why there is no revival like there was in the 70 & 80's, let's stop talking about it to others and start getting on our knees to God and talk to Him. Then take the initiative - hand a tract to a stranger or just tell them that you are saved on your way to heaven. Then leave them with a little salt, because no one wants to go to Hell. Most Christians have lost sight of their goal. Why are we here? What did God save us for? Witnessing is not just the Pastor's job, or the deacon's job, or the elder's job; it is our job to take the gospel to a lost and dying world, for our Commander has ordered us to do just that. (Mark 16:15)

When Billy Graham was just a boy growing up, he took Mark 16:15 literally. While out praying in the woods of North Carolina, he preached to the lizards, bugs, squirrels, and racoons. That was good practice for Brother Graham. It has been said that in his life time, he was able to bring the Gospel to over 215 million people. Whatever your opinion is about Billy Graham makes no matter; he did what God told him to do. What about you?

The fact that there's not a lot of praying for revival, I believe, indicates there is not a lot of desire for revival. There is a great need for revival in our

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hearts and lives. Look at the passage again. Who is the *us* in the passage? Every successful story given to us in the Bible starts with prayer. We need to go to God in prayer, praying for revival in us, you, me, us. Then we are told to GO. *Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.* American Christians will pray for revival then go back to the TV, hoping God will send some supernatural sweeping over our country, causing people to flood into the church and run to the altar weeping in repentance. Christians! We have to get our hands dirty, do what is uncomfortable to our flesh - GO out into the highways and byways compelling them to come in. They will never come on their own. (Luke 14:23)

My Testimony

I was saved in November of 1972 as a result of a Jewish/Christian young man walking up into my front yard and sticking his finger in my chest, telling me I was going to go to Hell when I died. (That took a whole lot of guts considering I had just been released from the Marine Corps serving as a MP.) Needless to say, it was not a happy occasion for him or me. I gave him a stern tongue lashing. He took it to heart, jumping into his 68 Pontiac rag top and mashing the accelerator to the floor as he sped away from my presence.

He had planted the seed; he took a big chance; he left his comfort zone to tell his friend the truth, and I am so glad he did. Later, my thoughts nagged me for two weeks till finally I could not take it anymore. I went to my Jewish/Christian friend's house and sarcastically said, "Alright, tell me why." He opened his Bible and showed me many verses, of which I cannot remember a single one; but this I remember, he had a peace about him that was unexplainable, and I wanted it. So I said, "OK, I am going home to think about all of this, and when I am through, I will be back. During the next five hours, I prayed and told the Lord I was a sinner and deserved to go to Hell, but that I did not want to go. I asked the Lord if He would forgive me of my sins and make me the kind of Christian He wanted me to be. Something wonderful happened right then! It was like a huge weight was lifted from my shoulders, even the sky looked new and calm. I walked back down to my friend's house. By now it was 2:00 a.m., but we talked about the Bible till the sun came up. I went home slept the best sleep I have ever had, woke up midday, did my chores, and went to church that night. My life was new, everything new. I have been saved now for 51 years, and the only thing I regret is not using the time God gave me to tell everyone I meet about HIM. DO NOT BE A CLOSED MOUTH CHRISTIAN, YOU WILL SADLY REGRET IT IN THE END!!!

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Back to our Bible lesson. America could certainly use a great sweeping move of God.

Our laws, morality, and heroes have plunged us into a cesspool of life. I'm not speaking critically of anyone who would pray that God would send America a great revival. However, I would like to point out from the Bible that the more scriptural prayer and the more scriptural approach is not, "God send revival to America." It is, "Lord send a revival and let it begin in me. *Wilt thou not revive us again?*"

What is revival? We talk about revival; what are we talking about? When we pray for revival, what exactly are we praying for? There have been a great number of sweeping moves of God throughout history, some in our country and some in different places around the world. The First Great Awakening 1730-1740 swept Great Britain. The Second Great Awakening 1790-1840 took place in the United States. The Welsh Revival 1904 in Wales, The Hebrides Revival 1949-1953 in Scotland. Just to name a few; there are many others.

This lesson is on the biblical definition of revival. We do have to be careful not to allow history or experiences to become our final authority. The word of God is always our final authority.

The word "revived" or some form of the word, is found 16 times in the Bible. What we see here is that the subjects of revival are the people of God. This makes sense when you break the word down; the root is "viva" which means life, the prefix is "re" which means to go back or to do it again. Revival is to bring back to life, to give life again. This is consistent with the way that the Bible uses the term most of the time. It is also used in a physical sense - someone was dead then they are revived. That was the case with Elijah and the son of the widow of Zarapath, where there was the barrel of meal that did not waste and the cruse of oil that never ran out (1 Kings 17:14). In the end, the child fell sick and died. The Bible says that Elijah prayed, then the soul of the child came into him and he revived. He was dead, now he is alive again. That is revival. 2 Kings 13:21 has a similar instance with the prophet Elisha. A man that was already dead was thrown into the grave of Elisha, and when the dead man touched Elisha's dead bones, he was immediately revived again.

Romans 14:9 *For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.* Jesus had a revival. Three days after he bowed his head giving up the ghost on Calvary's cross, He rose up from the grave. In each of those passages, someone had died, then they were brought back to life again. The Bible word that is used to describe this is "revived".

1 John 5:12, *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.* If you have trusted in the finished work of Jesus Christ and

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received the free gift of salvation, the eternal life that He offers, the Bible says that you have life; but the Bible also says that sometimes you need revival. What are we talking about? We're not talking about getting saved again. That happens once, and you are sealed forever. (Ephesians 1:13)

In order to understand how you, as a born again child of God can be both alive and dead at the same time, we have to do some ground work from the scriptures to build upon an explanation. So read 1 Timothy 5:1-6, then read verse six again, 1 Timothy 5:6 *But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.* Here is a widow she is saved, yet instead of ministering to others, she lives for herself; and the Bible considers her to be dead.

Let's make sure we don't have the same problem. James 2:14-16 *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?* We have to get the context. What is the topic that is being discussed? - What good does it do for you to say that you have faith, unless you have proof. You are of no benefit to anyone else. You are dead in your faith. The verses begin and end with the same thought " *what doth it profit?*" You can tell me you are a born again Christian and you are going to heaven; that's great, but how about your classmate, neighbor, relative, or work colleague? What about them? Have you told them about your Saviour, or is your testimony that of a closed mouth Christian or a lifestyle Christian? You are dead while you are alive. There are millions of people living and dying without Christ that lived a good life, never drank, never smoked or cussed; now they are screaming in Hell for one drop of water because YOU did not give them a second thought when you rode with them in the elevator or passed them on the sidewalk. You know what I am talking about. If my Jewish/friend would have been too scared to walk up to me and tell me I was going the Hell, most likely I would be there now.

The common mistake of unlearned Christians is to think you can lose your salvation, and they try to prove it with these passages, saying, "See, Faith without works is dead". You can NEVER lose your salvation. Look at the life of Abraham - James 2:23 *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.* God still wanted to test Abraham to see if his faith was real, that He was not just giving God lip service. (Genesis 22:1-12 Verse 12 *And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.* How many times a day does the Holy Spirit say to you, "Tell that man/woman about Jesus," or, "Give them a tract!", and we just

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ignore Him quenching the spirit and walking right on by. I know because I have probably done it a hundred times myself. But it is time to change; it is time to open our mouths and tell others about our Wonderful Saviour and Lord. *Wilt thou not revive us again?* It is time for revival in us. Carry a few tracts in your pocket, remind someone to go to church, drop a hint about Hell. Nobody expects you to be a Billy Sunday or a James Knox overnight, but you can be revived if you just try. None of us wants to stand at the judgement seat of Christ and hear our Lord say to us, "Why were you ashamed of Me?" I believe that, along with the knowledge of our loved ones in Hell, is the reason we will be temporarily crying in Heaven. (Revelation 21:4)

If your life is not the kind of life that God intended when He saved you, you might very well be saved, yet your faith is dead; you need revival!

God needs to stir us up, and since it is His goal to remake us like the Lord Jesus Christ, He may have to send trials and tribulations in our life.

Imagine a Potter (The Lord) working a mound of clay (You and I) on the potter's wheel. As the wheel spins the vase (You and I), we are not turning out the way He (The Lord) expected us to, so He beats the clay back into a lump and then starts again to form the vase. (Similar application in Jeremiah 18:4 as it relates to the nation of Israel) God is going to make us like Jesus Christ. Preferably it can happen slowly over the course of our lifetime, or it may happen all at once when we step into eternity. We need revival to happen in us now, so when we stand in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will not be ashamed of our lack of service to Him who has done so much for us.

Go back to your mirror and ask yourself three questions:
What kind of man or woman am I?

- A Natural
- A Carnal
- A Spiritual

A natural man/woman - You need to be saved

A Carnal man/woman - You need revival

A Spiritual man/woman - You need to stay humble and reverent to the Lord by following all His commands and instructions.

Let us look at a few verses describing each of these three:

- A Natural man or woman

1 Corinthians 2:14 *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

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Psalms 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

- A Carnal man or woman

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

1 Corinthians 3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

- A Spiritual man or woman

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. A Spiritual man or woman is one who makes their decisions based on what does God says in His word? The Spiritual man or woman is someone who does not commit sins like these: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, covetousness - which is idolatry, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of one's mouth, Lying one to another.

The definition of revival is when saved people, who have a dead Christian life, repent and start doing what God says. That's revival!!! Verses like Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Romans 6:6 are written to saved people.

Start by mortifying the old ways, habits and actions.

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Colossians 3:5-9 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

The Spiritual man or woman has replaced the deeds of the flesh for the that which is spiritual:

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

This Bible lesson is continued in 23B, be sure to read it also.

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Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 23A
Definition of Revival

Name _____

Note: (*) must include scripture with your answers, including the T/F.

1. What is the definition of revival? *
2. Why would you not want to be a "Closed Mouth Christian?"
3. What salt did my Jewish/Christian friend give me?
4. What is the definition of a carnal man? *
5. Explain James 3:11 with Colossians 3:8-9.
6. Who needs revival?
7. Explain the story of the potter and the clay? *

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8. Explain the statement "faith without works is dead?" *

9. What happened in 2 Kings 13:21 as it relates to this Bible Lesson?

10. What is the first thing you should do to accomplish a revival in yourself? *

11. What is the second thing you should do to accomplish revival in yourself?

True/false

- The Lord commands us to stay in a state of revival throughout our Christian life.
- It is the Pastor's responsibility to lead people to salvation in church.
- Revival begins with you and me.
- Our lives should be a reflection of Jesus Christ now.

**Scripture memorization**

(Colossians 3:2; Colossians 3:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 85:6.)

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?