## Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 23B Definition of Revival

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As we continue this lesson on the definition of revival, let us not forget our starting verse Psalm 85:6 *Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?* By now we should understand that revival must start in us first before it will spread to others. The second half of the verse reveals an exciting destination for us once we start. ...that thy people may rejoice in thee?

If you are any kind of Christian, you know that there is joy in serving the Lord. You know when you hear or read about someone getting saved that their conversion brings you happiness. When you are personally involved in the salvation of someone because you have witnessed to them your heart especially soars with excitement. When my wife was saved, I was so excited about her new found faith that I jumped up and down in my hotel room shouting, "Praise the Lord." Nehemiah 8:10 *Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength. Psalms 5:11 But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. Psalms 85:6 Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?* 

The world is looking for joy. Unfortunately their searching does not include God; they are in bondage to their own flesh and its desires. Joy comes from doing what God says. When we see God blessing, we can rejoice with HIM.

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

The flesh will always try to convince you that you need more freedom, more liberty. The flesh was the motivation in the fall of Eve in the garden. (Genesis 3:6). The flesh will try to tell you, "Don't let God dictate how you live. Be your own boss and whatever you do, do not be a fanatic." That is exactly what you should be, A Fanatic.

Born again Christians will never stop having to put down the flesh until they step into glory. That is why it is so important to stay in touch with God. We need His strength and power daily.

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Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Let me ask you a question. Can you rejoice in the Lord? Do you have the kind of relationship to God, through Jesus Christ, that fills your heart with joy, even when life's circumstances don't? Do you have the kind of joy that allows you to rise above whatever place you might find yourself in life?

1 Peter 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

This kind of joyful life is available in Jesus Christ to any Christian, not just joy on Sunday during a song service, but also on Monday through Saturday, even when the hardest trials are coming at you from all different directions. Look at Psalm 51 David's great prayer of repentance. In verse 12 he says *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.* Those two phrases are very closely associated to repentance and revival. If you want revival, it comes through repentance, and its result is rejoicing. Then Psalms 51:13 *Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.* 

Why would people want to get saved if we are not excited about what God has done for us already? Any good salesman will tell you that if you are not excited about the product you are presenting, you will never get them excited to buy it. Joy is something that people really want. Joy is something that most people do not have unless an event or a commodity has given them temporary joy, but as soon as the newness has worn off, they are back to being joyless. Jesus Christ will give us joy unspeakable, 1 Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Let's look at the life of Paul the Apostle and ask ourselves the question, Why did he do what he did for the Lord?

2 Corinthians 11:18-28 Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also. For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise. For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face. I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also. Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I. Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

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Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

Would you agree with me and say that Paul was put through a whole lot of trials, tribulations, pain and suffering? For what? He cared for the people that he was ministering to. *Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.* Why?

Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost. Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

There are most likely hundreds of thousands of men and woman that have labored to their death by the hands those they were ministering to because of their love for Jesus Christ. The joy that is to be had by serving our Lord and Saviour is the same joy Jesus Christ had for us on that cruel cross. Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Every born again Christian has implanted within them a well source of joy if we do what God's says. There are some things we need to do each moment if we intend to have a joyful life in Christ.

- A. Recognize who God is.
- B. Repent.
- C. Rejoice.
- D. Go tell someone else.

Can we look back into that mirror again and say, "What means more to me, serving my Saviour or serving myself?"

Psalms 85:6 Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?

Notes
Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 23B

## **Definition of Revival**

	Name
Note:	(*) An asterisk indicates must include scripture with your answers.
1.	Why do we need to look into the mirror every day?
2.	What do you see when you look in the mirror each day as it pertains to these Bible Lessons?
3.	Explain Mark 8:38.
4.	When the Lord tells us to preach the word, is that just a suggestion? *
5.	What did we learn about Abrahams relationship to the Lord in Genesis 22, as it relates to this bible lesson? *
6.	What is the definition of a Spiritual man or woman? *

7. How do we get joy in our Christian life? \*

8.	What is it that draws us away from a spiritual walk with the Lord? (Please give us an example from the scriptures.)
9.	Why should we be fanatical Christians?
10.	What will bring you the must joy in your Christian life? *
11.	Why did Paul the Apostle serve the Lord with such vigor? *
12.	Explain the last part of Psalm 85:6 that thy people may rejoice in thee?
13.	Why will the non-Christian never find true joy?
14.	How did the flesh motivate Eve in the garden? *
15.	Why is it so important for each of us to have revival in our lives?

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- 16. Why would the joy of the Lord be our strength?
- 17. What are the four steps of revival in a born again Christians life and a sure way to get joy with the Lord in our heart? \*
  - b.
  - C.
  - d.
- 18. Why would you NEVER want to be a Closed Mouth Christian?

## True/false

- If we really want to grow in the Lord, we will have to accept trials and tribulations in our life.
- Hundreds of thousands of people have died serving the Lord.
- David told us that there was joy in serving the Lord.
- You can be a Closed Mouth Christian and still go to heaven.



Scripture memorization

Mark 8:38; Psalms 51:12-13; Psalm 85:6

Write out these verses on the back or a separate paper: (must be in KJV)

any questions?