

Calling America Back to God

Stand Alone / Psalm 80:1–3

Introduction:

There is a need for revival in America:

We often hear the word revival in the Christian community. Sometimes that word can be confused and we think that a revival is a meeting where people come to get saved and born-again.

I want you to think about Revival in this sense. It's another word for refreshment, restoration, or simply returning something to its original condition.

I will never forget the first time I did some long overdue maintenance on a truck I owned. I put new tires on it, a new air filter, and windshield wiper blades. Man!! I couldn't believe the difference it made! That's what revival is for the Christian.

I was visiting with Bro Les Aldridge recently and he was preparing a message titled "The Kind of Revival We Need". In that sermon he lists five characteristics of the kind of revival we need:

1. Soul searching revival - search of our love for God; one another; for the church I cannot work
2. Sin Confession Revival - [Psalm 51](#); [James 5:17](#)
3. Sin Killing Revival - [Psalm 51:1-2](#)
4. Spirit Filling - [Psalm 51:12](#)
5. Seed-Sowing : [Psalm 51:13-17](#)

TT - Israel was in a place where they needed revival in their country. We are going to look at principles for positive change (Read Text)

Transition

Someone Said: "The Church is the conscience of America"

We need to pray for America. We need to pray for strong Christians and strong families and strong churches in America.

There are things that American needs from every Christian:

Jeremiah 29:7

⁷ And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.

Ezekiel 22:30

³⁰ And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

1. Submit to God's Leadership - v. 1

Give ear, O Shepherd -

What is the shepherd hearing? The bleating cries of suffering sheep.

The image of a sheep is given here...sheep are not very intelligent. (Dumb; Defenseless; Directionless)

We can be going in the direction God wants us to when we get started but then somewhere along the way we take a wrong turn but we've got the cruise on and we don't even realize we left God a long time ago.

ILL - We were going to youth camp years ago and our pastor's wife and daughter in law were following us. We took a turn and they missed it.

See, you can take the hand off the steering wheel and go a little ways. You might not run into trouble immediately. Keep the hands off long enough and you'll realize the danger.

When we stop submitting to the leadership of God we might not see the effects immediately but we will before long.

Galatians 6:7 - ⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

America needs Christians who still believe in Isaiah 30:21

Isaiah 30:21

²¹ And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying,
This *is* the way, walk ye in it,
When ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Let me remind you of the kind of nation we have been:

Adrian Rogers wrote:

When the little rag-tag Continental Army was fighting the British at Valley Forge, General George Washington went out to kneel in the snow to pray for his army. When a stranger came to the Continental Congress and wanted to know which man was Washington, a friend said, "When the Congress begins to pray, Washington will be the tall man who will go to his knees."

There's not a lack of people today who say that they are praying. But we desperately need men and women today who will genuinely seek the Lord with their hearts not just their words.

Adrian Rogers said, we spend 6 days a week sowing wild oats and then we come to church on Sunday and ask God to blessed us anyway.

Illustration - Israel got ahead of God in the OT when they demanded a kingly rule of a monarchy verses being a theocracy 1 Samuel 8

2. Draw From God's Strength - v. 2

² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, Stir up thy strength, And come and save us.

Paul Anderson - once lifted 6,270 lbs -was born w/ brads disease and that almost took life at 5 years old.

as a teen - broke state weightlifting records in TN and was training for the world championship when a series of accidents slowed him down.

Wouldn't give up - devised a brace to fit over the cast on his wrist

Won the national championship 1954

travelled to Russia w/ us team and beat Russia challenger
Paul gave everyone credit but God

1956 olympics us to Australia became desperately ill with high fever and ear infection hid this from the officials. lost 30 lbs before his turn came and was so weak from his illness he failed at his first attempts.

In desperation he prayed and asked god to forgive him for relying on his own strength, admitting his own helplessness. With a mighty heave he lifted the weight and dramatically won the medal for the USA.

Back home he became a pro strongman and vowed to open a home for troubled boys.

met his wife - they opened the boys home from 1961 - 1994, when he died from kidney failure, Paul helped hundreds of young men learn to follow Christ. He told everyone he met from troubled boys to presidents, that his strength came from the Lord Jesus Christ.

This was a prayer for strength towards the three tribes mentioned.

It is a great thing to life up one another in prayer and that is what the psalmist here is doing.

Our life is no more than like a glove. A glove is powerless. It can't move. It can't work. It's unproductive. Oh but dear friend when you place a hand into the glove it becomes filled with strength and only then it can do something.

Nehemiah was a man who was filled with the strength of the Almighty!

Nehemiah 1:4 Nehemiah took a posture of brokenness and prayer. This was true strength. Our churches need people who will be broken that we might be stronger!

Moses reminded the people of God in Exodus 13:13 that they had been delivered by the strength of the hand of the LORD.

Samson the strongest man in the world - his wasn't a physical strength. If that was the case he wouldn't have lost it the way he did. His was divine strength, given by the Lord.

David wrote a beautiful song in 2 Samuel 22 and writes 2 Samuel 22:33

2 Samuel 22:33

³³ God *is* my strength *and* power:

And he maketh my way perfect.

2 Samuel 22:40

⁴⁰ For thou hast girded me with strength to battle:

Them that rose up against me hast thou subdued under me.

Job understood true strength as to come from the Lord - Job 18 He uses this word 24 times through the book of Job

We need to remember what Zechariah said in Zechariah 4:6

Zechariah 4:6

⁶ Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying,

Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, Saith the Lord of hosts.

Remember the children's song - Jesus Loves Me This I Know - I am weak but He is strong.

3. Live in God's Favor - v. 3

³ Turn us again, O God, And cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

God's favor comes on our lives when we turn our hearts back to him. There is a need here for God's people to turn their drifting hearts back to Him.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Prone to wander Lord I feel it

Prone to leave the God I love

One of the prayers I often pray has its roots in Nehemiah 1 where Nehemiah found favor with God and favor with the king.

The phrase "cause thy face to shine..." has God's favor in mind.

Search this phrase and a form of it occurs 26 times in the whole Bible.

The first time is in Numbers 6:23-25

Numbers 6:23-25 KJV 1900

²³ Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them,

²⁴ The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:

²⁵ The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

This was the blessing of Moses to Aaron and unto his sons.

Conclusion

Will you be a Christian that contributes positively to America?

Will you be a Christian that is submitting to God's leadership

Drawing on the strength of the Lord

Living in God's favor

Dustin Logan

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Morning Worship

