

“Revive Us Again”

Introduction. All of us need to be revived every once in a while because it is good to make new beginnings (Psalm 85:6). Early Christians were happy and excited (Acts 2:46-47), but the mindset of the “Sunday morning Christian” is the greatest obstacle to being truly revived.

In the course of this lesson, some different suggestions are going to be discussed, not just the usual “read through the Bible in one year, study, and pray.” Although these are all good suggestions, we are going to examine four special ways in which we can revive ourselves.

I. ***Revive Us To Purity***

- A. God wants His people to put away sin (Colossians 3:5). Perhaps there is something sinful that you would like to overcome, but have not had much success in the past. Why not follow these examples and resolve to make a new beginning?
 1. The erring Simon (Acts 8:18-24).
 2. The pagan jailer (Acts 16:30-34).
 3. The untaught Ephesians (Acts 19:1-5).
- B. It is God’s will that we cleanse ourselves (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).
 1. Purity of life begins with a pure heart (Matthew 5:8; 15:18-19; Acts 15:9).
 2. Purity is manifested in the way we think and live (Titus 1:15-16; 1 Peter 1:14-16).
- C. In the forests of northern Europe and Asia lives little animal called the ermine, known for his snow-white fur in winter. He instinctively protects his white coat against anything that would soil it. Fur hunters take advantage of this trait by not setting a snare to catch him, but instead finding his home, which is usually a cleft in a rock or a hollow in an old tree, and smearing the entrance with grime. The hunters then set their dogs to chase the ermine. The frightened animal flees toward home but does not enter because of the filth. Rather than soil his white coat, he is trapped by the dogs and captured while preserving his purity. For the ermine, purity is more precious than life.

II. ***Revive Us To Love***

- A. We all know that a basic, fundamental principle of the gospel is love (Matthew 22:37-39; John 13:34-35).
- B. A lot of people are selfish, critical, unfriendly, and cold, but that does not mean we have to be, especially when being like them makes us unhappy.

1. If we follow the instructions in Colossians 3:12-13, we will find that love for others will give birth to kindness and all the other higher, nobler qualities.
 2. For us to be kind does not mean that we need to have a lot of money, or do great deeds. Anyone can express concern for the feelings of others (Romans 12:15).
- C. We need to help one another physically and spiritually.
1. There is an old saying that goes, "Ability plus opportunity equals responsibility" (1 John 3:17-18). From the very beginning of the church, Christians helped one another physically (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35).
 2. We all need, as God's people, to help one another and work together in unity and love toward the goal of eternal life (1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11). It is sad that spiritually struggling Christians view concerned phone calls and visits to them as "harassment." It is not harassment, it is love (Galatians 4:16).
- D. Christians must cast out the spirit of worldliness and make the love of God and others triumphant within the heart.

III. **Revive Us To Zeal**

- A. Zeal is an ardent desire to embrace or defend something. The Lord is described as "zealous" (2 Kings 19:31; Isaiah 9:7; 37:32; 59:17; Ezekiel 5:13), and if the Lord has zeal, we had better have it too in the form of a strong desire to fulfill His wishes.
- B. The Corinthians had great zeal in the matter of their repentance and the offering for the Judean saints (2 Corinthians 7:11; 9:2).
1. In fact, their zeal provoked many. Would your zeal provoke or would your lack of it discourage? Examine yourself! It has been said that it is easier to cool down a fanatic than warm up a corpse!
 2. God wants people who are on fire for Him (Titus 2:14). If we are not, we should repent (Revelation 3:19).
- C. God has placed before us the greatest challenge we will ever have, and the challenge must be accepted.
1. We are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul (Hebrews 10:38-39).
 2. It will not matter if we fail in carnal interests; if we miss heaven, we are utter failures. We are not like those whose only goals are a good job, a nice home, a new car, a comfortable retirement, etc. We do not love the world (1 John 2:15-17).

IV. **Revive Us To Hope**

- A. The Christian's very special hope is the coming of Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Titus 1:2). You should look forward to His

coming and want your life to be in order when He arrives (cf. Matthew 25:1-13; Luke 12:40).

B. Forty years ago tomorrow, an American set foot on another body in space. As momentous as that was, our hope lies not in the man we put on the moon, but in the man we put on the cross.

C. The Bible is full of spectacular examples of hope.

1. Job.

a) He was a righteous man (Job 1:1, 5, 8). Though he was persecuted and tormented, Job retained his righteousness (Job 42:7-8).

b) The reason why Job could do all this is because he lived in hope (Job 19:25-26). He knew that his redeemer lived and he stated that in his flesh he would see God.

2. Abraham.

a) Hebrews 11:8-19 explains that Abraham had hope when it came to his departure from Ur of the Chaldees. He hoped for a better country.

b) After Isaac was born, God told Abraham to offer his promised son. Abraham was going to kill him because he had hope that God could raise him from the dead. Hope carried him through the most uncertain days of his life.

3. Peter.

a) He was a man with a history of trouble (Matthew 14:22-31; 26:34, 58, 69-75). Yet, he was a man whose faith grew (Acts 4:18-20).

b) The reason why all this happened was because he was a man who lived in hope and taught others to live in hope (1 Peter 1:3-9).

4. Paul.

a) In his early life, he was a persecutor of Christians (1 Timothy 1:13). As a Christian, he suffered a lot of persecution himself (2 Corinthians 11:23-28).

b) He could go through year after year of tireless, unceasing work for the Lord because he had a hope of what would come after this life (2 Timothy 1:8, 12).

D. Hope accomplishes so much in our lives.

1. Hope sustains us and this is seen through the four examples cited above.

2. Hope purifies us (1 John 3:1-3).

3. Hope anchors us in heaven (Hebrews 6:18-19).

4. Hope causes rejoicing (Romans 5:2).

5. Hope inspires us to give reasons for our hope (1 Peter 3:15).

Conclusion. Can you do more? Let me leave you with the following article entitled, "I will do more." "I will do more than belong -- I will participate; I will do more than care -- I will help; I will do more than believe -- I will practice; I will do more than be fair -- I will be kind; I will do more than forgive -- I will encourage; I will do more than earn -- I will enrich; I will do more than teach -- I will inspire; I will do more than contribute -- I will serve; I will do more than live -- I will grow; and, I will do more than be friendly -- I will be a friend." Have a spiritual revival and make your future the best it can be.