

REVIVAL QUOTES

Revival is:

"God's quickening visitation of his people, touching their hearts and deepening his work of grace in their lives." J. I. Packer

"an extraordinary season of religious interest." Robert Baird

"the sovereign act of God, in which He restores His own backsliding people to repentance, faith and obedience." Stephen Olford

"times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19) J. Edwin Orr

"the awakening or quickening of God's people to their true nature and purpose." Robert Coleman

"the return of the Church from her backslidings, and the conversion of sinners." Charles Finney

"an extraordinary movement of the Holy Spirit producing extraordinary results." Richard Owen Roberts

"a community saturated with God." Duncan Campbell

"the work of the Holy Spirit in restoring the people of God to a more vital spiritual life, witness, and work by prayer and the Word after repentance in crisis for their spiritual decline." Earle Cairns

"Revival is nothing more than the release of God's Spirit flowing through broken lives." Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

"The coming revival must begin with a great revival of prayer. It is in the closet, with the door shut, that the sound of abundance of rain will first be heard. An increase of secret prayer with ministers will be the sure harbinger of blessing."
Andrew Murray

"On those who believe that a revival is needed and is possible, rests the solemn responsibility of preparing the way of the Lord. We ask Him to open our own eyes and hearts, and those of our church, to what He thinks and says of the spiritual life He finds." Andrew Murray (Revival)

"A true revival means nothing less than a revolution, casting out the spirit of worldliness and selfishness and making God and His love triumph in the heart and life." Andrew Murray (Revival)

"A purified and Spirit-controlled imagination is the sacred gift of seeing – the ability to peer beyond the veil and gaze with astonished wonder upon the beauties and mysteries of things holy and eternal." A.W. Tozer

"Our whole business in this life is to restore to health the eye of the heart whereby God may be seen." St. Augustine

"The times have changed; but the need for the Holy Spirit has not passed away. It is the special need of this age. It would not be difficult to find analogies between the beginning of the last century and the close of the present century. History repeats itself. And just as during the last century salvation was of the Lord, so now salvation must be of the Lord. It is the incoming of God's life that raises the level, that freshens and invigorates the springs of progress, that improves society, that elevates and strengthens the moral tone, that gives success to the Gospel, that fits and qualifies the Church for the triumphant accomplishment of her mission in the world. And the lesson of the last century—and the lesson of Pentecost and the lesson of all similar

seasons of blessing—is that the incoming of God’s life is conditioned by prayer. The preliminary is prayer. The law is prayer; and it is not arbitrary, but in the very nature of things necessary...When, therefore, God’s people “give” themselves to prayer, compelled by the heart’s longings after God and after the salvation of men, genuine revival is near...Shall we not, then, supply the condition? Observe the law? Prepare the way? Cast out the stones”? Make it possible for God to bless us and to “REVIVE His work in the midst of the years”? He is summoning us to the duty, and will therefore help us if we strive to do His will. He is eager to fill us with the Holy Ghost, and is just waiting for us. Oh how much longer will He have to wait? How we are wronging our own souls, and hindering God, and standing in the way of the salvation of men! Let us prostrate ourselves before Him, and acknowledge our offences, and seek the forgiveness that is never denied to the penitent, and ask for the gift unspeakable; and we shall rise up “endued with power” and instinct with the life of God.”
William Crosbie, *The Evangelization of the World*

“Oh! men and brethren, what would this heart feel if I could but believe that there were some among you who would go home and pray for a revival – men whose faith is large enough, and their love fiery enough to lead them from this moment to exercise unceasing intercessions that God would appear among us and do wondrous things here, as in the times of former generations.” C. H. Spurgeon

“Revivals begin with God's own people; the Holy Spirit touches their heart anew, and gives them new fervor and compassion, and zeal, new light and life, and when He has thus come to you, He next goes forth to the valley of dry bones...Oh, what responsibility this lays on the Church of God! If you grieve Him away from yourselves, or hinder His visit, then the poor perishing world suffers sorely!” Andrew A. Bonar

"In the Irish Revival of 1859, people became so weak that they could not get back to their homes. Men and women would fall by the wayside and would be found hours later pleading with God to save their souls. They felt that they were slipping into hell and that nothing else in life mattered but to get right with God... To them eternity meant everything. Nothing else was of any consequence. They felt that if God did not have mercy on them and save them, they were doomed for all time to come." Oswald J. Smith

"With some men it would seem, if they could control God's operations and manipulate His actions they might tolerate a revival; but to allow God a free hand, fills them with righteous indignation and horror. If only God would consent to become an 'ecclesiastic' and respect their dignity and decorum and beautiful order of service and ways of running the Church, they might condescend to have a revival."
William P. Nicholson

"There are different kinds of fire; there is false fire. No one knows this better than we do, but we are not such fools as to refuse good bank notes because there are false ones in circulation; and although we see here and there manifestations of what appears to us to be nothing more than mere earthly fire, we none the less prize and value, and seek for the genuine fire which comes from the altar of the Lord." William Booth

"Have you noticed how much praying for revival has been going on of late - and how little revival has resulted? I believe the problem is that we have been trying to substitute praying for obeying, and it simply will not work. To pray for revival while ignoring the plain precept laid down in Scripture is to waste a lot of words and get nothing for our trouble. Prayer will become effective when we stop using it as a substitute for obedience." A. W. Tozer

"God's time for revival is the very darkest hour, when everything seems hopeless. It is always the Lord's way to go to the very worst cases to manifest His glory." Andrew Gih

"God's program for reviving His people is definite and clear. First Elijah "repaired the altar of Jehovah that was thrown down." That is the place to begin. All the ruin that sin has wrought must be cleared away by confession. Things must be made right with God; restitution must be made where it is due. Unless this is done definitely and thoroughly, prayer for reviving is vain...Too many are praying today without repairing the altar by confession of sin, without digging a trench of separation from the world and without a surrender that is even unto death. No wonder such prayer is fruitless." Andrew Gih

"In the interior city of Chengchow the 'Bethel Evangelistic Band' had a very difficult time. The meetings had gone on without noticeable results and the last day came. The Band knew that the hindrance must be with the leaders who seemed quite indifferent. Desperately we prayed, and when hope seem almost gone we were reminded that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years. He can do wonders in just one day! Our faith took hold on God for the fall of Jericho at the last. And God honored our faith. During the morning meeting one of the missionaries could not restrain his tears and confessed most humbly that he was a great sinner and hypocrite. Then the Holy Spirit fell on the whole congregation and all were convicted of sin and confessed with tears of contrition. At the closing meeting there was no opportunity for preaching. The Holy Spirit was working and people spontaneously confessed their sins and need, or gave joyous testimonies of salvation." Andrew Gih

"From the day of Pentecost, there has been not one great spiritual awakening in any land which has not begun in a union of prayer, though only among two or three. And no such outward, upward movement has continued after such

prayer meetings have declined. It is in exact proportion to the maintenance of such joint and believing supplication and intercession that the Word of the Lord in any land or locality has had free course and been glorified." A. T. Pierson

"Revival and change are almost synonymous terms and both clearly cut across traditionalism. There is no way true revival can occur without major changes disrupting and reordering the life of the Church... God is no traditionalist. While God is orderly, He is always fresh and vital. If a church can run according to forms and traditions of men, it will run without the presence and power of God ... Is it any wonder the love of tradition is an enemy to revival? Revival and new life go hand in hand ... Let every church realize that the inordinate love of tradition is a great opponent to revival ... When a church slays the love of tradition, a major obstacle to revival will be slain with it." Richard Owen Roberts

"If our GOAL is Revival, we will be quite unbalanced when it comes. If our goal is God, we will be able to walk with Him calmly and steadfastly through years of waiting and through the joys and victories of a season of refreshing. Christ crucified and risen is not only the Door, and the Way, but the End also. It is our personal relationship to Him which counts more than anything else. Oh, the need for men and women who know their God! The Church of Christ will only arise militant, triumphant, an 'exceeding great army', when individuals get rightly related to God." Nancy B. Morris

"Perhaps the greatest barrier to revival on a large scale is the fact that we are too interested in a great display. We want an exhibition; God is looking for a man who will throw himself entirely on God. Whenever self-effort, self-glory, self-seeking or self-promotion enters into the work of revival, then God leaves us to ourselves." Ted S. Rendall

"The disappearance of the 'prayer meeting' from the life of many churches is something which occasions widespread

regret, even among many who would not normally attend. Indeed, the prayer meeting in which the laity participated freely is a legacy from the 1859 (Ulster) Revival...These prayer meetings were not in many cases in existence before the revival set in. The very establishment of them in the first instance, was an evidence that it was spring-time again in the Church of Christ, and the restoration of them today would be for her reviving once more." John T. Carson

"A man set on fire is an apostle of his age. And the only one who can kindle the spark of light and fire on the hearth where it has died down is He who has revealed Himself as the God of fire, our Lord Jesus Christ. 'Our God is a consuming fire'...Tell me, is your ministry a burning and shining light, or a smoking wick, slowly dying out to ashes? ...It is a strange custom that we should supply a minister with a glass of water; if only we could supply him with a bonfire in the pulpit, a spiritual bonfire. We need the dynamic of a flaming ministry that will set the Church on fire." Samuel M. Zwemer (Keswick 1937)

"Revival will call for much love and humility, because it may please God to use one man more extensively than another. The fleece of one denomination may appear to be wet with the dews of heaven while another is only damp with it. In some cases God may use the least gifted of men - at least some would so judge them - and in the least likely of churches find a channel for His grace. May God preserve us from a spirit which would prefer to see no revival at all if it did not come in our form, after our pattern, and through our instrumentality." John T. Carson

"Revival, as contrasted with a Holy Ghost atmosphere is a clean-cut breakthrough of the Spirit, a sweep of Holy Ghost power, bending the hearts of hardened sinners as the wheat before the wind, breaking up the fountains of the great deep, sweeping the whole range of the emotions, as the master hand moves across the harp strings, from the tears

and cries of the penitent to the holy laughter and triumphant joy of the cleansed. They are fools who belittle such holy experiences and warn against 'excessive emotionalism.' Such do not even understand the make-up of 'Mansoul,' still less the ways of the Eternal Lover with His beloved."
Norman Grubb

"God is presently seeking for a humble, praying people that He can pour His glory through. If we will not yield to the Holy Spirit in humble obedience, He will find a people who will! Some of us may have to visit someone else's fellowship in order to experience the coming move of God. Let's not deceive ourselves, God is not committed to use us, but He is committed to remember the prayer of the humble. (Psa. 9:12). If we refuse to prescribe to the Christ honored methods of humility and prayer, we will certainly be refused for the Master's use in the coming revival." David Smithers

"There is no power like that of prevailing prayer, of Abraham pleading for Sodom, Jacob wrestling in the stillness of the night, Moses standing in the breach, Hannah intoxicated with sorrow, David heartbroken with remorse and grief, Jesus in sweat of blood. Add to this list from the records of the church your personal observation and experience, and always there is the cost of passion unto blood. Such prayer prevails. It turns ordinary mortals into men of power. It brings power. It brings fire. It brings rain. It brings life. It brings God." Samuel Chadwick

"We need a Heaven-sent revival, a burning fire from on high, a purifying passion and a forsaking of our stubborn pride. We need a vision of eternity, of Hell and the Judgment Day, a fervent love for our Savior, that will gladly serve and obey. We need a Pentecostal purging and a breaking deep within, a vision of God Almighty and a river of tears for our nation's sin. We need a Heaven-sent revival, a burning fire set ablaze. Yet, we'll never see such glory, until the Church begins to pray." David Smithers

"Revivals begin with God's own people; the Holy Spirit touches their heart anew, and gives them new fervor and compassion, and zeal, new light and life, and when He has thus come to you, He next goes forth to the valley of dry bones...Oh, what responsibility this lays on the Church of God! If you grieve Him away from yourselves, or hinder His visit, then the poor perishing world suffers sorely!" Andrew Bonar

"We often have a tinted view of revival as a time of glory and joy and swelling numbers queuing to enter the churches. That is only part of the story. Before the glory and joy, there is conviction; and that begins with the people of God. There are tears of godly sorrow. There are wrongs to put right, secret things...to be thrown out, and bad relationships, hidden for years, to be repaired openly. If we are not prepared for this, we had better not pray for revival." Brian Edwards

"Oh! men and brethren, what would this heart feel if I could but believe that there were some among you who would go home and pray for a revival - men whose faith is large enough, and their love fiery enough to lead them from this moment to exercise unceasing intercessions that God would appear among us and do wondrous things here, as in the times of former generations." Charles Spurgeon

"Does it grieve you my friends, that the name of God is being taken in vain and desecrated? Does it grieve you that we are living in a godless age...But, we are living in such an age and the main reason we should be praying about revival is that we are anxious to see God's name vindicated and His glory manifested. We should be anxious to see something happening that will arrest the nations, all the peoples, and cause them to stop and to think again." D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

"Revival is the moving of God's Spirit, through the power of His Word, to the hearts of His children, that resurrects to new life those areas which have been lying stagnant, dormant, or out of balance, and that results in new love and obedience to Jesus Christ." Del Fehsenfeld Jr.

"I read of the revivals of the past, great sweeping revivals where thousands of men were swept into the Kingdom of God. I read about Charles G. Finney winning his thousands and his hundreds of thousands of souls to Christ. Then I picked up a book and read the messages of Charles G. Finney and the message of Jonathan Edwards on 'Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,' and I said, 'No wonder men trembled; no wonder they fell in the altars and cried out in repentance and sobbed their way to the throne of grace!'" Leonard Ravenhill

"Perhaps the greatest barrier to revival on a large scale is the fact that we are too interested in a great display. We want an exhibition; God is looking for a man who will throw himself entirely on God. Whenever self-effort, self-glory, self-seeking or self-promotion enters into the work of revival, then God leaves us to ourselves." Ted Rendall

"Let Christians remember, that in a season of revival as well as in a season of coldness, the evidence of piety is to be sought in the fruits of the Spirit. And let sinners remember that no degree of attendance or means, no degree of fervor, can be substituted for repentance of sin and faith in the Savior..." William Sprague