Revived

I recently held revival services at a CBC in North Carolina. My personal prayer leading up to that week had been for revival to start within my own heart. Then, when it did, I longed for it to spread to those who would gather. Whenever I begin I always like to remind myself and the congregation that this is not a ritualistic time or just a gathering to gather. I emphasize the importance of asking the Lord to move in a mighty way, led by the Holy Spirit.

When we think about true revival, we know it is when there is a spiritual reawakening in a believer's life.

We must spend time focusing on our love for God and His church, having a desire for holiness, a hunger for His Word, and repenting of sin. When we do these things with humility and great sincerity, we will strive to live righteously. Revival will deepen a believer's faith. Our prayer should be for our eyes to be turned upon Him and His plan for our lives. The god of this age can certainly blind people to the Truth of His Word. Paul writes to the Corinthians, *"whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."* **2 Corinthians 4:4 (NKJV)**

The words of a particular hymn say it well:

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face.
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim.
In the light of His glory and grace".

When we ponder the First Great Awakening (1730s and 1740s), we are reminded of Biblical preaching that helped many in the church better understand what a true relationship with Christ looked like.

It wasn't to be ritualistic but to be about a relationship. That relationship was to be one where an individual was to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all that they did.

Sometimes we must recall our salvation experience. The time that we called upon Jesus to save us.

We must thank God for the Holy Spirit that came to indwell in the hearts of believers.

The Holy Spirit leads us to live in relationship with Christ and to gain a better understanding of what true holiness is.

Peter writes while looking back to Scripture, "because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.” **1 Peter 1:16 (NKJV)**

Revival brings restoration of our fellowship with God.

Sometimes we can become overwhelmed with the cares of this world. We may seem to have lost our joy, our passion for Christ.

May we long for revival, for renewal. We must never fall into a ritualistic downward spiral of going through the motions, but we must be people of prayer and people of the Book that strive daily in relationship.

A.W. Tozer once said, “Christians don’t tell lies–they just go to church and sing them!" How sad that is. May we be truthful when we proclaim the words of the hymn.

All glory and praise
To the Lamb that was slain,
Who hath borne all our sins,
And hath cleansed every stain.

Hallelujah! Thine the glory.
Hallelujah! Amen.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory.
Revive us again.

Jeremy Dykes CBC Ex. Board

Weekly Prayer Point

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

The veil that covered our face and the veil that kept us from Your presence have been torn so that we may behold Your perfect image in the Law, and as it reflects, we are changed step by step! Oh, how we thank You for setting us aside to be changed from glory to glory! We see the work of Your hands. We experience Your mighty work in us as we yield to Your Holy Spirit! That transformation is too wonderful to express!

Please pray for these congregations and pastors:

- Columna de Fuego Congregation in Venezuela
- Community Mission Congregation in Woodstock, VA and Pastor Dale Bowers
- Comunidad Apostolica Jehova M'Kaddesh in Panama
- Cornerstone Congregation in the Democratic Republic of Congo

CBC Prayer Committee