

---

 Reading: Psalm 67

*“May God be merciful and bless us.  
May His face shine with favour upon us” (Psa 67:1)*

Pentecost may be understood as a fresh visitation of God among His people. What the disciples went through or did during those 50 days, between Resurrection and Pentecost, presents for us lessons on preparing for Revival. If we prepare ourselves in these areas, the long-awaited Revival will “suddenly” come!

The Spirit of prayer and worship gripped the disciples even *before* Pentecost, especially during the last ten days following Ascension. Luke, who has given us “an orderly account” of the ministry of Christ and the Holy Spirit, mentions this graphically in his Gospel and the Book of Acts. Following Christ’s Ascension, “they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God” (Lk 24:52,53). As they went up into the upper room, “they all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication” (Acts 1:12-14). They were soaked in a spirit of prayer and worship on the Day of Pentecost “with one accord” (Acts 2:1).

The need of prayer as a preparation for Revival cannot be overemphasized. Prayer here is more than just asking God to send a revival. It means self-examination and confession of sins. Self-examination means we let the Lord turn His searchlight on us and reveal to us our carnality, corruption and casualness (Rev 2:23). And it’s a time of remembering our broken vows before the Lord (Eccl 5:1-6); and the wrongs we have committed against others (Mt 5:23,24). Prayer leads to true humility because it is in His presence we realize our nothingness and His holiness (Isa 6:1-5). Prayer is also an expression of our inability and inadequacy and therefore a pleading for His strength and power (Mt 26:41). God is pleased with such sacrifices and His fire will invariably fall on them (Psa 51:17-19).

When Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord, the fire fell. God breaks and makes His men on their knees. When Jesus prayed, Heaven was opened (Lk 3:21). When the early Church prayed, the place was shaken (Acts 4:31). Prayer releases the power of the Spirit to affect the earth. I believe we have preached enough about revival and published enough about revival, but have not prayed enough for revival. The more we pray for revival the more we will long for it, and the more we long for it the more we will pray for it. Leonard Ravenhill (1907-1994) rightly says, “One main reason we have no revival is that we have learnt to live without it!”

Father God,

Will You not revive us again that we may rejoice in You? Restore unto us, O Lord, the joy of Salvation. Restore unto us, O Lord, the joy in totally submitting ourselves to You. Restore unto us, O Lord, the joy of walking saintly before You. Restore unto us, O Lord, the joy of meditating the Scriptures. Restore unto us, O Lord, the joy of singing praises to You. Restore unto us, O Lord, the joy of supplicating before You for everything because You are our Source. Restore unto us, O Lord, the joy of fellowshiping with Your saints. Restore unto us, O Lord, the joy of soulwinning and evangelism. Restore unto us, O Lord, the joy of sacrificial service. Restore unto us, O Lord, the joy even in suffering. Restore unto us, O Lord, joyful expectation of the Second Coming of Your Son.

Dear Lord, unless You visit us again and afresh, our dryness and deadness would not disappear. Unless You pour out Your Spirit on us again like the latter rain, our fruitlessness would continue. Unless You touch our eyes again, our sight and vision would remain blurred. Unless You quicken us again, our zeal and enthusiasm in Your work would get lost. Have mercy on us, and visit us again, O Lord!

Send us the fire of Your Holy Spirit, dear Lord. We need Your fire on our tongue to cleanse us. We need Your fire in our bones so we may not be silent any more, but proclaim Your fiery message to this wicked generation. We need Your fire in our hearts so we may restore the first love for You, Your Word and Your people. We hate our lukewarmness, O God. Have mercy on us, and don't spew us out! Throw some live coals from Heaven on our prayer altar, O God. Let all the chaff and rubbish in our life be consumed. Like John the Baptist, let's be burning and shining for You!

We pray for those of us who are ministers of Your Word. Forgive us our casualness and slackness in sermon preparation. Help us preach without fear or favour. Help us stir up faith and not the feelings of our hearers. Help us preach with freshness and throw away all formalism. Let each of us be a John the Baptist to prepare a people for You! Let there be unction in the pulpit so there may be action in the pew!

In the Name of Jesus the Revolutionary, we pray! Amen!

*(Psa 51:12; 85:6; 119:92,93; 1 Thess 1:9,10; 2:19,20; 1 Pet 4:12,13; Zech 10:1;  
Mk 8:25; Isa 6:6,7; Jer 20:9; Rev 2:4; 3:15,16; Jn 5:35; 2 Cor 2:17)*