

Revive Thy Work in Our Time (Habakkuk 3:2)
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[Notes from Quinton Everette, South Bend, ID]

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Revive Thy Work in the Midst of the Years [KJV]

In the first chapter of Habakkuk, the prophet speaks to God. In the second chapter, God speaks to him. Again, in the third chapter, Habakkuk speaks or prays to God. In the third chapter the prophet intercedes for the Israelites who had been taken into captivity.

Habakkuk was a praying prophet. God sent prophets not only prayed for their friends and the worshipers, but they also prayed for the ones they prophesied against. There was purpose to their prayers. The people were wicked and had broken God's law. Amid their wickedness and uncertainty, Habakkuk prayed for their preserving and a reviving. I believe he prayed expecting results. Not just simple, empty repetitions, but there was a burden and a vision that caused this prophet to pray the prayer as recorded in this chapter.

I believe we are living in a very difficult age of turmoil. Many people realize this and have acknowledged it. The world, seems to be puzzled over our current situation. It seems no one knows what to do. There seems to be many solutions but everyone has a different way to solve the problem, but no one has found the answer. Few seem to get to the heart of the situation.

Occasionally you like I, might hear someone say, we need to get back to God, the Bible, and Christianity. Many make the statement, but that seems to be about as far as they can go. We need to carry this statement out in our own lives. The prophet Habakkuk could not have prayed and prophesied as he did if he had been lacking in his own life. Many prayers make plenty of noise, but when they are cleared away, the bird is still up in the tree. What is the trouble? Many are praying the self-righteous prayer of the Pharisee when they should be praying the prayer of the publican, *God be merciful to me a sinner*.

There have been many great wonders in our lifetime. There is a wonder in the spiritual realm that to me is even greater. If our lives are clean and spotless, our sins have been forgiven (not only joining the Church and being baptized) but we have repented our sins as Christ said is necessary. If this has taken place, then we are in a position, to pray to God and receive a response. To me this is a wonderful thing.

What a wonderful privilege every Christian has then of getting alone with God privately in prayer – not only for their own personal benefit – but to intercede for other members of humanity. My opinion of our world situation is that nothing will be settled or resolved until we get back to God and do some real praying. Prayer will change things. We as a body, often forget God, trying to put Him on the shelf and in many other places, and I think they have accomplished this. What we need to do is get down on our knees, confess our sins, ask God to forgive us, make restitution and then with His help, live a consistent every day life as well as having a Sunday profession.

We, I believe have entered upon a dark day – possibly one of the darkest in all of history: God only knows, we cannot tell, but I am not so pessimistic as to believe that revival of Holy Spirit conviction, salvation, and sanctification, are outdated. I am convinced that if we pay the price, we can and will see the hungry, the burdened souls coming to Christ. Such a revival is not brought about by prayerless, careless, indifferent spirit that is manifested in so many supposed to be followers of Christ. A real Heaven sentt revival is a cloudburst of salvation caused by the spiritual atmosphere being so electrified by the Holy Spirit, that believers are sanctified, sinners converted, and opposition confounded. Jealousy, envy, hatred, strife are killed, and the devil is repulsed. We read of some revivals in God's Word, and by study, we learn the principles which govern these mighty movements.

There is a difference between a true revival and the mechanical efforts of clubs and organizations to secure new members. A Heaven-sent revival is a cloudburst of salvation, produced by the Holy Spirit yet they is dependent upon human beings, and conditioned upon human compliance with certain spiritual laws. You take 120 people is dead to sin and the world, as absorbed in Christ, as loyal to his instructions, as united, prayerful, obedient, earnest and expectant as was that first Pentecostal church and such a revival as we have been talking about would be the rule instead of the exception: of course, varying in the number of converts with character and surroundings

I believe it is impossible to have such a Pentecostal revival without the proper material. I am sure that all we lack is the material. We cannot kindle a fire with water soaked wood. The church must be kiln-dried and soaked and electrified with the presence of the Holy Spirit and a revival will come. Get that water soaked wood dried out and soak it with some gasoline and you can soon have a real fire.

Clear the Christian church off its worldliness, get the Holy Spirit in and things will move for God. Prayer, fasting, the baptism by the Holy Spirit will be the routine in the individual and the church, and revival will come

Many revivals have fizzled because these principles have been ignored. I believe that those who are responsible participants in such a revival will be held accountable on the judgment day. I am sure if every professing Christian will really get filled with the Spirit and the earnest in their prayer life and devotions, we could witness something out of the ordinary. We need to pray earnestly that God will revive his work during these dark and difficult days.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was honoured. He was given the place assigned to him by Christ. The church welcomed him and yielded to his guidance. Through the word and fire baptized workers, people were convicted of sin, righteousness, and the coming judgment. Those who repented were regenerated and filled with the Holy Spirit. *Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?* was the first question by Paul at the great Ephesian revival. I have been convinced that a genuine revival is impossible without giving the Holy Spirit supreme place. There may be good homiletic sermons preached, beautiful songs rendered, high sounding prayer offered, but if the Holy Spirit is lacking, *it will be as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.*

This is not only a church affair. If the church, is going to be on fire for God, you as an individual need to have spiritual fire. We all need to pray, *Lord revive the preacher, revive the elder, revived the prayers, revive all our meetings, and so on*, until the whole church is revived and on fire for God

If we have God sent revivals instead of man-made revivals, there will be fruitful revival. We read of some such revivals and multitudes were saved and the Holy Spirit controlled. Thousands were added to the church. Sins were exposed and forsaken, sin was confessed and cleansed away. Wrongs were righted and Christless business abandoned. A revival which stops short of such fruit, itself needs a reviving. God will not accept the revival of tears, songs, and sentiment for righteousness. A revival which does not make people right with God and one another is a cloud with his cloud with water. If it is just simply doing church instead of salvation, and it is a death trap.

We need to pray to God for mercy and forgiveness. The time is coming for us to discriminate between stuffing church statistics and getting people saved from sin.

To simply hold with the church, instead of passing through the Bible experiences of pricked-to-the-heart conviction, tear blinding, sin forsaken, heart repentance, and assurance-giving, joy-imparting regeneration, there is something radically wrong. What we need is more of the Spirit of Christ as was manifest when he saw the multitudes as sheep without a shepherd. The Scripture says, *He was moved with compassion.*

My prayer is that God will move my heart and your heart until we have a real vision for this lost and dying world. Our time is short at best, and we need to do what we can. This world seems to be getting worse by the day. There are so many black clouds gathering, and we do not know the future. But we need to ask one another, *do you know Christ?* Are you doing all you can for humanity? May we search our hearts and ask God to help us

Habakkuk was not only a praying prophet, but he was a believing prophet. He had a reason to believe that his prayers would be answered. He had the knowledge of God's former dealings and answers to prayer with the children of Israel. In verses three and four of the Scripture lesson, he refers to the visible display of God's glory in giving the law on Mount Sinai. God was the one who brought them out of Egypt. He was the one who sent plagues to humble the proud Pharaoh for the release of Israel.

He was the one who divided the Red Sea and Jordan when they stood in the way of Israel's progress: he also brought a river out of a rock when Israel needed it. He divided the land of Canaan to his people Israel and expelled the heathen.

Joshua prayed and God stopped the sun while the Amorites were being fought. These incidents and many others were our proof to the prophet Habakkuk that if he prayed and believed God, his prayers would be answered.

These and many present-day answers to prayer should move us all to pray more, and believe that God will answer, so long as we pray according to His will. If the church is to be revived, if souls are going to be saved, the believers are to be Spirit filled, I believe we must return to prayer. My job as a pastor this morning is to ask you, if you are spiritually away from God please pray to him and He will give forgive you your sins. He is the Christ who is abundantly able to meet your every need. If you do not feel the presence of God as you might have in days gone by, now is the time to ask God to revive and refresh your soul. Pray that our church will not be a dead church where it is lacking; that God will revive and that we might have a revival in our time before Jesus come back.

I believe we can have it if we get where God wants us to be and then really pray and really believe.

O Lord revive Thy work in the midst of the years (King James) Amen