

Women's Bible Study: Discipleship Ministries Resources Folder 2021, #3
Subject: Outpouring of the Spirit, Revival
Scripture References: Habakkuk 3:1-2
Theme: Revival
Objective: That we pray for a revival of the Holy Spirit of God in the face of the desperate needs of our times.

Introduction: The prophet Habakkuk lived in a time when moral chaos reigned among the people during the reign of Manasseh, a king who *"did evil in the eyes of the LORD."* By this time God, had spoken to the prophet about the destruction and impending judgment of the people by the Chaldeans. Habakkuk received the prophecy from God, and subsequently represented the people before God, imploring in prayer for a revival. This leads us to understand that the prophet saw revival as the true solution to all the problems that afflicted them.

Today, women can be like Habakkuk; his name means "the one who embraces" or "the one who fights." Faced with the desperate situation in which we live, we can embrace the Word of God / God's work and wake up crying out / fighting for revival. What situations exist in our surroundings that can be compared with the times of Habakkuk? How could you intervene and be an agent of transformation?

Proposition: Revival, more than wanting it, we need it.

What situations did the disciples go through that are similar to ours? Here are three situations:

I. WHAT IS A REVIVAL?

- It's a spiritual awakening initiated by God.
- It's needed by countries / cities / churches / families / people of all backgrounds and ages.
- In the Old Testament, it was preceded by a time of decay and spiritual neglect. There was no knowledge of God and they didn't walk with God. What was becoming known was the works of human beings, such as: violence, injustice, depravity, callousness, lack of faith, disobedience, heresies and idolatry. Revival is a time of powerful and unusual manifestation of the Holy Spirit (it can last for months or years).
- It's a special visitation of God to his Church.
- Large numbers of conversions (conviction / repentance) and water baptisms occur.
- Abundant outpouring of the love of Jesus and distribution of gifts and ministries.
- Preaching and teaching boldly in the power of the Spirit.
- A revival is a "dangerous" move.
- God begins to intervene in places that we didn't want to give him access to before.
- God changes our priorities. When this happens, it can bring about differences between us and our loved ones and our surroundings.
- You become "public": Pentecost ... noise, fire, wind, languages, conversions of masses, outpouring of pure love.
- In revival, you're not in control. The scheme of your life is taken over by the Holy Spirit.

A. Results of a revival:

- New works arise, (it's the most effective form of evangelism). Faced with the movement of the Holy Spirit, people want to gather corporately to worship, whether in homes, streets, or churches.
- New educational institutions emerge (from maternity care to higher education) with an emphasis on faith.
- Revival impacts a significant geographic area.
- Social transformation arises.
- The political sector is impacted, in some cases.
- The sending of missionaries increases.

B. What conditions precede it?

- Great spiritual need.
- Intense and intentional time of prayer and searching for God's will.

C. Why do we need it?

- In Habakkuk's time, he understood that evil and corruption at all levels had reached a point that needed an intervention from heaven.
- We need the urgent intervention of God in our surroundings.

Definition of Intervention: Circumstance in which the surgeon has to operate to correct or remove something that cannot be cured just with diet, exercises and medications. The one who initiates and determines the intervention is the doctor, not the patient. The doctor diagnoses and determines the treatment and its duration.

II. THE ACTION OF HABAKKUK AND THE ACTION OF GOD

- A. Habakkuk Believes: Believing is his main action. Habakkuk claims that he knows what is said about the Lord. He knows God's Word and believes it to be true. He has no doubt about the Lord's deeds.
- B. Habakkuk is not satisfied: The prophet is dissatisfied with the moral, political and spiritual situation of his country. He is not comfortable or satisfied with invasions and wickedness. The prophet raises his voice.
- C. Habakkuk waits: He has hope that God can do a restorative work.
- D. God's Action: Habakkuk recognizes that God's work must be revived. God's work is his people, it's not an external thing. God's work is the salvation and sanctification of people. God's work is that his glory be made known by his people to all the earth. Habakkuk reminds God of his previous work on behalf of the people of Israel. God saved the people in an extraordinary way in the event of the Exodus from Egypt.

III. REVIVALS IN HISTORY

- The greatest revival in history was the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). (The church was born from this event.)
- The Reformation in the 1500's with Martin Luther. (Luther brought the Gospel, the Scripture and the Priesthood to the common man.)
- The Wesleyan revival in England in the 1700's. (It avoided a civil war).

- The New England Revival in 1730 and 1740 with George Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards. (They impacted the thirteen colonies on a social and political level.)
- The 1802 revival in the eastern United States. (It impacted American universities like Yale.)
- The revival from 1858 to 1859. Between 8 - 10 million people were converted.
- The Holiness revival between 1898 and 1908 in the United States brought together congregations anointed by the Spirit to form the Church of the Nazarene. People were converted in great numbers and were sanctified.

CONCLUSION:

An important aspect that we can conclude from the previous revivals is unity in prayer for the will of God. It's possible that at this time, the prayers of God's people are loaded with a lot of "I", "I", "I". We have been tired and perhaps we pray many hasty prayers for the urgencies in our lives. On the other hand, we have also been very entertained with TV and the internet, watching series, spending time in group chats, surfing the web, watching bad news, memes, ect. Perhaps we use this as an escape from having to face the pain and uncertainty that's around us.

Those who have experienced revivals needed it and prayed for it. The prayer was not: "Lord change my nation," nor "Lord do something with me." The prayer was: "Lord pour out your Spirit on us." They opened their hearts to the moving of the Spirit of God, and certainly God took control and answered their prayers.

Regardless, the prophet Habakkuk didn't see the revival for which he prayed, but that didn't limit his experience as a faithful believer and intercessor for the people. God raised King Cyrus to free Israel from captivity and return them to their land. It also sparked a revival in the heart of Nehemiah, who was called to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. And the priest Ezra was called to rebuild the temple and restore the Law. The people lived at the time of social, political and spiritual restoration.

Revival requires brave people. Today you can be a fighter, a woman who embraces a commitment to revival. Today, we don't just want revival, we need it.

"For this is what the high and exalted One says— he who lives forever, whose name is holy: 'I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.'" (Isaiah 57:15)

For Reflection:

1. As a woman, wife, daughter, mother: Do you feel comfortable with the situation in your country and in your church? Are you satisfied with the situation you live in? Do you think we spend a lot of time on trivia?
2. Will you dare to be one of those who will speak out for God's justice? What would a time of intentional prayer and seeking revival look like in your Bible study or prayer group, in your church, in your city?

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