

Title: Revive Thy Works

Scripture: Habakkuk 3:17-19, 1-2

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*Habakkuk 3:17-19: Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: 18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. 19 The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.*

*Habakkuk 3:1-2: A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth. 2 O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.*

Judah was in a backslidden condition. God was going to use Babylon and take them into captivity. He would judge Judah and Babylon in the same manner. When we look at this scripture it says "revive thy work in the midst of the years." When it comes to revival, in reality are we saying we need a new direction? We don't need a new direction, we need a restored direction. Jeremiah 6:16 says "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." God has set up and ordained a way to live and there's nothing wrong with God's way. We need to get in his word and find what is involved in that path. We need to get back to God's original route for living.

There are a few questions we as a church continually ask ourselves:

1. How can we get the church to grow? We are all looking for some way to get new members.
2. How can we keep the people we have? The members that attend get discouraged and leave.
3. How can we get our people more committed?

Looking at these questions, we need to go back and see what worked in the past. What got the Holy Ghost stirred up in those days that turned the people around? They went back to the word of God and trusted those words to see a change in their homes, work lives, and church lives.

What did they do in those days?

1. They kneeled about the altar.
2. They prayed and repented about hindrances in their lives.
3. They wept until they knew God had moved and showed himself.
4. Revival was burning in their hearts the entire time. They LOVED the Lord. This is what made the difference.

The very beginning of revival is between an individual and God. It starts then. It causes us to examine our hearts and motives. If we really love the Lord, it causes us to repent and have the desire to see things changed. One can have revival on a personal level without there being a church service held especially for "revival". What does revival produce within us?

1. We will recognize God's desire to work through us. We tend to put limits on God as to what we can do.
2. Revival is our only hope. You can't have revival if you don't know the Lord or if you don't know his word. The only way you can come out of your lukewarmness is to realize that God is your only hope.
3. Revival means a greater devotion to Christ. Where is God in your priorities? We make little effort in our personal walk with Christ.

4. Revival means a greater zeal for the Lord. Having a zeal means that you aren't simply satisfied with singing, a study session, etc. It means that you want to do more.

There are three things that the prophet Habakkuk says about revival:

- a. The burden for revival. (3:1) The word *Shigionoth* means a high form of praise. Over the top kind of praise.
- b. The basis of revival. (3:2) Afraid here in the Hebrew meant to be concerned with one's position. Habakkuk knew what was going on in the land. When death happens, your work will cease. Your usefulness will cease. If you don't do now what you want to do for the Lord, there will come a day when you won't ever get the chance.
- c. The blessing of revival. (3:2)

Habakkuk wasn't the first to ask for revival during his time. King David did this as well.