

Reasons to Hope for Revival

BY PASTOR BRIAN BRODERSEN



Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?

Psalm 85:6, KJV

Mercy—God’s Delight

There are three reasons why I believe that we should hope for revival. First, God delights in showing mercy. Sometimes when I’m praying for revival and for God to show mercy on this sin-sick world, I find myself thinking, “Lord, You ought to just judge this planet!” But then I have to stop and remember that I was no different.

You could say the same thing. We were just like them at one time, living for ourselves, having no regard for God or the things of God. Not the slightest bit interested, living in sin, rebelling against God, and frankly not really caring about any of it at all. Yet what did God do? He extended mercy to us. Amazing!!! So, because God delights in showing mercy, we as God’s people ought to anticipate that perhaps at this dark hour, He might still choose to graciously pour out His Spirit.

The Promised Outpouring of the Spirit

Second, we should hope for revival because the Scripture speaks of the Spirit being poured out in the last days. This promise is found repeatedly in the Bible. ***“And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh”*** (Joel 2:28a). And so, we can biblically anticipate outpourings of the Spirit of God as we get closer to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Unfinished Business

The third reason I believe we should hope for revival is because it seems that God is moving in that direction. Although there are many things that appear to point in the direction of the Second Coming—whether it be interna-

tional situations or the Middle East crisis—as I look at other events, I get the sense that there is still something that God is going to accomplish before Jesus returns.

I believe this because of my own experience of what God is doing in and through the ministry of Calvary Chapel. I am not saying that Calvary Chapel is the only ministry through which God is moving today. He’s working through many ministries and we thank God for that. But I’m not involved in those other ministries, so I don’t know the details. I do know the details, however, of what He’s doing with Calvary Chapel. And as I look at what He is accomplishing, it seems that the Lord is moving and He is preparing to do something significant in the future.

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As a ministry, we’ve grown to over 1,000 affiliated churches in the U.S. and hundreds more internationally. Weekly, we get stacks of applications for affiliation. New churches are being planted and men are being raised up to spread the Gospel. People want to be part of what God is doing.

When I first went into Europe many years ago, our ministry was limited to evangelizing on the streets and meeting in people’s homes. Today, we have conference centers and Bible colleges in England, Germany, Austria, Spain, Brazil, and Hungary. Now, I look at all of this and think, “Lord, You have laid the groundwork, You have laid a foundation. It is hard for me to believe that You would have laid the foundation without intending to erect the structure.” ***“Shall I bring to the time***

of birth, and not cause delivery?’ says the LORD” (Isaiah 66:9a).

I look at the expansion of our radio ministry—not only are we broadcasting Bible teaching all over the U.S., but also throughout Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and various parts of Africa. Every day people from around the world contact us to say, “This radio station has revolutionized my life.” And they’re going back to their churches—not Calvary Chapel churches necessarily, but Lutheran, Anglican, Presbyterian, Baptist, or Catholic churches—saying, “God has really touched me through this radio station.” They are encouraging people to tune in. God is doing something, and again, I see that and think, “Well, Lord, it seems peculiar that You would build all of this up, only to pull the plug.”

I could be wrong. But, because of what I see happening in our own ministry, I am convinced we ought to be hoping and praying for a spiritual awakening. Is a fresh outpouring of God’s Spirit guaranteed? Can we say authoritatively, “If we do A, B, and C, then God is obligated to bring about revival?” Let me quote A.W. Tozer to answer that question:

“What God in His sovereignty may yet do on a world-scale I do not claim to know. But what He will do for the plain man or woman who seeks His face I believe I do know and can tell others. Let any man turn to God in earnest, let him begin to exercise himself unto godliness, let him seek to develop his powers of spiritual receptivity by trust and obedience and humility, and the results will exceed anything he may have hoped [for] in his leaner and weaker days.”¹ ↵

¹ A.W. Tozer. *The Pursuit of God*. Christian Publications, Inc., Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, 1982, 1993, p. 66.