

Why Only Revival Can Cure America's Stage 4 Cancer

The results are in: America's stage 4 cancer has metastasized to the family and the church as well as to the government and the schools. We are more depraved than ever before.

Animals are guarded but innocent children are slaughtered. Porn is protected, and sex-trafficking is on the rise. Cardi B's lyrics get a pass but Scriptures are banned on social media.

Words cannot express this outright lunacy. Like the bungee jumper who plunged to her death because she thought she heard "now jump," when, in reality, her instructor said, "No jump!" America thinks that she is hearing from God, but she is not. We are drowning in a cesspool of moral filth: "The wicked walk on every side, when the worthless of mankind are exalted" (Ps. 12:8).

Recently, a father was arrested for referring to his biological 14-year-old daughter as "she" after she transitioned to a male gender (more here). "But that's in Canada," you say. Trust me, we are not far behind. Most on the liberal left would have no problem imprisoning anyone who disagreed with them, and that's exactly where the Equality Act is going—unless you accept, rejoice in and validate sin, they are coming after you. Revival is our only hope.

There Is Only One Remedy

We see throughout the Bible that there is only one remedy—one solution—one cure to reverse the judgment of God: revival. During times of crisis, the cure for judgment was to return back to God: "Consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly, assemble the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord" (Joel

1:14).

Revival changes a nation from the inside out. Benjamin Franklin, commenting on George Whitefield's preaching, said this about the revival sweeping the land, "It was wonderful to see the change soon made in the manners of our inhabitants. From being thoughtless or indifferent about religion, it seemed as if all the world were growing religious." Revival must begin in the pulpits as well as the pews.

What Revival Is And Is Not

Revival is not adding more church services to the calendar. Revival is not having a guest speaker host an event. And revival most certainly is not acting weird and loud. Revival is a sovereign act of God: "Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?" (Ps. 85:6).

In the same way that we cannot produce a bumper crop by making it rain, revival cannot be planned, organized or scheduled. But you can till the soil of your heart: "I dwell in the high and holy place and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (Isa. 57:15).

Revival is when we till the soil through brokenness, humility and surrender via fasting and prayer. God responds by rending the heavens with a downpour: "Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might shake at Your presence" (Isa. 64:1).

Revival Has a Cost

The cold hard truth is that many are not willing to pay the price. Gone are the days of John Wesley, George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards who would fast and pray as if America's future depended upon it (because it did and still does). It's no surprise that Edwards' famous sermon, "Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God," was preached at the tail end of his three-

day fast. Today that title would be labeled offensive and many pastors would be too ashamed to preach it—too ashamed because they lack the fire of the Spirit.

Gone are the days of David Brainard who spent nights in agonizing prayer, as well as “praying” John Hyde, William Bramwell and countless others who prayed fervently for our nation. Instead of carrying the baton and running the race, we are captivated by *American Idol*, love our porn and over-indulge. King Stomach is clearly on the throne.

“It’s too hard to fast,” we say. The problem isn’t fasting: It’s addiction. We can’t fast because we’re withdrawing from our favorite addictions: coffee, sugar, alcohol, processed food and so on. Let that sink in. And we wonder why we aren’t experiencing a massive move of God in our nation. We abort revival before it’s even been conceived.

When revivals spread across our landscape, Christians spent countless hours praying and fasting. They paid the price! When pastors stood at the pulpit they preached boldly about the cross, sin, judgment and repentance. They could say, “Thus saith the Lord,” because they were filled with the Holy Spirit, not Hollywood. They didn’t work revival up: God brought it down because His Word was honored.

Prophets Can’t Be Popular

Today, most pastors want to be popular, and most Christians want their ears tickled. If you doubt this, just look at the top sermons on social media today and the respective pastors’ attire. The messages are soothing rather than convicting. As in Israel’s day, the people still say, “You must not prophesy to us what is right! Speak to us pleasant things and smooth words, prophesy [deceitful] illusions [that we will enjoy]” (Isa. 30:10, AMP).

Granted, we need to hear uplifting messages, but we have a huge problem when pastors don’t want to ruffle feathers, and

Christians don't want to hear controversial topics. America's stage 4 cancer was caused by a bad diet of frivolous preaching. The cure will require a complete diet change back to whole life-giving food from the Word of God.

I don't say this in arrogance; my heart breaks for the church. This article is more of a plea than a rebuke, but the truth is, "We have too many puppets in our pulpits and not enough prophets," as Leonard Ravenhill said. Pastors and Christians must lead the way, but the way won't be popular and wide; it will be narrow and difficult. We must fast like it matters, pray like we mean it and seek God as if everything depends upon it—because it does.

You Don't Want Revival, Do You?

Nearly a decade ago, I prayed, "Lord, bring revival to the churches," but I was not ready for the response that followed. I share the response and the sermon below as often as possible to reach as many people as possible.

After I prayed, it was almost as if God was saying: "You don't want revival—it will ruin your schedule, your dignity, your image and your reputation as a person who is 'well balanced.' Men will weep throughout the congregation. Women will wail because of the travail of their own souls. Young adults will cry like children at the magnitude of their sin. With the strength of My presence, the worship team will cease playing. Time will seem to stand still. You won't be able to preach because of the emotions flooding your own soul. You'll struggle to find words, but only find tears.

"Even the most dignified and reserved among you will be broken and humbled as little children. The proud and self-righteous will not be able to stand in My presence. The doubter and unbeliever will either run for fear or fall on their knees and worship Me—there can be no middle ground. The church will never be the same again."

Do you truly want revival? It will cost you. National revival begins with personal revival when we look in the mirror, repent and turn toward God. He is our only hope.

Watch the sermon, "True Revival Has a Cost," [here](#).

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