

ELEMENTS OF REVIVAL



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Introduction:

When revival comes, certain things happen as common features of that revival. These are the elements of revival which we always see when God moves in the midst of His people again. They may usually start at individual levels at first but eventually spread through the entire congregations of God's people.

These features include the following:

1. Repentance and Return to God - Lam.3: 40; Acts 2: 37-38; 3: 19.

Other examples apart from the time of Elijah include the time of Samuel (**1Sam.7: 2-5**), Nehemiah (**Neh.7-13**) and Ezra (**Ezra 9-10**) Jonah in Nineveh (**Jon.3**), and John the Baptist (**Matt.3: 4-6**).

2. Repair of Broken Altar and Restoration of Sacrifice to God - Matt.15: 16-20; Rom.12: 1-2; 1Cor.3: 16; 6: 15. Compare 1Sam.2: 17 with 2Sam.24: 24.

3. Offering of Fervent and Effective Prayer to God - Jam.5: 16.

This involves praying all kinds of prayer to God as commanded in the Bible - **Eph.6: 18; 1Tim.2: 1**. The different types of prayer are as follow -

- i. Praise and worship - **Acts 13: 2-3; 16: 25-26**.
- ii. Thanksgiving - **Ps.100: 4-5; Phil.4: 6**.
- iii. Prayer of Consecration - **Matt.26: 38-39; Rom.12: 1**.
- iv. Prayer of Supplication - **Phil.4: 6**.
- v. Prayer of Agreement - **Matt.18: 19-20**.
- vi. Prayer of Intercession - **1Tim.2: 1** e.g. Daniel (**Dan.9**) and Jesus Christ (**Jn.17**).
- vii. Binding and loosing or spiritual warfare - **Matt.18: 18; Mk.3: 27**.

4. Fire-fall and/or Rainfall. Fire-fall or rainfall after prayer signifies acceptance of our prayer or sacrifice to God.

Some instances of such fire-fall or rainfall in the Bible include the following:

- i. Time of Moses - **Exod.9: 23; Lev.9: 24.**
- ii. Before Gideon and Manoah - **Judg.6: 21; 13: 18-20.**
- iii. Time of Elijah - **1Kg.18: 38, 41-45.**
- iv. Time of David - **1Chron.21: 26.**
- v. Time of Solomon - **1Kg.8: 1-11.**

Please, take note that fire can also come down from heaven as judgment or punishment from God e.g. Sodom & Gomorrah (**Gen.19: 24**) Nadab & Abihu (**Lev.10: 1-2**); Israelites (**Num.11: 1-3**); time of Elijah (**2Kg.1: 10-14**).

5. Obedience to God. Obedience to God is always a common feature or result of every true revival - **Matt.3: 7-10.** How can we claim to love or know God and still be living in disobedience? - **1Sam.15: 22; Isa.1: 19; Lk.6: 46; Jn.14: 15; Rom.6: 1-2; Jam.1: 22.**

Conclusion:

The Bible teaches clearly that we eventually get whatever we seek passionately with all our hearts - **Jer.29: 13; Matt.7: 7-11.** If we truly seek God with ALL our hearts like the Psalmist in **Ps.42: 1-3** at this crucial time then, we shall find Him and experience Him in our situation. May the Lord revive us all at this time and may we all bring forth God's expected fruit of repentance which is total obedience to His word.