



## What is Revival

**South India** – God is moving in many parts of South India. Whole villages are being converted to Christ amid great persecution. It is estimated that 17,000 people are turning to Christ every day and that a new church is established every 3 minutes.

As we can see from this report revival has a massive impact both on God's church and our society at Large!!

**Discuss in Group** – What is revival?

Many people today think that Revival is a series of meetings where God's Spirit is moving in power through the gifts. Others think of revival as religious emotionalism. Still others see revival as a successful program of outreach – declaring their meetings as revival meetings.

**Yet none of these things alone are evidence of a revival.**

The Word Revival literally means – **To wake up and live.** In the bible the whole idea of revival was based on God breathing new life and holiness into His people. This new life caused a number of things to happen.

**Repentance** - Both in the bible and in church history revival has started with the people of God. The first work of revival was a release on the people of God of the full convicting power of the Holy Spirit. This is where the Holiness and Power of God is manifested in a meeting and the people of God are cut to the heart by their own sin and daily compromises with the world. At this point of conviction people abandon all pride and justification. They abandon or fear of how people see them and actively confess their hidden sins in public.

**Read** – 1 John 1 v 8 – 10

**Discuss** – who is this advice given to?

what does our repentance do for our relationship with God?

Even as Christians we make mistakes and do things that are wrong. Over a period of time a build up of unconfessed, sin that we have justified because of our pride damages our relationship with God and causes a rift between us and God.

**A famous Christian wrote** – “Just as we make a choice each time we sin, to sin, so if we want a clean heart we should confess each individual sin to God.”

When revival comes one of the first signs is that the Holy Spirit reveals to us the areas of our lives that have become hardened to God through wrongdoing and disobedience. The Holy Spirit also reveals to us the holiness of our God and the fullness of the forgiveness that He offers us through Christ. This revelation brings about the response where we as God's people say sorry for our sin, turn away from them and commit ourselves to love Christ as the first love in our lives.

**Discuss** – If God caused people to confess their sins in the Sunday Services, what responses both positive and negative do you think there would be?

A – in people who attend the church

B – From onlookers outside of the church?

How do you feel about the possibility that God may call you to repentance publicly?

Every true revival has seen open times of confession in services. Revival is painful because people are confronted with who they really are before a Holy God. Every true revival as it has been taking place has been accused of emotionalism and condemned by large parts of the established church.

**Discuss** – Why do you think that even people in the church will speak out against what God in actual Revival?

How should we deal with opposition when revival comes?

It is a simple truth that when the people of God are living in compromise and are backslidden, it is then that God sends revival to His people. It is God's way of refining His church and giving back to them a passionate first love both for Jesus and the full salvation that Jesus has given them. As we see all that Jesus has forgiven us, we release the wonder and beauty of the love and grace of God and we fall in love with Him once again. **Discuss** – do you think the church in this country is in need of revival, is so why?