

A group of people, including a woman in a blue dress and a young child, are gathered outdoors under a green tent. The scene is festive, with balloons and people in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

Lord Please Send A Revival Part 3—A Revival Of Relationship

Dr. Joseph N. Cousin, Sr.

Recap--Acts 2

- Our community might look different—and operate differently—but the Holy Spirit still always shows up!
- The goal of our community is to be saved and to lead others to salvation through Jesus Christ.
- The end result of community is learning, sharing, growing, and leading others to salvation.

What Is A Revival?

- Revival: an improvement in the condition or strength of something; an instance of something becoming popular, active, or important again
- With this definition in mind, as we ask the Lord to send a revival—we are acknowledging that we need some things in our life to become important again
- Primarily due to the pandemic, we are need of a revival—and we are asking the Lord to send our revival!

Areas Of Revival

- Over the course of the following weeks we will be focusing our study of revival in the following areas:
- Revival Of Community
- Revival Of Relationships
- Revival Of Prayer
- Revival Of Faith
- Revival Of Commitment

Revival Of Relationships

- As we continue with our emphasis on revival—I believe that there are three primary relationships that need to be focused on and revived in our lives.
- These three areas are not new to any of us—and they are really common sense areas.
- And, we cannot really be what God desires us to be—and receive the revival that we need until we focus on the revival of these three relationships.

My Relationship With ME

- The first area of relationship that we need to revive is our relationship with ourself.
- In fact, all relationships that we have—and all relationships that we will have in the future revolve around this one.
- So, our journey begins with this question—How do I relate to myself—or to put it plainly—how do I see myself?
- I believe in order to revive our internal relationship—we must begin to see ourselves in the same manner that God sees us.
- In fact, I think that our failure to have a proper relationship with ourself—is because we fail to understand how God sees us.
- So, how does God see us?

Psalm 8:4-5

- ⁴ what are mere mortals that you should think about them,
human beings that you should care for them?
- ⁵ Yet you made them only a little lower than God^l
and crowned them with glory and honor.

My Relationship With Me (2)

- In order to revive our internal relationship, we must begin to see ourselves as God sees us—and how God sees us is outlined in the 8th Psalm.
- Because of God's love for us, God has created us in God's image.
- This is shown in verses 4 and 5, and gives us an understanding of the depth of love that God has for us.
- God has crowned us with glory and honor—creating us in God's own image.
- Therefore, because God sees us like this—then we need to see ourselves the same way.

My Relationship With Me (3)

- However, here is our problem:
- In spite of how God views us—we often see ourselves differently.
- We sometimes allow other people to define us, we allow our circumstances to define us, and we allow our shortcomings to define us.
- Thus, when we relate to ourselves—we are often hard on ourselves—because we know our unworthiness.
- Yet, in our moments where we focus on our unworthiness—never forget that in God's eyes—and as God has created us—we are created in God's image.
- Therefore, we are loved by God, we are cared for by God, and we are worthy in God's sight!
- And this should order how we relate to ourselves.

My Relationship With Others

- Once we are able to understand and revive our relationship with ourselves—then we are properly able to begin to revive our relationship with others.
- How we relate to other people—everybody else—is directly proportional to how we have learned to relate to ourselves.
- In other words, I can't relate to others—until I understand my relationship with me—and once I do this—then I am able to relate to others.
- And, praise God that God continues to give us guidance on how we relate to others.

Matthew 7

- 1: Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. 2: For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.
- 3-5: Don't focus on a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye. Don't be a hypocrite!
- 12: Do unto others whatever you would like them to do to you.

My Relationship With Others (2)

- In order to revive our relationships with others we must do these things:
- Don't be judgmental
- Don't focus on someone else's faults without considering your own—that's hypocrisy
- Treat other people as you would like to be treated
- We typically run into relationship problems when we fail to follow these three simple principles outlined by Jesus.
- Yet, if follow these instructions—we will be able to properly relate to everyone in our lives—and receive our revival!

1 John 4:20

- If someone says, “ I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?

My Relationship With God

- As we move into our most crucial relationship—our relationship with God—we cannot do so with understanding the words in 1st John.
- Once we are able to love others that we can see—and we revive those relationships—then, we are able to properly revive our relationship with God.
- And, if we want our relationship with God to be right—then we have to revive our relationship with ourselves and others—and then we are able to build upon the most important relationship in our lives—our relationship with God!

Matthew 22:37-40

- 37: Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. 38: This is the first and greatest commandment. 39: A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40: The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

My Relationship With God (2)

- Our relationship with God is a direct reciprocation of God's relationship with us—and that is love.
- We must love God above everything in our lives—this means that nothing can come before, above, or be more important than God.
- We must love God with everything that we have—all of our heart—meaning are we willing to give God everything that we have and put our giving to God first?
- We must love God with all of our soul—meaning that the entirety of our being must be wrapped in love for God above anything else.
- And we must love God with all of our mind—meaning that our thoughts must revolve around pleasing God in every capacity of our existence.

Recap

- There are three primary relationships which we must seek to revive:
- Our relationship with ourself: learn to see yourself as God sees you—and don't focus on shortcomings—focus on the image of God in which you have been created.
- Our relationship with others: don't be judgmental, don't focus on someone else's faults without addressing your own; and treat others as you want to be treated.
- Our relationship with God: Love God above else with heart, soul, and mind—always put God first!