Lord Please Send A Revival

Part 2—A Revival Of Community (Acts 2)

Dr. Joseph N. Cousin, Sr.

Allen Temple AME Church, Woodstock, GA

Recap

- Isaiah 43:18-21
- We need a revival and the Lord is responding by:
- Doing a new thing unlike anything God has ever done
- God makes pathways through all of our obstacles and gives life to all areas of our lives
- God desires that everything that has breath give thanks to God for all that God does
- Our response to God's revival must be to give God honor not just privately, but we must do so in the effort to show the entire world

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

Acts 2—A Revival Of Community

- 1On the day of Pentecost^[a] all the believers were meeting together in one place. ² Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. ³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴ And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, ^[b] as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.
- At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. ⁶ When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.
- They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, 8 and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!

What Does Community Look Like In 2022?

- As we ask God for a revival of community, we need to understand what community looks like in 2022.
- Traditionally, community is defined as a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.
- However, primarily due to the pandemic, we have a modified understanding of community—since it is difficult to consistently be in the same physical place.
- However, I believe that even though we aren't always able to be in the same physical space—we can still achieve community.

What Does Community Look Like In 2022? (2)

- Acts 2:1—On the day of Pentecost, all the believers were meeting in one place—and the Holy Spirit showed up.
- On the day of Pentecost, the believers were meeting in one place—exhibiting the traditional understanding of community.
- Now, due to our difficulty being able to consistently gather in the same place as the believers did—it is sometimes difficult to feel the same sense of community.
- However, I believe that we are still able to achieve a sense of community—if we look at being in the same place differently.
- No longer can we look at meeting—or worshipping in the same place as purely physical—now we must look at different avenues of meeting.
- In other words—as we gather in a primarily virtual space—we still have community.

What Does Community Look Like In 2022? (3)

- So, as we ask God for a revival of community—we must also be willing to revise our understanding of community.
- Until we can safely gather consistently in the same space, our community will be different—but we still have community.
- We must continue to utilize the virtual opportunities that God has given us understanding that as we gather—the Holy Spirit will always show up!
- In 2022 community might not look like it has traditionally—but it is still God's community—and the Holy Spirit still shows up and brings us together.

What Does Community Lead To?

- As the Holy Spirit continues to show up even in our new sense of community, community still leads to the same thing.
- Remember, a community is defined as a group of people gathered with the same goal in common.
- And, even as our understanding of community has been revised, the goal is still the same.
- Acts 2:21: Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved!
- God's community leads to our salvation through Jesus Christ!

What Does Community Lead To? (2)

- We must never forget that the goal of our community is not only to be saved—but to also lead others to salvation.
- So, as we ask God to revive our community, we are making the continued commitment to lead others to salvation.
- Our community might look different—it might even be more virtual than physical—but still the goal is the same.
- God's community—which is us—the goal is to receive and lead others to salvation—that we all might be in right relationship with God.

The End Result Of Community

- We are still able to gather together—albeit virtually—and the Holy Spirit still continues to show up.
- We lead others to salvation through Jesus Christ.
- And our salvation leads to a greater end result of community.
- Acts 2: 42-47: 42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. 43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44And all the believers met together in one place and shared all that they had. 45They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46They worshipped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—47all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

The End Result Of Community (2)

- Devotion To God's Teaching
- Fellowship
- Sharing Meals With Each Other
- Prayer
- Signs And Wonders To Follow
- Sharing Money With Each Other
- Corporate Worship
- Praising God And Being Thankful For Each Other
- God Adding New People To Be Saved—Each And Every Day

Recap

- 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.