

# Revival Fire

Good morning, it's nice to see all of your smiling faces! I hope you are happy to be in the house of the Lord today. I hope you are filled with the joy of the Lord, but I have a question for you this morning....

No matter where you are at in your walk, seasoned believer, struggling believer, new believer, or not yet a believer.....Do you think what we experience in church is as good as it gets?

Do we just come to church to sing a few songs, give some money, and hear a story about what God has done in the past? Or is there something more than this?

Sometimes I wonder if the church, that is the body of Christ, every believer, does it have the fire?

“There was a time when people went to church to meet with God. Now they come to church to sing songs and hear stories about Him.” ~ Leonard Ravenhill

I'm convinced that Jesus wants more for His church. The church is the bride of Christ!

As a husband, one of my greatest joys in life is to do whatever I can to help my wife, my bride, succeed in life. To see her doing things out of passion with fire because not only is that where she is most effective but also the most fulfilled and built up.

I can't help but think that Jesus wants the same for His bride. Do you agree?

## **Haggai 2:9 (NKJV)**

'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts.

The former temple was the physical temple that people worshipped in. This was the temple that Solomon built for the Lord. It was a magnificent structure made with the finest materials by the most skilled craftsman it was beyond beauty....

This temple was ruined and Haggai has spoken to the people to rebuild it and he says the glory of this new temple will be greater than the old one.

See the people had lost the fire. They were wishing for the old glory days. “Remember when.....?” But Haggai says it's going to be better. You have great things to look forward to...

I'm believing the same for the church today! Are you?

I look to the past to be reminded of what God is able to do but as I look to the present and future, I hope He does GREATER things!

The church needs the fire of God! Amen?

Do you know that the fire of God is God's presence?

Remember Moses and the burning bush? That was God's presence. God consumed the bush, it was completely ablaze.

**Exodus 24:17 (NKJV)**

the sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.

**Ezekiel 8:2 (NKJV)**

Then I looked, and there was a likeness, like the appearance of fire – from the appearance of His waist and downward, fire

This might sound like a stupid question but why do we need the fire of God....His presence?

- Fire purifies
  - Through trials in life, sin is worked out
- Fire is power
  - Fire needs a fuel source, our source is the Holy Spirit
- Fire is attractive
  - People like to look at fire
  - "I set myself on fire and people come to watch me burn." ~ John Wesley

If you look in the book of Acts, the early church had the fire. And because of that, they changed the world!

The church needs revival! Amen?

When something is revived it is made to have life, to be brought back from sickness or death and to cause to grow!

**Psalm 85:6 (NKJV)**

Will You not revive us again,  
That Your people may rejoice in You?

We need revival.....corporately.....but it starts with revival individually!

“In revival God is not concerned about filling empty churches. He is concerned about filling empty hearts” ~ Leonard Ravenhill

So what do we do about it? I hope you pray for revival.

I know the pastors in the MA pray for revival. I've seen each one of them weeping in prayer for this city and for the church. I'm talking a true cry from the heart for God to send revival fire down from heaven.

The church needs to be praying like this....we need revival! I want to show you how this can happen.

Turn to 1 Kings 17. To set this up this is the beginning of a reign of the wicked king Ahab and his even more wicked wife Jezebel. They set up idols, altars, and a temple to worship Baal. 16:33 says that Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

So the nation is in pretty rough shape. Elijah, an awesome, powerful man of God

**1 Kings 17:1 (NKJV)**

And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”

Now this is cool but the followers of Baal believed that among other things, he was god of the rain. Elijah says “it's not going to rain until I say so....”

It's easy to look at that and think....”wow, pretty bold but Elijah just prophesied and that was that. God did all the rest of the work.”

**James 5:17 (NKJV)**

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

Elijah was a person just like you are, just like I am. There was nothing specific about Elijah that led to this bold statement that's unattainable to you and me. What Elijah did was PRAY.

It says he prayed earnestly. This is to pray to God with serious intention, purpose or effort. Elijah wasn't like “God it would be cool if you didn't let it rain”

It was probably more like “Almighty God, show these hurting people who You are. Reveal Yourself to them. Show them the error of their ways so they will turn to You. The One true God!”

“God would you do something miraculous so they know that it’s You. Would you prove them wrong not for my sake but for yours. Will you break through the darkness that is over our nation?”

And it wasn’t a one time prayer. See we read it like “he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.”

But there is a semicolon there. That’s a pause between two main clauses.

“He prayed earnestly that it would not rain. PAUSE and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.”

The earnest prayer was for the 3 ½ years. He didn’t pray once and then it didn’t rain. He prayed earnestly, probably daily, that it would not rain.....WHY?

### **Revival fire requires hard earnest prayer**

Consider what Elijah is asking.....he’s asking God to bring devastation on the land. As a farming community, we know what it’s like when there’s no rain. Think about no rain for 3 ½ years!

Elijah was asking for drought and famine in the land because he wanted revival fire. It would be worth the physical famine if lead to the end of the spiritual famine in Israel.

Listen....our country....even our state and our community is in a spiritual famine. Are you burdened enough to pray hard prayers for God to bring revival fire and awaken this nation, this community?

Later in chapter 18 we see Elijah call out the nation of Israel. He challenges them to choose between God or Baal. He says pick a side! And he gets no response.

Then he challenges them to a showdown. Please go home and read 1 Kings 18, it’s amazing. But I’m going to give you the short version....

- I am one prophet, you have 450
- Let’s make an offering to our gods. I make one for mine, you make one for yours, put the bull on the wood but put no fire under it, and I’ll do the same.
- The prophets of Baal prepared their offering, and for 6 hours, they cried out and it says they “leaped about the altar” ----(kid beginning to freak out, throw fit to get what they want) ----no response
- Elijah begins to poke fun at their “god”
  - Cry out louder, for he’s a god

- Maybe he's thinking it over
- Maybe he's on a journey
- Maybe he's sleeping
- Then the prophets of Baal prophesied until evening - trying something else - name it and claim it, speak it into existence
- Elijah calls everyone to his altar to the Lord
- He repairs an altar that had been broken, sets 12 stones around it
  - Digs a trench around it
  - Cut the wood
  - Put the bull on the wood
  - Then he had them pour 4 flowerpots of water on the bull and the wood
    - A second time
    - A third time
    - It ran all over the altar and filled the trench with water

**1 Kings 18:36b-37 (NKJV)**

“Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. 37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.”

Here we go....back to that earnest prayer! What was the result?

**1 Kings 18:38-39 (NKJV)**

Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!”

Amazing! One of my favorite accounts in all the bible. What faith, what boldness, what a God! This is Jesus! The God that can do the impossible. The God that shows up all other “gods”

Church, this is what we pray for when we ask for revival fire. Think of this fire as God's presence.....

When we ask for revival fire.....what we are asking is for the presence of God to fall from heaven.....not just to be here, not just to look cool or feel good.....but to CONSUME EVERYTHING.

Luke 3:16 - John the baptist said there is One coming who is mightier than I and He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire!

Baptize means immersed, completely covered, overwhelmed.....or one could say consumed.

God wants to consume us with His fire. We are to be a passionate people. If we aren't passionate about Jesus then how are we going to lead others to Him?

Pray for revival fire! It's how our nation will change. It's how the church will again walk in power!

Offering - you've offered yourself to the Lord - consume me - I'm ready - rain down the fire!

Wood - you're kind of part of the offering but a little wet - you feel like maybe God can't bring that revival fire yet, you need some time, you need to dry out first

Trench - you feel like you are completely under water and really lack substance, you are just holding water

Rocks - this would be those who haven't chosen to follow Jesus. What can fire really do to a rock, it's not flammable. It lacks the fuel source.

I'm here to tell you today, that no matter if you are the offering, the wood, the trench, or the rock...God's revival fire can come down from heaven and consume every single bit of you if you will ask Him.