

...as He leads...

Lessons from Past Revivals

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(Notes taken and adapted from several articles written on past revivals)

- 1) **Our goal in revival is to be made more into the image of Christ:** Seek God Himself, not just the giftings and power He gives. Keep your affections on Jesus Christ the Person & your relationship with Him (*Rev 2:4*). Pursue Him, not the revival itself. Don't make the revival an idol.
- 2) **Orderly worship:** (*1 Cor 14:26*) This doesn't always mean peaceful, predictable and controlled. There may be involuntary muscle movements, falling down, laughing, shouting, dancing, healing, prophecies, visions, deliverances, and speaking in tongues. Although many may try to imitate, having had no real encounter with the Spirit of God, begin from a place of trust and don't assume the worst about each other. Love trusts (*1 Cor 13:7*).
- 3) **Revivals demand discernment, not cynicism & criticism:** Revivals provoke debates over issues such as the ministry of laypersons, the role of women in the church, genuine versus counterfeit spirituality, the activity of demons, and the danger of religious fanaticism. Consequently, revivals demand discernment.

Spiritual discernment, as Jesus taught, requires us to distinguish the genuine from the counterfeit '*by their fruit*' (*Mtt 7:20*). However, 'spiritual fruit' only becomes evident over time, while we tend to make judgments within seconds. Hence, it is important to enter into patient, prayerful reflection and resist making hasty critical and/or cynical judgments if we are to rightly and biblically discern.

- 4) **Every way in which the Spirit of God works is important:** Scripture teaches us that the Spirit of God not only heals, performs miracles and is made manifest through the use of spiritual gifts and visions; but the Spirit of God convicts people of sin, leads people to repentance, brings salvation to the sinner, comforts, sanctifies, teaches and empowers preachers.

All the ways in which the Holy Spirit moves are important and necessary.

- 5) **Avoid extremes:** Those resistant to revival become cut off from the work of God, whilst those with no discernment fall prey to opening themselves up to the counterfeit miracles & manifestations of the enemy. We need to be *‘open, with caution’*.

- 6) **Common errors to avoid during a revival:**

Error 1: Declaring what God is doing is a work of the flesh. In calling the Spirit ‘flesh’ you will quench the Spirit of God.

Error 2: Declaring an imitation of the flesh to be a move of the Holy Spirit.

Error 3: Trying to keep what God is doing under control or trying to improve it by fleshy means e.g. making vows

Error 4: Calling what God is doing of the devil.

Error 5: Calling what the devil is doing of God. The enemy will be there with his counterfeit miraculous works and we are to ensure we test everything.

- 7) **Test everything:** Teachings, prophecies, tongues, words, visions and dreams - everything is to be prayerfully and biblically tested (*1 Thess 5:21, Acts 17:11, Heb 5:14*). We are also to test the spirits. Every spirit that acknowledges Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God (*1 Jn 4:1-3*). Make prayerful judgements regarding a Believer's behaviour. We are to righteously judge other Believers – after judging ourselves first (*Mtt 7:3-5, 1 Cor 5:12, Jn 7:24*).
- 8) **Listen to the Lord:** God speaks to us, and He wants us to hear Him clearly so we can follow Him (*Jn 10:27*). When you think the Lord is speaking to you, ask yourself, “*Would Jesus Christ say this?*” Does it align with His character and the Bible?
- 9) **When judging a revival ask the following questions:** a) What is the fruit? b) Is there faithfulness to the Word of God? c) Is there deep sorrow over sin and a turning away from it? d) Are people's lives being changed? e) Are people more in love with the Lord than before? f) Are they hungrier for His Word? g) Is there a deepening desire for holiness? h) Do they have a new desire to serve God and win others for Christ?
- 10) **Expect opposition:** Resistance to the work of God will come e.g. Paul in Ephesus (*Acts 2:13*). People in authority may object violently to developments (*Acts 4:1-21*).
- 11) **Keep doing what you did before the revival, during the revival:** Maintain your personal quiet time with God and prayer groups you are currently in with others. Don't neglect or give away what you already have in place that is serving you well spiritually. Ask the Lord to reveal any 'open doors' that need closing in your life. Be accountable to someone. Identify your areas of weakness and pray into them.

- 12) **Jesus Christ is the only celebrity:** Leaders should not draw attention to themselves, but always to Christ. Do not reach out to celebrity Christians to speak and perform in order to draw people.
- 13) **“Is this a revival?” may not be the best question to ask since it implies that there is a single yardstick against which every new spiritual movement must be measured:** Because God is infinite, there are infinite ways in which the Spirit of God may find human expression. *“There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit...”* (1 Cor 12:4, 7). A better question to ask: *“Is this the Spirit?”* A recognition of the Spirit’s diverse work should deter us from snap spiritual judgments and from reliance on our own experience as the measure for evaluating everyone else’s.
- 14) **Pray for your church leaders:** They are on the frontline of spiritual battles and have great responsibilities in teaching, guiding and making decisions that affect the spiritual well-being of many Believers (Rom 15:30, Col 4:3, Eph 6:19, 1 Thess 5:25, Heb 13:17, Jam 3:1).
- 15) **Maintain & pray for unity amongst leaders and Believers:** Keep short accounts with others. Be deliberate & ask each other if there are any unresolved issues. If there are – resolve them (Mtt 5:23, Jam 5:16, Rom 12:16-19).
- 16) **Unity isn’t uniformity:** Christians have different personalities, Bible interpretations and styles of prayer & worship. We need to grant freedom on disputable matters and love, not despise others who differ from us (Rom 14:1-23, 15:1-6).

- 17) **Don't fall into a false sense of security:** Don't think 'everything is going well' and let your guard down. Remain humble and know you can be deceived. Pray you won't be. Stand guard, be strong, let all you do be in love (1 Cor 16:13-14).
- 18) **Don't burn out:** Maintain a healthy balance of work, rest, sleep, eating, family time etc. Over work leads to exhaustion, exhaustion leads to impropriety and impropriety leads to a fall.
- 19) **Don't promote people too soon to positions of leadership & service:** Revivals attract imposters and deceivers. Prayer and discernment should govern appointments to positions of leadership (Acts 6:2-7, Titus 1:5-9,). When people contribute a lot of money and are eager to be increasingly involved, more discernment is needed, not less.
- 20) **Use the fervour to train up the next generation of leaders:** God's Word must be taught, or revivals quickly die. Biblical teaching and discipleship training are essential. New Christians need to be taught and placed into discipleship groups and a healthy local church.
- 21) **Don't get caught up in hype & emotionalism:** Test your emotions. If they're leading you away from the fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23), don't trust them. Emotions can be enjoyed, but shouldn't govern or control us.
- 22) **Don't trust the media or get wooed by them:** Don't 'glory' in the movement of revival. Glory in God alone. Use media to promote the Cross of Christ and Gospel message, not the revival itself.

23) A revival is a work of grace and is maintained by grace:

Encourage righteous behaviour without legalistic obligations. Historically, legalism has caused revivals to die out, as has a drop in faith, freedom and a hunger for the Lord.

If the revival is falling off, it's not God who moved.

About Us

Mission Statement:

...as He leads... are ambassadors of Christ who through the leading and power of the Holy Spirit exist to glorify God, edify His saints and make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in Fremantle.

Vision Statement:

To see every person in Fremantle repent of their sins, believe in Jesus Christ, confess Him as Lord, and dedicate their lives to walking in His ways.

Statement of Faith:

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. It is entirely inerrant in its original manuscripts (2 *Tim* 3:16, 2 *Pet* 1:20-21) and is the unfailing final authority on all matters relating to faith and Christian living (*Ps* 12:6, *Prov.* 30:5). It is completely sufficient, containing everything necessary for salvation, spiritual growth, and equipping Believers for every good work (*Ps* 19:7-8, 2 *Tim* 3:17, 2 *Pet* 1:3).

We affirm the Biblical teaching contained in the historic Apostles Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

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