

## ***OUR NEED FOR TRUE REVIVAL***

*(Part 2: Nehemiah 8:9-12)*

Periods of God-sent revival often coincide with periods of great suffering for the people of God. Such is the story of the revival that took place in ancient Israel. After seventy years of suffering and exile in a foreign land in Babylon because of their sin, the Lord brought them back to their homeland. And it was there in the city of Jerusalem, right after their season of suffering, that the Israelites experienced the surprising and extraordinary work of genuine revival. **True revival is the sovereign and supernatural work of God through His Word which causes us to experience a renewed sense of God's holy presence and mighty power in such a way that we are purified, refreshed and empowered for a more vibrant walk with God and effective ministry.** As we reflect on Israel's historic experience of a genuine God-sent spiritual revival through the ministry of Ezra and Nehemiah, we will consider the biblical marks true of revival.

***1. True revival is marked by renewed passion for God's Word.***

***2. True revival is marked by reverent praise to God***

***3. True revival is marked by \_\_\_\_\_.***

All the people gathered in Jerusalem mourned and shed tears of godly repentance (Nehemiah 8:9). God's Word convicted them of their sin and exposed their rebellion and disobedience to God. Real repentance involves a deep conviction of sin, a godly sorrow over sin, a decisive forsaking of sin and a renewed commitment to obey God's commands and live in righteousness. In other words, authentic repentance is the renunciation of sin and the renewal of our covenant of love and obedience to God (Hebrews 4:12; Nehemiah 9:33-34,38; 10:28-39). Biblical repentance involves the putting off of sin and putting on of righteousness (Colossians 3:8-14). It is only when our hearts are truly broken and repentant of our sin that the Lord would revive and renew us (Psalm 51:17; Isaiah 57:15-18).

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***4. True revival is marked by \_\_\_\_\_.***

Godly repentance leads to a genuine experience of divine joy which is the joy of the Lord in fulfilling His covenant promise to His people (Nehemiah 8:10-12). It exceedingly delights and pleases God to fulfill His covenant promise to His people to bring them back to their land, to reaffirm His relationship and communion with them, to graciously pardon their sins and to revive them and renew their strength. This covenant promise of God is ultimately fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ through His atoning work on the Cross which provides complete forgiveness of our sins and eternal loving relationship with God (Hebrews 1:3; 10:12-14; Psalm 32:1-2; Isaiah 61:10).

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