

# RESTORATION REVIVAL

lesson five

SEE THE NEED

The title of our radio broadcast is  
**Restoration Revival Hour.**

In this series of lessons, we want to study the meaning behind that title. This should give greater awareness of the need of the hour in which we live. It is an hour when God is wanting to restore and revive His people, that they may be found watching and waiting - ready at the coming of the Bridegroom for His Bride.





## LESSON FIVE

# See the Need

### PRAYING WITH EXPECTANCY

II Chronicles 29:18-19

Then they went in to Hezekiah the king, and said, We have cleansed all the house of the Lord, and the altar of burnt offering, with all the vessels thereof, and the shewbread table, with all the vessels thereof.

Moreover all the vessels, which king Ahaz in his reign did cast away in his transgression, have we prepared and sanctified, and, behold, they are before the altar of the Lord.

In the previous lesson we came to the place where they finally got the filth removed from the house of God - and then they went to Hezekiah:

They'd gotten down to the business of preparing for revival, **yet there is one thing to notice - thus far,**

nobody's gotten down to the business of prayer.  
no sacrifice had been offered  
no presence of God had been felt  
there had been no anointing

Nothing was going on - **yet.** All they were busy doing was getting the place cleaned up. They spent all that time to just get ready to begin seeking out restoration.

**And their heart was building up an expectation.**

**What creates an expectancy in the heart?**

Getting in and cleaning the house of God should create some expectancy. And when you get into your prayer closet to pray and intercede it should create some expectancy.

In your seeking God for revival, in seeking God carefully to move - you should do so **expecting an answer.**

But, if no prayer is taking place, why should you expect God to move? You have no right to expect revival!

James 4:2

Ye have not, because ye ask not.

A lot of folks have no right to expect any good thing to come - after all, they're not asking.

If you feel dry and miserable inside, if you're not happy or joyous in your experience - **and you've not prayed** - don't blame anybody but yourself. You're the one that's not seeking God!

You've got no right to expect something if you put nothing into it. Whereas, if you pray - **and pray in faith**, you've got every right to expect God to hear and to answer.

\* \* \*

Now these Levites were in the place where they could expect God to begin to bless. Hezekiah wanted to get something going on again in the house of God, get back to that altar.

Under the law, it was different than what we can expect in church.

**We come to church**

to sing and rejoice, hear the Word of God, and pray. We can do this so easily, so automatically. There is no major effort involved.

**But under the law,**

when they wanted to come and worship in the house of God, they had all those sacrifices and offerings to make in order to enter God's presence. It was time consuming to make all those sacrifices.

The law kept them busy. The law was spiritual, and they were carnal - and, thus, they had a hard time doing all the law required of them to do.

Now, we find that they had totally abandoned all that preparation to enter God's presence -

**and, in abandoning all that,  
they also had abandoned their blessing.**

Think today about the blessing of God that is available for us. We need those blessings in our lives.

When God's blessing is on us, we feel our best.

That's when we know -

God's touch is on our lives!

God hears our prayers!

God's presence is near!

That's what brings the joy of the Lord into our vessels.

When you lose the joy of your salvation, it seems you've lost everything. All at once, you feel so empty.

Psalm 51:12

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

One of the greatest blessings of walking with the Lord is His accompanying joy.

It's a blessing to be saved, to really walk with God - but in this walk, when you lose the joy of your salvation by negligence, you find it hard to attend to spiritual things.

You find it hard to get around and go to church, hard to take time to pray or read the Word.

If you're finding it difficult to come to church - if you're more prone to find something else to do when it's time to get ready for church - realize you've lost the joy of your salvation.

It's become more important to do other things than it is to come and meet with Jesus and worship Him.

When the joy is not there you feel dry as a bone, and you don't want spiritual things.

You don't **feel like** going to church; you don't **feel like** praying; you don't **feel like** praising God - **because you've lost the joy of your salvation.**

People who lose the joy of their salvation are on their way to backsliding. You may see them around for a season - but, eventually, they'll be gone - backslidden. They won't want to serve Jesus any more.

### THE LORD'S DAY

This day ought to be meaningful to the true believer, a day to spend time with Jesus in church.

Psalm 122:1

I was glad when they said unto me,  
Let us go into the house of the Lord.

I wonder, as a preacher, what would happen if I woke up on Sunday and said, **Oh, no! Church again! I don't want to go to church today!**

What would you do if you went to church to find the preacher had found something else to do that day? He went for a ride in the country, because he **didn't feel like** going to church?

### What would you do?

Would you pray? Would you think that the pastor didn't care any more?

Listen, the pastor has to be faithful - whether his people are or not. It's required of him that he be found faithful. Not just because he **has** to, but because he **wants** to.

**You expect to find your pastor in church** when you go to church - but, realize, **he expects to find you there, too!**

He doesn't want to put his heart into it, and find you're not there because you don't like church any more - you feel you have more important things to do.

What would you think if there came a time when you needed him to pray for you - and he said he had something more important to do!

Well, what does he think when he comes to church and finds your seat empty?

Would he begin to wonder where your faithfulness to the Lord was?

If you came to church, and he wasn't around for three or four services, you'd question what had happened -

but, what about when you stay home for weeks on end because you didn't feel like coming, because something else had priority in your life?

You'd get upset if the preacher only came hit or miss. Should he get upset because you do the same?

No, he shouldn't get upset - he should pray for you, pray for God to deal with you and get hold of you. He should pray for the Lord to stir you up and revive you.

I've gone to church many a time when I felt sick, when I was tired - but I came. And I came because I wanted to come!

We all ought to do our part! It's required of preachers to do their part -- some do and some don't - yet it is required.

And it's required of God's people to do their part, to set their priorities and pray for revival.

One of the big problems in the church world of our day is that the church has become too busy. What are they doing? Why are they so busy?

There is one thing you won't find in many service schedules in the land today - a prayer meeting!

And, if you do find a prayer meeting going on - you don't find many people who bother to attend it!

You don't find God's people having much concern about it. They don't see any real need to gather together for prayer.

They may have a large attendance on Sunday - but, on prayer meeting night, the church is mostly empty.

Hardly anybody sees the need.

Out of hundreds, and even thousands, who attend on Sunday - you find a mere handful who feel it's necessary to pray.

Is prayer something of the past?

Has God done away with prayer in our day?

or is the lack of prayer purely neglect  
on the part of God's people  
due to their indifference?

Is it the reason

so many of God's people are thirsty and dry?

Is it the reason

so many places need revival and restoration?

Before restoration will come anywhere,  
there will be those who will find the altar again  
and start to pray.

The house of God was always the place for people to  
assemble and seek the Lord, and it still should be.

Oh, when there's a lot of trouble brewing, and it looks  
like there's nothing else people can do in themselves,  
you might find a national day of prayer announced. But  
what about the rest of the time?

We need more than **one day** of prayer!

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye  
upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his  
way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let  
him return unto the Lord,

and He will have mercy upon him;  
and to our God,  
for He will abundantly pardon.

Why is it that God's people have no real interest to  
pray? That's the question the church world ought to be  
pondering!

Why is it that nobody's interested in praying?  
Why is it that people are too busy?

**Why?**

Because they feel that going to church on Sunday is  
enough - and if they go twice on Sunday, they've done  
a lot! The rest of the week they'll watch the tube.

## WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER?

There's plenty of time to watch tv - but no time to pray.

Then they wonder why their soul is dry and thirsty!  
wonder why nothing good is happening at church!  
They wonder why God doesn't bless any more!  
wonder why they don't see the power of God being manifest!

**People will question and wonder -  
yet take no action.**

Yes, they've got the fire -  
but it's in the church kitchen!

They need to get the fire in the prayer closet, and begin to earnestly pray and seek the face of God.

The church is so taken up with its many, many, many divers activities. They get so engrossed in all their busyness that they just have no time left for prayer. There is just no time for seeking the Lord!

- and then they wonder  
why the church is in such a sad state!

**Do you have any idea why prayer is important?**

Is the purpose of prayer to tell God how to do things, to direct Him in doing His business? Is prayer the place where we become God's counselors and tell Him how to run His kingdom?

That's not the object of prayer, is it? Well, what is the object of prayer, then?

\* **Prayer is** intercession,  
seeking Him on behalf of others.

\* **Prayer is** taking time to seek the face of God, to move the hand of God, to stir the heart of God, to let God know that you care - that you desire the things of God; that you're earnest in wanting His blessings.

\* **And prayer is** also a two-way communication between you and God. You not only talk to God, and commune with Him -

It's a place where God can commune with you.

We pray and seek God - and expect from God that, somewhere along the line, there will be some answers.

The answer may be yes - and the answer may be no.

But, either way, the answer will come.

Where are we going to find answers? by running around looking for someone to prophesy to us?

How much better to wait on God, and get our answers from above! And oh how the church world needs answers today!

It's amazing how easy it is for some to get off the track. I remember meeting a minister who told me something that really grieved my soul.

The day previous to our talk, he had been in a conference with a whole group of full-Gospel ministers. Many of them were pastors of very large churches.

One of the speakers related how he ministered in a large church, and it had been more than two years since he had prayed! More than two years!!

He said he had no time to pray any more. He was just too busy, had too much work to do in his large church!

What does that mean? I'm not the brightest man by any means, but I do know how to add things up. I can add some things up real fast.

Now, what that man was saying was really this:

he had been running this very large church for two years on his own. He'd been running it without one answer from God, as far as instruction or direction was concerned. He hadn't taken one problem of one person in that church to the Lord in prayer in two years!

I wonder what kind of spiritual state that church was in? If the pastor hadn't been concerned to pray for two years - I wonder if anyone else in his church had prayed.

Think of it! If that had been your pastor it would mean that he hadn't prayed for you in two years. You'd begin to note the reason why his church was in the state it was in. No wonder!

There was no time to seek the Lord around the altar in that church - they were too busy rushing through service to dismiss and go home, or have a time of fellowship!

No anointing, nothing taking place, no power - he hadn't prayed for two years. He was running that large group of people without any direction from God.

Joel 2:15-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast,  
call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify  
the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the  
children,  
and those that suck the breasts:  
let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber,  
and the bride out of her closet.

I wonder where he got his sermons from, if he never prayed! In two years he must have gotten all his sermons from out of a denominational magazine that contained sermons for each month, or from something else he'd come across.

The people in that church never got a fresh message from God, they never got the food they needed for their souls.

Their pastor never talked to God  
about them - or for them.

Without prayer, that's just how such a church would be run? **Can we go without prayer?**

Stop and realize that this isn't an isolated case of a pastor not having time to pray.

That's no doubt the story of many pastors across the land who have no time to really talk with God.

**Is it necessary to talk with God?**

Prayer is a pretty important function. It is important for you, as an individual, to pray: and it is important for the church, as a body, to pray.

As a pastor, I would say that prayer is certainly vital in the church. **If we don't pray, we don't communicate with God . . . and, we don't receive from God.**

**Realize one thing, as we look at this great need for revival and blessing from on high:** if you can't get people awakened that there is a need to pray and intercede, then you're not going to waken the church to want revival.

Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord,  
weep between the porch and the altar,  
and let them say, **Spare thy people, O Lord,**  
and give not Thine heritage to reproach,  
that the heathen should rule over them:  
wherefore should they say among the people, **Where  
is their God?**

People want a fancy program. They want something to entertain them.

There's a lot of cunningly devised programs that people follow to the letter. You hear pastors referring, time and again, to their program. My, they're programmed to death!

Saints of God, we don't need a program! We need the Holy Ghost! This is why we pray and intercede. The church of our day needs the moving of the Holy Ghost. We need the direction of God.

These programs put the church in a state where they are bound to the program - and if God wants to do anything in the midst, He will have to tear up the program, or disrupt their fixed schedule.

But how does God deal and get to the pastor, when he's not listening? He's too busy running the program to find any time for prayer.

After all, he doesn't need God to help run his program - and, besides, he's too busy to get in touch with God!

**Busy doing what?**

There certainly are a lot of things in the ministry that will keep one busy - but there are a lot of unnecessary things in many ministries that keep the pastor too busy to pray.

Yes, there's plenty to do as a pastor - but the important thing is to be sure we find time to communicate with God. That's the priority.

Many have the problem of never stopping to arrange their priorities - because they have no priorities!

I've noticed something about clocks. Wherever you find one it seems to use the same number system as the rest - one to twelve every day, and one to twelve every night.

Is that how your clock is? They all are! They all have the same amount of time on them, right to the very second.

Is it like that at your house? we each have the same 24 hours given to us every day; the same 7 days a week; the same 12 months a year!

Everybody only has so much time. No way do you find 26 hours in a day! That's what makes it so important to get our priorities in line.

There are a lot of things I'd like to do - but I don't do many of those things because they're not a priority, and I have not time left for them.

I have 24 hours a day, but I don't have time to do some things because other things are weightier and more important. I have to choose which things I'll do with the time that is given me.

At the job you have around 8 hours a day, five days a week - and that certainly is priority, or you won't get your paycheck! No work - no food!

Your priorities take some of the prime time of your life - 8 hours is a large portion of time from your day - yet it's a priority that you earn a living.

Sure, there are a lot of things you'd like to do with those 8 hours besides punching a time clock! but you have to choose the priority.

It takes time to sleep each night, too. Just think of what you could do with those hours you take to sleep! But that's a priority.

My, add up the 8 hours you work, and the 8 hours you sleep - that's a total of 16 hours from your given 24!

That only leaves you 8 hours for any other priority you choose. And some of that time is spent eating, cleaning up, shopping - whittling it down even more!

You can see that the time you do have left is quite precious - why waste it? For every hour of time that you're not working or sleeping, there are a dozen or more things that demand that **they have the priority!**

**Do me! Why don't you do this? Do that!**

You have to consider that you don't have much time, and you'd best order your priorities pretty carefully - finding time for church, time for prayer, time to read God's Word.

**Should those things be priorities in your life?**

Proverbs 13:4

**The soul of the sluggard desireth,  
and hath nothing:  
but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.**

Some have made spiritual things a priority in their lives, and find their lives blessed as the result.

They'd have to be flat on their back to miss church, to miss prayer meeting, to miss digging into God's Word.

They realize Sunday is the Lord's Day - and they devote it to Him! They know that Sunday is the only day they don't have to be rushing around working, and they make it a priority to attend the house of the Lord.

**Should you find time to pray each day?  
Is that really a priority?**

Prayer is an important word in the Christian's life! You need to allow prime time for that! at home, and in church!

It's important to have some priorities, to drop other things to be sure you make time for those priorities.

Prayer is important to those who **esteem** it to be important. It's important to those who are spiritually minded, and **see the need** to pray.

Have you noticed, when it's time to stop what you're doing to have time for a priority - you suddenly get another signal: Why don't you go shopping! why don't you call someone on the phone! you need some time to relax! you can go to church another night, stay home and rest!

**You've got to order your priorities.** When it comes time to get ready for work, you find time! You've made that a priority - even setting the alarm to be sure you get up. And, when lunch time arrives, you have the priority of eating - work stops, and **you make time** to eat!

You've got to take time to stop and order your priorities - and prayer is one of the prime priorities. There ought to be prayer in your life - and plenty of it - at church, and alone at home.

Yes, prayer is important. And, if the church in this last day wants revival, it's going to have to order some of its priorities, and esteem that seeking God is more important than chicken supper!

There are women who are dedicated to the cause of putting on a good church supper. They'll cook and cook over that hot stove for hours. They're dedicated to that - but if you call them to the church prayer meeting many of them would see no need to come. -

**Fry chicken, yes. Pray, no!**

You've got to order priorities. You've got to set your foot down - just like you do in the morning when it's time to go to work.

But it's so easy to just glide along and be negligent. You may have a desire to do what's important, you may know you should -

**BUT...**

**I know I should but I'm spiritually poor, spiritually dry and empty. I've lost the joy of my salvation - all because I had no important priorities in my life!**

The church in the last day is going to have to start getting some priorities for prayer if they want to see revival.

And, if you have been praying for revival, don't get weary in well doing - don't slack off. Keep that as a priority.

Keep praying, and one day what you're praying for will come! the answer is on the way.

We don't like to have to wait a long time for an answer. But the history of revival teaches us that revival has always come by prayer and brokenness.

Those who prayed for revival in the past found themselves praying with tears and repentance before it came.

Hosea 10:12

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy;  
break up your fallow ground:

FOR IT IS TIME  
TO SEEK THE LORD,  
TILL HE COME  
AND RAIN RIGHTEOUSNESS UPON YOU.

What revival did you ever read about that just happened? all at once it **just** came - with no one praying and interceding for it to come? nobody got stirred, nobody saw the need.

If God moved like that, He'd have to move upon the pews - people wouldn't be ready.

So we see that if we are to expect revival to come in this last day, we must do our part.

II Chronicles 7:14

If My people, which are called by My name,  
shall humble themselves, and pray,  
and seek My face,  
and turn from their wicked ways;  
then will I hear from heaven,  
and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Take the Test