

Do You Need Personal Revival?

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Luke 10:41-42

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Have you chosen that good part? It is not enough to serve Jesus without having that personal love relationship. If Jesus came in person to your house, He wouldn't be interested in having a fancy dinner. His mind wouldn't be on what you could do to serve Him a meal. He'd be concerned with what you would do in sitting down at His feet, pouring out your heart in love.

Luke 10:38-40

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

Now, Martha was very busy. She was like many women where the house is everything to them. It's a good and necessary thing to keep one's home in order, but it's not a good thing to get so busy with your home that you have no time to sit at Jesus' feet, loving Him and taking time to listen to His every Word.

If we are going to have a personal revival, we must fall in love with Jesus all over again. We must renew that first love — that love one tends to cast aside when they get busy serving the Lord, busy going to church, busy witnessing.

Galatians 6:9,10

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

We may be doing well in serving the Lord for a season, only to find this thing of being too busy beginning to creep up on us. After a while, we become just another Martha. And Jesus would say unto us the same thing He said to her: "You are careful and troubled about many things."

You can get so busy serving Jesus that you forget to step aside and take time just to love him, spending time with Him at His feet.

When you received the Lord into your heart and you fell in love with Him, it wasn't a matter of having to *do* anything; you simply found that you had fallen in love with Jesus, and you wanted to serve Him with all your heart!

But if you're not careful, you can begin to cool down in your heart, to where you are merely "serving" the Lord. You will get into a rut of going day by day, doing the necessary tasks of being a Christian, yet forgetting about being in love with Jesus.

Proverbs 4:23

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Do you need a personal revival? How long has it been since you sat down at Jesus' feet to express your love to Him? I mean that with all respect to the Lord.

You should take time each day to step aside and pour out your heart and soul to Jesus, desiring more and more of Him.

Proverbs 8:17

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

There are definite times in the Lord we need to stop everything, realizing our need of personal revival, and not merely focus on serving Him, but get back to the place where we have that personal revival in our heart and soul, loving Jesus with our all.

Proverbs 23:26

My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

Renew Your First Love

If you are serving the Lord as a routine, you will find your walk is dull, dry and boring. Going to church will only be a matter of routine.

Understand that it's the lack of that first love for Jesus that gets one into such a rut.

When we have that first love burning in our heart and soul, we will go to church with a desire to get blessed and filled up, a desire to love and worship the Lord, a desire to hear from Him: and we will go home rejoicing.

Revelation 2:4

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

If you have ever fallen in love with someone, you can understand what the Lord means here: That person became everything to you.

When a husband or wife loses that first love for their mate, the marriage becomes merely routine. They no longer enjoy marriage, but simply endure it.

Revelation 2:5

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

If you have left your first love for Jesus, repent and come close once again to Him. When you do, it will bring with it a personal revival.

Mary's Example

Let's take a look at Mary now.

Luke 10:38,39

. . . Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

Mary wasn't worrying a bit about serving Jesus (as far as natural service was concerned). She was all taken up with what Jesus had to say to her that day. It was easy for her to just sit and listen because she loved to be with Him.

Luke 10:41,42

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Jesus told Martha He wasn't going to take that good thing from Mary. And neither will He take that good thing from you when you have personal revival in your soul, when you have that first love experience.

Sometimes, though, we are guilty of putting aside the best and going back to the rut of mere service, where we don't see the need of taking time to get down before Jesus and seek out a personal revival from Him.

What is hindering you from having a renewal of the love of Jesus in your heart? What is preventing you from getting down to business and being renewed in the love of God?

"Lord, I'm busy serving You, but I have left my first love. I don't have that burning love in my heart for You any more. I want that love back. I want to serve You from a heart that is flooded with love."

Take time to analyze yourself where you are in loving the Lord. How dry are you within? Are you getting from church what you really should be getting, or are you going to church and seeing others getting blessed while you can't seem to press through?

Let me encourage you to get back to priorities and begin to seek out that first love. Realize you need that love motivating you every day.

To Whom Much is Forgiven

Luke 7:36-38

And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

The Bible says this woman was a sinner. That's why she had come to Jesus. And that is why she experienced a personal revival in her heart. This was a very personal thing she was doing. The love of Jesus had taken hold of her life. Her sins had been forgiven, and she was restored. And that first love was burning down deep in her heart and soul. She felt it so strongly and was so moved by it that she came to be near Him when she knew where He was.

The Bible says she washed His feet with tears. She knew her sins were forgiven! The heavy load was taken away! She was free at last! Jesus had brought revival into her heart, and she was no longer the same. Personal revival had gotten hold of her heart.

Love-Inspired Service

Now, are we merely serving, or are we loving? The Pharisee could have had serving the Lord in his heart, but he didn't have that love. He didn't even offer Jesus a basin of water to wash His feet with. Yet, this woman loved Jesus so much that she washed His feet with the tears that flowed from her eyes.

We find the same comparison here that we saw in the account of Martha and Mary: One was serving, whereas the other was loving.

When we love the Lord, we serve Him out of a heart of love. We love to do the things He wants us to do. We don't do them as merely a matter of service; we do them as a matter of expressing our love to Him.

Colossians 3:23,24

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

When love is flowing from our hearts, we will automatically do the good works that Jesus wants us to do, and we will automatically put away those things that are displeasing to Him.

I encourage you to have a personal revival in your soul. Renew your love for Jesus. Get yourself into the place where you come before Him often to express your love to Him.

Psalm 34:18

The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Watch Out for Ruts

Don't get into a rut! Some get into the rut of being down about being in church any longer than they feel is necessary. While the pastor is trying to feed their soul, they have their mind on the clock. They hurry to church, hurry through the message, and hurry home. And their hearts haven't been fed. All they have done is "serve": go to church, sit with an eye on the clock, and go home.

It's good to wash your eyes with tears. You see a lot better when you do. When you press into Jesus, you will weep and cry (not because you're sad or lonely, but because you feel so good inside). That's the type of experience each of us needs.

It can get so dry in church that no one ever sheds a tear. But it shouldn't be like that. There needs to be more of an old-fashioned response to the message, to where people get down at the altar and cry out to God.

Life has so much routine to it. We live by a schedule in many areas. And if we're not careful, we can put church on such a rigid schedule that Jesus can't bring His blessings to us.

Yes, it's a drudgery to serve Jesus without having that first love in one's heart. When that's missing, you only go to church because you feel obligated to. If you could find a way out, you would — and you often do.

Malachi 1:13

Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.

How is it with your soul today? Is that love burning on the inside, or have you left it outside? Check this out. Don't continue on from day to day with a spiritual routine. Don't get into the avenue of just serving and serving and serving. Don't be like Martha was that day, cumbered down with serving the Lord.

I want to preach you out of that rut and into the realm of having personal revival. I want you to have a renewal of that first love for Jesus. Repent from your dead works. Repent from a lack of

love, from just *doing* without loving. Get down to business with Jesus. Let Him bring a very personal revival into the depths of your heart and soul.

Move away from the realm of just serving Jesus, and into the realm of loving Him. That love will then lead you in your service unto Him.

Preachers Need a Fresh Touch Too

As a minister of God, I find myself having many responsibilities. And sometimes I have to stop everything in order to renew the love of Jesus down in my soul.

Yes, I have a very busy schedule every day. There's no end of the things one can get involved in when they're serving the Lord. Everyone of those things may be good, but they take time.

We have to be so careful in the ministry that we don't get to the place of just serving Jesus, to where we don't have a prayer life that keeps the love of God kindled in our souls.

I find myself needing to spend extra time with the Lord, getting down to personal business with Him. Sometimes I have to get down before Him, just loving Him with all of my heart, letting the love of God well up within my soul. Such times are very refreshing to me.

I am preaching personal revival to you, and I know what I am preaching about because I have often sought out a fresh personal revival for myself in order to maintain that first love for Jesus.

One night I got down to pray all alone in my living room. I began to express love to Jesus, pouring out my heart and soul unto Him. The longer I did this, the more the love of Jesus flooded my heart and soul. I began to weep and cry and rejoice.

The fire of God's love was so ignited in my heart that it just lifted the tiredness from me; it lifted the routine of all the necessary things that seemed to be before me. My mind wasn't on the things I didn't get done, nor the things that can trouble one in the ministry. My mind was just on loving Jesus, letting my heart go out to Him.

For a long season I felt that hot, glowing fire from heaven burning down in my soul. After a season, the love boiled over in my heart, and I began to pray. As I poured out my heart and soul for the needs of those who were seeking help from God, that same love I felt for Jesus welled up in my heart for those needy souls.

The more the love of Jesus is working personal revival in our lives, the greater effect our prayers will have in reaching God for the benefit of others, because we will be praying with that faith which works by love.

Galatians 5:6

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

That night, as I prayed and poured out my heart, I felt such a deep peace in my soul. And I also felt a confidence that God would move to answer my prayers for the needs of others.

A few nights later I had another experience.

I had come home from church and was lying on my bed, exhausted from another busy day, yet I didn't want to go to sleep. As I lay there, thinking about the Lord and pouring out my heart unto Him, I told Him how much I loved Him. Soon my soul got so filled with the joy of the Lord that it was truly joy unspeakable and full of glory. Oh, I loved every minute of that fulness!

As I continued to pray, the Lord began to impress upon my soul about the way — that precious way we have unto life.

To walk with Jesus is a wonderful way, and it becomes even more precious when this love begins to burn deep within. It is no longer a routine, but it enters into a personal relationship.

It was a long time that night before I had any desire to go to sleep. My heart was overwhelmed with the love of Jesus as I continued to press in. Soon my heart began to express itself in love for others, and I realized anew how much I had a love for people and how this love could grow and grow.

This great love for others was manifest through me when the love of Jesus was manifest deep within my soul.

Seek Out a Revival for Yourself

I've given you this testimony because I wanted you to know that you, too, can have such a personal relationship with Jesus.

Some would say it is being fanatical to really fall in love with Jesus, to get that personal, to get so carried away that one wants to spend the night praising the Lord rather than going to sleep.

Listen, that's not fanaticism! That's the true love of Jesus welling up within.

I trust this testimony creates a spiritual appetite within your soul. I hope it speaks to your heart to be renewed in the love of Jesus. And I hope you will want to get on with the task of having that personal revival.

Seek God for it. Ask Him to renew the love of Jesus in your heart and soul. When you do, you will find a burning desire to serve Him from a heart of love. Serving Him will become such a reality. It won't matter how much you have to do in your daily tasks: When you do them in love, you won't mind how much time it takes.

Get back to that love relationship. Go back and stir your heart with the Lord. Go back to the experience you had with Jesus when you had that fiery first love for Him. Repent of your coldness. Turn away from it, and get on fire for Him.

Don't wait for a revival to come to town. You can have your own personal revival right now! You can have revival in your heart whether others are being revived or not.

Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.