

1.4 the Moment of Revival

by Colin Peckham

Colin Peckham explores the historical significance and current need for revival, emphasizing the essential role of prayer and humility in inviting God's presence.

Duration: 10:08

Scripture: 1 Kings 8:64, Psalm 119:126, Matthew 6:33, Acts 2:3

Topics: "Revival"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker shares his experiences of witnessing the presence of God in meetings and conventions. He recounts a specific incident where he handed over the meeting to a Japanese interpreter who led the congregation in seeking God. As people began to cry out and seek God, the atmosphere became filled with a sense of divine activity. The speaker also shares another experience in Japan where pastors and ministers humbled themselves before God, praying and weeping in His presence. These experiences serve as a reminder of the need for divine activity and a call for people to seek God earnestly.

Transcript

Our Father, we are here in Thy presence once again this morning to hear from God. We want to open our hearts wide to the inflow of grace. We pray that Thou would speak to all our hearts as we wait before Thee, and we seek Thy face now in Jesus' name.

Amen. I want to speak to you this morning on the subject of the moment of revival. In the 16th century, God brought about the great European Reformation.

In the 17th century, there were continuing movements here and there. At Stuarton, south of Glasgow, at Shotts, 21st of June, 1630, when John Livingston preached that memorable sermon on Ezekiel 36, and so on. And then in the 18th century, we had the enormous spiritual upheaval in England under George Whitefield and the Wesleys, the great 18th century.

And then in the 19th century, we had the great American Revival, the 1858 Revival. And it came across to Ulster, to up here in the north, in Scotland, and all over Britain. Then in 1904 and 1905, we had the Welsh Revival under Evan Roberts and R.B. Jones and Seth Joshua and others.

And since then, the West has had very little in the way of national revivals. The 20th century has been very dry in revival terms. But God is moving, if not here, then elsewhere.

He's moving in various parts of the world. In fact, he's moving in the islands of the sea up there, just near to New Zealand at the moment. So God is working in various places, and we rejoice in that.

So whilst one place closes, the other places open. And sometimes, in some places, centuries of waiting have given way to an explosion of new life. God has come sweeping in.

And when we behold the barrenness of our own present day, surely there comes from our hearts, Lord, please, please do it again. Please do it again. Make us conscious of the need.

Because sometimes we're not conscious of the need. We just go about our business and continue on without realizing that there's a vast dearth of divine activity. Sometimes God comes to a meeting.

Sometimes God comes to a convention. I was in the Shioya revival in Japan, giving the Bible readings in the mornings, and near to Kobe. And we were, I suppose it was Thursday morning.

I think it was Thursday morning, and God came to that convention. I mean, there's a huge hall, a lot of people. And God came to that convention.

And I just handed it over to the Japanese. I was speaking by interpretation, of course. And then he led the meeting from there on.

And I suppose there were about a hundred people came to the front and in the aisles seeking the Lord. And he prayed with them. And he sent them back to take their place so that we could sing the last hymn and then close the meeting.

And as they moved back, a young pastor, about halfway down the hall, gave a great and bitter cry, a cry which rent the atmosphere. I mean, everybody looked around, shocked at this shout, cry from this young man as he knelt over. And another pastor ran to him, but he cried again.

And he cried the third time. He was crying after God. People had been seeking God, but here was a man utterly given over to God.

And he cried out three loud cries after God. I tell you, people began to seek God then. That place was everywhere.

They were seeking God. And I found myself off the platform down here in the front. And there, I suppose, about 20 or 30 pastors.

It was a big convention, pastors from all over the place, ministers of the gospel. There they stood around me. And they began to pray.

I didn't understand a thing that they were saying. They began to pray. And they prayed brokenly.

And they wept. These men, I mean, unemotional Japanese. The one man grabbed my arm here and his head was on my elbow.

And my arm was being shaken like this as he was sobbing. We got down on our knees. They just fell on their knees.

And they began to weep and pray. And they prayed brokenly, the whole lot of them. And eventually, we rose and we examined the carpet.

And then somebody began to pray again. Down they went, weeping in the presence of God. You know, that doesn't happen every day, to have ministers do a thing like that.

Here, these men humbled themselves in the presence of God. God coming to these people. The moment when God comes.

As a matter of fact, we went from there to another convention across the biggest suspension bridge in the world onto another island, speaking there by interpretation. And I said, there's a revival in China. And Hugh Brown from Ireland, who's been mightily used in Japan at the moment, he said, there's a revival in China, in Japanese.

There's a revival in Korea. There's a revival in Korea. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were to be a revival in Japan? Silence.

So I said again, wouldn't it be wonderful if there were to be a revival in Japan? Silence. So I said, it's the third time I thought he hadn't heard. Then there was silence again after the third time.

And I looked around. Here's Hugh standing, and the tears pouring down his cheeks. Couldn't speak.

Oh, wouldn't it be wonderful? Wouldn't it be wonderful? See, the moment. That meeting, that meeting, it was broken up. There were about 40 people seeking God.

The pastor got up, a very able man. He was recently in Britain. And he got up and he began to handle a meeting.

And then he just looked to Hugh and he said, Hugh, tell him to come and take over. I don't know what to do with this meeting. The presence of God.

The moment when God comes to a meeting. Oh, that that might happen across the country. That people would hear from heaven.

And open their hearts wide. When last was a church service interrupted by that kind of activity? The moment when God comes. It's time for thee, Lord, to work, for the people have made void thy law.

It's time. It's time for thee to work. And so we have here the preparation for revival.

Notice in this passage we have the moment when God comes. Solomon was dedicating the temple. He prayed a long prayer.

Longest prayer recorded in the Bible. Solomon was dedicating the temple. And suddenly the fire fell.

Now when Solomon, we read in that seventh verse, seventh chapter in the first verse, now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering sacrifice. When Solomon had made an end of praying. Now that's the preparation for revival.

Prayer is essential. I think of Richard Cross of Northern Ireland. When he retired he began to form prayer meetings for revival.

And he formed 100 prayer meetings in Northern Ireland for revival. Many today have died for the long wait. And Richard Cross has gone to his reward.

But he was given an opportunity to speak at the famous Bangor Worldwide Missionary Conference, the annual convention held in the Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church in Bangor. So he was given 10 minutes. And I mean, Richard Cross is a holy man.

He was a man who knew how to pray. He was a man who had his sights right. His heart was right.

But he had no tact whatsoever. He was sitting in the pulpit. And they said, Richard Cross, you've got 10 minutes.

Tell us about the revival prayer meetings. He walked to the rostrum. He said, very gruff sort of man, all those of you who are praying for revival, stand up.

Perhaps you didn't hear me. I said, all those of you who are praying for revival, stand up. Just two sisters at the back.

Sleep on. Take your rest. And Richard Cross sat down.

I mean...

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