

Why Revival Tarries

by William McCrea

The sermon emphasizes the need for revival among God's people, highlighting the sin of adultery as the reason for the spiritual drought and calling for honesty and confession of sin as the remedy.

Duration: 47:50

Scripture: Jeremiah 3:1-4, Jeremiah 3:13-14, Daniel 4:35, Matthew 16:18

Topics: "Prayer And Revival", "Stewardship And Sovereignty"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of attending prayer meetings and participating in gospel campaigns. He highlights the significance of prayer in serving God and reaching souls for salvation. The preacher also addresses the hindrance of spiritual robbery, referring to the act of neglecting to give tithes and offerings to God. He quotes from the book of Malachi to emphasize the consequences of robbing God in this manner. Additionally, the sermon mentions the sovereignty of God, His plan to build His church, and the assurance that labor for the Lord is not in vain. The preacher concludes by reminding the audience of the imminent return of the Lord.

Transcript

I want you to open your Bibles, please, in the book of Jeremiah, in the chapter 3. Jeremiah chapter 3, we're commencing to read the Scriptures at the verse number 1. Jeremiah chapter 3, commencing to read at verse number 1. They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? Shall not that land be greatly polluted? But thou hast played the harlot with many lovers. Yet return again to me, saith the Lord. Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been led with.

In the ways hast thou set for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness. For thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms, and with thy wickedness. Therefore the showers have been withholding, and there have been no latter rain.

For thou hast a whore's forehead, thou refusest to be ashamed. Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, My father, thou art the guide of my youth. Will he reserve his anger forever? Will he keep it to the end? Behold, thou hast spoken, and done evil things as thou couldst.

The Lord said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? She is gone up upon every high mountain, and under every green tree, and there hath played

the harlot. And I said, after she had done all these things, turn thou unto me. But she returned not.

And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. And I saw when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a bill of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

And it came to pass through the likeness of her whoredom that she defiled the land and committed adultery with stones and with stocks. And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart. But faintly saith the Lord.

And the Lord said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah. Go and proclaim these words toward the north and say, Return thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord, and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you. For I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger forever.

Only acknowledge thine iniquity that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God and hast scattered thy ways to the stranger under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the Lord. Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord, for I am married unto you. And I will take you one of a city and two of a family and I will bring you to Zion.

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the Lord, they shall say no more the ark of the covenant of the Lord, neither shall it come to mind, neither shall they remember it, neither shall they visit it, neither shall that be done any more. At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord, and all the nations shall be gathered unto it to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem, neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.

In those days the house of Judah shall walk in the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers. But I said, How shall I put thee among the children and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of nations? And I said, Thou shalt call me my father, and shalt not turn away from me. Surely, as a wife treacherously departed from her husband, so have ye treacherously or dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the Lord.

A voice was heard upon the high places, weeping in supplication of the children of Israel, for they have perverted their way, and they have forgotten the Lord their God. Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backsliding. Behold, we come unto thee, for thou art the Lord our God.

God let us bless him to the reading of his precious word for Jesus' sake. Amen. I want to speak this morning upon the subject, Why Revival Tarries? Before I do consider that, I want to remind you that indeed in the Word of God, there is much to give us encouragement, much to encourage us, and our hearts are truly blessed.

We can rejoice in the fact that God is still on the throne. In the year that King Uzziah died, Isaiah said, I also saw the Lord sitting upon the throne, high and lifted up in his tree and filled the temple. And today we have a sovereign God, one who is upon the throne.

And as sovereign, we also can rejoice in the fact that God is working out His purpose. God is a sovereign God who worketh amongst the children of men, and He is working out His plan and His purpose. And

thank God there is no one who can thwart the plan of God.

In the book of Daniel, chapter 4, and verse number 35, and all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing. And God doeth according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay His hand or say unto Him, What doest thou? And that ought to thrill our hearts and encourage us, that we have a sovereign God who is working out His plan, working out His purpose. And then also we can rejoice that the Lord is building His church.

Remember the Lord Jesus said, I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And how that ought to thrill the heart of God's child, that knowing that this sovereign God who is working out His purpose is fulfilling that purpose and building His church. Bringing men and women, young people from the east and the west, and bringing them to the cross and saving them and building His church.

And the very gates of hell shall neither be able to stand against them nor thwart the work of God. Also we can rejoice that God is daily calling out a people to Himself. The Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved.

And we do rejoice that God is doing that and God is working that, and that ought to thrill your hearts, and He's calling out a people to the name of Christ. Something more to rejoice your heart. And then in the book of Corinthians it says, Your labor does not in vain in the Lord.

And my, that thrills our hearts as well, to know that those that labor for the Lord Jesus Christ and are seeking to be faithful to Him, your labor does not in vain in the Lord. That God is using and God will bless your labor, no matter how simple it is, but God will bless it and God will use it for the honor and the glory of His name. And then we also rejoice in the fact that the Lord of the harvest is coming back again.

The Lord Jesus Christ is coming for His blood-bought people. And what a day it's going to be whenever we see the lovely face of Jesus and we dwell with Him forever and ever. There are things that ought to encourage your heart, friend, and bless your soul.

But whilst we have the blessing of the Lord, and we've been witnessing the blessing of God in our mission and in our meetings, and God has been saving souls, and God has been stirring up His people to pray, and God has been bringing the unconverted in to hear the Word of God. We thank God for those that have an increased burden for the lost. Those who have a desire to witness and daily you're going out to get somebody else in and bring them in unto the sound of the Word of God.

And all these things are a blessing and encouragement. And yet the fact remains that across our nation and across our land, friend, there is a spiritual drought. As in the days of Jeremiah, there was a spiritual drought.

And of course, when there's a spiritual drought, there's always a reason for it. There is always a reason for it. If you look at Jeremiah 3, verse 3, it says, Therefore, the showers have been withholding, and there have been no latter rain.

I believe that not one of us can argue with this statement, we need revival. We need a breath of God alone, for a breath of God alone will suffice in this day and this generation to save our children and to bless His people and revive us again and stir us up to even do greater things. And it is true that throughout this gospel mission there are many in our congregation.

And God has been stirring them, and my God has been blessing them. But it is also true that there are many of God's people in this congregation. And we have had two weeks of gospel mission, friend, and you're missing.

And I'm not going to put a tooth on it this morning. You're missing. You know you're missing.

And God knows you're missing. And so do the rest of the believers. You're missing from the early morning prayer meeting.

Oh yes, you'll get up for work, but you're not yet for God. Now, I do understand, and I know there are people who can't get there, and God knows that as well, and I'm not judging anyone. But I am saying this, that there are some that used to come to the early morning prayer meetings, and they're not there.

And there are others that could come, and they're not there. And friend, I ask you before God, because before this mission's over, remember, you will stand before God and give an account. Don't you think that's only for the unbeliever? The child of God will give an account.

And friend, before God, two weeks of gospel mission, souls have been standing at the crossroads, let me tell you, between heaven and hell. And there are some who could, just don't. You say, I couldn't get to the early morning prayer meeting.

Well, what about the evening prayer meeting before we come to the mission? Before we go into battle with souls? Can you not get there? Could you not make the effort to come to the place of prayer? Friend, listen, there are people that used to be at prayer meetings, and they're no longer there. And don't call that spirituality, because it's the very opposite to spirituality. Because men and women are in the balance, and God is giving you and me the opportunity to serve Him in this gospel campaign, friend.

Now, go further. There are some of God's people, and you haven't lifted a finger for this mission. Not a finger.

It wasn't that you didn't put up the tent. You couldn't be there, and I understand that. But friend, you haven't lifted a finger to bring a lost soul in.

You haven't lifted a finger to go out and reach some poor soul that's bound and fettered by sin. You will reach people that we never reach. And there's men and women, and they need you.

They need you in God's name to rescue the perishing. We sing, care for the dying. Lift them in pity from sin and the grief.

Weep o'er the erring one. Lift up the fallen. Tell them of Jesus.

And may you see, friend, before God, you haven't lifted even a finger to help some lost, weary soul find peace with God. Now, I know you say salvation belongs to the Lord. I know that, friend.

I know that with all my heart. But let me tell you, ye are my witnesses. That's what God says.

Ye are my witnesses. And God is calling you to do a job. God is calling you to serve us, to serve Him.

It seems to be, and I say this grievingly, many of God's children, they're caught up with their own comfort zone. And they don't want their wee comfort zone shaken. They're caught up with their own way of life.

It's so important. Work is important, friend. But let me tell you, the day is far spent, listen, in nights at hand, and the day for you to work for your loved one and to work and to weep and to desire to see them won for Christ, now is the time.

Now is the day of opportunity. You say, what's going to change the hearts of God's people, friend? Only a revival. Only a gracious movement of the Spirit of God in revival blessing.

Only an old-fashioned Holy Ghost revival. And I pray with all my heart that not only will souls get saved in this mission, but I pray with all my heart that God will shake. And I mean this, friend.

I mean it in love. I pray that God will shake your little world. God will shake your little world and make you cry out with a prophet of old, O Lord, revive Thy work in the midst of the years.

In the midst of the years, make known. In wrath, remember mercy. Or as we read in the psalmist this morning, Wilt not Thou revive us again? And I said in the Bible class this morning that Thy people may rejoice in me.

And friend, let me tell you this. When God revives His people, there's a joy in their heart. There is a joy.

That Thy people may rejoice, rejoicing in Christ. Now I know that there are people this morning who may express interest in revival. And yes, they think it's an interesting subject, friend.

But listen, many of God's people are not deeply interested or deeply concerned about revival. That we haven't revival. And there are even fewer that are burdened for revival.

And there are fewer that are brokenhearted over the lack of revival. This land of ours, friend, sin is getting an awful grip on our land. Our young people are being destroyed.

And drink and drugs and immorality and every sin of this generation is gripping the hearts of our young people. And few there are who seem to care. There are few of God's people that seem to be burdened about it.

They don't have the burden for the lost. They don't have the burden for the things of God. Let me say this, friend.

And if you do have a burden for the things of God, let me tell you, when God works in your heart and when a person's filled with the Spirit of God, they're filled with the love for the lost. Those two things go together. When the Lord Jesus Christ, the Master Himself, He saw the multitude of the Bible, He was moved with compassion.

His heart was broken for them. And when a person is really in love with the Lord, friend, let me tell you, then they'll be in love with their brethren. I am going to be in love for the lost.

And God knows this morning, we need revival. Now what is revival, friend? It's a work of God amongst God's people. It's not primarily souls getting saved.

Although, thank God, I believe that that is something that works hand in hand with it. Because when God's people get right there in the ungodly, we'll see the mean business with God. Evangelism is whenever the revived church of Christ goes out to the world that's dead in trespasses and sin and seeks to win them for Jesus.

But revival is something among the people of God. I was reading what Leonard Ravenhoe, who was the minister who preached when my mom got saved, an American evangelist, and he said, Revival cannot be organized. It cannot be subsidized.

It cannot be advertised. It cannot be computerized. It cannot be regularized.

It cannot be rationalized. It cannot be denominationalized. It cannot be nationalized.

It's something that God does. It's something that God does, friend. It's a moving of the Spirit of God.

In a mighty way. But God demands the conditions to be met. Why does revival tarry? In Psalm 139, the psalmist says, Search me, O God.

And friend, as we think about revival tarrying, I ask this question before we start. Are you and I the hindrance to it? It's so easy to point the finger at somebody else, but friend, am I the hindrance to revival? Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my ways, and see if there be any wicked way in me.

And may God help us to be honest this morning in the answer to that question. And if there is a hindrance in our heart, if there is something in the heart of a child of God this morning that is hindering the moving of the Spirit of God and the spirit of revival, then as God searches us, may God give us honesty of heart to confess our sin and to cry unto God, O God, deal with my sin, and O God, send us revival. We want revival.

We need revival. We must have revival. O God, we need Thee.

I want to talk about two things very quickly this morning. First of all, I want to talk about the reason for the drought, and then secondly, the remedy for the drought. Turn your Bibles to Jeremiah 3. Jeremiah had an easy ministry, friend.

Let's be honest, no ministry is easy. No ministry is an easy ministry. Jeremiah had an easy ministry.

He was called of God to minister during the last 40 years of Judas' history. From the 13th year of Josiah's reign unto the destruction of Jerusalem and beyond. And he had a preach.

And he had a preach against the people. And he had a preach against the priests. And he had a preach against the princes.

And he preached against them for their sin. And verses 1 and 2 notice this. They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? Shall not that land be greatly polluted? But thou hast played the harlot with many lovers.

Yet return again to me, saith the Lord. Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been lying with. In the ways hast thou set for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness.

And thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms, and with thy wickedness. Therefore the showers have been withholden. And I want you to notice, first of all, the reason.

The reason for the spiritual drought. And friend, in verses 1 and 2 I want you to notice, there's the sin of adultery. The sin of adultery.

And it is linked with adultery and idolatry. Do you know that in the Scriptures, friend, there are three kinds of adultery? Three kinds of adultery. First of all, there's physical adultery.

When a man or a woman commits adultery. And I know today that physical adultery, some people try to close their eyes to it, and some people think it's not bad. Let me tell you, friend, God puts one word over it.

Sin. Sin. And physical adultery is condemned by God.

And that's the first kind of adultery. Secondly, there is mental adultery. And you say, well, where does mental adultery come in? Read your Bible.

Read your Bible in Matthew 5. And in Matthew 5, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Lord Jesus Christ is speaking here. And maybe there's someone here and you haven't committed physical adultery, but friend, before God you've committed mental adultery. And in Matthew 5, verse 27, it says this, You have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery, but I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

There's mental adultery. And you've looked on that woman and you have longed and you've lusted after her, and the Word of God says you have committed adultery in your heart. The third kind of adultery is spiritual adultery.

And you say, well, what is spiritual adultery, friend? That's what God is speaking about here concerning the people of Judah. They have committed spiritual adultery. You say, well, what is it? It's whenever a Christian is unfaithful to his vows to the Lord.

Listen, what is physical adultery? It's whenever a man or a woman is unfaithful to the vows that they have taken to their husband or wife. They're no longer faithful to the vows that they took. What's spiritual adultery? It's spiritual adultery, friend, when you are unfaithful to God and the vows that you have taken to God.

In other words, it's simply this, friend, putting another love in your heart before God. Another love in your heart before God. And I believe, my friend, with all my heart, that that is why that many of God's people have not been burdened to be in the presence of the Lord night after night because there's other loves in their heart before God.

Here's my question. Be honest, friend. Are you guilty of that sin? Adultery.

Do you love money before God? Is that why you couldn't get time? Do you love self before God? Yes, you need to get your sleep. You don't spend time in the presence of God in an old tent mission. You wouldn't get to bed in time.

Your loved ones are going to hell, friend. And when they go to hell, they'll never sleep again. Have you ever thought of that? Do you love success? Oh, it's more important, let me tell you, to get your children to their education than get them to the cross for salvation.

And you'll do everything to be sure that they're there as far as their education is concerned. And I'm not taken away from that, friend, but let me tell you this. You vowed before God, some of you, that your first desire, whenever you held your children in your arms, and some of you stood here before God, and you held your child in your arms here, and you had your child dedicated before God, and you took vows, and

that Christ would be first.

That it was your desire to see your child saved. That was first. And really, you haven't kept that vow to God, have you? Or maybe it's position.

Or maybe it's popularity. Or maybe it's getting your own way, rather than you loving the Lord, friend. Do you remember what Jesus said to the disciples? Do you remember whenever Peter came back? And when the Lord Jesus was resurrected, and the Lord Jesus met Peter in Galilee, and they stood at the sea shore, what did the Lord Jesus say to Peter in John chapter 21? He said this, Peter, Peter saying, do you love me more than these? And he was pointing to the fish.

He was pointing to the old life. He was pointing to Peter's past, Peter's occupation according to the flesh. And Peter went back and he said, I go fishing.

And the rest of them said, well, I'm going with you. And there Jesus Christ met with the disciples, and Peter standing beside the fish. And Jesus pointed to the fish and He said, Peter, do you love me more than you love these? Who's first in your life? And friend, the night you got saved, let me tell you, you vowed to love the Lord.

You vowed to love the Lord. And that love means Christ first. Christ first.

And before God, there's many of God's people that have committed spiritual adultery. And friend, this morning before God, God's caught you on. Because you've put something in place of him.

You've put someone in place of him. You've put something before him. And be honest, you're a hindrance to revival.

Because you see, spiritual adultery is linked with idolatry. And idolatry means putting something, something, worshipping something else. You've got your idol.

Friend, before God this morning, is there something in your life that's before God? Takes the place before God. It's more important. More important to get those things.

It's absolutely amazing. The little puny things, friend, that absolutely are stupid, that men and women, that each one of us, friend, at times can be caught up with putting before the Lord. And we become a hindrance to revival.

Look at verse 2 again, please. Because here's the second reason. Not only, not only, friend, the reason of drought, because of the spiritual adultery, but secondly, in verse 2, Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been made with.

In the ways hast thou set for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness. What does that mean? It means, friend, conformity to the world. Conformity to the world.

And friend, is that not a hindrance to revival? When God's people live and act like the worldly pagans do. We are in the world, but the Bible tells us we're not off the world. And yet the sad thing is that many of God's children, friend, if they lift up their eyes and they look at themselves, listen, they're living like the world.

They have adopted the world's standards. They have adopted the world's methods. They're crazed with the world's pleasures and the world's amusements and the world's dress and the world's attitudes and the world's relationships.

And they're more concerned of how they look and how they appear as far as man is concerned. They want to be with it. They want to be in it.

Many of God's people talking about the in things. Or the modern word, oh, you know, I want to be cool. I tell you, my friend, God doesn't want you cool.

God wants you hot. God says if you're lukewarm, God says I'll spew you out of my mouth. He says I'd rather you be either cool or hot.

One or the other, but trying to walk in the middle. And friend, be honest, many of God's people are trying to walk in the middle. Trying to want to have it both ways.

They want to be the world. They want to have the attitudes and the standards and the pleasures and the methods of the world. And worldliness has crept into the church.

And let me tell you, the world is not more churchy. It's the church that's more worldly. It's sad to say there's a hindrance in revival.

What does it say there? We're like the Arab, the Arabian in the wilderness. What was the Arabian in the wilderness, friend? Let me tell you. The Arab in the wilderness was a robber.

And this is what God says. You have robbed me. You have robbed me.

And friend, if you turn to the book of Malachi, there it just simply shows, you know, people don't understand it. Go to chapter 3 of the book of Malachi very quickly. And it says, Will a man rob God? Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me.

But ye say, Where in have we robbed you? Lord, we don't know where. How have we robbed you? God says, You have robbed me in your tithes and your offerings. You have robbed me in your tithes and your offerings.

There's people today, this morning in this house, they'll say, You have robbed God of your time. You have time for every social occasion. You have time for every party.

You see, if there's a party in the countryside, friend, you'll be out. But if it's a prayer meeting, you'll find some excuse not to come. God says, Listen, you have robbed me.

You have robbed me. Robbed me of your tithes! Robbed me of your time! Never there's someone else and you're robbing God of your talents! Robbing God of your talents. God has given you talents, friend.

And you're not willing to use them for the glory of God. Suppose it was for the exaltation of man, you would use them. But when it's for the glory of God, you don't want to use them.

You couldn't be bothered. Conformity to the world. And because of that, friend, God says, Therefore the showers have been withholden.

Then thirdly, here's the third reason. Look at it again. And thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness.

Uncleanness. Uncleanness. You see, with Judah their uncleanness was, their uncleanness was outward.

Because they were worshipping strange gods. They had false lovers. Somebody said, Well, I'm not an adulteress and I'm not an adulterer.

I don't steal. I've never intoxicated. I don't do these things.

My friend, let me tell you this. Maybe it is not the outward uncleanness, but there is an inward uncleanness. You say, Well, what's the inward uncleanness? Is there jealousy there? Is there pride there? Is there gossip there? Is there resentment there? Is there bitterness there? Is there backbiting there? Those are the sins of the spirits.

You're not setting up the altar to bow down before them. You haven't got some false or strange god. It's not the outward uncleanness.

It's not the outward pollution. But God says, Listen, ye have polluted the land. And there's an inward uncleanness.

There's an inward uncleanness that God Almighty frowns upon and God hates. That's in your heart. In 2 Corinthians 7, verse 1, Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness, listen, of the flesh and spirit.

That's old-fashioned holiness, right? That's old-fashioned holiness. And I know that the so-called holiness movement today, friends, sad to say, they push things and they bring in false teachings that are not according to the Word of God. But let me tell you this, holiness and purity is according to God.

God's children living holy lives. It's amazing the peppy things that go on among the saints of God, my friend. And then we wonder, why Revival tarries? Why Revival tarries? Let me tell you, friends, it would be a miracle if Revival was here.

Let's be honest. It would be a miracle if Revival was here because of uncleanness within. Oh, yes.

Spiritual adultery and spiritual robbery and uncleanness, those are the reasons for Revival tarrying. Therefore, the showers have been withholding. You see, when God says, Be ye holy even as I am holy, let me tell you, my friend, God wasn't joking.

God was commanding. There's one other reason for Revival tarrying. Let me give it here.

Look at verse 3 again. Or rather, verse 3, yes. Therefore, the showers have been withholding and there hath been no latter rain and thou hast a whore's forehead.

Thou refusest to be ashamed. And what does that mean, friends? Hardness. Hardness.

What does it mean, thou hast a whore's forehead? Brazen. Brazen. A harlot that brazenly, unashamedly, defiantly will walk out there and take somebody else's husband.

And they do it, friends. And there's not even a blush. They have a whore's forehead.

Brazen. Brass neck. Can I ask a question this morning? Are you and I ashamed of the state of the Church of Jesus Christ today? It says and refuses to be ashamed.

Are you ashamed? Are you ashamed, friends, of the apostasy? Are you ashamed of the detention? Are you ashamed of the worthiness that's among the people of God? Are you ashamed that the world is creeping in amongst God's people, friends, and pushing old-fashioned godliness and purity out through the door? Are you ashamed of it? Or will it be possible that you're a part of it? Through these words, therefore the showers have been withholden and there hath been no latterly. We sang this morning, visit us, Lord, with revival. We sang this morning, Revive thy work, O Lord, thy mighty army.

And the sad thing is this, this morning, there's only a nucleus, there's only a small handful of God's people in this day of apostasy and day of darkness and day of detention that have a burden in crying out unto God for the state of His church. Friend, you and I, yes, me too, we need revival. You say, well, what's the answer, preacher? Well, I'll just give you this in enclosed.

God's willingness. Notice God says this, If a man, verse 1, If a man put away his wife and she go from him and become another man, shall he return again unto her? Shall not the lamb be polluted? But thou hast played the harlot with many lovers, yet return again to me, saith the Lord. God's willing to have you back.

God's willing for His people to confess their sin and God's willing, listen, I wish I had time to develop, listen, He's willing, He's wanting, and He's willing. He's willing and He's wanting and He's waiting for the harlot to come home. The person who has been practicing spiritual harlotry and He says, come back to me, return.

Return again to me. That's God's willingness. Secondly, God's welcome.

God says, yet return. In other words, we must take the step. We must turn back to God.

We must repent. We must humble ourselves. We must renounce our sin.

We must confess our sin. We must rededicate our lives to God. We must deal with the sin in our hearts this morning.

We have got to leave the lover. We have got to leave and we've got to return. We've got to come back.

And I've got a question there. Are you ready to come back to God, friend? Are you prepared to do that? Are you prepared to have done your sin? Are you prepared to have finished with your sin? Wandering in a far country? God's willingness, God's welcome. God's witness.

Notice it says there in verse 4, Will thou not from this time cry unto me, my Father, Thou art the gate of my youth. Prayer. Pray.

That's the way back, friend. Cry unto God. That's the way to revival.

Cry unto God. Prayer is the secret of revival, friend. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit.

Do you believe with all your heart, friend, we need revival? Oh, I know we do. Do you want revival? God knows I do. Then, friend, will you leave the foolishness and the fall of your way and return to God? Cry unto Him.

Lord, send me. My Heavenly Father, I confess this morning before thee that I just as much as any other in this place need revival. Oh, God, I pray that you'll plant in my heart that burden, that desire for revival.

We think of the one of old that was burdened for Scotland. And they cried out, Give me Scotland or I die. Oh, God, our Heavenly Father, we confess the state of the church.

Our blood-bought people. Many have gone to worldliness. Many are trying to ride one foot in the world and one foot in the church.

Oh, God, so easily caught up with other things that we haven't time to go through with thee. Father, I pray in Jesus' name, send us revival. Let it begin now in me.

Gladly dethroning each rival, yield I my heart unto thee. Please, God, take away every hindrance of revival and breathe upon us. Even me.

Even me. Let thy power descend on me.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/12/SID12010.mp3>

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