

Periods of revival are characterized by people who believe the life they are living and the things the Church is experiencing are beneath what is possible and available in God

- This belief causes them to seek Him for an impartation of more

I believe the Body of Christ is on the edge of the greatest revival ever

If we are going to be a part of this revival we must have a desire for "more" and an understanding of the culture that will usher it in and maintain it

More love for God and humankind, more power, more anointing, more joy, more burden of the Lord for the lost, more revelation from God regarding the needs of others, more conviction over sin, more faith in prayer, more conversions, more gifts, more healings, more deliverances, more churches planted and more of the culture of the Kingdom of God here on earth

Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.

- Was this a “wish upon a star” intended for billions to pray, but only a few will experience in some distant eternity?
- No! Jesus expected us to be empowered by the Holy Spirit and bring heaven to earth!

Mark 16:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

- Jesus never meant for miracles to be an end in themselves
- He meant for them to be an invitation into a The Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 11:21, 23 (NLT)

²¹ “What sorrow awaits you, Korazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles I did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have repented of their sins long ago, clothing themselves in burlap and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse.

²³ “And you people of Capernaum, will you be honored in heaven? No, you will go down to the place of the dead. For if the miracles I did for you had been done in wicked Sodom, it would still be here today.

- I think it is clear that miracles are to create a revival of people repenting and coming into the Kingdom
- Without miracles, the Kingdom of God is reduced to words, concepts and good works

When we flood our world with God's transforming power, the distinction between darkness and light is obvious and the Lord's prayer is answered!

John 14:12 (NLT)

¹² "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

- Miracles may not always lead to a city transformation however, supernatural works are a major component of revival

Many churches have become irrelevant to society, embracing the world's value system in an effort to become relevant. This leads to confusion and powerlessness

- The Body of Christ needs another "Reformation"
- We need to be the source of life and light in this dark, oppressed world we live in

We need to leave the "pig farm" of wrong, impoverished thinking and be renewed by the Father's Love

Our Heavenly Father waits expectantly to restore us and separate us from defilement and worldly thinking which keep us from our eternal inheritance by clothing us with...

- His robe of identity
- His ring of authority
- Sandals of purity

Others of us are more like the older brother

- We've forgotten how to celebrate
- We've lost sight of our inheritance
- We've replaced son-ship with sacrifice and servanthood

Sacrifice and servanthood are important Kingdom attributes, meant to embrace, not replace family values

We must identify and put an end to old religious paradigms that are hindering the Kingdom from coming

1 Corinthians 4:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Paul the apostle regularly referred to the believers as begotten or sons – family terms

- In many churches, believers gather around doctrinal agreement
- In Kingdom Minded Churches, believers rally around fathers, mothers and families
- Many movements since the Protestant Reformation have emphasized doctrinal agreement above relationships
- This creates a culture that threatens to divide people at the core of their bonding point

Church cultures based on doctrinal agreement aim to enforce conformity, so disagreements and conflicts don't arise

It also creates a culture that is critical of anyone who thinks outside the box of tradition which fears and hinders inspiration

I am not talking about basic tenets of faith

- The Trinity (*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*)
- The Person of Jesus Christ (*born of a virgin, died for our sins, was resurrected and ascended into heaven*) as true God and true man
- Jesus' visible return for His bride
- Our salvation by grace through faith in Christ
- The inerrant and authoritative nature of scripture

Many churches try to create "unity" in the Spirit by getting everyone to agree on everything

- This won't work
- Jesus' disciples couldn't even agree

The Answer

John 17:20–23 (NKJV)

²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

- This is not an exhortation for believers to get along
- The “Unity” starts with our “Oneness” with God, in Christ
- We are meant to be “In” Him, not “in” each other
- Remember, Jesus said that if you’ve seen Me you’ve seen the Father – **John 14:9-12**
- He was not saying that He was the Father, but rather they are an inseparable unity

Purple is the combination of red and blue. Two separate colors.

- Try to separate them once they are blended

The Father and the Son are a manifestation of a union that transcends human rationalization and explanation

- Jesus also says that the “Works” that He did were signs of the Father’s presence working through Him
- This tells us that we may not be able to explain this union, we can certainly experience it

John 14:12 (NLT) And then wraps up His teaching with this

¹² “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

Summary:

In **John 17** Jesus prayed that the Body of Christ would be united with the Godhead in the same way that He is united with His Father

- This implies that, when people see us, they have seen the Father
- And if they don't believe it on account of our words, they should believe by our works

This is the kind of unity that will cause the World to know that the Kingdom of God has come near them

“Unity is not conformity, but the celebration of diversity”
– Source Unknown

Jesus taught us to pray, “Our Father Who is in heaven...” not “Our God Who is in heaven”

- The Kingdom is a family affair
- God is our Father
- His Son is our Savior
- We are the “Bride” of Christ
- To mirror heaven the Church must be built on family values and relational connections

Kingdom Minded Churches create covenantal family relationships because people are attached through fathers, mothers and family not doctrine

This promotes freedom for people to think creatively, dream and envision with God to experience new depths of the Holy Spirit

This environment attracts revelation, deeper insights into God's word, and supernatural encounters with the Kingdom of God

Revelation has always come through relationship, not intense study

John 5:39–40 (NKJV)

³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

John 15:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

- Relating to God as a slave keeps us in the dark ages when it comes to understanding the Father's business
- Friendship with God unlocks His secrets and treasures

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NKJV)

²⁹ “The secret *things belong* to the LORD our God, but those *things which are revealed belong* to us and to our children forever, that *we may do all the words of this law.*

When God reveals His secrets to us it becomes something that is passed down from generation to generation

- Like a family business or piece of property

Joshua received wisdom from fatherly impartation when Moses laid hands on him

Deuteronomy 34:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

- When our community is built on family values instead of rules there is a risk involved
- Risk taking creates messes and exposes flaws
- This process is what leads to true spirituality
- We need fresh manna
- We need new wine skins
- We need kingdom insights
- Not the worlds outdated philosophies and strategies
- What God is doing in the world is not static it is always moving forward

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

God is a risk taker. He did not childproof the garden

- He planted two trees
- The Tree of Life and The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
- The latter would cause death if eaten – **Genesis 2:17**
- God gave man the chance to live forever, but only at the risk of the death penalty

Another Example

John 2:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. ¹⁰ And he said to him, “Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the *guests* have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!”

How did Mary know He could make wine, unless He was making it at home?

- “Well Drunk” or “Drunk Freely” – means to be Drunk
- Jesus made wine for people who were already drunk
- No, God was not condoning drunkenness
- He is clear about that in other scripture
- But, God does not control people

God provides options and then empowers us to make good choices

- When we make the right choice, He rewards us
- If He took away our option of bad choices there would be no possibility to reward good choices

Leaders in Kingdom Minded Churches preach to inspire and encourage their people, not persuade them to keep a bunch of rules

- It is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to lead people in all truth

John 16:13 (NKJV)

¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

- Leaders should prize the relationship that believers have with Holy Spirit
- Ultimately He is the one responsible for their maturity in Christ

The Goal of the Bible has always been to bring us into an encounter and relationship with God

John 17:3 (NKJV)

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

“Someone might argue that if you base your relationship with God on an experience, you could be deceived. That is so true. But on the other hand, if you study the Bible and it does not lead you into an encounter with the Almighty, then you are already deceived.” – Kris Vallotton

The moment we abandon a relationship with God, and make it our mission to understand the Bible, we are on the road to deception

2 Timothy 3:5 (NKJV)

⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- The Bible is like an owner’s manual to a car
- It shows us how to come into contact with and interact with God

What’s the purpose to memorize the whole Bible yet never come into a relationship with the One who wrote the manual?

- God wants us to experience what we have put to memory