
“IT’S TIME TO ASK GOD TO REVIVE US”

PSALM 85:1-13

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Introduction

President Cyril Ramaphosa has called Christians to a National Day of Prayer. In the providence of God, the church is called to seek the Lord’s face on Pentecost, a day which celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit, the establishment of the Church, and revival among the people of God.

Psalm 85:1-13

Verse 6: “Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you.”

Let us pray this prayer!

History confirms that God responds to prayer:

- When Israel prayed, God sent the deliverer Moses
- When Nehemiah prayed, the walls of Jerusalem went up
- When King Josiah read the Word and prayed, God began a work of revival among His people.
- Before the Day of Pentecost, the disciples prayed; they were focused, united, expectant and persistent, and waited on God for the coming Holy Spirit.

There is no such thing as renewal, revival, or power from above if there is not prayer.

Revival is a divine work ... we cannot work it up!

The greatness of God's grace: the Sons of Korah

Although connected with the infamy of Numbers 16, God used them to be authors of Scripture and to write Psalm 85. (Psalms 42-47, 84-85, 87-88). How appropriate that the very family who had experienced the generosity of God's grace, should be used to call back God's people to revival.

How do we pray for revival?

Four petitions for God's reviving work among His people:

1. It's time to ask God to restore us as in times past (v1-3)

God loves to revive and restore luke-warm hearts:

- Revival in Montagu – Andrew Murray
- Revival under Jonathan Edwards
- Welsh Revival with Evan Roberts

The psalmist prayed: "Lord, do it again!"

He recognized 6 ways God had worked in the past:

- V1: God had showed His favour
- V1: God had restored their fortunes
- V2: God had forgiven their sins
- V2: God had covered their sins – removed their guilt
- V3: God had set aside His wrath
- V3: God had turned away His fierce anger

Three important aspects of revival:

- Confession of sin
- Forgiveness of sin
- Removal of God's wrath

2. It's time to ask God to restore in us His joy and love (v4-7)

Spiritual growth and the experience of God's joy and love cannot co-exist where there is sin, bitterness and unforgiveness.

God needs to do a heart work.

The work of a sovereign God:

- V4: "You restore us ..."
- V6: "You revive us again Lord ..."
- V7: The work of God's 'chesed' love

The request of v7 is to be delivered from the fair and just consequences of our sin.

Oh that God would deliver us ...

- The sin of staying away from fellowship – Hebrews 10:25
- The sin of being unreliable in our serving God – 1 Corinthians 4:2
- The sin of not being holy – 1 Thessalonians 4:7

Do you have the joy and love of God in your heart?

We need to take to heart Revelation 2:5 & 3:20

3. It's time to ask God to restore in us his peace & presence (v8-9)

Do you know God's "shalom" – peace?

2 Corinthians 7:10

The peace of God in life

What a privilege to belong to God! Exodus 19:5 1 Peter 2:9

4. It's time to ask God to restore in us His harmony (v10-13)

This is a prayer for South Africa!

V10-11 – the divine meets the human – love and truth come together.

When God's Spirit moves, society is transformed.

The Welsh Revival

What does God see in your heart?