

Do You Desire Revival?

Joel 2: 12-20

Joel was a prophet to the people of Judah. It is widely accepted that he was a contemporary of Amos and Hosea. His name means “Jehovah is God.” We know that he was the son of Pethuel, [Joel 1:1](#), but other than that very little is known about his background or the exact time in which he lived and wrote this book.

The theme of Joel is clear however, the Day of the Lord. This had a twofold application for the people of Judah. He was preaching a message of repentance prior to the judgment of God upon His people. There is also a prophetic application concerning the coming Day of the Lord when God will return to judge the world and establish His kingdom in righteousness.

Just as the theme was practical and prophetic in application for Judah, the same is true for us today. We are living in a day where men need to repent and turn to God. Our nation has rejected the truth of God’s Word and has turned its back upon the Lord. I am confident, if America doesn’t repent, judgment is sure. The Day of the Lord is coming as well. That day is marked on the calendar of God. One day Jesus Christ our Lord will return in great power to judge this world and the sin that it embraces.

With these thoughts in mind, I am reminded of the need for revival in our day. Judah’s only hope was revival and it is the only hope for America. We are in desperate need of revival in our land. If the Lord allows, we will enter into revival efforts this week. I want to take a few moments this morning and try to prepare our hearts for revival. The same elements that were needful and necessary in Joel’s day must be present and met in our day. I want to consider the question: [Do You Desire Revival?](#)

I. The Heart of Revival (12-13) – This verses deal with the heart of the people. The heart carries the idea of the “*inner man, the will, our determination and resolve.*” It is the heart that must desire revival. If revival was to come, Judah had to get her heart right with God. The heart of God’s people is the heart of revival. If we are to experience revival and avoid the judgment of God, our hearts must be right with Him. What kind of heart is necessary for revival? First there must be:

A. A Heart of Submission (12a) – God said, “[Turn ye even to me with all your heart.](#)” God wasn’t talking about a half-hearted effort. He wasn’t interested in their attempt at revival. God wanted them to surrender their lives and their will unto Him completely.

- Revival will never happen unless we turn to God with all our heart. We can’t come simply attempting to experience revival. We must lay ourselves before the Lord and commit to surrender our lives to Him.

B. A Heart of Desperation (12b) – Can you sense the emotion and the desperation that is necessary? We are to turn to God with all our hearts, but that isn't all. We are to fast, weep, and mourn for God's hand upon us.

- Desperation is necessary if we are to see revival. God doesn't want us to dwell in grief and misery, but we must get to the place that we are desperate for Him. There is little desperation for the Lord in our day. Most have no concern for revival or the help of God. We must get desperate and seek the Lord for revival. Desperate times call for desperate measures! I pray that we will get to the place that nothing else will satisfy but God.

C. A Heart of Sanctification (13a) – Rending their garments was an outward display of grief and sorrow. Sadly, it was more for show than out of sincerity. God wasn't interested in rituals; He was interested in the heart. It was time to rend their hearts, actually grieve over their sin and do something about it. God wanted them to search their hearts and deal with sin.

- Revival will not happen apart from sanctification. God isn't interested in our display of worship. He isn't interested in the formalities. He is interested in the condition of our hearts. If we are to see revival, we must get right with God! We need to search our hearts and deal with sin! [Ps.139:23-24 – Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.](#)

D. A Heart of Jubilation (13b) – Our hearts must be prepared for worship. We must be able to recognize the goodness of God in our lives. Revival will result in praise and adoration of the Lord. We of all people ought to praise Him for the wonderful things He has done. He is: 1) **Gracious** 2) **Merciful** 3) **Patient** 4) **Compassionate**. That is reason enough to praise Him!

I. The Heart of Revival (12-13)

II. The Hunger for Revival (15, 17)

A. The Urgency (15) – Joel declared to [blow the trumpet, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly](#). These were desperate times. Judgment was coming, souls were in the balance, and men needed to repent.

- Somebody in our day needs to sense the urgency. We are living in desperate times. Our nation is falling apart, homes are under attack, the foundations of our faith are being eroded away, immorality is rampant, churches are empty, countless souls are lost, and judgment is sure. Is there not a cause? Who will sound the alarm? Who will pray and seek God? Who will humble themselves and realize the need? This is serious! Revival is our only hope. If we don't see revival, judgment and condemnation are sure.

B. The Priority (17a) – It was time for the priests to weep before the Lord. It was time for them to seek God with an earnest heart and forsake themselves for the good of the people. Judah was plagued with priests who lacked priority. They were not focused on the spiritual needs of the day.

- We need those in our day who will make God the priority of their lives. We need preachers who will preach the truth. We need Christians who will live the truth. We need those who have a hunger for the ways of God and a desire to reach those who are lost!
- Serving the Lord is no longer the priority for many today. Even those among the church have limits as to how far they will go. I pray that God will stir our hearts so that He will become the priority of our lives. May we serve Him above all else. May He come first and everything else behind.

C. The Glory (17b) – Joel was burdened about the lack of faith in Judah. They lived in such a way that others could not see the Lord in their lives. They were God's chosen people, but the world couldn't see that. Judgment was coming because God will not tolerate sin. Joel was concerned that the heathen nations would mock God because of Judah's judgment.

- We need revival, if for no other reason, than to glorify God. The church is the bride of Christ. We belong to Him. We are God's representatives to the world. How much of God do they see in us?
- Do you realize that the church is to blame for much of the spiritual climate in our day? We claim to be Christians, but the church doesn't have enough power in our day for the world to see a difference. I want to see revival for the glory of God! I want the world to see Him in our midst so that they would have to admit that He is a God of power and glorify Him! We ought to hunger for revival that would glorify our Lord and Master. He deserves to be praised.

I. The Heart of Revival (12-13)

II. The Hunger for Revival (15, 17)

III. The Hope in Revival (16) – Joel wanted to gather the congregation unto the Lord. Within this congregation were all types of people. In them we see a picture of those who need revival, those who need hope in Christ.

A. The Weary – He desired to have the elders present. These picture those who have served the Lord for years, but have grown weary in the journey. They have been faithful, but have grown tired from the struggles.

- No doubt there are those among us who have grown weary in serving the Lord. You used to have a zeal and passion for the Lord, but the labor has taken its toll. You just need to

be refreshed and renewed in Christ. Genuine revival will supply that renewal. There is hope for you in the Lord.

B. The Wayward – Joel also desired to have the children among the congregation, those who were unaware and unconcerned about life.

- In these we see a picture of those who are wandering in life with little concern or awareness. They have lost their desire for the things of God. They have chosen to take their own path, maybe even a bit rebellious toward God. There is hope for those who are wayward as well. The prodigal lost his concern and his desire, but he came to himself one day and returned to find a warm reception from the father.

C. The Weak – Also Joel called for those who were still nursing the breasts, those who have never matured beyond the milk.

- Our churches are filled with the weak, those who have never grown in the Lord. I pray that God will give you a hunger for the meat of the word and an appetite for the things of God. If you are weak, strength can be found in the Lord.

D. The Waiting – Even the bridegroom and his bride were expected to be found among the congregation.

- These picture those who believe there is plenty of time to serve the Lord. They are so consumed with their lives that they have put off serving the Lord. They intend to serve Him, just at a more convenient season in life.

- May I encourage you to serve God today! There is no time like the present. There is nothing more important in life than serving the Lord and living for Him. Why not cast aside those things that hinder you and make a commitment to serve the Lord instead of waiting?

I. The Heart of Revival (12-13)

II. The Hunger for Revival (15, 17)

III. The Hope in Revival (16)

IV. The Healing of Revival (18-20) – Revival will result in blessings untold for the people of God. Revival brings healing and help. It affords:

A. God's Presence (18) – God is mindful of those who seek Him. He will show up in the midst of those who desire Him.

- I don't know about you, but I want God to be mindful of us. I desire His presence in our midst. We will accomplish nothing of value without Him.

B. God's Provision (19-20) – God wanted nothing more than to bless His people. He wanted them to enjoy the goodness and bounty that He gives.

- There is no reason for us to live apart from the provision of God. I have no doubt that He wants to bless us beyond measure. We could have so much more than we currently have if we would just seek Him and turn unto the Lord. I want all that God has to offer!

Revival is not a series of meetings; it is God's people doing business with Him and meeting His demands. Do you desire revival? If so, come!