

Revival – Again to Live

“¹Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught doing something wrong, you who are directed by the Ruach, restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness—looking closely at yourself so you are not tempted also” (Gal. 6:1)

We all want revival to come. In fact, I have been praying, privately and publicly for the revival to begin in Gainesville, at *Kehilat Kol Simcha*. You have heard me say on occasion: ‘*What is wrong with the Revival beginning with us?*’ or ‘*Why not us?*’ Do you know what true revival is about?

Revival comes from the Greek *anazao*, literally ‘*again – to live*’. In Wikipedia: “...*Revival generally refers to a specific period of spiritual renewal in the life of a Congregation. While elements such as mass conversions and perceived beneficial effects on the moral climate of a given culture may be involved, the key factor in revival is the restoration of the people in the body to a vital and fervent relationship with the Almighty after a period of decline.*”

Revival means ultimately to revive the heart. It is an issue of life (or lack thereof) and is linked to the heart directly in Scripture (e.g., Prov. 4:23). In the context of a Believer, spiritual revival is the bringing back to life of a person who has slipped back into sin and rebellion – whether of a former Believer who has backslidden or a person who has never know the Lord. In Scripture *anazao* is used in the account of the physical resurrection of Lazarus, the resurrection of *Yeshua* and in the references to our future bodily resurrection. The classic Biblical picture of this process is seen in the parable of the prodigal son: the son who left his father’s house in rebellion, lived in disobedience and sin, but who finally came to his senses while in the pig sty, repented, went back to his father’s house, confessed his sin to his father, and was restored to life in full harmony with his loving father.

In the *TNK*, there is a magnificent illustration from which we can derive five steps that are to be taken in becoming an effective revival agent like Nathan to King David in 2 Samuel 12:1-15.

¹Then Adonai sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said to him, “There were two men in the same city—one was rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had an exceedingly huge flock and herd, ³but the poor man had nothing at all, except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished, and it grew up together with him and his children. It ate from his own morsel and drank from his own cup, and nestled in his bosom, and it was to him like a daughter. ⁴Now a traveler came to the rich man, but he was unwilling to take one from his own flock or herd to prepare a meal for the wayfarer who had come to him. Rather, he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for the man that had come to him.” ⁵Then David’s anger blazed hot against the man and he said to Nathan, “As Adonai lives, the man that did this deserves to die! ⁶So he must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did such a thing and showed no pity.” ⁷Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says Adonai, God of Israel: It is I who anointed you king over Israel, and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I also gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your bosom, and I gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. Now if that were too little, then I would have added to you so much more. ⁹Why then have you despised the word of Adonai by doing such evil in My eyes? Uriah the Hittite you have struck down with the sword, and his wife you have taken to be your wife, and him you have slain with the sword of the children of Ammon ¹⁰So now the sword will never depart from your house—because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. ¹¹“Thus says Adonai: Behold, I am going to raise up evil against you from your own household, and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he will lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. ¹²Indeed you have done it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and under the sun.” ¹³Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against Adonai.” Nathan replied to David, “Adonai also has made your sin pass away—you will not die. ¹⁴However, because by this deed you have made the enemies of Adonai greatly blaspheme, so even the child born to you will surely die.”

Commissioned: Nathan was commissioned by God, e.g., “*Adonai sent Nathan to David.*” The first step is: to be commissioned (ordained) to be given authority to carry out a particular task or duty, or to be granted certain powers. This is where you *prepare* yourself to go to a person in need of revival. When Nathan stepped before *King David*, he had full assurance he was doing the Will of God. The deeper we feel that same assurance, the surer we’ll be during the intense process of revival.

Confront: As Nathan began the process of reviving King David; he had a clear perspective of where he needed to go and how best to get there. We have already been commissioned to bring back wayward sheep back to the fold. Therefore, the first step of all spiritual restoration is to lead sheep to recognize their root problem – that through willful disobedience to God and His Word they have strayed from the fold and are living in direct opposition to the Will of God. To *confront* means to come face to face with or to stand in front of, and to bring together for comparison or examination. Nathan did this by telling David a parable (just like *Yeshua*), followed by describing the nature of God and listing specific sins. Confrontation is not easy for anyone, but the Lord admonishes all of us to *speak the truth in love*, and commands (and authorizes, i.e., commissions) us to do so in a spirit of gentleness and meekness (not weakness), which is *yielding our rights – “Lord Your Will, not mine.”*

Commandments: The foundation of all of a Believer’s confrontation with people must be God’s Word. We should confront people when we are certain they have broken a clear *commandment* of Scripture. In fact, *“¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and useful (profitable) for teaching, for reproof, for restoration, and for training in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16).* Therefore, *revival must include the sinner’s repentance from breaking the Will and the Heart of God.* These are two parts of this step: the first is to demonstrate that the person has broken the commandment of God, and the second is to illustrate that he has broken the God’s Heart. **Guilt** is experienced at the breaking of the *Torah* and **grief** results because of the breaking of the relationship – letting God down.

Consequences: The goal of the process (whether used by Nathan or us) is to *restore* the person who is *“doing something wrong.”* For David, the climax is his confession: *“I have sinned against Adonai.”* When a person disobeys God he underestimates two things: (1) the seriousness of his behavior, and (2) the negative consequences of that behavior to himself, his children, family, others, and to the Lord. Confrontation helps the person see his past and present sinful actions, but consequences help a person see present/future harmful results. At any time a person expresses genuine confession stop! (We can discontinue because they are now in step 5).

Confession: When *Nathan* heard David say, *“I have sinned against the Lord,”* he knew he and his target had touched the finish line. Sin had been broken and revival was on the way. To *confess* usually means *to thoroughly make known to others one’s error or wrongdoing.* Confession is the first step on the positive side of revival and represents the swinging hinge between rebellion & revival. David’s full public confession to the Lord is Ps. 51.

Yeshua asked us to bear fruit that remains. We should purpose to make God’s Word alive in those with whom we speak. Share Scripture with a goal in mind – on-going revival: whether it is by causing a believer to be more like *Yeshua*, or sharing with the lost about eternal life. We need to have an *expectation for revival.* Revival will never work if it is not an ongoing process first in us, then in others since only a message from the heart reaches a heart. People need help to be obedient so let us love them into greater obedience. Don’t take for granted that people are OK and instead carefully consider that everyone has needs.

Always aim for revival in the life of your people and yourself. Revival is not content. It is uniting people’s spirit with God’s spirit. It is always Spirit to spirit. There is no revival of skill.

Be careful to monitor regularly that your interaction with people seeks the lost and deepens the saved. We are to equip saints, and always be prepared to give the gospel.

Consider that Biblical Revival is an on-going process and is never completed until *Yeshua* returns. Revival is not an event; it is a process. We are never finished experiencing revival and having more of God. We are to convict sin and deepen relationships.

Do not shy away from calling your audience to an ever-deeper commitment and holiness. *Yeshua* called for a commitment continually. In our society, so much of what we do lacks commitment.

Entreat God to make you His agent for revival.