

## Church Revival

By Santiago Lange

“Revival” takes place when a church is restored to its first love of Jesus. We have been calling this “healthy church”. It brings people, congregations, and even nations back to the values that many of their fathers once loved and lived.



Before anyone outside of the church can be reached effectively, the church itself must be revitalized.

We desperately need God led revival for our nations and for all Christian churches, not just our own. This is something for which we should earnestly be regularly praying. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, and as the extension of God’s love and messenger of the truth of Christ, the church is a transformative vehicle of hope, the herald of “good news”.

It is essential for the Church today to have knowledge of both her history and her destiny. We must clearly understand where we are and from where we have come from. Theologians underscore that we have become post-Christian nations, secular societies. This results when churches lose their positive influence and relevant cultural impact finding it increasingly difficult to encourage strong biblical values. While one might choose to “just hang around” longingly waiting for Christ’s Second Coming, Jesus said that we should be found WORKING in the harvest for Him.

God inspired revival is the critical hope of every country. The actual reality is that Jesus centered NT Christianity is the only possible antidote for spiritual and social maladjustment in the world.

Spirit led revival is a heartfelt return to love and faith in God, the Living Word, Jesus our LORD, and in the written Word.

The Old Testament records a number of major “revivals”, all displaying the following outstanding characteristics:

- **They occurred in a time of deep moral darkness and national depression.**
- **They began in the heart of consecrated servants of God who were given a mission and the power to accomplish it. These servants were used by God to quicken and lead the nation back to faith in and obedience to Him.**
- **Each revival rested on the Word of God, and most were the result of proclaiming God's will with power.**
- **All resulted in a return to worship of God.**
- **Each witnessed the destruction of idols where they existed.**

- **In each revival there was a recorded separation from sin.**
- **In every revival they returned to offering blood sacrifices.**
- **Almost all recorded revivals show a restoration of great joy and gladness.**
- **Each revival was followed by a period of great national prosperity.**

These Old Testament revival elements also apply in principle to our situation today. We do not seek to return to the offering of bloody ritualistic animal sacrifices. But, we do seek to turn towards the forgiving and cleansing blood of Jesus. Only Christians who know they are saved, and who have the heart of Jesus, can become authentic gospel ambassadors. □

***Prayer: Lord of heaven and earth! Use this pandemic to glorify your name. Call and stir your church to action. Bring about revival. Let the light of your people flood the world destroying the works of darkness providing hope and assurance of better things yet to come. In our engagement with our communities turn our hearts and minds towards you and mold and shape us according to your will as we seek to become „healthy church“, a true reflection of your amazing grace and love. Amen.***