



Lighthouse Beacon

August 2011

Brokenness and Revival

Some Christian Classics should be read more than once during our lifetime because our perspective and understanding as disciples of Christ will change over time. Therefore, the foundational spiritual insights we once gleaned from these great works will often have new meaning and lead us to deeper comprehension than what could be revealed to us earlier in our walk. Just like rereading familiar Bible passages can point out something we had missed previously, spending time with an old classic can often be used by God to refresh and deepen our spiritual discernment.

So this month I want to share how I am being blessed by an old 'friend' who's challenging me in my walk with Jesus. Specifically, I want us to examine together the symbiotic relationship between brokenness and revival and how it directly impacts our walk, and our ability to *Let Him Shine!* ~Kim

Since our church has been doing a study recently on Roy Hession's book *We Would See Jesus*, I was convicted to go back and reread Roy's classic, *The Calvary Road*, which I last read more than 30 years ago. While much of what I learned from that book years ago has continued to serve me well throughout my Christian walk, this visit with my old friend has challenged me with a very penetrating and convicting look at the profound relationship between brokenness and revival.

Psalm 51:16–17 (NLT) ¹⁶ You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God."



Like many of my friends, I look at revival as sort of an 'upper room' event whereby the Holy Spirit swoops in on some Christians and amazing events begin to happen – whole communities come to believe in Christ; healings take place; relationships are restored; there is an outbreak of joy in believers; and God's presence and power are recognized even among the unbelievers. We study Christian revivals in centuries past and pray for this kind of revival to take place in our cities and in our nation. Furthermore, we see and understand that a broken and contrite heart seems to be a prerequisite for revival, and was often found to be the case in a small group of believers who were praying fervently prior to a major revival breaking out.

"Let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matt 5:16

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world." —John 8:12

So the formula seems to be that a group of believers who are sufficiently humble and dedicated and praying with adequate passion for a long enough period of time can bring about a revival. At least that's the haunting assumption that causes Christians, and Christian leaders, to believe there must be something wrong with us—that we are deficient in our Christian walk, because revival seems to be much more of a legend than a reality in the 21st century church in the USA.

Thankfully, my latest reading of *The Calvary Road* has challenged me to reconsider my distorted view concerning revival. Let me explain using Roy's principles.

First of all, Roy states, "Revival is just the life of the Lord Jesus poured into human hearts." He goes on to say, "we....have only to get into a right relationship with Him [Jesus] and we shall see His power being demonstrated in our hearts and lives and service, and His victorious life will fill us and overflow through us to others. And that is revival in its essence."

Psalm 51:17 (NLT) "The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God."

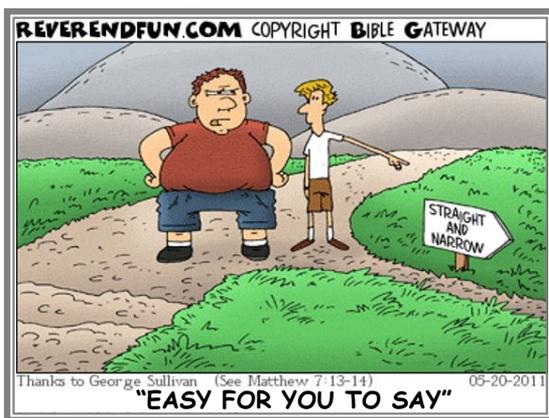
I am deeply convicted that Roy is right. Revival should not be seen by us as an event, but rather as a lifestyle. My personal walk with Christ is not dependent upon his Holy Spirit's activity in my nation, or my state, or my city or even my local church. My revival depends entirely upon the health of my personal relationship with Jesus. My usefulness as Christ's instrument of revival to those around me is directly related to how well and

how often I allow Him to revive me.

Isaiah 57:15 (NLT) The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: "I live in the high and holy place with those whose

spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.

Roy reminds us that brokenness is the beginning of revival. He says, "Being broken is both God's work and ours. He brings His pressure to bear, but we have to make the choice." God reveals areas in our life that are not surrendered to Him: areas of pride, hardheartedness, and self-will. Then we get to make a choice whether or not we will agree with God's assessment of our sin. As Roy puts it, "Brokenness in daily experience is



"...you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." —Ephesians 5:8

simply the response of humility to the conviction of God." Brokenness is not revival, but it is the entry point for revival. And being broken

is not simply a one-time event, but also a daily occurrence that is necessary if we wish to maintain the closeness to Christ that allows Him

Gwen's Corner

'Loving our neighbor' is not just a recent emphasis to the church but dates back to God's first dealings with man in Genesis. And He specifically commanded it in the law given to Israel around the year 1445 BC. The command in Lev. 19:18 . . . *you shall love your neighbor as yourself*. . . is the most often quoted Old Testament text in the New Testament. Jesus taught it as the second greatest commandment, second only to loving God.

As the Truth Project teaches, God gave us this commandment not just to set some rules and regulations over us but because it expresses His very nature. He is a lover of man and his soul. And as He loves us, He desires that we love one another. We are to be His expression of love to others.

But keep in mind the fact that God gave man a free will to love Him back or not. Barna statistics indicate that over half of the world (about 60%) does NOT love Him. And that is why the Christian's testimony of God's love for them is crucial. He wants them to know that He loves them so much that He gave His one and only Son to die for them that they might be reconciled to God and have fellowship with Him forever.

I recently came across this poem, written by Ruth Bell Graham many years ago, that so poignantly expresses the call and duty of a Christian lighthouse in the world:

*Look o'er the people about you—faces so furrowed with care,
Lined and hardened by sorrow sin has placed on them there;
Think of the evil they live in, hopes none and joys so few;
Love them, pray for them, win them, lest they should perish, too.*

As we who are Christians are so very graced and lavished with His love, let us love those around us who have yet to experience that.

*"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ,
God making His appeal through us." 2 Cor. 5:20*

"You are the light of the world." —Matthew 5:14

to continue to revive us and to overflow through us.

John 12:24–25 (MSG) Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal.

Jesus allowed Himself to be broken so that we could be revived. As born-again believers, the Holy Spirit is constantly guiding us to areas of our life where we need to be broken, surrendering our will, dying to self, and being revived by Him. As Roy says, "the more we know of death

with Him, the more we shall know of His life in us." The brokenness that results in dying to self and identifying with Christ brings revival. This is a kingdom formula and its results not only impact lives in the here and now, but also last for eternity.

I strongly encourage you to get your own copy of Roy Hession's *The Calvary Road* because there is so much more than what I have been able to cover here. It has reminded me that if I want to see my church, my city or my nation to experience God's revival, then God's people (me included) need to be revived first and we need to be revived regularly. So I want to leave you with this one thought: are you allowing God to break you enough to revive you so you can truly *Let Him Shine!*

LightShine's Praises & Prayer Requests:

PRAISE! For God's continual provision for LightShine.

PRAY : For God's direction and word to LightShine through our board members at our Board of Directors meeting on August 17th. (Our July meeting had to be postponed.)

PRAY : For your family member, friend, or neighbor who needs to know and experience the love of God.

Who Is LightShine Ministries?

LightShine is a faith-based ministry, supported by gifts from individuals like you. We work with many ministries, churches & denominations at local, state & national levels. If you want to help support LightShine, with your prayers, time, resources, or finances, contact us at 505-293-0743 or write to us at LightShine Ministries, 2039 Virginia NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110