

Prayer for Revival

Part 2

In the battle of Ai, Joshua sent three thousands men to take the city, but they were defeated and 36 of them killed. The heart of the people melted of what had happened, **“6 And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. 7 And Joshua said, Alas, O LORD God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! 8 O LORD, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! 9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?”** (Joshua 7:6-9 KJV) Joshua expressed to the Lord all his misery and the pain that he was put in, with the elders of Israel, because they were defeated before their enemies, and with such defeat their enemies will hear about it and would come and destroy them. Joshua finally said to the Lord **and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?** Therefore, when Joshua prayed and mentioned that, God interrupted the prayer meeting to answer Joshua, asking him to get up to stand before the Lord, explaining to him why all this miserable tragedy had taken place, and to commissioned him of what he needs to do so God’s name would be glorified: **“10 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? 11 Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. 12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.”** (Joshua 7:10-12 KJV) Even today many prayers meetings all over the world praying for revival and God certain times would interrupt with His Word these prayer meetings and explain to them why there is no revival and why there are further deteriorations in God’s churches.

The people who were under the leadership of Joshua they sinned, they broke the covenant of God, by taking from the things that God asked them to destroy in the city of Jericho; they lied, and they hid the things with their stuff, therefore they were not able to stand before their enemies. God told them that they will not be able to stand until the things that went wrong needed to be corrected. God commissioned Joshua to go and cleanse the people and deal with those who sinned and did this evil things against the Lord, **“Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.”** (Joshua 7:13 KJV) God wanted Joshua to deal with the sin immediately, by tomorrow and cleanse the camp of God from it, before they would expect any more victory to take place. God wants us promptly deal with sin and not to procrastinate and delay.

In the same way today, speaking about revival in God’s churches and among the people of God, it will not take place unless sin and sinners are dealt well properly from our midst. Stealing of all kinds, adultery of all kinds, injustice, corruptions, bad stewardship, abuses, cheating, divorce and remarriage, live in, worldliness, accepting idols of the world and worldly celebrations and days of the world inside God’s churches are all breaking covenant with God, and we should not expect victory, progress and revival unless these sins need to be dealt with. The worse of all these sins is the sin of the church when the church knows about all these sins that the people do but fail God to discipline and cleanse the church from such sins. True revival will not come unless the church leaders behave in honest way and deal with the sins that God is exposing to them to deal with. True revival will not come unless we deal with the sins that God is exposing in our families that our children are doing, or the sins that God is exposing in our churches that our members and coworker are doing.

If we fail God and ignore what he commissioned us to do, then sins will continue in our families and churches. That will lead to the following:

1. Sins will be tolerated.
2. Sins will be accepted.
3. Sins will invite other abominable things to take place.
4. False conversions, and that is what is going on in churches, where we can see many people joining churches but false conversions and no changes in life, where people got accustomed to church activities and practices but no real changes of life and no real fruit of true repentance.

Joshua obeyed the Lord and dealt with the sin and found out the one responsible, Achan, with the help of God. The Lord is there to help us if we are willing to stand firm with Him and deal with the sins that God is showing to us. The sin was exposed and Joshua sent men to the place where the things are hidden and brought out to the light, **“22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it. 23 And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.”** (Joshua 7:22-23 KJV) After the sin was exposed, and every one were aware of it, the church dealt with the one who did the sin, **“24 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. 26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.”** (Joshua 7:24-26 KJV) The place of stoning was called the valley of Achor, the meaning of the word ‘Achor’, means trouble.

Many they don’t want to go through such kind of trouble, confronting sinners, dealing with sins, implementing discipline that would cause people to hate them. People sure don’t like the leader who rebuke them and expose their sins, **“They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.”** (Amos 5:10 KJV) Church leaders now a day

they don't want the people to hate them or have ill feeling toward them; that is why they are reluctant to deal with sin and cleanse their churches from them. But what would be the result if we keep sins in our midst and displeased God? Joshua was in the Promised Land but he could not make any more progress. We have received salvation from Jesus, and we ought to work out our salvation. If we chose to compromise to please people and allow sin to stay inside the church then we are enemies of God, ***“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” (James 4:4 KJV)***

We cannot please people if we want to serve God and if we want to make it to heaven. Jesus did not compromise, He did not agree with the opinion of those who did not like to follow and live in the truth of God. He was hated, He was abhorred by those who refused to amend their ways, and finally He was conspired of and crucified.

As our master and Lord lived, He wants us to do the same; Jesus informed us and instructed us that we will be hated by the people on the account of Him, ***“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” (Mark 13:13 KJV)*** But He promised salvation to those among us who shall endure hatred till the end. If we will compromise we will lose our salvation. To deal with sins will invite people to hate us, and that hatred might be increased over the time of life and we need to bear till we make it to heaven.

Jesus in His prayer to God the Father, He made it very clear that His disciples and we among them today, would be hated after receiving the Word of God from Jesus, ***“I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” (John 17:14 KJV)*** Hatred will be our lot when we give God's Word to the world and when we deal with sins. If we don't have people who hate us then there is something wrong with us. Once we decide not to compromise and to live Godly life we will be persecuted, ***“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” (2 Timothy 3:12 KJV)***

In the body of Christ, there are now two categories, and they are existing one beside the other:

The first one is not dealing with sin, they are compromising, fearing the people, looking for numbers and looking for more people and more income of money and for more activities, and not looking and dealing with the sins that is prevalent among their people. These churches are usually having big crowd and people love them because their leadership goes along the terms and conditions of the people.

The second one are dealing with sins, preaching and implementing God's Word without compromising, and their aim is to please God and do His will. Usually these churches are small in number and with fewer resources and finances because many had hated them and left them after they dealt with their sins, and had gone and joined the first category.

In the book of Revelation we can read about the church in Smyrna the following: ***“8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last,***

which was dead, and is alive; 9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. 10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. 11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.” (Revelation 2:8-11 KJV) The letter that came to that church from the Lord is to encourage them to be persistent to go in the way that God wants them to go through. The Lord reminded them, that He, our Lord, suffered death and now He is alive: ***“8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive.” (Revelation 2:8 KJV)*** That would encourage us not to give way for fear from persecution and what the enemy would do against us through those people who hate us. The Lord knows all about our work and the trials that we are passing through and the poverty that we had put in because of the persecution that we are facing based on our non willingness to condone sin and agree with the sinful ways of this world. ***“I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty.” (Revelation 2:9 KJV)*** We might be poor, with less people with less finances with less supports but we are rich (***but thou art rich***) (***Revelation 2:9 KJV***) Being assured of salvation and the reward that God had kept for us. The Lord knew them those who call themselves Christian and are living in sin and keep sin in their churches, ***“And I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.” (Revelation 2:9 KJV)*** The churches that keep sin and does not deal with sinners that God is exposing, He called them Synagogue of Satan. Even they call themselves ***“Jews, which means the people of God, similar to those who themselves Christian of today”***, but are not belonging to God but to Satan as they chose to compromise and disobey God.

God encouraged that church not to be afraid from the suffering that is about to pass through. They will be tried by passing through a ten painful days; they will be put into prison, the things that is painful to man to be put in, but as they will persevere and be faithful to the end, they will receive the crown of life: ***“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10 KJV)*** The crown of life will be given to us if we stand firm upon persecution and not be willing to compromise, and that will be our reward. And as we overcome we will escape the second death, that will pass on the wicked who lives against the will and the ways of God: ***“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.” (Revelation 2:11 KJV)*** We should not be afraid from tribulation; people hate us and we should not be afraid from persecution. Usually in every trial of such, there is a painful time that God would allow us to pass through. Therefore we should not escape it. In what we read in ***Revelation 2:10*** is ten days, Smyrna church needed to bear it. As well as we need to bear whatever God would allow us to pass through, to be tried and tested, for our salvation to be worked out and to receive the crown of life. That is mandatory before revival would come and take place in our midst.

The valley of Achor we need to go through to deal with sin, and the ten days of tribulation as we are persevering in persecution, we need to pass through, so God would bring true revival

in our midst and release His full blessings and approval into our lives and into our families and into our ministries.

The meaning of Achor is trouble. To go to the valley of Achor it does not mean is a bad thing but it is a good thing because through that our families and our churches would be cleansed from sin and things will be corrected and rectified. After that stage of the valley of Achor, God will lead us into the stage of revival, victories and break through. The word Achor is repeated in other places in the Scriptures in which it describes victory, blessings and prosperity. **“And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me.” (Isaiah 65:10 KJV)** Here the valley of Achor is not a place of trouble but it is for flocks to lie down in green pasture. When sin is dealt with because people seek God and draw near to Him, He will bless them and prosper them and add to them flocks of people.

“And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.” (Hosea 2:15 KJV) The valley of Achor, the place of trouble, here is a door of hope. It is our hope today when we deal with sin as God wants us to deal with. Jesus dealt with the sin of the world when He died on the cross and shed His blood for the forgiveness of ours. He dealt with Judas Iscariot, and the church was cleansed and that paved the way to expand when the Holy Spirit filled them on the day of Pentecost. Troubles we will face when we deal with sin properly and when we purge sin from our midst. But that is for our good and is the way for us to please God and bring His Holy Spirit and His blessings in our midst.

My dear and beloved: Today to bring revival we need to understand what God’s Word mandate on us and what is the assignments that God had laid on us to work, on our lives, on the lives of our families, and on the lives of God’s people and the churches of God. We cannot keep silent in front of sin, we need to step out and confront those who are in sin from the people of God with a valiant message. We need to implement measure of discipline to keep order and restore things in the way that God wants it to be, to bring the people of God into true repentance and to bring the salvation of God in our midst.

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that makes things clear to me and made me understand your Word and your ways. Lord I commit myself not to compromise, I commit myself to go and cleans my family and the church under my care from whatever sin that you are revealing and wants me to deal with. Lord I pray that those churches and leaders who are willing to deal with the sins that you are exposing to them, Lord bless them and use them to cleanse your churches from sin, worldliness, immoralities, misconducts, abominations, corruptions and injustice. Lord I pray for those who are not willing to be changed and stop sinning, and continue to do the very wicked things that your Word and will prohibit, as well as, those who are not willing to deal with the sins that you are exposing, Lord let them be cut with their ministries and churches. Lord protect me and protect everyone who is willing to seek you, dealing with sin, passing through the valley of Achor and the critical days of prison and tribulation for the sake of your name to be even hated and persecuted. Lord protect us, Lord provide for us, Lord*

sustains us to stand firm unto the end. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.