

## Prayer for Revival

***“6 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. 7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? 8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.” (Luke 13:6-9)***

In this parable that Jesus spoke about the fig tree, the owner of the vineyard wanted to cut it because for three years it has no fruit, and it is just occupying place but of no benefit. The dresser pleaded the case of the fig tree and appealed to the owner to wait for one year, to give another chance, and he promised that he is going to do his part. His plead was in a form of prayer, ***“Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.” (Luke 13:8-9)*** He promised the owner that he will do his part, and he also agreed that if it will not give the fruit expected it will be cut down.

Praying should go along the Scripture. We cannot pray and ask God to do something based on our emotions, feelings, inclinations, our self-righteousness and on our own understanding. Our prayers should be based on and agreed with the Scriptures. We need to agree with God, to judge when there is persistence of non fruitfulness inspite of all what we had done.

Also prayer alone is not enough, when we know that we need to do our part. Here the dresser knew what he needed to do, ***“dig about it, and dung it.” (Luke 13:8)*** Digging is exposing the roots to find out what is blocking the nutrients to reach the tree, also in digging, stones and rocks will be removed so no more hindrance. Digging in the spiritual life is looking where is the sin, and what the hidden things are that causing non fruitfulness in the life of the people of God. The dresser would put a dung, something smelly, dirty, but that is nutrient and will bring the fruit that God’s desire to see. Prayer for revival is commitment to do what is tight. Digging also is to dig in our personal life, the lives of our families and the people who are under our care. Revival will come when sin is dealt with and God’s Word applied (dung) and not gifts, parties, and flatteries. Digging is important because certain people they are not aware of what is going in their lives, so we need to help them. Revivalist is fruitful people and God would expect fruit from them. So there is a timetable period. Three years of general care, and one more year, giving it the last trial to bring the desired fruit.

Jesus cursed the fig tree because it has no fruit ***“13 And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. 14 And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.” (Mark 11:13-14 KJV)*** even it was not the time for the fig, but still the tree was cursed. For us today we need to bear fruit. We will be without excuse if we remain without fruit.

Abraham prayed for revival and plead with God to save the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and in his intercession he agreed with God that He would not destroy these cities if there were 10 righteous people in them, ***“20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; 21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. 22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. 23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? 24 Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? 25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? 26 And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. 27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the LORD, which am but dust and ashes: 28 Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it. 29 And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake. 30 And he said unto him, Oh let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there. 31 And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the LORD: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake. 32 And he said, Oh let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake. 33 And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.” (Genesis 18:20-33 KJV)*** God on the morrow executed His judgment on these cities but He saved Lot and his family, except his wife because she looked back. Abraham did not know that, and some they think that the decision of Abraham to move from Mamre to Gerar was based on his assumption that God did not consider his prayers, ***“And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar.” (Genesis 20:1 KJV)*** Abraham did not meet Lot after God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and He thought that God failed him. God would not fail us as we continue to serve Him, but God has His own Word that He watch on it to fulfill it.

Certain times we go with our emotions and misunderstand what God is doing. We forget what the Scriptures speak, about few are those who will be saved, ***“23 Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, 24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.” (Luke 13:23-24 KJV)*** When we pray and intercede for revival, God will listen to our prayers and He will move to touch the people lives, and the first thing he touch is their willingness to repent and give up their own sins, and the first thing He will see if they are willing to strive to go through the narrow gate and the way of suffering, and ultimately few who are willing they will find the narrow way and they will be saved. ***“25 When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: 26 Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. 27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you***

***not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.” (Luke 13:25-27 KJV)*** Even they ate and drunk in the presence of Jesus and they were around when Jesus was teaching, but still they are evil doers and non willingness to repented, therefore they were rejected. Many parties and celebrations held today in honor of Jesus, but the atmosphere is full of idols and worldly events and activities penetrated into the church, therefore such church activities will not be honoured by Christ, even those who practice such will be rejected by Christ, unless they repent.

The people at the time of Jeremiah were not willing to give up their sinful way, and their idols, and that is why God said the following to Jeremiah, ***“I Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.” (Jeremiah 15:1 KJV)*** That does not mean that God does not want us to pray for such people, but we need to do our part to them. God instructed the prophet Jeremiah to go and tell the people the following: ***“2 And it shall come to pass, if they say unto thee, Whither shall we go forth? then thou shalt tell them, Thus saith the LORD; Such as are for death, to death; and such as are for the sword, to the sword; and such as are for the famine, to the famine; and such as are for the captivity, to the captivity.” (Jeremiah 15:2 KJV)*** Jeremiah as a revivalist was called to give solemn warning to the people about the coming wrath of God on them if they will not repent. He was called to deliver a sullen message to the people that it might bring them to repentance.

Jeremiah did not do wrong but he was cursed by the people, ***“10 Woe is me, my mother, that thou hast borne me a man of strife and a man of contention to the whole earth! I have neither lent on usury, nor men have lent to me on usury; yet every one of them doth curse me.” (Jeremiah 15:10 KJV)*** We need to accept and to understand that we might be hated and persecuted even if we had not done anything wrong, and that will take place because we are bringing the message of God to the people who hate to hear it. ***“15 O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke. 16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.” (Jeremiah 15:15-16 KJV)*** Therefore God instructed Jeremiah not to compromise and not to go back with His Word that he gave to the people, ***“19 Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them.” (Jeremiah 15:19 KJV)*** Once we tell the message to the people who don't go and apologize to them and decline from it. Instead we wait for them to humble down and to come back to God and accept the Word of God and comply with it. So the revivalist should not be a compromiser or a fainthearted person when the people do not like the message of God to them. God promised to Jeremiah and promised us that He will strengthen us and will deliver us from all our enemies, ***“20 And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brasen wall: and they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee: for I am with thee to save thee and to deliver thee, saith the LORD. 21 And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible.” (Jeremiah 15:20-21 KJV)*** Therefore let us take heed from the message and go and serve God and bring revival by telling the people

what their itching ears do not want to hear. Because this will bring them to repentance and the salvation of God through Jesus Christ our Lord shall come upon them.

Jesus started His revival by preaching the gospel to the people of God in the synagogues. ***“23 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, 24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. 25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. 26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.” (Mark 1:23-26 KJV)*** The man with the unclean spirit said to Jesus ***“Let us alone.” (Mark 1:24 KJV)*** There are many Christians, Pastors and churches are living in sins. Majority are living in sins because the church basically had been drifted away far from the path that God had ordained for it to pass through. Therefore today evangelism and revival need to start by evangelizing to churches and the people of God, who are living in sins and say to God ***“Let us alone.” (Mark 1:24 KJV)***

Jesus started reaching out the people of God, and the apostles continue the same mission of Jesus, Peter in the day of Pentecost preached His message to the Jewish who came to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the weeks. They wear the people of God. The message that Peter gave them had pricked their hearts and asked the apostles of what they need to do. ***“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37 KJV)*** To bring revival we need to bring the message that disturb the people and prick their hearts and prime them toward repentance. Apostle Peter further told them, ***“40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.” (Acts 2:40 KJV)*** Those who were there were Jewish who practice and follow the law and the prophets, who tithes and offer to God, who comes three times per year for the feast in Jerusalem, who are living a holy life away from worldliness, but still we found Peter telling them ***“Save yourselves from this untoward generation.” (Acts 2:40 KJV)*** Because they did not believe in Jesus and were not doing certain instructions that Jesus was giving to His disciples. Peter knew that and that is why he challenged them to come out from all their traditional and cultural background and worldliness that was against Christ and His Word. Peter had heard and understood what Jesus said, ***“For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:20 KJV)*** So Peter knew in details what the Pharisees and the scribes with their priests, who are the teachers of the Jewish church, in what they failed God and the teaching of Jesus in His sermon on the mountain to His disciples. ***“1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying.” (Matthew 5:1-2 KJV)*** Jesus told his disciples that they need to be better than them in righteousness and in obedience to Him so they can enter the Kingdom of God. The disciples were called to be humble, ***“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3 KJV)*** so they can accept and apply the rest of the teaching of Jesus. ***“4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the***

*peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. 13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. 17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” (Matthew 5:4-17 KJV)* The disciples were called to achieve certain things in attitude, character and conduct far than what the Jewish faith had called them to do. And that is why Jesus told them the following: *“19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:19 KJV)*

***My dear and beloved:*** Today to bring revival we need to understand what God’s Word mandate on us and what is the assignment that God had laid on us to work on our lives, the lives of our families and the lives of God’s people and the churches of God. We cannot keep silent, we need to step out and confront those who are in sin from the people of God, whether they are pastors, leaders, workers or members, with a valiant message to bring them to repentance and to bring the salvation of God in their 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 not to go with my emotions, and I commit myself to dig and expose roots, put dung and work with time table. I commit myself to go and to tell your people and God’s churches with your Word and your will, even the very Word that they don’t like to hear. Lord I pray that those churches and leaders who are willing to repent and do what your Word and will dictates, Lord bless them and use them to cleanse your churches from sin, worldliness, corruption and injustice. Lord I pray for those who are non willing to be changed and continue to sin and do the very wicked things that your Word and will prohibit, Lord deal with these ministries and churches on accordance of your Word and you dealt with the fig tree. Lord give me deep understanding to understand the way you answer my prayers and the way that you want your church to be. 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.