

THE NECESSITY OF PERSONAL REVIVAL

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at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Paducah, Ky.
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Romans 8:1-4

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

Often, when we use the term *revival* we think corporate revival—when a move of God takes place in a local church or even in an area. Tonight, I want to speak on a personal revival.

It is most sad when a person comes under the delusion that personal revival is needed only when they have fallen into some terrible sin or they have withdrawn from the Lord and His people all together. It is sad because when you finally come to that point and realize you need personal revival, it's very difficult and painful. Individual renewal is to be continual. You're constantly in the need of spiritual revival; if that's not happening your backwards drifting will make revival more drastic and possibly more difficult. As the Lord has taught me and I have in turn taught you, all you have to do to spiritually decline is nothing.

To illustrate the point, imagine you are on a treadmill and it is powered on. You're walking or running but you suddenly stop. You stop, but you don't stop moving because the treadmill hurls you backwards. Now, for some of you, that may not be hard to imagine because it has happened. You stop and go backwards. It's like swimming upstream. If you're to progress you can't stop swimming because the moment you do, you go backwards. Spiritual progress and spiritual digression work the same. That's why I say to you that personal spiritual renewal is always necessary. It's got to be continual because there are too many forces working against us including our own selves. That's why I also said you cannot wait until you fall into some terrible sin or have gone backwards for a significant period of time before you need revival. If you think this way it will be much more painful to get back where you departed.

Amazingly, what is needed for personal revival is the same as it is for corporate revival. What I'm going to share with you tonight is not new; you've heard it a lot. But every revival, personal or corporate, is a re-hearing of the same truth with fresh ears. So may God give us fresh ears tonight