

# **Revival**

## **Study 1**

### **The Biblical Model**

Acts 2:42-47, 4:23-37, 5:12-16

## **Study 2**

### **Isaiah's Revival Prayer**

Isaiah 64:1-12, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 85:6-7

## **Study 3**

### **The Glory of God**

Exodus 24:15-18, 33:17-23, 40:34-38

## **Study 4**

### **The Floodgates of Heaven**

Malachi 3:6-12, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

## **Study 5**

### **City Transformation**

Ephesians 3:20-21, 6:10-12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5;  
Hebrews 1:14, Colossians 2:13-15, Philippians 2:9-11

## **Study 6**

### **Josiah the Revivalist**

2 Kings 22:1-20; 23:1-25

## **Getting the most from the study**

### **1. Quiet Times**

Revival is such a spiritual reality. Consider using the booklet in your personal quiet times with the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit to clearly speak to you as you genuinely desire to draw closer to God and become more surrendered to His will. If you are a small group Bible study leader encourage the people of your group to do the same.

### **2. Revival Stories**

Read the revival stories as a group aloud during your time together. The duration of the stories is designed to not take longer than 5 minutes. The historic and contemporary revival accounts are very important as they help describe what revivals look like. The stories will build faith and inspire.

### **3. Bible Study Discussion**

The general Bible study questions are aimed at taking 45 minutes to complete. It is recommended not to spend too long on any given question but keep the study moving. Please remember while one or two may be happy to side-track on one question or concept for 20 or 30 minutes there are often others who find that portion of the discussion quite dull.

### **4. Final Application**

Final application questions are very important and recommend a prayer time. As prayer is so directly related to revival this is possibly the most important part of your time. Leave 15-20 minutes for this section.

### **5. Accompanying Audio Messages**

Inspiring audio messages that are directly related to the studies are also available. The Bible study leaders' preparation time is made easy by utilising motivating stories and powerful Scriptural insights from each 30-minute message.

## 6. Corporate Revival Prayer

Have a chat with one of your church pastors and consider inviting a cluster of small groups and one of the church worship teams to get together at your church venue to worship and pray together in a larger corporate setting.

## 7. Revival Documentaries

There are a number of excellent and well produced documentaries on historic and contemporary revivals. Also biographical documentaries about revivalists. It would truly excite the small group members to watch some of these and then move into a time of prayer during some of your small group meetings.

Recommendations include:

- *“A Diary of Revival: The Outbreak of the 1904 Welsh Awakening”*  
Written & researched by Kevin Adams, narrated by Selwyn Hughes  
(UPC: 5027957000377) Available from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)  
<http://www.welshrevival.com/>
- *Transformations: A Documentary*  
Hosted by George Otis Jr contact - [www.tcchurch.com.au](http://www.tcchurch.com.au)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dyrho\\_hoz5s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dyrho_hoz5s)
- *Transformations 2*  
Hosted by George Otis Jr  
©2002 The Sentinel Group  
(ISBN number: 9781930612419) contact - [www.tcchurch.com.au](http://www.tcchurch.com.au)
- *“The People’s Preacher C.H. Spurgeon”*  
(ISBN: 5027957001220) Available from [www.cwr.org.uk](http://www.cwr.org.uk)
- *“Remembering ’59: Billy Graham’s Legacy – 50 years on”*  
(ISBN number: 0980626609) Available from [www.koorong.com](http://www.koorong.com)
- *“Our People: The Story of William & Catherine Booth & the Salvation Army”*  
(ref: B002TWFH2I) Available from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)



# Revival

## Study 1

### The Biblical Model

Read the account of the Welsh revival 1904

In 1904 Wales experienced a spiritual revival. The nation for the most part became God conscious. Approximately 100,000 people came to faith in Christ over 18 months. Many Christians who were a little complacent in their relationship with Jesus became passionately fired up for God, claiming deep encounters with the Holy Spirit. A considerable number of churches held powerful prayer meetings almost every night of the week. Rather than a handful attending, many churches were packed night after night often with un-churched people attending too, including “notorious sinners.” Many were converted to faith in Christ in the prayer meetings themselves where there was not only prayer, worship and preaching but also many testimonies of those who had recently become believers.

The transformation of the various villages/towns throughout Wales was remarkable. Many businesses which would normally close at 5pm, began closing at 3pm so there was time to get home, share a meal and go to the nightly prayer meetings which often lasted several hours. Many pubs closed altogether as the demand for alcohol was greatly reduced. Magistrates were presented with a white glove as there were virtually no court cases to reside over. Police complained that they had nothing to do as one officer stated “everyone has gone mad after religion.” Many of the police became ushers at the church services and prayer meetings. Most of the villages/towns of Wales reported that virtually no crime of any sort was taking place and that there was an epidemic of bad debts being paid back. Even sport was affected. Not only were spectators few in number but even players were not showing up for training or the games, rather they would be found at the prayer meetings.

The primary man God used to usher in the Revival was a young adult named Evan Roberts who had been fervently praying for revival for several years. He

and his team travelled all over Wales starting and leading prayer meetings and spreading revival fire.

References: A Diary of Revival, Kevin Adams

Revival: Times of Refreshing, Selwyn Hughes

Understanding our Need of Revival, Ian Malins

1. What are some of the aspects of the Welsh revival that particularly stand out to you?

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Definitions:

*Welsh Revivalist Christmas Evans declared "Revival is God bending down to the dying embers of a fire that is just about to go out, and breathing into it, until it bursts into flame."* Understanding our Need of Revival. Ian Malins Page 9

*A.W. Tozer believed "Revival changes the moral climate of a community"* Revival, Principles to Change the World. Winkie Pratney Page 16

*Producer and writer of the Transformation Documentaries George Otis Jr considers that "True revival is like a seething lava flow. It takes time to reach its destination. But when it does, its intense heat and formidable power alters everything in its path. It is the full measure of God's kingdom come to earth"* Transformations 2 Documentary back cover

*Dr Martin Lloyd-Jones states "All revivals are in some way a return to Pentecost. Every revival in history repeats some aspect of that first great outpouring"* Revival-Times of Refreshing. Selwyn Hughes page 25

*The author of Every Day with Jesus, Selwyn Hughes states "Revival, then, is the Christian Church going back again to the God – given norm"* Revival-Times of Refreshing. Hughes page 14

*“Revival is the transformation of both church and community to the extent that they reflect the description of Acts 2:42-47.”*

Read Acts 2:42-47

2. List the strengths you see mentioned in the early church

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“They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching” Acts 2:42

“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts” Acts 2:46

The early church met to listen to the preached word of God and to worship, not weekly but daily!

3. How important is it in the believer’s life to listen to preaching and meditate on God’s word?

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“They devoted themselves to the... Fellowship”

“All the believers were together and had everything in common”

4. How would you define fellowship?

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*The word “fellowship” is translated from the Greek word koinonia (coy NO nyah). The essential meaning of the koinonia embraces concepts conveyed in the English terms community, joint participation, sharing, intimacy and*

*communion. The word appears 19 times in most editions of the Greek New Testament. (Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, page 430)*

5. How deep or real do you consider the fellowship of the early church?

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“They devoted themselves to the... breaking of bread” Acts 2:42

“They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts” Acts 2:46

*The “breaking of bread” in this context is regarded by Bible scholars as not only referring to a shared meal but the Lord’s Supper. (Marshall, Acts Tyndale Commentaries, page 83) Although shared in larger gatherings it is thought that in the early church communion was regularly shared as part of the evening meal with family and friends.*

6. How could you make the remembrance of Jesus’ death and the forgiveness He offers a more regular part of family life or among friends?

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“They devoted themselves to... prayer” Acts 2:42

We are told that they were a people known for “Praising God” Acts 2:47

The early church was also “filled with awe” of God Acts 2:43

Prayer and worship are often considered the most essential precursors to experiencing a spiritual revival.

Read Acts 4:23-31



7. How would you describe the early church prayer meetings?

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“Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.” *Acts 4:43*

Power encounters in the early church were commonplace!

Read Acts 5:12-16

8. How much of a role do you think the miraculous or power encounters played in the growth of the early church?

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9. How could power encounters such as the healing and deliverance ministry become more a part of church life? In your answer consider:

- Are such topics ever taught on in your church?
- Is there the opportunity to pray for the sick or those troubled by the demonic after church services and in small group meetings?
- Are you offering to pray in person for friends, work associates or family members who have serious physical or emotional needs?

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“They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.” *Acts 2:45*

The generosity of the early church was extraordinary!

Read Acts 4:32-37

10. What are some of the ways you could be more financially generous in your church or community setting?

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“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” *Acts 2:47*

It is clear from the passage that people were constantly discovering a relationship with Jesus and getting connected with the local church. In the wider community there was a “favour” toward the early church. *Acts 2:46*

11. Why were they so effective in evangelism?

- Consider the three extra passages already examined, evangelistic endeavour is linked to each:
  - Prayer *Acts 4:31*
  - Power Encounters *Acts 5:14*
  - Generosity *Acts 4:33*

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12. How much was sharing the gospel a part of the Christians’ life in the early Church?

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How often do you find yourself sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ? Once a day? Once a week? Once a month? Once a year?

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## Final applications:

Often Christians have experienced dull prayer meetings which leave them unmotivated to attend regularly if at all.

But prayer can be vibrant!

Revival meetings can include evenings where corporate worship, prayer and testimonies take place. Film clips of historic and recent revivals are shown to build faith that the Holy Spirit can bring revival to the local community.

If your local church were to commence a series of “revival meetings”, would you want to be a regular participant?

Is there any evangelistic activity or training offered at your church or Christian community that you could participate in to sharpen you to be more effective at introducing Jesus to people?

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The two sticks of dynamite often mentioned in historic revivals are powerful prayer gatherings and the gospel saturating a community.



# Revival

## Study 2

### Isaiah's Revival Prayer

#### The Great Awakening

In 1739 at the age of 24, revivalist George Whitefield took the momentous decision to carry the Gospel to the people who did not normally attend church. He visited many homes in Bristol with the aim to invite the coal-mining families of Kingswood to an open-air church service. About 200 came and many of them were deeply impacted by the Gospel. A few days later on a Wednesday, he preached again, open air, at the same location and 2,000 attended. He preached again on the Friday and 4,000 attended. After preaching at several churches on Sunday morning, he preached open air at Kingswood on Sunday afternoon to a crowd of 10,000. Most of these people had never set foot inside a church, in fact there was not a church located in their area. Hundreds were born again.

From this beginning Whitefield embarked on a course of open-air preaching that spread to every corner of Britain. He consistently attracted crowds of 20 to 30 thousand people and his astonishing voice carried with such volume and clarity that even those at the back could hear every word. As he preached the challenge that "you must be born again" throughout England, it was estimated that he had won 100,000 to faith in Christ. He had a similar impact on the American Colonies seeing just as many come to faith in Christ. The amazing out-pouring of God's Spirit became known as the Great Awakening.

What was the reason for Whitefield's spectacular success? Whitefield was not only an exceptional preacher but a man of prayer. The following is a record from his own journal:

*"Sometimes whole nights were spent in prayer. Often have we been filled as with new wine. And often we have seen them overwhelmed with divine presence and crying out, 'Will God indeed dwell with men on earth!' This is none other than the house of God and the gate of Heaven!"*

John Wesley who was present describes one of the same series of prayer meetings:

*“About three in the morning, as we were continuing in prayer, the power came mightily upon us, insomuch that many cried out for exceeding joy, and many fell to the ground. As soon as we were recovered a little from that awe and amazement at the presence of His majesty, we broke out in one voice, we praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge Thee to be Lord!”*

George’s personal prayer life was just as vibrant; he records:

*“Sometimes, as I was walking, my soul would make such sallies as though it would go out of my body. At other times I would be so overpowered with a sense of God’s infinite majesty that I would be constrained to throw myself on the ground and offer my soul as a blank in His hands, to write on it what He pleased.”*

Whitefield had learnt the great power of bringing together two sticks of dynamite, the preaching of the Gospel in the community and passionate prayer!

References: George Whitefield Journals (The Banner of Truth Trust)  
George Whitefield, Arnold A Dallimore

1. After reading the account of the Great Awakening and the life of George Whitefield how important do you consider prayer in regard to experiencing a revival? What struck you about the style or atmosphere of the prayer meetings?

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The following study answers the question, “How do I pray for revival?” In Isaiah 64:1-12 we can observe the prophet Isaiah’s prayer for a great move of God in his nation Israel. Isaiah knew what it was to have extraordinary encounters with God, for instance his experience recorded in Isaiah 6:1-8.

There are significant principles to learn from Isaiah's prayer that relate to praying for revival today.

Examine Isaiah 64:1-3

A. Focus on God

2. A revival cannot take place without the definitive presence and power of God. In what ways does Isaiah focus on God at the commencement of his prayer?

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Read Isaiah 64:4-5a

B. Claim God's Promises

3. How is Isaiah using a promise of God to firm up the strength of his prayer?

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Read 2 Chronicles 7:14

The previous passage in Chronicles was a promise claimed by the young Welsh revivalist Evan Roberts.

4. How could Christians claim such a Scriptural promise for revival in their local community today? Consider both the human responsibility and the promise of God.

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There are also Scriptural prayers for revival.

Read Psalm 85:6-7

5. How could this prayer become more a part of your life?
- Memorise it?
  - Save it on your PC screen?
  - Put it on a banner at your church?
  - Make a poster of it and put it on your fridge or wall?
  - Text it to your friends?

What will you do to make the revival prayer of Psalm 85 a part of your life?

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Examine Isaiah 64:5b-7

### C. Confess Sin

6. Identify how Isaiah confesses sin on behalf of his nation

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Selwyn Hughes in his book “Revival – Times of Refreshing” (page 107-109) identifies many potential areas of sin. Read the article as a group.

*“Having explored this thrilling and important subject of revival, we need to spend these last few pages giving ourselves a spiritual check-up. It is so easy to allow truth to enter our minds without allowing it to affect our wills. After all, it is only what we act upon that we really believe. It is important to keep in mind, as you go through this check-up, that however deficient you are spiritually, God’s love for you remains constant and certain. He loves you as you are, but He loves you too much to let you stay as you are – hence His*



*gentle prodding towards maturity. I say again, it is extremely important that you keep this in mind, otherwise a check-up like this can be devastating, and thus counter-productive."*

- *How long is it since I became a Christian?*
- *Have I grown steadily in that time?*
- *Was I ever further forward than I am now?*
- *Can I measure a degree of steady progress in my spiritual understanding?*
- *I wonder how much of my life is left?*
- *Is my reading of the Scriptures a mere duty, or is it a delight?*
- *Am I deeply conscious of the need for more private and corporate prayer?*
- *Do I think more of a larger income than I do of my spiritual development?*
- *Do I live day by day in conscious dependence on the Lord?*
- *Does the need for revival have much place in my prayer life?*
- *Have I hurt or wounded anyone and not yet apologised?*
- *How much time have I given in the past to acquainting myself with the history of revival?*
- *How much time am I prepared to give in the future?*
- *Do I give myself to God, then draw back when I realise just how much is involved?*
- *How do I feel about undertaking this spiritual check-up – challenged, bored, unconcerned?*
- *Do I grieve when I hear the name of Christ blasphemed, or have I grown insensitive to such things?*
- *When my non-Christian friends ask me about my interests, do I take the opportunity to share Christ?*
- *How long is it since I last shed tears over the condition of the world and the Church?*
- *Am I fighting a losing battle with evil thoughts?*
- *When did I last undertake a spiritual fast?*
- *If I was arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me?*
- *Am I a faithful steward of the money that flows through my hands?*
- *Do I give at least one-tenth of my income to God?*
- *What do other members of my family think about my Christian life at home?*
- *Does my conscience function in the way God designed it – by objecting to evil and approving good?*
- *Do I watch degrading films in the cinema or on television?*

- *Am I dependent on alcohol to see me through life's problems and difficulties?*
- *Have I debts which are outstanding and well overdue?*
- *Am I honest in relation to my employer giving my whole energy to my responsibilities, and remembering that I am not employed by an earthly employer, but by God? (Romans 13:1)*
- *Am I eager for revival?*

7. Take five minutes to quietly and personally reflect on the list

8. As a group, enter into a time of prayer. As individuals do you feel willing to confess areas of sin in your local community, church or your own life.

Examine Isaiah 64:8-12

D. Appeal to God's Character

9. Reflect on the manner in which Isaiah appeals to God's character that He might graciously visit the nation of Israel again.

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10. How could you apply this example to praying for your own nation?

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**Final applications:**

- Consider entering into a period of communion to conclude your time together as a group. As you reflect upon Jesus' crucifixion, use Isaiah 53:4-6 as a passage to meditate on.

# Revival

## Study 3

### The Glory of God

#### Revival in the Hebrides (1949)

The 1949 Hebrides revival commenced on the Island of Lewis in the parish of Barvas. God had burdened two sisters in their 80s (Peggy and Christine Smith) to pray long and hard for their community. They were particularly concerned that there were no young people in their church at all. A verse gripped them: "I will pour water on him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground." (Isaiah 44:3). They committed to praying at length together twice a week. Often on Tuesday they got on their knees at 10 o'clock in the evening and remained on their knees until 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning.

A minister and several church leaders also started praying in one of the barns on a regular basis, Tuesdays and Fridays. After a few weeks of the church leaders praying the community started to be influenced, others were seeking the Lord in prayer at their farm houses in the evenings. The documentary Transformations 2 records that "The Glory of God descended on the community, a tangible, supernatural light hovering over many of the farm houses."

Eye witness Donald John Smith recalls, "There were lights coming over houses, the Glory of the Lord was just shining round about them...The house shook with the power of prayer and the presence of the Lord.... Even the crockery was clattering." Eye witness Dr Colin Peckham recalls that when the church leaders got together for prayer "this was a defining moment for the beginning of the revival." Within 6-7 weeks God's power had come down. Peckham remembers the night when the glory of God descended "There was something quite strange, eerie even in the atmosphere of the house"

Scottish Revivalist Duncan Campbell was asked to leave Edinburgh and come to the Outer Hebrides, to the Island of Lewis for a short term mission. He reached the Island a few days after the beginnings of the revival. He arrived at a church to preach about 9pm and recalls about 300 were in the building.

He closed the service about 11pm and was shocked to discover 600 had gathered outside the church. Where had they come from? Approximately 100 young people had been at a nearby dance event. The presence of God swept the building and they all fled to the local church. They recommenced the church service completely packing the 800 seats. The service finished about 4am.

After the church service Campbell was told he must come to the local police station. Approximately 400 who were largely non-believers had felt the conviction of the Spirit of God and had got up in the middle of the night and come to the police station as they knew the Sergeant to be a Christian. Many of them were kneeling on the road asking for God's forgiveness. All over the island hundreds came to a life-transforming faith in Christ. Farmers reduced their working hours significantly as did business men so they could be at the revival meetings. Many of the drinking houses closed in the early stages of the revival and never opened again.

Eye witness Mary Peckham states that the crowds grew as large as 9,000 people which is particularly remarkable considering that there were only 12,000 who resided on the island in total. The revival continued for almost 3 years until the whole of the island was swept by the mighty power of God. The revival also spread to other islands of the Hebrides.

References: On line Transcript by Duncan Campbell  
Documentary Transformations 2

1. The Hebrides revival account mentions the glory of God several times. What is striking about this phenomenon to you?

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God's glory defined:

The Lord's aura. The sheer magnificence of His presence.

Not to be confused with glorifying God. To glorify God is to bring Him honour in what you do, say and in the attitude you carry. The glory of God refers to

the tangible, sometimes visible presence of God visiting his people in an extraordinary way.

Read Exodus 24:15-18

2. What do you think it would be like to enter the cloud of God's glory?

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3. Why would God call Moses to stay for such a long period of time?

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4. If you could ask God for anything, and you knew God would answer your request, what would you ask him for?

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Let's find out what Moses asks God for...

Read Exodus 33:17-23

5. Why do you think Moses wanted to see God's glory so much?

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6. Is it reasonable for Christians to ask God for deep, even extraordinary experiences of his presence? Why or why not.

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7. Have you personally had a particularly meaningful or unusual encounter with God? Share your experience.

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Read Exodus 40:34-38

We note that at times the glory of God was so strong even Moses could not enter it but on other occasions he could walk into the cloud of God's presence; remember Exodus 24:18

8. Why would God make his presence so tangible, even visible to the Israelites?

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9. What was the Tabernacle?

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10. Do you think it is possible for God's glory to descend upon a church or a gathering of believers today? Why or why not.

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Consider the account of Pastor Jack Hayford.

During the year of 1969 Pastor Hayford was called to an interim role in a church located in Van Nuys Los Angeles California. The Foursquare Church building was large and run down and there were only 18 members. Jack wanted his stay to be short term but the Lord had other plans.

Pastor Hayford commenced a teaching series about the church becoming a worshipping community. After he had been at the church approximately 18 months he had an extraordinary experience. Late Saturday afternoon he walked out of his main office into the church auditorium. He saw what he thought looked like the cloud of God's glory filling the sanctuary. He felt the Holy Spirit say to him, "It is what you think it is." He was overwhelmed that God would grace his church with such a tangible visitation of His presence. But he thought the experience was just for him and he didn't tell anyone about it as he thought they would think he was crazy.

The next Sunday at church there was a much larger congregation in attendance than the previous 18 months, about 170 in total. From this point the church rapidly grew to ultimately 10,000 members by the 1990s. This included thousands of salvations. Jack believes this amazing church growth only commenced after the glory of God descended on his church.

Reference: Pastor Jack Hayford. On line lectures

### **Final applications:**

- Conclude your time by praying that the Glory of God might descend on your church during the services or prayer meetings.
- Consider asking God to reveal if there is anything that would make the church environment more conducive to receiving His Glory.





# Revival

## Study 4

### The Floodgates of Heaven

#### The Revival of Almolonga

The town of Almolonga in Guatemala Central America was known for its violence, witchcraft, alcohol abuse and total poverty. The town of less than 20,000 people had 4 prisons which were not large enough to contain the criminals. Every morning the streets were littered with drunks who had passed out the night before. Children grew up with little food and limited clothing. The economy was based around agriculture but the land did not produce. It was as if nothing of God's blessing rested over this town. Ancestral worship and pagan rituals dominated the culture. Visiting Christian evangelists were pelted with stones and the local evangelical churches were persecuted.

A local pastor had a criminal push a gun nozzle down his throat with the intention to kill him. Only by an answered prayer did the gun fail to fire. It was after this that churches combined for Saturday prayer vigils. Following a season of intense prayer considerable numbers of people came to faith in Jesus, often being set free of demonic powers. One of the community leaders states, "Once the people were set free they started to work. Once they began to work they gave financially.... The land started to produce better. You can see the parallel between the people's faith and the improving soil." It seemed God's blessing was beginning to rest over the town's economy.

20 of the evangelical churches became strong in prayer, vibrant in worship, aggressive in evangelism, and committed to deliverance ministry. Astonishing numbers of people came into a personal relationship with Jesus. The town experienced a genuine revival. By 1994 the last of the four jails closed. The Christian chief of police stated, "there is no need for a jail in Almolonga anymore". The town had 36 bars at one point, now there are only three. Up to 80% of the town have become evangelical Christians. In a town of 19,000 gatherings of almost 15,000 assemble at times for worship. Prayers are lead at such events by the born again mayor.

One of the most striking realities of the town is the change of its economy and the production of crops. Before the revival only 4 trucks of vegetables were exported per month. Now 160 truck loads are exported per month. The soil had been described in the past as arid. Now it has become extraordinarily fertile, producing harvestable vegetables in a fraction of the time that it used to take. The locals believe it is God who has released the floodgates of heaven to bless the land.

References: Transformations 1 Documentary. Producer George Otis Jr

1. One of the distinguishing features of the Almolonga revival is that God’s blessing did not only affect the people but even the land itself! Do you think this is genuinely possible? Is it a Biblical concept?

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Read Malachi 3:6-12

2. When reading about historic or contemporary revivals what encouragement can we draw from Malachi 3:6 where it states “I the LORD do not change”. Also, read and consider Malachi 1:11 in your answer.

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3. What promise does the Lord give the Israelites in Malachi 3:7 and how does this relate to revival?

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4. What is the particular issue that God is calling Israel to repent from?  
Malachi 3:7-9

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Selwyn Hughes, in his book “Revival – Times of refreshing” identifies six different areas that he believes prevent revival. One of them he states is “Robbing God” and he writes under that heading:

*“Yet another evidence for the decline of today’s Church is the way in which we rob God of his tithes and offerings. The Church will never be powerful until Christians recognise and understand the principles that govern financial giving. Giving must begin with tithes and offerings to God. No Christian can afford to neglect this. If we give to Him, He has promised that He will open the floodgates of heaven (Mal.3:10). I am convinced, from the letters I receive, the people I talk to and the reports of others that multitudes of Christians are robbing God through neglect of tithes and offerings. What is the tithe? The tithe is the first ten percent of our income. This belongs to the Lord. God encourages us to give offerings to meet special needs, but these offerings are above and beyond the tithe.”*

Revival – Times of Refreshing. Selwyn Hughes (p50-51)

5. How is God wanting His people to test Him? (Malachi 3:10)

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6. What would it look like in your local church or community to experience the floodgates of heaven being thrown open by God?

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7. Consider Malachi 3:11-12. How would you relate this Scripture to the Almolonga Revival story?

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Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

8. What principles does the previous Scripture teach about financial giving?

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Read 2 Corinthians 9:9-11

9. Verse 11 of the passage tells the Christian they “can be generous on every occasion”. Considering the context of the statement how is this possible?

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Read 2 Corinthians 9:12-15

10. What are some of the benefits or blessings when Christians give generously?

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## **Final applications:**

- An underlying foundation and aim of the revival studies is that there is nothing in the Christian's life hindering God from moving in revival power and opening the floodgates of heaven!
- Close your time together in prayer and consider some of the thoughts below that may relate to how some are feeling:
  - You may feel on occasions the pests are devouring your produce.
  - You may believe at times you are about to bear real fruitfulness only to see those dreams blown away to nothing.
  - You long to see the heavens open and receive God's blessing over your life but it does not seem to be happening.
  - You feel an increasing desire to experience a great move of the Holy Spirit in your life, church and community.
  - You want to surrender your life afresh and anew to Jesus.
  - Your heartfelt passion is that the Lord Almighty would throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that a genuine revival would be experienced!



# Revival

## Study 5

### City Transformation

#### Revival in Cali Colombia

Cali Colombia, a city of approximately 2.5 million in the 1990s was known for its extreme violence and domination by drug lords. The drug cartel had a financial turnover of 500 Million USA dollars per month: 6 Billion dollars a year. Over 100 tonnes of cocaine were transported to the USA and Europe annually. The USA drug enforcement agency called the Cali cartel “the largest, richest and best managed criminal organisation in history.” Because of the drugs lords’ financial position, they were able to control everything: the government, police force, and media. If anyone spoke out against them they were promptly killed! Consequently, most of the people of Cali lived in fear. There were upwards of 15 murders per day.

After the deaths of several prominent pastors and Christian leaders the churches began to unite for prayer. They also sought to discover what the demonic strongholds were over the city. Demographic research was conducted and times of prayer asking the Holy Spirit for guidance. They were surprised to find the city was rife with witchcraft. Even the macho drug lords would consult with mediums before making decisions. It was also determined that a spirit of fear and a spirit of violence had powers of influence over the city. Specific demonic powers were prayed against.

Large united prayer meetings were organised. After the first of these major prayer events the next day the newspapers had the headline “No Murders!” Nobody could remember the last time there were no murders in Cali over a weekend. The next major prayer meeting was to be held in the 50,000 seat soccer stadium. The venue was hired and filled to capacity for the worship and prayer event which lasted for several hours. It was after this that the first of the seven drug lords was arrested. Within months 5 more drug lords were also arrested.

Politicians and the police thought the drug lords were untouchable. But spiritual warfare and united prayer proved more powerful. The image of Christianity was changed. People who had thought that it was irrelevant and the worst thing you could bring up in a conversation were now interested and open. The gospel of Jesus was being talked about right throughout the city. Many churches experienced astronomical growth. One church holds 7 services a Sunday and has a membership of 35,000 people!

Well over a decade after the revival came God is still moving in power. The book Operation World states of Colombia “Murder, kidnapping and crime rates show significant decreases in recent years.... From a tiny minority in 1960 (0.6%), evangelicals have grown to 7.5% and charismatics now number an estimated 18%.”

References: Transformations 1 DVD George Otis Jr  
Online article by Geoff Waugh  
Operation World Jason Mandrake Page 263

1. How strategic do you think spiritual warfare was in realising revival in the city of Cali? (Spiritual warfare includes the identifying of spiritual forces of evil and praying in opposition to them, commanding them to leave and quoting the authoritative Scriptures against them.)

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Read Ephesians 6:10-12

Theologian John Stott commentates on the previous Ephesians passage stating, “I have thus far assumed that by “principalities and powers” Paul was alluding to personal, demonic intelligences... Paul meant ‘supernatural cosmic forces, a vast hierarchy of angelic and demonic beings.’

The Message of Ephesians John R. W. Stott page 267



2. As a Christian, where does the true battle lie?

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3. How can we take a stand against the devil's schemes?

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Consider 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

(Strongholds can be defined as an area in a person's life or area of the community that is influenced or controlled by the demonic.)

4. How would you go about identifying strongholds that you believe are set up against the Kingdom of God in your town or city?

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In the city of Cali, the intercessors and those conducting demographic research discovered that there were high levels of violence, a very real sense of fear amongst the residents and a significant amount of witchcraft. The violence was obvious but not the witchcraft.

5. Can you immediately think of any demonic strongholds that may be in power in your town or city?

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2 Corinthians 10:5 teaches that "Christians demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God." What do you consider arguments set up to oppose the Kingdom of God?

Reflect upon the following example:

“How can you believe in a God of love when there is so much suffering in the world?”

This argument is most likely set up by demonic powers, it is in opposition to the Kingdom of God and has caused many to disbelieve in God’s existence. How do we Christians “demolish” such an argument?

Demonic arguments are always battled against with the truth. For instance, much of the suffering in this world occurs because many people disregard the word of God. The Bible teaches we are to love one another. If people live out this truth much of the suffering in the world would stop. If powerful nations stopped exploiting poorer nations and rather helped them manage their economies, much of the starvation of the world would cease. But it would not be loving for God to remove humanity’s free will. He allows people freedom. Unfortunately, people terribly misuse that freedom such as the drug lords of Cali who disregarded the law of God “you shall not murder” and killed anyone who opposed them. Jesus also understands suffering as He suffered at the hands of evil people Himself and therefore God truly empathises with the people of this world as they suffer.

The secular argument is seriously weakened in just a few sentences. The more such Biblical truths filter into the minds of the population the more arguments set up against the Kingdom of God are demolished.

6. Can you think of another argument set up against the Kingdom of God and how would you dismantle it?

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7. We have read that demons fight against the believers in Jesus. What then is the role of angels? Consider Hebrews 1:14 in your answer.

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Read Colossians 2:13-15

8. How and why do we have authority over demonic forces?

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Read Philippians 2:9-11

9. How can the Philippians Scripture be used in spiritual warfare?

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Read Ephesians 3:20-21

10. If we ever feel defeated by the demonic influence in our community what confidence does the previous Scripture give us?

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**Final applications:**

- Pray against any demonic strongholds that you consider may be over your town or city.

- Pray against the power of any demonic arguments that have been set up against the kingdom of God.
- If anyone feels that they have a potential demonic stronghold take some time to pray for that person
- In the future consider doing some demographic research in the region of your church. Prayerfully examine the information and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any demonic strongholds that have influence in local community.

# Revival

## Study 6

### Josiah the Revivalist

#### Revival Australia 1959

The first visit of Billy Graham to Australia has always been considered a major evangelistic success. However, it is also considered by some to be a genuine spiritual revival. Church historian Stuart Piggin in his book, "Evangelical Church History of Australia", cites a number of historic revivals in Australia's history and he says if we apply the same criteria to the visit of Billy Graham in 1959, we cannot deny a revival took place in several of the major cities of Australia.

130,000 people committed their lives to Christ in Australia over the 4-month campaign. This is a greater number than those who came to Christ during the 1904 Welsh revival. But did they go on with their new-found faith? Adelaide (the third largest city in Australia at the time) demonstrated evidence that 75% of the new believers continued to attend church and went on to spiritual maturity. Saint Stevens Presbyterian church in Sydney had 646 new convert referrals to follow up. This was a world record for a single church at that time. 404 of these new converts became members. 75% were still attending two years later. The evidence is such that it seems reasonable to conclude that 75% of the 130,000 continued in their new-found faith.

It should be pointed out that Billy and his team were not only praying for a successful evangelistic campaign, but that a powerful revival would be experienced. Australian Christians were believing the same. A few months before the crusade all night prayer meetings commenced in Melbourne. 40,000 gathered to pray for revival throughout Australia. But this figure includes only the official prayer partners for the crusade, the total number was far higher. Before Billy arrived, the Australian Christians were so fired up to do evangelism that hundreds of thousands of homes in the major cities were visited to conduct a spiritual survey and to invite people to the meetings. These invitations were highly effective, approximately 3 million attended the meetings! The final meeting at the Melbourne Cricket Ground

had at least 143,000 in attendance. Tens of thousands were permitted to sit on the grass, but the doors were finally shut turning thousands away. This is still the record attendance of any event at the MCG. The final crusade meeting in Sydney had 150,000 in attendance, both the cricket ground and neighbouring race course were full simultaneously. This was by far the most successful crusade event that Billy had conducted up to this point in his calling.

Society transformation also took place. Magistrate A E Debenham claimed that “The Billy Graham Crusade has cut crime in Sydney by an estimated 50 per cent.” This claim was accompanied by stories of a safebreaker handing the instruments of his trade to one flabbergasted counsellor, a gunman surrendering his revolver to another and the information that businesses were reporting an epidemic of repayments of bad debts while church attendance in Kings Cross, Sydney’s red light district had risen to record heights. The average Aussie does enjoy a beer around the BBQ yet this became more in moderation. The Bureau of Statistics figures show that alcohol consumption after the crusade for 1960-61 was 10 per cent lower than the 1958-59 figure.

Billy’s famous catch cry was, “the Bible says!” Commitment and enthusiasm for studying and meditating upon God’s word ascended to a higher level. Scripture Union membership almost doubled from 58,000 to 104,400. The weeks that followed the crusade in Sydney’s Central Business District alone saw 183 new Bible study groups commence. Bible colleges experience record intakes of students for the next three years.

Peter Jensen served as the Anglican Archbishop of Sydney for many years. He went forward at the 1959 evangelistic meetings, made a commitment and ultimately went on to a seminary. He states that whenever he preaches itinerantly, which was most of the time as Archbishop, he would always ask people of the congregation to put up their hands if they were saved at one of the Billy Graham Crusades and he reflects that there has never been a congregation where people have not put up their hands!

References: Evangelical Church History in Australia, Stuart Piggin  
Remembering '59: Billy Graham’s Legacy – 50 years on

1. What is most striking to you when reflecting on the Australian revival?

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What are your thoughts about the revivalist himself, Billy Graham?

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In 2 Kings, chapters 22 and 23, we read the story of the young king Josiah. His reign began in 640 B.C. During the reign of the previous kings of Judah, Manasseh and his son Amon, the Old Testament Scriptures had been destroyed. Manasseh had also introduced idol worship and temple prostitution. With the rediscovery of the Scriptures Josiah led the nation into a time of repentance and the Southern Kingdom of Judah experienced a great turning back to God, a spiritual revival.

Read 2 Kings 22:1-3a

2. It was in Josiah's 18th year of reign at 26 years of age that he led the Southern Kingdom of Israel in a national revival. Interestingly, other great revivalists we have considered, such as Evan Roberts and George Whitefield were also in their mid-20's when God used them as a catalyst for revival. Does this say anything to us today?

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Read 2 Kings 22:3-6

3. The Bible does place significant emphasis on buildings set apart for worship. We have cited in this study series the example where the glory of God descended upon the American church pastored by Jack Hayford. Do you think contemporary Christians underestimate the importance of Church buildings and why do you come to that conclusion?

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Read 2 Kings 22:8-10

4. How important do you think the recovery of the Scriptures were to the spiritual revival in Judah?

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Consider 2 Kings 22:11-13

5. Why was Josiah so affected after hearing the reading of the Old Testament Scriptures?

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Examine 2 Kings 22:18-20

6. Despite Josiah having all the authority of a King he listened to the prophetess. How important is listening to preaching today, particularly if it has a prophetic edge?

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Consider 2 Kings 23:1-3

- 7. A biblical covenant is an agreement between God and his people. Do you feel personally that there is any covenant you should renew before God?

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At the end of the bible study there is an opportunity to make a covenant before God to realise a revival in your community.

Read 2 Kings 23:4-7

- 8. Revival came to Cali, Columbia, when the churches gathered to pray against witchcraft. Idols in the West are much more common than they used to be. The average neighbour, whether an Asian or not, may have the statue of a Buddha in the back or front yard. But is there any harm in this?

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Idols can be subtler than a statue that people worship. It could include a new sports car, power, money, sex or prestige. Rather than during your group Bible study, take some time over the next few days alone with the Holy Spirit asking Him to reveal if there are any idols in your life.

Read 2 Kings 23:21-23

- 9. Jesus superseded the Passover with a New Covenant practice, the Lord's Supper. We identified in the opening study that communion was celebrated often even "breaking bread together in one another's homes" (Acts 2:42, 46). Has communion become any more central in your life since the revival series commenced? Should it? Why or why not?

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Examine 2 Kings 23:24-25

10. God raises up significant leaders to usher in revival. What do you think the qualities of such a leader are?

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Would you be willing to serve God as such a leader?

**Final applications:**

- At the beginning of this study we read a story of a revivalist who has given his life to preaching the gospel and praying for revival. Would you be willing to surrender all to be used of God to usher in a revival?
- Is there anything you may need to give up?
- Is there anything you may need to take on?
- How would you and your bible study group feel about making a new covenant before the Lord concerning revival?

*I make a covenant before God to surrender my life for His purposes and to seek Biblical revival for the glory of Jesus*

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Name

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Signature





# **Revival Study Answer Guide**

The following is purely a guide to the text based questions only. Often Bible study leaders find it helpful on certain questions to know the author's line of thinking. The answers do not include application questions as the responses will vary from person to person.

## **Study 1**

### **The Biblical Model**

1. The Welsh nation becoming God conscious, 100,000 coming to Christ, many churches filling their auditoriums almost every night with vibrant prayer meetings, crime rates dropping so low that police and magistrates had virtually nothing to do, un-churched people attending the prayer meetings and giving their life to Christ in that environment, prayer becoming more important than sport.
2. The early Church were devoted to:
  - Listening to preaching v42 (Heard preaching daily v46)
  - Fellowship v42, 44
  - Breaking of bread- communion v42, 46
  - Prayer & worship 42, "Awe" v43 "Praising God" v47
  - Power Encounters- Miracles v43
  - Generosity v45
  - Evangelism v47 (Daily salvations and community favour)
3. Listening to preaching, studying and meditating on God's word regularly is absolutely essential. The early church met not weekly but daily in the temple courts as they considered the apostles preaching so important.
4. Sharing your life with another believer/s. Talking at a deep level, disclosing feelings, pain, hopes and dreams. Serving God together.
5. They seemed to share everything, most met daily, enjoyed communion, not only in the large gathering, but in each other's homes and served God as a community. Early church fellowship seems very genuine, not at all fake.

7. Very vibrant, remarkable meetings. The building where they were praying even shook with the presence of the Holy Spirit! A strong sense of unity and they prayed with purpose to be sent out with power to share the gospel and expect the miraculous.
8. The miracles did draw the crowds and open people's minds to how active God is in this world. Power encounters also set up a great platform for the Gospel and so played an important role in the expansion of the early church.
11. Acts 4:23-31 - Prayer contributed to the believers being empowered to effectively share the Gospel.

Acts 5:12-16 - Power encounters drew the crowds and demonstrated the authority of Jesus.

Acts 4:32-37 - The astonishing generosity in the early church would have been a powerful witness to the broader community. We are told "there were no needy persons among them." Acts 4:34. In a time when there was no real social welfare this is remarkable and may have been why the favour of the un-churched people rested upon the early church. Acts 2:46.

12. The fact that people were being saved daily (Acts 2:47) and the way the early church prayed to be empowered as they were sent out (Acts 4:29-31) makes it seem that sharing the Gospel was a constant activity of the early Christian's life.

## **Study 2**

### **Isaiah's Revival Prayer**

1. Prayer does seem crucial. Whitefield was an empowered preacher because of his personal prayer life. The prayer meetings he participated in seemed so full of the Holy Spirit that the impact on the spiritual atmosphere of England was affected.
2. Isaiah focuses on God's supremacy and authority. God can rip the very heavens apart and make even the mountains tremble (64:1). The mountains were probably the most solid structure Isaiah could think of. Isaiah's focus is on an active God who has done awesome unexpected things in the past and is able to make his name known even to His enemies, how much more His believers (64:2-3).
3. Isaiah claims the promise that God is one "who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him" (64:4). Isaiah has been waiting on God in prayer and is believing that in time the Lord will act on his prayer. Isaiah does right and lives according to God's ways, he claims the promise that the Lord will help people who live that way (64:5). The help Isaiah wants is a mighty move of God in his nation.
4. An individual or church could...
  - A. Humble yourself. Become deeply respectful before the Lord, getting our focus off ourselves and our issues and firmly on God.
  - B. Pray and seek to be close to God. Passionately ask the Lord for a revival in the local community but also seek His face in worship.
  - C. Repent of any sin in your life. This may also include confessing sin on behalf of your church or the broader community and asking for the Lord's mercy.

Having done these three requirements, you are then at liberty to claim God's promise to...

- A. Hear from heaven
- B. Forgive sin
- C. Heal the land!

6. Rather than being filled with national pride Isaiah owns up to the fact his nation is rife with sin! Even the righteous acts priests perform are like filthy rags (literally menstruation cloths). The hearts of the priests were not in what they did, their rituals were not done with an attitude of worship (64:6). Isaiah confesses that one of the greatest sins is that people are not seeking God (64:7).
  
9. Isaiah appeals to God's character by reflecting that He has the qualities of a loving Father, that he knows his children are weak like clay, prone to be imperfect. Like a father forgives his child, so forgive us, Isaiah is saying (64:8-9). The prophet appeals to the Lord's character by pointing out the state of the holy city of Jerusalem and the temple, believing that, for the sake of His children and the witness to other nations, God's love will not permit him to do any more (64:10-12). Rather the expectation is that the Lord will again make the temple a place of praise as it was in the time of the forefathers (64:11).



## **Study 3**

### **The Glory of God**

1. The phenomenon is astonishing that God's presence can be so tangible, even visible. The transformation of the community affirms that those who saw the glory of God descend over various houses did not imagine it. It is a strong reminder that we serve a supernatural God. It also affirms that the experiences of those believers recorded in the Bible can be the experiences of Christians today.
2. Absolutely amazing! The sort of significant encounter one could never forget and would forever build faith.
3. We underestimate how God longs to be close to his people. Here is an example of an extended time of real intimacy between the Lord and Moses. It may be that the Lord had a transforming work He wished to complete in Moses too.
5. Because Moses had had a previous encounter of the glory of God it would be the type of experience he would surely want again.
6. Although our faith in Jesus must firmly rest in our confidence in the Scriptures, nevertheless the Scriptures themselves give so many examples of astonishing supernatural experiences and in this case Moses asking for such an encounter. It seems reasonable to conclude that the Holy Spirit wants us to seek amazing encounters of His presence.
8. The glory of God was both a guide for the direction the Israelites were to travel and also a constant sign that the Lord was with His people. This must have perpetually built their faith.
9. Tabernacle means "tent", "place of meeting" or "sanctuary". It was a sacred place where God chose to meet His people the Israelites and a place where Moses, the leaders and people came together to worship and offer sacrifices.
10. There are modern-day examples of God's glory descending upon churches and such churches have enjoyed such outstanding ministries it is hard to believe the experience has been imagined.

## **Study 4**

### **The Floodgates of Heaven**

1. In the Old Testament there are examples of God blessing the land with good harvests when the people followed Him and God holding back the rain when the nation was unfaithful to Him (1 Kings chapters 17-18). It is reasonable to conclude that the Lord still operates in that way and some contemporary examples support this.
2. If the Lord does not change then just as He has brought about spiritual revival in the past so He can today! Malachi 1:11 supports the concept that it is God's will that all nations come to faith in Him and exalt His name.
3. If the Israelites return to the Lord He will return to them. Today if people truly return to God His promise remains that He will return to them. The heart of revival includes a great turning back to God as a nation, city or community.
4. The nation is called to repent from robbing God of the tithes and offerings they were supposed to be giving as an act of worship.
5. God challenges His people to test His promise that if they tithe, give 10% of their produce, bringing it into the temple storehouse, He will bless them. He promises in fact to "throw open the floodgates of heaven" giving them so much they will not be able to contain it.
7. The Almolonga account included a local leader stating, "Once the people were set free they started to work. Once they began to work they gave financially... The land started to produce better. You can see the parallel between the people's faith and the improving soil." The Scriptures support the same concept that as people repent and are generous to God so he will bless the land and the quantity of its harvest. (3:10) And this will be a good witness (3:11)
8. If the Christian is generous to God's work, He will be generous to them (9:6). Financial giving includes being decisive, not haphazard, rather

deciding on a specific amount. And the attitude of giving is to be one of cheerfulness not reluctance (9:7).

9. The Christian can be generous on every occasion because the Lord promised to make them “rich in every way” (9:11). He will “increase your store of seed” or assets to make it possible (9:10).

10. Supplies the needs of God’s people (9:12).

God is praised because of it (9:12,13).

The Gospel is furthered. (9:13).

Prayer is stimulated. (9:14).

God has demonstrated his own extravagant generosity by giving the indescribable gift of His Own Son to die for us! (9:15).

## **Study 5**

### **City Transformation**

1. In this case spiritual warfare seems tactical and necessary. It may have been particularly essential as witchcraft was so dominant in the city of Cali.
2. The primary battle is not against people who are antagonistic towards Christianity but against the demonic powers that influence the people of the world.
3. We must have confidence in the Lord and find strength provided by the Holy Spirit. Also put on the armour He provides (Ephesians 6:13-18)
4. Conduct some demographic research. Note if there are any results that are surprising or alarming. For instance, the local municipality may have a particularly high suicide rate. Join in prayer with a few Christians and ask the Lord to help you discern if there is an evil spirit of death to pray against.
6. An argument set up against the Kingdom of God could include the statement:  
"All religions are the same, how can you claim that your religion is the only right one, the only way to heaven?"

This secular argument can be weakened or dismantled by the following truths.

None of the major religions such as Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity state that all religion is the same or that all religious paths lead to heaven. In fact, the opposite is true. The concept that there is only one path to God or heaven is not only a Christian concept.

Like the Old Testament Scriptures, the sacred writings of Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism have a challenging moral code which the believer is supposed to abide by to make it to paradise, nirvana or heaven. The fact is no one measures up, but all fall short of the religious moral requirements. No matter what the religious background, everyone needs forgiveness. That forgiveness is offered in Jesus.

The Christian concept is not a religious idea that was written a few hundred years back, that the church has the only way to heaven, rather it is a concept that came from Jesus Himself. “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’” (John14:6). Here Jesus did not say He was “a way” but “the way”: singular, not plural. He was not trying to be exclusive but inviting all to believe in Him. But He makes it clear that He is the only pathway to God.

Saul of Tarsus was an educated religious leader who was confident Jesus was not the way to salvation yet when he encountered Jesus he completely changed his mind and taught of Jesus that, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Other major religions have challenging moral teaching that urges people to earn their way to heaven. Only Christianity teaches that God has already reached down from heaven through His Son Jesus and does not expect us to earn our way to heaven but believe in Jesus and accept his forgiveness. This is not intended to be exclusive but rather all are invited to believe. (John 3:16)

7. Angels are to serve Christians, “those who inherit salvation.” That may include angels fighting against demonic powers on our behalf.
8. Because of Jesus’ death on the cross, this work disarmed the demonic, the powers and authorities (Colossians 2:15) and as His followers we carry our Master’s authority.
9. The Scripture makes clear that God has exalted Jesus to the highest place, “name above all names” meaning Jesus has absolute authority over all including demons. As Christians we can demand that demons submit because we serve the One that is all powerful.
10. It reminds us that Jesus is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or even imagine. If this is the case, then with His “power that is at work within us” we can be confident to have victory over the demonic!

## **Study 6**

### **Josiah the Revivalist**

1. Phenomenal crowds, 130,000 conversions, comprehensive evangelistic work including hundreds of thousands of door-to-door witnessing opportunities, all night prayer meetings, society transformation, a great turning back to the Bible including record intakes at Bible colleges for three years.

Billy Graham himself was key to the revival. Often God chooses to use one of His significant servants to be a catalyst for revival. Billy's character, his deep commitment to evangelism, the Bible and prayer would be part of the reason the Lord chose him as His instrument for revival.

2. Perhaps we underestimate what the young adult has to offer in leadership toward revival. If this is the case it means that fired up young people in churches should be given opportunity to influence the congregation. During his first pastoral appointment, Charles Spurgeon was the catalyst for a revival in his local village when he was only 17.
4. The revival came only after the recovery of the Scriptures. It is reasonable to assume that the young king Josiah would not have been familiar with much of what was written in the Old Testament. Once acquainted with the Scriptures he repented and challenged the leaders and nation to do so too.
5. He realised how far the nation had departed from God's word.
6. Often the Holy Spirit raises up key preachers with a prophetic edge as catalysts for revival such as George Whitefield, Evan Roberts, Duncan Campbell or Billy Graham. Consequently, it is reasonable to assume that listening and responding to such preaching is very important.
8. The statue of a Buddha, Hindu god or some other supposed deity has no power necessarily as a physical object but it can have when a demonic spirit attaches itself to it. Some such objects in the country of origin have been prayed over or sacrificed to before being sold or shipped to a

Western country. Having such objects in your home or workplace is not worth the risk.

10. We have read repeated examples in the Scriptures and the revival accounts that the qualities of such leaders include a passionate prayer life, commitment to evangelism, love of people and a deep devotion to God.