

159 – Don't revive, VIVIFY!

There is at least one church we know of here in Dallas that has what the pastor calls revival all week long ... every week! I can think of some contemporary Christian music that calls for revival in the lyrics. I heard a preacher one day last week on the radio say that the church *needs* revival, and in my spirit, I heard, “No, the Body of Christ needs **vivified**, not **revived**.”

The word, “**revive**,” in Greek means literally “UP-LIVE.” Thayer’s lexicon defines it as, “*live again, recover life; to be restored to a correct life; refers to one who **returns** to a better moral state; to **regain** strength and vigour.*”

The term, “vivify,” however, means “make alive,” or literally, “LIVE-DO.”

So, revive is “UP-LIVE,” and Vivify is “LIVE-DO.”

Look at the comparison between the two words:

Luke 15:24 (Prodigal returns)

21 Now the son said to him, 'Father, I sinned against heaven and in your sight. No longer am I worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your hired men.'

22 Yet the father said to his slaves, 'Quick! Bring forth the first robe, and put it on him, and give him a ring for his hand and sandals for his feet.

23 And bring the grain-fed calf, sacrifice it, and, eating, we may make merry,

24 **for this my son was dead and revives** [- He “**up-lives** -] he was lost and was found.' And they begin to make merry.

Obviously, the prodigal had not literally died, and when the older brother complained about all the fuss over the younger one when he, the responsible one, had never left home but had continued working for his father, his father had to set him straight:

Luke 15:32

32 Yet we must be merry and rejoice, seeing that this your brother was dead and revives, and was lost and was found."

We can see that these are not literal references, but figurative ones.

Romans 7:8-9

For apart from law Sin is dead.

9 Now I lived, apart from law, once, yet at the coming of the precept **Sin revives**.

Luke 15:24 and **Romans 7:9** both have the word, "**revive**" in the Concordant text; in fact, they are the only two scriptures where the word revive appears, according to the Greek text; yet, [at least five other versions I checked in Bible Gateway](#) appear to treat "revive," or "Up-Live," the same as "**vivify**," or, "LIVE-DO." This failure to correctly render these words reminds me of how most versions treat reconciliation and conciliation as if they were the same when they clearly are not.

Here's how **vivify** is used in only one instance:

1 Corinthians 15:22

For even as, in Adam, all are dying, thus also, in Christ, shall all be vivified.

All will not be simply **revived** – that's what happened to Yeshua's friend Lazarus; it's what happened to people who came out of their graves when Yeshua died. They were revived, but they all died again! When the Father **vivifies** – when He says, "Live-Do," dying is over! When Yeshua's "**shout of command**" comes that Paul wrote about in 1 Thessalonians 4, the "**dead in Christ**" who ascend to meet Him in the air, together with the living who are changed, "**in an instant**," they are all way past dying again!

If you aren't reading an accurate translation, you won't see that revival – or “up-living” – is different from “vivifying,” or making alive. So, today, the so-called church thinks that revival is needed when it really needs to die. The trouble is, it's running on its own life support – like an auto-pilot – and the Father is birthing a new thing entirely.

Here's how we define revival today, according to the dictionary:

“renewed attention to or interest in something; a new presentation or publication of something old; a period of renewed religious interest; restoration of force, validity, or effect”

Nowhere in the scriptures is the concept of revival found in the way the church uses it today. No first century apostle called for revival.

1 Kings 17:17-22

17 It came to pass after these things that the son of the woman, the possessor of the house, became ill; and his illness came to be exceedingly unyielding, until no breath was left in him. 18 So she said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of the

One, Elohim, that you came to me to remind me of my depravity and to put my son to death?”

19 He replied to her, Give me your son; and he took him from her bosom, brought him up to the upper chamber where he was dwelling, and laid him on his couch.

20 Then he called to Yahweh and said, “O Yahweh my Elohim, will You also bring evil on the widow with whom I am sojourning, by putting her son to death?” 21 He measured himself on the boy three times and called to Yahweh and said, “O Yahweh my Elohim, I pray, let the soul of this boy turn back within him.”

22 Yahweh hearkened to the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the boy turned back within him, and he **revived**.

The last thing the church needs is revival. No one ought to be found breathing life into something that was never divinely birthed and would be better off dead entirely.

B -- Then what? We'll need to get out there and tell people about their Messiah and do the work Yeshua left us to do...show them a more excellent way.

In the Old Testament, when Israel repented from going off into idolatry countless times, didn't have a revival; instead, they did what the Lord told them to do: they **returned** to Him and to following the law. The Lord NEVER called for revival:

Jeremiah 3:

¹¹ So Yahweh said to me, "Backsliding Israel has shown her soul more righteous than treacherous Judah. ¹² Go and proclaim these words to the north and say: '**Return**, backsliding Israel, averring is Yahweh; I shall not cast My face down upon you, for I am benign, averring is Yahweh; I shall not hold resentment for the eon.

¹³ Only **acknowledge your depravity**, that you have transgressed against Yahweh your Elohim and have dispersed your efforts among aliens, under every flourishing tree, and you have not hearkened to My voice, averring is Yahweh.

¹⁴ **Return**, backsliding sons, averring is Yahweh, for I Myself possess you;

The church seems to me to be so entrenched in its sense of its own rightness that I can't imagine its leaders even considering that the earliest leaders misappropriated the Scriptures and all that has happened has been to perpetuate a kind of Judeo-Christian Pharisaism that honors itself more than The Messiah it purports to serve and to herald. I know this sounds harsh but look at the fruit born by the tree of Christianity throughout its history. There are some sweet apples, for sure, but the preponderance of its history has

birthed spiritual starvation and doctrinal emptiness that clings to legalism as much as Judaism did when Yeshua lived as a man!

The Father does not **revive**, and I don't believe for an instant that He is calling for revival! He **restores** and, more importantly, He "**Vivifies**;" He **makes alive**. Vivified is what we are in **resurrection**: we are made alive. We are *not merely revived*. The church may call for revival all it wants, and it will start and stop as it has done for centuries. How many "moves of God" have started and fizzled out? Why? Could it be that, assuming the Father birthed them in the first place, they were co-opted by blood and flesh, which of course, has **no** inherent capacity to **sustain** life, let alone create it? The church calls for revival, and it dies, because **everything** that man gives birth to dies; but when the Father vivifies by His Spirit, what He vivifies will **not** – indeed, it **cannot** – die!

I pray this is as exciting to you as it is to me, because it fits with the word that Harold Smith spoke to Barbara, when He said, "what the Father is calling you for, and what He has prepared for you, you won't recognize it."

Everyone has heard of "revival," and is probably *sick* of hearing about it; but who has ever heard of a "**vivifying**" move of God? This is what His spirit does when it heals the sick, opens blind eyes, delivers people from demons, breaks the yokes and sets the captives free, and binds the broken hearted.

Whether we participate in this vivifying that I see the Father birthing in the spirit now, is being determined by the choices we have made that have brought us where we are today. Let me explain that:

When Yeshua called the 12, we don't see that anyone asked any questions or had to work their way through any religious chains to pick up and go with Him

for the next 3½ years! No one that we know of sought permission from anyone or asked anyone's advice. Yeshua said, "**follow me,**" and they did!

The church today, like everyone living and breathing everywhere, is where all their choices have led them. You and I are right now where all our choices have led us. I promise you, for what that's worth, that the church as we know it today – which has changed little since say, the 4th century; at least since the council of Nicaea in 325AD. -- will never succeed in its stated mission to fulfill Yeshua's call to the disciples in **Matthew 28:19**:

18 And, approaching, Jesus speaks to them saying, "Given to Me was all authority in heaven and on the earth.

19 Going, then, disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit,

20 teaching them to be keeping all, whatever I direct you. And lo! I am with you all the days till the conclusion of the eon! Amen!"

The first century Apostles did this, to the extent that they traveled and evangelized and disciplined. Christians today, in large part, evangelize and disciple according to statements of faith that are based largely on the Nicæan Creed. The Christian church is not based on Yeshua's direction, and certainly not on Paul's revelation, which went far beyond Yeshua's instructions to His disciples regarding the accountability for an earthly kingdom.

So... what does all this have to do with you and me today? Simply this: Are we right now in the right place at the right time according to how we have hearkened to the Father's voice in our lives? Have we done what Paul told Timothy. Go through this with me, please, because I have a sense of urgency about this.

2 Timothy 1:6-14

I am reminding you to be rekindling the gracious gift of God which is in you through the imposition of my hands,
7 for God gives us, not a spirit of timidity, but of power and of love and of sanity.

8 You may not be ashamed, then, of the testimony of our Lord, nor yet of me, His prisoner, but suffer evil with the evangel in accord with the power of God,

9 Who saves us and calls us with a holy calling, not in accord with our acts, but in accord with His own purpose and the grace which is given to us in Christ Jesus before times eonian,

10 yet now is being manifested through the advent of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, Who, indeed, abolishes death, yet illuminates life and incorruption through the evangel

11 of which I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher of the nations.

12 For which cause I am suffering these things also, but I am not ashamed, for I am aware Whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to guard what is committed to me, for that day.

13 Have a pattern of sound words, which you hear from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

14 The **ideal** thing [- *the perfectly pleasing thing that satisfies all expectations* -]

committed is a deposit in you; entrusted to you; it is consigned to your faithful keeping; it is, among other things, the **correct** knowledge and **pure** doctrine of **the** gospel, to be held **firmly** and **faithfully**

The **ideal** thing committed to you, **guard** – [keep watch over it; have an eye upon it: **lest it escape**; that it may remain safe; lest it suffer violence, be despoiled, etc. Protect it; keep it from being snatched away, preserve safe and unimpaired... why? Because it CAN be snatched away and despoiled; it CAN suffer violence, IF - YOU - AREN'T guarding! This is YOUR

JOB, not the Father's job... YOUR JOB!...and HOW can we do it? The answer is at the end of **verse 14:**]

through the holy spirit which is making its home in us.

Now, why was Paul so intense toward Timothy with his words? The answer is in verse 15.

15 Of this you are aware, that *all* those in the province of Asia *were turned* from me

This is a serious warning to Timothy about choices and consequences not long before Paul died. Notice that those who turned “**were turned;**” the language in **verse 15** is passive. These people *knew* Paul, had heard him in several of their towns, and certainly had his letters circulating amongst them. Nevertheless, they weren't paying attention when one or more significant tests came, and they were fair game to be turned away, turned aside, no doubt thinking they were perfectly on target and on track. They were NOT paying attention to the Father's voice – and Paul didn't want Timothy going down that bunny trail – it wasn't necessary for *anyone* to go down that trail; nevertheless, they did, and we're here today, cleaning up the mess that was left after 19 other centuries of people who weren't paying attention any more than the one who missed it in Paul's lifetime!

Barbara had a question come up in her spirit after the bombing during the Boston Marathon that has left some dead, and others wounded or even maimed for the rest of their lives. Barbara would you articulate the question and talk a bit about it, please?

When Barbara and I talked about this, I realize that the sovereignty of God allows for all of this, but how much of what goes on in the world does anyone participate in, or perpetuate, simply because he or she failed to discern what

the Father's direction would have been had He been consulted? Now, apply this more immediately to our lives today – yours and mine:

Whose voice are we following today really? Is it the Father's or is it ours that looks and sounds really good and even seems to have confirmation when we go according to it, but where does it lead ultimately? Have we entered through the cramped gate and are we walking along that remarkably narrowed way that we talked about last week? What does that look like?

Here are the last questions I'll ask before I even venture a suggestion: Have we died to everyone and everything, or are we clinging to anything or anyone to AVOID dying? If we have truly died, we won't show up where a bomb goes off, because the Father is free to direct our steps away from even considering that path today. Those people had likely planned for weeks to be there that morning; and because they had, they never questioned the rightness of it. They probably never sought the Father that morning or even before as to whether that was His highest purpose for them to be in that place at that time.

What about you and me? Can the Father put a check in your spirit that would prevent you from going to work – tomorrow, or going along the same route; or can He change your route or even your destination, and could you hear Him if He were to do that? If we ASSUME the Father's purpose, we could MISS the Father's purpose. If, however, our lives are up for grabs on a daily basis, we might just get different marching orders from headquarters. I'm not saying we *would* get new orders; I'm only saying we *could*, but only when we are in a position of abandoning what we THINK the Father's will is. Could the spirit in us whisper to make a right turn at an intersection tomorrow, rather than a left, for reasons we don't understand, because our lives are NOT our own, for they have been bought with a price? When you are walking with the Lord fully, He is

walking WITH **you**, -- just as the Father was with Yeshua, and just as Yeshua was with Paul; He can send you ANYWHERE to ANYONE at any time for His purpose.

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Part of the impetus for this look at choices and consequences tonight came from Barbara's and my discussion about the bombing in Boston, but much of it comes from an almost nightly review that the Lord has been doing with me before I go to sleep. He's been recalling times and seasons, events, relationships, circumstances to show me all of the times when another choice would have led to a completely different outcome. It isn't a review that leads to condemnation at all, but it has established in me -- it still is establishing -- a new appreciation for my accountability for the choices I made throughout my life so that I make the best possible ones today. Also, if I ignore those I made before, I run a high risk of going off on a bunny trail that would otherwise be unnecessary.

You and I cannot change the past, and I know the Father's sovereignty well enough to know that I would not be having this conversation with you tonight were it not for all the choices and consequences that led me to this time and place. I praise the Father for His mercy and kindness and faithfulness to me, especially since I did everything at one time, and for a long time in human terms, to offload His presence from my life.