



# **REVIVAL: HOW IT IS SUSTAINED**

**The Love of Christ, the Father-Son Mentoring  
Relationship, and Accountability**

# WHAT CAUSES THE FAILURE OR “SHORT LIFE” OF A REVIVAL

- Jonathan Edwards: two of the major causes of the failure of revivals is the growth of “undetected spiritual pride” and “jealousy” – two of the major sins of the apostles of Christ before His crucifixion.
- As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples **James and John** saw this, they asked, **“Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?”** But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village. (Luke 9:51-55)

# WHAT CAUSES THE FAILURE OR “SHORT LIFE” OF A REVIVAL

- Then **James and John**, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.” “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. They replied, “**Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory**” ... When the ten heard about this, they **became indignant with James and John**.
- Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”  
(Mark 10:35-37, 41-45)

# WHAT CAUSES THE FAILURE OR “SHORT LIFE” OF A REVIVAL

- Seven manifestations of spiritual pride, according to Jonathan Edwards:
  1. Pride: The Great Fault-Finder
  2. Pride: Ministering in a Harsh Spirit
  3. Pride: Putting on Pretenses
  4. Pride: Taking Offense Easily
  5. Pride: Presumption Before God and Man
  6. Pride: Hungry For Attention
  7. Pride: Neglecting Others

# WHAT SUSTAINS REVIVALS

## 1. The Love of Christ

- Jesus to Simon Peter during his ordination: “Do you love me?”
- Paul’s one passion: the **LOVE of CHRIST** – Christ’s love for him and his love for Christ, manifest in His love for His people and the lost. **Love-driven**, not performance-driven, life.

(Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:37-39; Eph. 3:17-19; 2 Cor. 5:14; Phil. 3:10-11; Eph. 5:1; Rom. 10:1; 1 Cor. 16:24; 2 Cor. 2:4; Phil. 4:1; 1 Cor. 4:17)

- The **restoration** of the sincere **LOVE of Christ** in the hearts of the pastors, leaders and the people of God is the **HEART of GENUINE REVIVAL**.

# WHAT SUSTAINS REVIVALS

“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, **he is the one who loves me**. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

Jesus replied, “**If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching**. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.” (John 14:21-24)

# WHAT SUSTAINS REVIVALS

## 2. Restoration of The Father-Son Mentoring Relationship

- “See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. *He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.*” (Malachi 4:5-6)
- Then the LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. *For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.*” (Genesis 18:17-19)



# WHAT SUSTAINS REVIVALS

“The people *served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him* and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel.

*“After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.* Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They provoked the LORD to anger ...”

(Judges 2:7, 10-12)

- **THE COMPROMISES OF ONE GENERATION WILL CORRUPT THE NEXT GENERATIONS.**



# WHAT SUSTAINS REVIVALS

1. Pastors and Christian Leaders must focus on building strong spiritual leadership in their own families.

- **The only revival that lasts begins and is sustained in the home.**
- Paul asks, “If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?” (1 Timothy 3:5)
- **The Pastor's ministry begins in his family. Ministry begins at home.**
- David McKay: “No other success in life can compensate for failure in the home.”

# WHAT SUSTAINS REVIVALS

**2. Pastors must also focus on building sustainable men's ministries in their churches that focus on building Christlike character and leadership.**

- **Strong churches are built on strong families; strong families are the result of strong male leadership. "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15)**
- **When men are activated and motivated the church will never be in want of leaders.**
- **Men are more motivated spiritually and motivated towards church involvement when they sense a strong masculine environment in the church.**

# WHAT SUSTAINS REVIVALS

- When the men are won over by the pastor the potential for division is neutralized. The men become the best supporters of the pastoral leadership. The support of the men provides a strong and lasting pastoral influence in the church and outside.
- When men's lives are changing, revival hits the homes, and, consequently, the church.
- By focusing on winning men, evangelism produces multiplied & lasting results – when the head of the home is won and disciplined the whole family follows. (pattern in Book of Acts 16:31) The workplace and the community also sometimes follows.

# WHAT SUSTAINS REVIVALS

- When men are disciplined and trained, they are able to fulfill their biblical role of discipling their own families. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Ephesians 6:4; cf. Genesis 2:16-17) – better than Sunday School or Cell Groups.
- When men are disciplined and begin to exercise true spiritual leadership in the home and the church, the women begin to find joy in fulfilling their proper place of submission & support in both the home & the church.

# WHAT SUSTAINS REVIVALS

## 3. Accountability

- Accountability means giving authority to another or others to help order your life according the standards of God's Word.
- Most pastors and Christian leaders fail because of a lack of accountability in their lives. Without it, they can easily fall into the sins of compromise, immorality, greed, false doctrine, spiritual pride, and jealousy. Maintaining integrity is almost impossible without accountability.
- The most important question that must be asked of every Christian leader is: "To whom are you making yourself accountable?"
- Many revivals die early primarily because of lack of accountability among its leaders.

# WHAT SUSTAINS REVIVALS

- Accountability can be established with your **spouse**, a **mentor**, or a **small group** committed to the purpose of mutual accountability.
- Many pastors and Christian leaders are hurting, discouraged, sinning (particularly in the areas of lust, greed and pride), struggling with family issues, or tempted to leave the ministry.
- Proposal: establish small **Pastors' Accountability Groups** (5 to 7 max members of the same gender) that meets at least once a month within the same geographical area for mutual encouragement, prayer, counselling and sharing of struggles – personal, family or ministerial.