

## **REVIVAL AND BROKENNESS**

"Revival is first personal and immediate. It is the constant experience of any simple Christian who 'walks in the light'. Walking in the light means an altogether new sensitiveness to sin, a calling of things by their proper name of sin, such as pride, hardness, doubt, fear, self-pity, which are often passed over as merely a human reaction. It means a readiness to 'break' and confess to the feet of him who was broken for us. The Blood does not cleanse excuses but always cleanses sin, confessed sin; then, revival is just the daily experience of a soul full of Jesus and running over." Norman Grubb, Introduction to *The Calvary Road*, pp.5 & 6

"The rivers of life to the world do not flow out in their fullness through one (person) but through the body, the team. Our brokenness and openness must be two-way, horizontal as well as vertical, with one another as with God...Teamwork in the Spirit is one of the keys to revival. We have to learn and practice the law of a living fellowship." (Ibid, p. 6)

"The outward forms of revivals differ considerably but the inward and permanent content of them is always the same -- a new experience of conviction of sin among the saints; a new vision of the cross of Jesus and of redemption; a new willingness on people's part for brokenness, repentance, confession, and restitution; a joyful experience of the power of the blood of Jesus to cleanse fully from sin and to restore and heal all that that sin has lost and broken; a new entering into the fullness of the holy Spirit and of his power to do his own work through his people; and a new gathering in of the lost ones to Jesus." (p. 7)

"Revival is not a green valley getting greener but a valley full of dry bones being made to live again and to stand up an exceeding great army (cf. Ezekiel 37). It is not good Christians becoming better Christians -- as God sees us, there are not any good Christians -- but rather Christians honestly confessing that their Christian life is a valley of dry bones and, by that very confession, qualifying for the grace that flows from the cross and makes all things new." (pp. 7 & 8)

### **Necessary attitudes of heart**

1. A deep hunger of heart
2. A dissatisfaction of the state of the church in general and of myself in particular
3. A willingness for God to begin his work first in me rather than in other people
4. A holy expectancy that God can and will meet my need.

My willingness to admit my need and be blessed will determine the degree to which God can bless the people to whom I minister. I must be the first to humble myself at the cross. A new honesty with regard to sin must begin with me.

### **Brokenness**

Revival is just the life of the Lord Jesus poured into human hearts. Jesus is always

victorious. He is never defeated. His power is boundless. We, on our part, have only to get into a right relationship with him. We shall see his power being demonstrated in our hearts and lives and service, and his victorious life will fill us and overflow through us to others. That is revival in its essence.

The first thing we must learn is that our wills must be broken to his will. To be broken is the beginning of revival. It is painful, it is humiliating, but it is the only way. It is being, "Not I, but Christ", and a "C" is a bent "I". The Lord Jesus cannot live in me fully and reveal himself through me until the proud self within me is broken. This simply means that the hard, unyielding self, which justifies itself, wants its own way, stands up for its rights, and seeks its own glory at last bows its head to God's will, admits its wrong, gives up its own way to Jesus, surrenders its rights, and disregards its own glory so that the Lord Jesus might have all and be all. In other words, it is dying to self and self-attitudes.

It is so often self who tries to live the Christian life. It is self, too, who is often doing Christian work. It is always self who gets irritable and envious and resentful and critical and worried. It is self who is hard and unyielding in its attitudes to others. It is self who is shy, and self-conscious, and reserved.

Being broken is both God's work and ours. He brings his pressure to bear, but we have to make the choice. If we are really open to conviction as we seek fellowship with God (and willingness for the light is the prime condition of fellowship with God), God will show us the expressions of this proud, hard self that causes him pain. Brokenness in daily experience is simply the response of humility to the conviction of God. Inasmuch as this conviction is continuous, we shall need to be broken continually.

We are not likely to be broken except at the cross of Jesus. The willingness of Jesus to be broken of us is the all-compelling motive in our being broken too. Dying to self is not a thing we do once for all. It will be a constant dying, for only so can the Lord Jesus be revealed constantly through us. All day long, the choice will be before us in a thousand ways. It will mean no plans, no time, no money, no pleasure of our own. It will mean a constant yielding to those around us, for our yieldedness to God is measured by our yieldedness to man. Every humiliation, everyone who tries and vexes us, is God's way of breaking us so that there is a yet deeper channel in us for the life of Christ.

The only life that pleases God and that can be victorious is his life -- never our life, no matter how hard we try. But, inasmuch as our self-centered life is the exact opposite of his, we can never be filled with his life unless we are prepared for God to bring our life constantly to death. In that we must cooperate by our moral choice.

--Roy Hession, *The Calvary Road*, edited by Patrick J. Hession