

REVIVAL IN PERSONAL LIFE

GOLDEN TEXT

“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands”.
(Psalm 63:3, 4)

USEFUL PRACTICE

The presence of the Holy Spirit is a reality in the revived believer’s everyday life.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 63:1-8

1-You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

2 I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.

3 Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.

4 I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

5 I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

6 On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.

7 Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings.

8 I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

I – To understand the characteristics of a genuine revival in the life of the Psalmist.

II – To raise awareness about the need for the constant practice of Christian spiritual disciplines for a revived life.

III – To understand that a revived Christian life is manifested through good fruits in the personal life of the believer

INTRODUCTION

It is God's will that believers be spiritually revived. Besides, there can be no revived local church without members experiencing spiritual revival in their lives. In addition to this revival manifesting itself inside the temple, it is revealed everywhere, in the daily testimony of life, which includes marriage, family life, school, college, work, business, in short, in all our area of activity and, mainly, in the proclamation of the Gospel. Thus, we will study the importance of spiritual revival in the daily life of the believer.

I - THE REVIVAL IN THE LIFE OF THE PSALMIST

1. A sincere quest. The Bible student knows that the Psalmist experienced times of struggle, hardship, and oppression throughout his life. However, even in the face of this difficult process, the Psalmist enthusiastically desired the presence of God: “You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water” (Psalm 63:1). Even though he lived in a time of dryness and fatigue in the flesh, his soul was thirsty for God and, therefore, he promises to seek him at dawn. The Psalmist was convinced: you are my God.

2. Seeing and blessing the Lord. The Psalmist also longed to see the power and glory of God, as he could behold it in the sanctuary (Psalm 63:2). This glorious contact with the God of glory generates, in the soul of the human being, the recognition of divine kindness. Therefore, the lips of the Psalmist will praise the Lord (Psalm 63:3) and he will bless Him as long as he lives, having the name of the Lord lifted up in his hands (Psalm 63:4). Here we may learn from him of the willingness of the soul to behold the glory of the Lord, and to bless Him throughout life. According to the Psalmist, it is possible to experience this spiritual reality in a context

completely opposed to the presence of God. Only true spiritual revival in the believer's life can do this.

3. God is our help. The Psalmist also claims that his soul will be satisfied with the presence of God and his mouth will praise the Lord of life (Psalm 63:5). This is the result of seeking and seeing the Lord. The Psalmist knows that remembering God and meditating on his Word is the guarantee of help, joy and safety. Nothing is so consoling to a revived life than for the believer to have God as his help, refuge and strength. True personal revival promotes the blessing of divine assurance in the believer's life.

II - THE SPIRITUAL REVIVAL OF THE BELIEVER

1. Keeping a godliness schedule. In light of what we learn from the Psalmist, we realize that there are essential elements for the believer's life to be powerfully revived. These are elements that we come across as a spiritual model for the believer throughout the Scriptures and the history of the Church: the practice of prayer and devotional reading of the Scriptures. First, it is important for the believer to take time throughout the day to enjoy special periods in which he can cultivate his devotional life and, consequently, strengthen his communion with God (Ps 55:17; Dan 6:10).

2. The practice of prayer. The Bible reports examples of men who developed the habit of praying throughout the day. Here we mention three of them: the Psalmist David had the habit of praying at least three times a day (Psalm 55:17); Daniel prayed three times a day (Dan. 6:10); Jesus, our greatest model of prayer, prayed intensely during the day (Matt. 26:36-44). This daily prayer exercise is a wonderful tool for the believer to develop a spiritually revived life. In the Bible, many men and women of God won great battles because they had a daily practice of prayer.

3. Devotional Bible reading. The revived believer must read and study the Bible on a daily basis. This is necessary to understand, absorb and live its precious teachings. In addition, the days are evil and, therefore, we must take the "sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17). In fact, the Bible is to be read and studied, taking into account the following aspects: it allows us to meditate on the things of God; it prevents our hearts from sinning; it comforts us; it directs life and puts personal life in order.

III - THE PERSONAL AND FAMILY LIFE OF THE REVIVED BELIEVER

1. Personal life. Spiritual revival also brings consequences for personal life. No wonder, the Word of God warns about watching your life and doctrine and perseverance in that which you have learned (1Tim. 4:16). In short, there is clearly a direction from the Word of God to develop relevant aspects in our personal lives: integrity; prudence in speaking and acting;

care for physical and emotional health (3 John 1:2).

2. Life with the spouse. A married life can and should be lived in the Spirit of God. A revived life in the Spirit has as its basic consequence: love and submission; the demonstration of care and affection; Efficient and attentive communication. Therefore, a blessed life at home, as we read in Ephesians 5 and 6, is a consequence of a life filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18-21).

3. Life with the children. A revived believer pays attention to his relationship with his children. Here, there are essential precautions for a revived and happy Christian life in the relationship between parents and children: affection; spiritual care; the habit of home worship service; Christian relationship with children; the discipline of children (Heb. 12:7; Prov. 19:18; Jer. 31:20).

4. The effects of revival on personal life. The revived believer is joyful. The joy of the Lord produces spiritual strengthening within the faithful believer in all situations of life and, therefore, he is strong (Neh. 8:10). Like Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Daniel, the revived believer does not fear death. And finally, the revived believer is holy, an indispensable condition for seeing God, for without holiness no one will see the Lord (Heb. 12:14; 1Pet. 1:15, 16).

CONCLUSION

In Psalms, we can see how David demonstrated a reality of a spiritual revival before God in a very expressive way. Thus, every believer can have a revived personal life, provided that he is in close fellowship with the Lord at all times and places.