

DATE: March 27, 2011

TEXT: II Chronicles 34:1- 4

TITLE: "REVIVAL"

SERIES: "WHAT DOES GOD WANT TO DO IN YOU?" #2

Life Transformation week, a time for spiritual renewal is coming. What does God want to do in your life?

INTRODUCTION: (*John draw cartoon) A middle-aged woman phoned her daughter, speaking with a little exasperation. "Dear," she said, "Have you spoken to your grandmother recently? I've tried to call her every evening this week and there's been no answer. She really should be at home. I'm beginning to worry!"

The daughter thought a second and said, "Oh, They're having a revival at the retirement village this week. I'll bet that's where Grandmom has been when you've called." "Revival!?" the woman repeated. "What do they need with a revival? What kind of sins could they possibly have at a retirement village, for crying out loud?" The daughter wisely shot back, "Old ones, Mother, old ones."

As long as there has been sin, there has been the need for revival. We all need revival. The Dictionary says revival is 'the act or instance of reviving, or state of being revived; restoration.' It is renewed attention to something. One definition is that it is 'renewed interest in religion, after indifference and decline; a period of religious awakening.' In preparation for the upcoming life transformation week of revival, we focus this morning on another king who was used to bringing revival. He reveals four things that are involved in revival. Without these, there will be no true revival in your life or in mine.

I. (v.1-2) REVIVAL INVOLVES RIGHT LIVING

1. The history of the Christian faith is filled with revival.
2. The word of God records numerous revivals in various forms.
3. The book of Acts, which we had been studying in our classes, speaks of revival through the working of the Holy Spirit.
4. God still has the power to bring revival.
5. Right now, there are great revivals sweeping the globe, as millions are coming to Christ in places like China, South Korea and Africa.
6. Revival is taking place in the hearts and lives of people around the world.
7. True revival brings life transformation.
8. Josiah was the 15th King of Judah
9. He has been called the last of the revival kings.
10. He was one of the greatest of the kings of Judah in terms of the life he lived.
"Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did - with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses." (II Kings 23:25)
11. The setting for King Josiah is that the hour is late in the history of Judah.

12. In one sense, it is five minutes before midnight in the history of the nation, and yet, God is about to send a revival.
13. The first verse tells us that Josiah was young when he became king and that he reigned in Jerusalem thirty –one years.
14. God used a young person with a right and willing heart to bring about revival.
15. Young people, the church desperately needs you.
16. God can use you to bring about life transformation in your homes, school, church, community, and beyond.

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)

ILLUSTRATION: (*Prop little purse as described with 57 cents)(Picture of girl and then of Good Samaritan Hospital (now the Temple University Hospital), Temple University and church). Many years ago now, Hattie May Wiatt lived near a church where the Sunday school was very crowded. One day, the pastor, Russel Conwell, found her crying outside the building because there was no room inside. He told her that one day, when they had raised enough money, they would have buildings big enough to allow everyone to attend who wanted to. Not long after that, Hattie May became sick and died. Rev. Conwell was asked to do the funeral. The girl’s mother told him that Hattie May had been saving money to help build a bigger church and she gave him the little purse in which she had saved 57 cents. This was in 1886, when 57 cents was no small savings account for a little girl from a poor family. Rev. Conwell had the 57 cents turned into 57 pennies. He, then, told the congregation the story of little Hattie Mae and sold the pennies to the people present for a return of about \$250. In addition, 54 of the original 57 pennies were returned to Rev. Conwell and he later put them up on display. Some of the members of the church formed what they called the Wiatt Mite Society which was dedicated to making Hattie May’s 57 cents grow as much as possible and to buy the property for the Primary Department of the Sunday school. A house nearby was purchased with the \$250 that Hattie May’s 57 cents had produced. The first classes of Temple College, later Temple University, were held in that house. They needed to buy more land but the owner wanted \$30,000. Pastor Conwell told him that we had only 54 cents toward the \$30,000. He took it as the first payment and the lot was purchased. It set the stage for what became Temple University, the founding of the Good Samaritan Hospital (now the Temple University Hospital), along with the 3500 seat auditorium of Temple Baptist Church. These serve as powerful testimonies to the leadership of a little girl named Hattie May. (Truthorfiction.com)**

Hattie May Wiatt made a difference because she caught sight of a vision and she decided to take action. It’s easy when you’re young to suppose that making a big impact in the world is something for those who are older. What if the Lord did happen to have big plans for your life, that those plans are on hold, waiting for adulthood? But, throughout the pages of Scripture, some of the Lord’s greatest victories are led by the young. The young man

Joseph, in spite of imprisonment and slavery, saved both his family and the rest of the world from starvation. Samuel heard the Lord call his name when he was still a child. Only a boy named David defeated the Philistine champion Goliath. History's Messiah was delivered to us by a girl named Mary who yielded herself to God's plan and named her baby Jesus. And, here at the end of 2 Chronicles, we read about a boy named Josiah, who led his nation, Judah, in its last great revival.

17. I believe with all of my heart that God wants to use young people as well as all of us to bring about revival and life transformation.

18. The God who fed 5,000, blessing with five loaves and two fishes, can use you and me and what we have to bring about revival and life transformation in people's lives.

19. We need Josiahs because we need revival.

20. Josiahs are willing people God can use to bring about revival and life transformation.

ILLUSTRATION: Author R.A. Torrey * "Revival is inevitable when you have a group of people who are willing to get their hearts thoroughly right with God; who are willing to persevere in prayer until the heavens are opened and God comes down; and who are willing to be used in evangelism in whatever way God leads."

21. The second verse reveals the legacy he left.

"He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left." (II Chronicles 34:2)

ILLUSTRATION: -- Billy Graham --*Christianity Today*, ---"We've lost sight of the fact that some things are always right and some things are always wrong. We've lost our reference point. We don't have any moral philosophy to undergird our way of life in this country, and our way of life is in serious jeopardy and serious danger unless something happens. And that something must be a spiritual revival."

22. In the scriptures, there were eight kings of Judah who did right in the sight of God.

23. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.

24. Not in the sight of man, but in the sight of God.

25. Not in the sight of "political correctness", but in the sight of the Lord.

26. Not in the sight of the "world around us", but in the sight of the Lord.

27. He didn't take a public opinion poll or take a survey before he made a decision.

28. He lived a lifestyle of practical holiness.

29. In Chronicles, David is the founder of a new divine dispensation.

30. He walked in the ways of his model, King David.

31. The expression "to walk in the ways" signifies a life-style; in this case, a path of practical holiness and righteousness.

32. He chose to walk in the path of righteousness.

33. Right living is intentional.

34. The psalmist painted the picture of a righteous man.

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.” (Psalm 1:1)

35. Right living is determination to live every day in obedience to God’s ways through His power.

ILLUSTRATION: Author Myles Munroe, speaking of right living, said, “It means laying aside dishonesty, immorality, coarse or foul language, gossip, slander, backbiting, backstabbing, envy, jealousy, pride, selfish ambition, and lying. Right living means taking up a humble spirit of submission and service to God in which we first love God with all our heart and then love our neighbor as ourselves.”

36. Josiah was steadfast staying on the right track.

37. He knew it was never right to do a little wrong.

38. He did not turn aside but stayed on course.

“Do not swerve to the right or to the left; keep your foot from evil” (Proverbs 4:27)

ILLUSTRATION: On a hike, it is not unusual to see signs that say “Stay on the trail.” Or, “Danger, stay on the trail.” He stayed on the trail of right living.

II.(v.3) REVIVAL INVOLVES REALLY SEEKING GOD

“In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David.” (II Chronicles 34:3)

1. At a certain point in time, Josiah made a decision to seek the God of his fathers.
2. This 16 year old was interested in God.
3. He began to be dissatisfied with the status quo.
4. He was unwilling to let things stay the way that they were.
5. He began to recognize that God-shaped a hole in his heart and was determined to fill it.
6. Nothing else can satisfy the appetite for God.

ILLUSTRATION: Preacher Charles Spurgeon said, “We need our God; He is to be had for the seeking; and He will not deny Himself to any one of us if we personally seek His face.”

7. He was not seeking religion. but God.
8. He was not seeking wealth, but God.
9. He did not have a Godly Father or one special mentor like some of the other kings, but he did have prophets to help him.
10. The prophet Zephaniah began his ministry in the first year of Josiah, and Jeremiah is prominent in the king’s thirteenth year. Nahum also wrote toward the end of Josiah’s reign.
11. He was a seeker of the God of his father or, in other words, the true God.
12. He sought the Lord on the Lord’s terms.

II Kings 23:25 says, “Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did-with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.”

13. God is the source of true revival and the one we must seek.

“I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.” (Proverbs 8:17)

“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. (Isaiah 55:6)

14. Josiah really sought the Lord.

15. Seek the Lord with all that you are.

16. Seek Him with your mind and heart

“O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.”

(Psalm 63:1)

17. Seek Him in worship.

18. Seek Him in relationships.

19. Seek Him in prayer.

20. Seek Him Bible Study.

21. Seeking God takes all that we are.

“But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.” (Deuteronomy 4:29)

ILLUSTRATION: A pastor was looking for a glass-fronted bookshelf. He tells the story this way. “I decided I might save myself some time and petrol if I used the internet instead of my car. But results, I discovered, are often more than a little perplexing. On one website, the page was headed: “Products Matching ‘Glass Front Bookshelf.” Naturally, I was hoping to find glass-fronted bookshelves. Instead, out of the twelve possible items for me to select from, there was a vacuum cleaner, an outdoor gazebo, a cello, retractable crowd control barriers, sports bags, a multi-purpose ladder, a baby carriage, and a motorized folding arm awning.”

22. God is much more reliable.

“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you.’” (Jeremiah 29:11-14a)

23. His promise is that we will find Him, if we search for Him with all our hearts.
(Jeremiah 29:13)

24. Josiah really sought the Lord.

ILLUSTRATION: In Bob Gass’ book *Knowing God’s Will*, Ian Mackie, Chief Executive of UCB UK, in the forward, wrote, “God is ever present and ready to lead us as we seek His face and listen to His voice.”**

25. ‘Seeking’, in Chronicles, describes the habit of looking to God in every situation.

26. It is a lifestyle of seeking God.

27. God is ready to respond if we will really seek Him.

28. Really seek Him about being the father or mother God wants us to be.

29. Really seek Him about being the husband or wife God wants us to be.

30. Really seek Him about having the marriage God wants us to have.

31. Really seek Him about the fears and failures of our lives.

32. Josiah faced obstacles of age, of being a father, and of ungodly people.

33. However, as a seeker of the Lord, he knew changes had to be made.

34. Seeking God will not leave us the same.

35. As a result of seeking the Lord, he led several religious reforms.

36. He went on a campaign against Idolatry.

37. He needed to make some wrong things right.

“In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images. Under his direction the altars of the Baals were torn down; he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them, and smashed the Asherah poles, the idols and the images.”
(II Chronicles 34:3-4)

38. God did not allow him to let life continue untouched or unchanged.

39. Because he sought the Lord, it was not life as usual.

40. Seeking will result in life transformation.

“In the eighteenth year of Josiah’s reign, to purify the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan son of Azaliah and Maaseiah the ruler of the city, with Joah son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the temple of the Lord his God.”
(II Chronicles 34:8)

41. Through the faithfulness of the workers, the temple was repaired and restored.

42. Repairs needed to be made to the temple.

43. They worked faithfully and the temple was repaired.

44. Revival took place because he sought the Lord.

45. Will you be a seeker?

ILLUSTRATION: When I was a youth pastor, I wrote a lot of music for young people to sing and I would orchestrate it. I had a youth choir and we traveled around southern California and up to Canada and various other places. I wrote most of the music for the choir. There was one song we sang that I arranged for multiple voices to sing.

“Seek, yes, seek the Lord, the Lord

With all your heart

And you, and you, will find, will find

His love complete”

46. Seek the Lord.

47. Revival involves seeing the Lord.

48. Are you a seeking, young person?

49. Are you a seeking, young couple?

III. (vs.14-18) REVIVAL INVOLVES A REEMERGENCE OF THE WORD OF GOD.

1. While doing the work in the temple, Hilkiah the priest, found the book of the Law of the Lord that had been given through Moses.

2. The discovery of the Word of God has been described as the most outstanding event in Josiah’s reign of 31 years.

3. The book was taken to King Josiah and read in his presence.

4. Earlier, through Moses, God had given His people His word, but the people had lost it by neglect.
5. It's interesting where God's word had been lost -- In the Temple.
6. The very word of God had been put aside at what was to be the very center of religious activity.
7. The very people to whom God had graciously given His word were the ones who had so neglected it that it was completely forgotten and lost from sight and memory.
8. The people needed a reemergence of the word of God.
9. The word of God needed to be brought back, for it is God's heart and foundation for the Church and for our lives.
10. Jesus pointed out in the Sermon on the Mount that without the foundation of the Word, the church will not stand the storms and challenges of life.
11. God's word will stand forever.

"But the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you." (I Peter 1:25)

12. The question is this, will we stand upon it?
13. God's word will stand forever, but the question is, will we stand upon it?
14. Revival brings us back to stand upon the word.

ILLUSTRATION:

***"Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God."***

Refrain:

***"Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of Christ my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God."***

Verse 2

***"Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God."***

***Standing, standing, standing on the promises of Christ my Savior;
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God."***

15. To stand upon the word means to know it and show it in our daily lives.
16. If we stand upon the traditions, we will fail.
17. If we stand upon opinions, we will crumble.
18. If we stand on feeling, we will break down.
19. We cannot afford to base what we believe on traditions or feelings.

ILLUSTRATION: *The New Yorker* had a cartoon where a young boy in math class is standing at the chalk board with other students. The teacher has written the problem on the board for each student: $7 \times 5 = \underline{\quad}$. All the other students have the answer right: 35. But this boy has written $7 \times 5 = 75$. The teacher has obviously told him it's wrong, and he says to her, "It may be

wrong, but it's how I feel." That is a perfect metaphor of our culture. Responding to the cartoon's message, Stephen Carter, a professor of law at Yale University says, "Faith is dead, reason is dying, but 'how I feel' is going strong." We are not interested in the Word of God because we are not interested in the truth. We are not interested in God's will, because we are wrapped up in our will and doing what we want to do. We want to go by our feelings, which are much more to our liking.

20. The problem with many people is that they think they know what it is all about without reading the Bible.

21. I am afraid we have a lot of people who are living by feelings and not the facts of God's word.

22. They think they know enough.

ILLUSTRATION: Statistics vary, but one source said that in a typical week only 45 percent of American Christians read the Bible and 12 percent claim to read it daily. That means over half, 55 percent of Christians don't open it during the week.

ILLUSTRATION: The Bible will survive but as C.E. Autry asked, "Will the generation that loses knowledge of it?"

23. Will our young people know and live by the word of God or will it be lost in the busyness of life?

24. Will we pass on to the next generation the truth of God's word or will we pass on the paper mache of forgotten promises?

25. The church must not misplace or lose the word of God.

26. Are you in the word of God every day?

27. We need the word of God in our lives.

ILLUSTRATION: Someone said, "No one ever graduates from Bible study until he meets its Author face to face."

A. WE NEED THE WORD OF GOD SO WE KNOW WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE
"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." (I John 5:13)

28. It is the word of God that gives us the assurance of salvation.

29. It is the word of God that can give you victory over doubt.

B. WE NEED THE LIVING WORD OF GOD SO WE DON'T BECOME SPIRITUALLY DEAD

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

30. God's Word is living and active.

31. It keeps us on track spiritually.

32. It keeps us refreshed and renewed.

C. WE NEED THE WORD OF GOD SO WE STAY PURE

33. In a world filled with impurity, our young people need the Word to stay pure.
"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word." (Psalms 119:9)

34. Through internet and television, we are exposed to so much impurity that it is through the Word that we remain pure.

D. WE NEED THE WORD OF GOD, FOR WE NEED HOPE

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)

35. The Word provides hope regardless of what is going on.

E. WE NEED THE WORD OF GOD TO KEEP US FROM ERROR

“Jesus replied, ‘You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.’” (Matthew 22:29)

36. Without the Word, you will get caught up in error.

F. WE NEED THE WORD OF GOD SO WE CAN LEARN THE WAYS OF THE LORD.

“It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees.” (Deuteronomy 17:19)

ILLUSTRATION: (*John draw cartoon – second copy with punch line)

Observing that his grandmother spent a great deal of time reading the Bible, a little boy remarked to his mother: “It must be that Grandma is cramming for her finals.”

37. There is a great danger that the Word of God can become a neglected book.

38. It can be neglected by lack of study, faith and application.

39. Maybe your Bible isn't buried under a pile of rubble in the house or lost, but it can easily be set aside.

ILLUSTRATION: (*Pastor and Christian author William Ward said it this way, “It is not enough to own a Bible; we must read it. It is not enough to read it; we must let it speak to us. It is not enough to let it speak to us; we must believe it. It is not enough to believe it; we must live it.”

40. A spiritual awakening comes when there is a reemergence of God's Word in our lives.

41. For revival to take place, the Word of God must again become important in people's lives.

IV.(vs.19-32) REVIVAL INVOLVES A RESPONSIVE HEART

1. Josiah responded to the Word of God with a responsive heart.

2. How we respond to the Word of God determines the revival that will take place in our lives.

3. Josiah was troubled by what he read.

ILLUSTRATION: It was Mark Twain who said, “Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they don't understand, but for me, I have always noticed that the passages that bother me are those I do understand.”

4. Things started happening when he responded to the Word of God.

5. How we respond to the Word of God is important.

6. I want to highlight three responses.

A.(vs. 19, 27) HE RESPONDED WITH HUMILITY

When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes.” (II Chronicles 34:19)

7. He did not ignore what he heard.
8. He responded with a humble heart.

The Lord responded, “Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before God when you heard what he spoke against this place and its people, and because you humbled yourself before me and tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you,” declares the Lord.” (II Chronicles 34:27)

9. The Hebrew verb translated “to humble ourselves” occurs in the Old Testament some 36 times.
10. The idea of humbling oneself is very close to the idea of turning to the Lord.
11. Biblical humility replaces vanity, pride and arrogance.
12. John Flavel was a Presbyterian clergyman, born in 1784, who served as Chaplain of the Senate and who reportedly said, “They that know God will be humble, and they that know themselves cannot be proud.”

ILLUSTRATION: **Evangelist of yesterday, D.L. Moody simply said, “Be humble or you’ll stumble.”

B. (v.21) HE RESPONDED BY INQUIRING OF THE LORD

“Go and inquire of the Lord for me and for the remnant in Israel and Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord’s anger that is poured out on us because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book.” (II Chronicles 34:21)

13. Josiah begins to inquire what the word meant for his life.
14. He wanted to know from God how to apply it.
15. He wanted to know God’s word for His life and for the people.
16. He acknowledged that they had not kept the word and had not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book.
17. When Josiah saw himself and his nation in the light of the word of God, he saw how far they had drifted.
18. He confessed their disobedience.
19. To experience revival, we must acknowledge and confess our sin and disobedience.
20. He saw the need to repent and make things right with God.
21. There is no repentance without confession.
22. Repentance refers to “a change of mind that results in a change of action.”
23. Repentance means we are sorry enough to stop doing it.
24. There must be repentance for revival to happen.
25. He inquired of the Lord through the prophetess Huldah.
26. Revival comes as we inquire of the Lord as to what He wants us to do and be.
27. Revival comes as we inquire of the Lord what His word means to us.

ILLUSTRATION: Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote his brother-in-law, Rudiger Schletcher in 1936. His brother-in-law was liberal theologically and Bonhoeffer was conservative. In the letter he said, “First of all, I will

confess quite simply-I believe that the Bible alone is the answer to all our questions. One cannot simply read the Bible like other books. One must be prepared really to inquire of it. Only thus will it reveal itself....Since I have learnt to read the Bible in this way-it becomes every day more wonderful to me. I read it in the morning and the evening, often during the day as well, and every day, I consider a text which I have chosen for the whole week, and try to sink deeply into it, so as really to hear what it is saying. I know that without this, I could not live properly any longer.”

C. (vs.29-33) HE RESPONDED WITH RENEWED COMMITMENT

27. He went to the people and read the word of God in their hearing.

28. He then renewed his commitment to God and His word.

“The King stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord- to follow the Lord and keep his commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book.”(II Chronicles 34:31)

29. The king responded with his whole heart.

30. The depth of his repentance and commitment is seen in this verse.

31. He was committed to keep God’s commandments and put them into practice.

32. He was a king that stood by the word of God.

33. God’s desire is for an intimate relationship with us that makes us new people.

34. He said, **“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,’ declares the Lord. ‘I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”**
(Jeremiah 31:33)

35. The Lord’s desire is to bring transformation, a new heart and a new relationship with His people.

36. Though the people had been judged by the covenant, covenant renewal became the foundation of a new hope he led through commitment.

37. He then led the people to follow in renewing their commitment to God.

38. He led the way.

39. The church is in need of people who will lead the way for others to follow.

40. Homes are in need of fathers to lead the way for families to follow.

41. Dad, are you the spiritual leader of your home or do you need to repent and renew your commitment?

42. He gave spiritual leadership; step up and lead your home.

43. Life transformation can take place through Spiritual leadership.

“Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he had all who were present in Israel serve the Lord their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the Lord, the God of their fathers.” (II Chronicles 34:33)

43. Life transformation took place because Josiah had a responsive heart.

ILLUSTRATION: Adrian Dieleman tells the story of one man’s transformation. “Oscar Cervantes is a dramatic example of the Spirit’s

power to transform lives. As a child, Oscar began to get into trouble. Then, as he got older, he was jailed 17 times for brutal crimes. Prison psychiatrists said he was beyond help. But they were wrong! During a brief interval of freedom, Oscar met an elderly man who told him about Jesus. He placed his trust in the Lord and was changed into a kind, caring man. Shortly afterward, he started a prison ministry. Chaplain H. C. Warwick describes it this way: ‘The third Saturday night of each month is “Oscar Night” at Soledad. Inmates come to hear Oscar and they sing gospel songs with fervor; they sit intently for over 2 hours; they come freely to the chapel altar. . . . What professionals had failed to do for Oscar in years of counseling, Christ’s Spirit did in a moment of conversion.’”

44. It is a testimony to the life-transforming power of Christ.

45. When we respond to God's life-transforming power, revival can take place in our lives.

CONCLUSION: We all need revival. Will you experience a life-transforming revival? What does God want to do in your life today?

- I. **REVIVAL INVOLVES RIGHT LIVING**
- II. **(v.3) REVIVAL INVOLVES REALLY SEEKING GOD**
- III. **(vs.14-18) REVIVAL INVOLVES A REEMERGENCE OF THE WORD OF GOD**
- IV. **(v.19-32) REVIVAL INVOLVES A RESPONSIVE HEART**

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