

Revival: It's past and present

A simple comparison of today's definition of "revival" and lessons from the eyewitness accounts of the Welsh and Hebrides revival.

Today's definition of "revival"	Eyewitness of the Welsh revival in 1904 - 1905 & Hebrides revival in 1949
Planned meetings starting on a Sunday and going to that Wednesday etc., advertised and invitations printed out, urging people to invite friends etc.	God moving in the hearts of people to prepare their hearts and people waiting on God, longing after God. Revival comes down from above. Sudden and unpredictable.
Denominational gatherings. Meetings that are held within same denominational beliefs, preachers who belong to the same denomination.	When God came, denominations were forgotten, God's Spirit and God's truth went forth with complete liberty.
Expensive crusades on advertisements, decision cards, organizing efforts.	Costs no money. No need for advertisement, people came from America, South Africa, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia, by train, in ships from around the world. This is when there was no television or internet, still, the news spread like a wildfire.
Preacher presence. Focused on the message and altar calls, song specials and big names.	Holy Spirit's presence and leading. No preaching for months in meetings, just laymen standing up and sharing testimonies of God's goodness, and sinners crying for mercy. The presence of God in one meeting was quenched because a famous person's name was mentioned who was present, once the godly preacher withdrew, the Spirit flowed freely again.
One sided. Man's effort to get right with God, claim what you read in Scripture. Preaching more like lecturing.	Hear the voice of God, conviction that reveals, God who speaks and affirms through the word, at times in stillness.
Forgotten within a week of the meeting. A visitor who comes after that week, will not even realize that a "revival" has taken place.	Remembered after more than 65 years.
Manmade order of services, food, and fellowships scheduled, planned specials, setting the focus on preaching.	Sinners crying out for mercy and people praising the Lord at the same time. No confusion, ebb and flow as led by the Spirit. Not restricted to Church buildings, people crying out to God for mercy in the streets, people singing in the streets praising the Lord. People fleeing the dance halls when the Spirit fell and making their way to the Church and crying out to God for mercy.

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Exhausted after a week of meetings. Cooking, cleaning, attending "revival" meetings, going to the altar, etc.	People go at night and through the day and not feeling tired. Lights were on all the time with people drawn for hours that are spent like minutes. Heaven on earth in the services as well as in their workplaces at the coal mines.
Delight in good meetings, shake hands with your neighbor, etc.	Delight in God Himself, nothing or no one else mattered. Lost in worship of God.
Have to beg and plead, altar calls, sad songs, threaten if you died today, etc.	<p>People were saved in masses, even some who tried to run away from the revival or trying to leave town were humbled and saved by the Sovereign power of God.</p> <p>"Of the hundreds who found Jesus Christ during this time, fully 75 percent were saved before they came near a meeting, or heard a sermon by myself or any other minister in the parish"</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- Duncan Campbell</p>
People worked up about those making "decisions" and wisps of prayer meetings, Church billboards have to tell that we have a "revival" service.	God's presence is felt in the community. People passing by on trains through the neighborhoods could feel the power and the presence of God when they crossed the community. Even the lost testified to God working in their midst.
Community not impacted. Blaming it on the pew.	The terror of the Lord was upon the community. Pubic houses (places that served liquor) refused to open because of the fear of the Lord. Many closed for good. God came to a community, even in places where He was not wanted.
Many making "decisions" but not regenerated, no fruit's meet for repentance.	God saving those who did not want to get saved. Fruit that remains. Genuine Holy Ghost wrought repentance.
No impact on the community.	Community free from crime, police having no arrests, judges given white gloves due to not having any cases to deal with.
Make big statements like "God met with us", and "Holy Spirit is moving in our midst", without the reality of His manifestation.	Believers and unbelievers are gripped by the reality of God in the community, and no one has to say anything but able to bear witness to the sudden conscious presence of God and the fear of God gripping them.
Leave the services talking about sports, next day's agenda, etc.	Leave in awe being confronted with the majesty of God and His tangible presence. Leave in silence lest they disturb the moving of the Spirit.

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<p>Everything is orderly since "God is not the author of confusion" in our understanding of "calm" with pre-arranged songs, choir and order of services.</p>	<p>"It was a meeting characterized by a perpetual series of interruptions and disorderliness. It was a meeting characterized by a great continuity and an absolute order. You say, 'How do you reconcile these things?' I do not reconcile them. They are both there. ... I have never seen anything like it in my life; while a man praying is disturbed by the breaking out of song, there is no sense of disorder, and the prayer merges into song, and back into testimony, and back again into song for hour after hour, without guidance. These are the three occupations; singing, prayer, testimony." - G. Campbell Morgan</p>
<p>Wait to schedule some "evangelist" to preach, focused on the preacher, give the benediction and close the meeting.</p>	<p>Evan Robert's did not tell where he was going to preach. Churches would be crowded with people praising and seeking the Lord where he may show up suddenly.</p> <p>One time he came to a meeting crowded with around 2000 people and said, "Do you believe the promise where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst?", people shouted "Amen", "Yes, Yes".....He said, "Is Jesus here?" everyone said "Yes, Yes". Then said Evan Roberts "You don't need me" and put his hat and coat and went to another meeting. What happened? The people realized that Jesus was there, and they all began to talk to Him.</p>
<p>Different programs for different age groups, have "sessions" relevant to them, workshops to help focus-areas.</p>	<p>Young people and old being part of the same meeting being confronted with God and getting saved and enjoying God in the same way.</p>

Further Studies on this Topic of Revival:

- The Revival We Need by Oswald J. Smith
- Why Revival Tarries by Leonard Ravenhill
- I Saw the Welsh Revival by David Matthews
- Revival by Martyn Lloyd-Jones
- The Lewis Awakening: The Nature of a God Sent Revival by Duncan Campbell
- Absolute Surrender by Andrew Murray
- The Kneeling Christian by An Unknown Christian