

# DESIRING REVIVAL

GOD'S WAY



## *from Desiring Revival*

The German philosopher Georg Hegel stated, "History teaches us that man learns nothing from history." This was from the lips of a lost man in the depths of despair. Though we see the world continuing what it always has done, wars, famine, pestilence, and such, the Christian knows that it is because of God's curse upon mankind when he sinned against God in the garden. Yet, we who should know better are following the same path as the world as we enter 2026. We see the rise of wickedness, churches that are filled with a form of godliness but have no power to change their community. Everyone thinks they are the Philadelphia Church (Revelation 3:7-13) and as good as the early Christians in the book of Acts, while the Nation goes to Hell in a handbasket. Who are we fooling?

The precursor to revival is being broken, repentance, and heart-searching. It means to put away our shallow cookie-cutter programs, methods, and humble ourselves to say that we are bankrupt. Those who are not sick need not a Physician the Lord said. We can speak of revival, but when we go home, do we get on the phones, and computers, and let the world entertain us? We are pretty healthy since all our burden for revival gets dropped at the Church door when we leave the service. Have we not read from Church history that God never acts on our fireworks Christianity, but is looking for the

precious fruit of repentance, which is in the home as much as it is in our Church prayer meeting?

There is a great need today for us to go back to the basics. The apostles had nothing; no money, no buildings, no plan of salvation, programs, or swallowing goldfish, etc., yet they turned the world upside down. It was not just a cliché but rather the response from an angry world that could not put up with them. What they did have was prayer, ministry of the word (though they didn't have a Bible as we do). But above all, they had the power of the Spirit, which they sought after time and time again. That was the secret. But it is humiliating to accept failure, and call for a concerted time of fasting and prayer. For God to endue us with power for witness, like He did the early Christians (Acts 2:4, 4:31-33).

Every historic awakening that you can read of always has this experimental aspect of the Holy Spirit interacting with an individual or a group of individuals to set them apart, break them, before remaking them and filling them with such power that prevails with authority over a community or nation that they are called to witness. During such times, there is a great need to have those affected by it be grounded in the word of God. God will never move contrary to His word.

As we enter into 2026, let us take some time to look inward, upward, and onward to see what God would have us do. Revival is not easy, like scheduling a "revival meeting." True revival is costly, and it will cost us something to see God work; everything else, while it may look good on the outside, will fall away as wood, hay, and stubble.



# How did the people follow God before the Bible was written?

*Job encountered God and was convinced, Abraham met God and was convinced, from whom came the whole race of Israel. Noah met God, and mankind was spared. They saw afar off and were persuaded to the point of truth, and if need be, to believe unto death. All religions have a manifesto or a human leader who brings it to pass. Only Christ was there before any of those, for He created all things (John 1:1-3), proving that He is the only true God and there is none other (Hebrews 11:13).*

*Mary is not the mother of God, in the context that she is “above God”; rather, she was the human mother of the Divine child, the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, God in human flesh. She was a sinner just like anyone else who needed a Saviour (Luke 1:47). She had no power to influence God because she was just a human, and was a vessel and nothing more (Matthew 12:46-50, Luke 2:49, John 2:4). And she has no elevated status in Heaven, she is just a sinner saved by the grace of God (Ephesians 2:8-9).*



Billy was born at Twelveheads, near Truro, Cornwall, England, on June 1st 1794. At that time, Twelveheads was only a collection of a few thatched cottages inhabited by tin miners. Billy's father died when he was young, so he went to live with his grandfather who became a Methodist in one of John Wesley's early visits to Cornwall. At the age of seventeen Billy left home to go to Devon. Away from the Godly influence of his family, he fell into evil ways. He says, 'I became the companion of drunkards, and during that time I was very near hell.' He got into many drunken scrapes and got fired from the tin mine where he was working for being insolent to the captain of the mine.

At this time tin and copper mining and fishing were the main industries of Cornwall and parts of Devon. Tin miners often did not earn very much and it could be a dangerous occupation, but it was work. Billy was a man of great wit and repartee and this would have been magnified in his bouts of drunkenness. He went to live in a beer shop and relates, 'there, with other drunkards, I drank all night long. But I had a sore head and sick stomach, and worse than all, horrors of mind that no tongue can tell. I used to dread to go to sleep for fear of waking up in hell; and though I made promises to the Lord to do better, I was soon as bad or worse than ever. After being absent from my native county seven years, I returned a drunkard.'

By this time he was married with children and his wife had to put up with most of their money being dissipated on drink. On one occasion he went out to get coal, but on the way home he stopped at a beer shop and got so drunk his wife had to come to wheel the coal home. His conscience tormented him during the day and dreams terrified him at night. God was certainly on his case! He then picked up a copy of John Bunyan's "Visions of Heaven and Hell" that gave him a strong desire to be a better man. His wife was a back-slider as well and he wanted her to become converted so that she could show him how to do it.

Billy woke one morning at 3.00am thinking that if he waited for his wife to be converted he might never get saved, so he got out of bed and knelt in prayer for the first time in years. He was determined to be saved and found that the more he prayed the more he wanted to pray. The next day was payday and he joined his friends at the alehouse where they would habitually eat, drink and get drunk. Billy described himself as being 'the worst of the lot, I was the wildest, most daring and reckless of all the reckless, daring men.'

On one occasion his blasphemy was so bad that his wicked friends said that his oaths must come from hell, for they smelt of sulphur. But things were different now, he actually went home sober, to his wife's surprise. He told her that he would never get drunk again and he never did. The next day Billy read the Bible and Wesley's Hymn Book and prayed all day. He cried to the Lord for mercy.

On Sunday morning he went to the church of the Bible Christians, but nobody came to the service because it was raining so hard. This might have put off a lesser man, but he persevered. All day Sunday and Monday morning Billy read and prayed; even in the mine: "all the while I was working I was crying to the Lord for mercy" and he went home "asking for mercy all the while." The next day passed in the same manner; he hardly ate anything and he was up all night praying. The following day he constantly cried out for mercy; sometimes he felt that he would never receive it, but he would call the devil a liar and would continue in prayer.

Finally that night he had breakthrough. He said to the Lord 'You have said, "they that ask shall receive, they that seek shall find, and to them that knock the door shall be opened," and I have faith to believe it. In an instant the Lord made me so happy that I cannot express what I felt. I shouted for joy. I praised God with my whole heart for what He had done for a poor sinner like me, for I could say, the Lord has pardoned all my sins.' This was in November 1823.

Billy was a Bible Christian for over forty years. His first convert was his wife who came to the Lord a week after he did. He would go around telling everyone how happy he was and whatever the Lord had done for him He could do for anyone that would seek His face. Many came to a saving knowledge of Jesus through Billy Bray. Once he was telling some of his friends that they were in danger of going to hell, but they called him a fool. However, an old friend of his told them to leave him alone because he knew Billy when he was a drunkard and now he was a good man. Billy started to pray for his friend, and one day when he was praying in a field, the Lord told him that his friend would soon be saved and he was.

**“Without holiness, no one shall see the Lord. Jesus didn't die to save us from Hell. That's a fringe benefit! He died to get total occupation of us. To be holy in speech...in actions...in everything. We want to give God our lousy sins. What do you think He does with them? He wants your will...He wants that career of yours...He wants that selfish heart not to live in selfishness.”**

**- Leonard Ravenhill**



*The world is under the grip of the strongman, Satan, and only the power of the Spirit, who is stronger than he, can pull them out of that grip of darkness (Luke 11:21-22).*



## Excerpts from **Prayer Is Not Enough**

by A. W. Tozer

In nature, everything moves in the direction of its hungers. In the spiritual world, it is not otherwise. We gravitate toward our inward longings, provided, of course, that those longings are strong enough to move us. Impotent dreaming will not do. The religious urge that is not followed by a corresponding act of the will in the direction of that urge is a waste of emotion. The awe-inspiring power of a discharge of lightning may dissipate itself in the atmosphere and accomplish nothing, while a flashlight battery may provide illumination for a miner's hours on end. One is a dramatic display of immense power without direction, and the other a quiet application of modest energy to an intelligent purpose.

It is my conviction that much, very much, prayer for and talk about revival these days is wasted energy. Ignoring the confusion of figures, I might say that it is hunger that appears to have no object; it is dreamy wishing that is too weak to produce moral action. It is fanaticism on a high level, for, according to John Wesley, "a fanatic is one who seeks desired ends while ignoring the constituted means to reach those ends."

Granted that the man who seeks revival has stopped thinking in plurals and has narrowed his faith down to one single individual, himself, what then? How can he find that after which his soul is yearning? How can he cooperate with his hungers to the end that he may indeed be filled?

He must rid his mind of the false notion that prayer alone will bring the blessing. Normally, all transactions between the soul and God are carried on by prayer. It is right and scriptural and according to the testimony of all the saints that any spiritual advance on any front, any deliverance, any purification, any enduement of power, comes by the prayer of faith. Our error is that we try to secure these benefits by prayer alone.



The correction of this error is extremely difficult, for it entails more than a mere adjustment of our doctrinal beliefs; it strikes at the whole Adam-life and requires self-abnegation, humility, and cross-carrying. In short, it requires obedience. And that we will do anything to escape.

*While God is long-suffering, we do not know how long He will suffer. His patience to find good fruit can come to an end. Such was true in the case of Noah's generation, Sodom, Israel in captivity, Babylon, Rome, the British Empire, and others. (Genesis 6:3, Proverbs 29:1)*

# I had a Dreadful Dream

This was a picture of a wife and her husband, who loved her. The wife is playing the harlot and turned towards another man who was in their midst. She exposed herself and wanted that man to take her body, what she was offering, but he was reluctant and did not care much for her since he had already used her. This was in the presence of her husband, who was watching with deep grief. Then I awoke, and God brought the picture of the Church (this was probably in 2024), which was yearning after the attention of the world, while exposing herself to get some attention from the world, while her Husband, in sorrow and heartache, looks on, desiring to stop her from going that way, to repent, while watching her lusting after the world.



## *How One Teenage Girl Sparked the Welsh Revival*

In the early 1900s, spiritual hunger was awakening in Wales. Methodist preacher Joseph Jenkins led a conference in 1903 focused on developing a deeper life in Christ. The following year, after being challenged by a congregant who said his preaching lacked power and conviction, Jenkins embarked on some deep soul-searching. He studied the writings of South African Andrew Murray and read a biography of D.L. Moody, which stirred a desire for a stronger experience with God. One night, as he wrestled with God into the late hours, he had a life-changing encounter where he said he felt as if a blue flame surrounded him as the Holy Spirit descended upon him. Overnight, he was transformed and set ablaze with renewed passion for God.

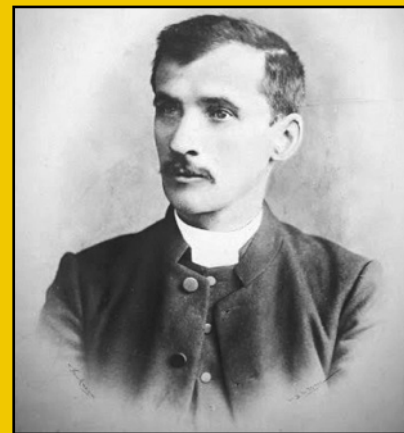
Florrie Evans was in his youth group and was being convicted by his new fiery preaching. On February 14, 1904, after the church service, Florrie wanted to connect with Jenkins but was too afraid to approach him. She later paced in front of the door to his house for about 30 minutes before getting the courage to knock on his door. When she finally did, he welcomed her in, and they sat in silence for a time until she spoke up to share her heart and how she longed to know God. He asked her if she had allowed Jesus to be Lord of her life. She wasn't sure if she could do that yet because she feared what she would have to give up. He encouraged her to accept Jesus as Lord of her life and to retreat to her room to surrender to Him fully, welcoming the Holy Spirit.

The next Sunday, after the main service, Jenkins led another smaller meeting of about 60 young people and asked them this question: "What does the Lord Jesus Christ mean to you?"

One boy stood up and exclaimed, "Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world!"

This was not what Jenkins was looking for, so he rephrased the question and put the emphasis on the word you in his question. That's when 19-year-old Florrie Evans stood to her feet and, with a tremor in her voice, proclaimed, "I love the Lord Jesus Christ with all my heart!"

God came down, and many started to break down and cry under the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Revival began to spread in her church and beyond. Florrie's declaration of love for Jesus is said to have been the spark that ignited a flame of what would later become known as the Welsh Revival.



Several months later, a group from Florrie's church traveled to the region where 26-year-old coal miner Evan Roberts was studying for ministry. He attended their revival in Blaenauferch, where he had his defining "bend me" encounter with God. About a month later, after an open vision, he felt compelled to preach to the youth at his home church, Moriah Chapel. On October 31, 1904, all 17 people present were saved—marking the beginning of the Welsh Revival (1904–1905). In less than six months, over 100,000 people were converted, crime declined, debts were repaid, communities reconciled, and the nation experienced a spiritual awakening whose effects are still felt worldwide today.

