

What is Revival?

Jonathan Edwards on 1 John 4:1-8

“The Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God, Applied to that Uncommon Operation that Has Lately Appeared on the Minds of the People of New England” – New Haven, 1741



Scripture's Schoolhouse of Revival

- English class – What does the word *revival* mean in Scripture?
 - *Revive* and the Greek word *anazao* mean *to live again*.
 - Revival is the power to make the spiritually dead spiritually alive again.
- Art class – What are the pictures of revival in Scripture?
 - Spirit, wind, breath (Ezek. 37:1-14).
 - Water, rain showers, dew (Ezek. 34:26, Psalm 133).
- Math class – What are the numbers of revival in Scripture?
 - The number of disciples multiplied (Acts 6:1, 7).
 - The number of churches multiplied (Acts 9:31).
 - The Word of God grew and multiplied (Acts 12:24).



Scripture's Schoolhouse of Revival

- Science class – what are the marks of revival in Scripture?
 - True revival raises the esteem of people for Jesus Christ (1 John 4:1-3, 15).

Edwards: “This implies a confessing not only that there was such a person who appeared in Palestine and did and suffered those things that are recorded of him, but that he was Christ, i.e., The Son of God, anointed to be Lord and Saviour, as the name Jesus Christ implies.”



Scripture's Schoolhouse of Revival

- Science class – what are the marks of revival in Scripture?
 - True revival diminishes the hold of Satan's kingdom on the lives of people (1 John 4:4-5).

Edwards: "The influence of the Spirit of God is yet more abundantly manifest, if persons have their hearts drawn off from the world, and weaned from the objects of their worldly lusts, and taken off from worldly pursuits, by the sense that they have of the excellency of divine things, and the affection they have to those spiritual enjoyments of another world, that are promised in the gospel."



Scripture's Schoolhouse of Revival

- Science class – what are the marks of revival in Scripture?
 - True revival causes people to love and trust the Holy Scriptures (1 John 4:6a).

Edwards: “The apostle’s argument here equally reaches all that in the same sense are *of God*; that is, all those that God has appointed and inspired to deliver to his church its rule of faith and practice; all the prophets and apostles, whose doctrine God has made the foundation on which he has built his church, as in Eph. 2:20 in a word, all the penmen of the Holy Scriptures.”



Scripture's Schoolhouse of Revival

- Science class – what are the marks of revival in Scripture?
 - True revival causes people to love truth and reject error (1 John 4:6b).

Edwards: “Whatever spirit removes our darkness, and brings us to the light, undeceives us, and, by convincing us of the truth, doth us a kindness. If I am brought to a sight of truth and am made sensible of things as they really are, my duty is immediately to thank God for it.”



Scripture's Schoolhouse of Revival

- Science class – what are the marks of revival in Scripture?
 - True revival causes people to love God and the brethren (1 John 4:7-8).

Edwards: “The surest character of true divine supernatural love—distinguishing it from counterfeits that arise from a natural self-love—is, that the Christian virtue of humility shines in it; that which, above all others, renounces, abases, and annihilates what we term *self*.”



What is Revival?

Revival is a work of the Holy Spirit by which He causes dead and dying souls to live again spiritually, expressing the Father's love for sinners and His joy in their salvation, blowing powerfully like wind and descending refreshingly like rain, multiplying the Word of God, disciples of Christ, and local churches, and marking these multiplied disciples and churches with the exaltation of Jesus Christ, lastingly changed lives, hunger for their Bibles, a commitment to truth over falsehood, and a selfless love for God and the brethren.

