

revival Complete Guide

leonard ravenhill why revival tarries pdf has become a significant topic among believers and church leaders seeking to understand the reasons behind the perceived delay of spiritual revival in many communities today. Leonard Ravenhill, a renowned evangelist and author, dedicated his life to calling the church back to authentic prayer, holiness, and fervent revival. His writings, sermons, and especially his works available in PDF format have inspired countless Christians to seek God's face earnestly. This article explores the core themes of Leonard Ravenhill's teachings on revival, why revival tarries, and how his insights remain relevant today.

Understanding Leonard Ravenhill's Perspective on Revival

Who Was Leonard Ravenhill?

Leonard Ravenhill (1907-1994) was a British evangelist known for his passionate preaching on prayer, holiness, and revival. His messages emphasized the importance of personal spiritual revival as a catalyst for societal transformation. Ravenhill's writings, including his famous book *Why Revival Tarries*, continue to influence believers worldwide.

Overview of *Why Revival Tarries*

Published in 1959, *Why Revival Tarries* is considered Ravenhill's magnum opus. The book delves into the reasons why spiritual revival often faces delays despite earnest prayers and efforts. It critiques complacency within the church and highlights the necessity of genuine repentance, prayer, and holiness.

The Core Themes of Leonard Ravenhill's Teachings on Revival

The Need for Personal Holiness

Ravenhill emphasized that revival begins with individual hearts. Without personal holiness, collective revival is hindered. He believed that believers must pursue sanctification and a deep, personal relationship with God.

The Power of Prayer

According to Ravenhill, prayer is the vital link between God and His people. He often lamented the decline of prayer meetings and called for a renewed emphasis on prayer as the foundation of revival.

Repentance and Holiness

He stressed that revival requires genuine repentance from sin and a turning back to God. Complacency and worldly pursuits dilute the spiritual fervor necessary for revival.

The Role of the Church

Ravenhill challenged the church to be the catalyst for revival rather than a hindrance. He urged believers to pursue true holiness and evangelism, leading to societal transformation.

Why Does Revival Tarry? Leonard Ravenhill's Insights

Common Reasons for the Delay of Revival

Leonard Ravenhill identified several reasons why revival often tarries, which remain relevant today:

- **Compromise and Worldliness:** When churches and believers indulge in worldly pleasures, the Holy Spirit's power is quenched.
- **Lack of Prayer:** A decline in fervent prayer weakens spiritual momentum and delays divine intervention.
- **Unrepentant Heart:** Sin and stubbornness hinder God's work and cause delay.
- **Indifference and Complacency:** Many believers become satisfied with superficial spirituality, preventing true revival.
- **Failure to Seek God Wholeheartedly:** Revival requires a desperate, wholehearted pursuit of God, which is often lacking.

The Spiritual Condition of the Church

Ravenhill argued that the church's spiritual decline is a primary reason revival tarries. When church members prioritize comfort and tradition over spiritual renewal, divine outpouring is postponed.

The Need for Genuine Repentance

He emphasized that superficial repentance is insufficient. True revival demands a broken and contrite heart, a sincere turning away from sin.

How to Access Leonard Ravenhill's Teachings in PDF Format

Why Read *Why Revival Tarries* PDF?

The PDF format allows believers to access Ravenhill's powerful messages conveniently on various devices, facilitating personal study, group discussions, and spiritual growth.

Where to Find Leonard Ravenhill's PDF Resources

You can find PDFs of Ravenhill's works through various reputable sources:

- [Archive.org](#): Public domain and scanned copies of his writings.
- [ChristianBook.com](#): Some of Ravenhill's works are available as downloadable PDFs.
- [SermonIndex.net](#): Offers a collection of sermons and writings, including PDFs.
- Official church or ministry websites dedicated to Ravenhill's legacy.

How to Use PDFs Effectively for Spiritual Growth

- Read and Reflect: Take time to meditate on the messages and how they apply personally.
- Share with Others: Distribute PDFs within your church or prayer group to foster collective revival.
- Implement Lessons: Actively apply Ravenhill's teachings?prayer, holiness, repentance?in daily life.

The Relevance of Leonard Ravenhill's Teachings Today

Addressing Modern Challenges

In an era marked by moral decline, spiritual apathy, and societal upheaval, Ravenhill's messages about revival remain profoundly relevant. His call for prayer, holiness, and repentance addresses the core issues hindering divine outpouring.

Inspiring Personal and Corporate Revival

Many believers turn to Ravenhill's writings, especially his PDF resources, to rekindle their spiritual fervor. His emphasis on personal holiness and prayer serves as a blueprint for individual revival that can lead to societal transformation.

Encouraging a Return to Genuine Christianity

His teachings challenge believers to abandon superficial faith and commit to authentic Christianity characterized by prayer, holiness, and passionate evangelism.

Conclusion: Embracing Leonard Ravenhill's Legacy for Revival

Leonard Ravenhill's *Why Revival Tarries* PDF remains a vital resource for those longing for spiritual awakening. His insights into why revival delays and how to hasten its arrival continue to inspire believers to pursue holiness, pray fervently, and seek God with all their hearts. As the church faces modern challenges, returning to Ravenhill's passionate call can ignite a renewed hunger for revival and transform individual lives and communities alike.

Remember, revival begins with you. Embrace Ravenhill's teachings today by exploring his writings in PDF format, allowing his words to stir your spirit and propel you into a deeper pursuit of God.

Leonard Ravenhill Why Revival Tarries PDF: An In-Depth Analysis of a Spiritual Wake-Up Call

In the landscape of Christian revival literature, Leonard Ravenhill's works stand as titans of spiritual urgency and prophetic insight. Among his most influential writings is *Why Revival Tarries*, a compelling discourse that challenges believers and church leaders to examine the underlying causes behind the persistent delay of spiritual revival in modern times. The availability of this seminal work in PDF format has made it accessible to a global audience eager to grasp Ravenhill's prophetic message. This article delves into the core themes, historical context, theological insights, and contemporary relevance of *Why Revival Tarries*, providing a comprehensive understanding for readers seeking to unlock the secrets behind revival's elusive nature.

Understanding Leonard Ravenhill and His Mission

Who Was Leonard Ravenhill?

Leonard Ravenhill (1907-1994) was a British evangelist and author renowned for his fiery preaching and passionate call for authentic revival. His ministry emphasized prayer, holiness, and a deep yearning for God's presence, often critiquing superficial religious practices. Ravenhill's influence extended worldwide through sermons, books, and revival conferences, inspiring a new generation of believers to pursue spiritual revival with fervor.

The Central Message of Ravenhill's Ministry

Ravenhill believed that genuine revival was the only solution to societal decay and spiritual apathy. His writings consistently emphasized the importance of holiness, fervent prayer, and repentance. He warned that revival would not come simply because of good intentions or organizational efforts but required a broken, contrite heart and a radical dependence on God.

Overview of Why Revival Tarries

The Significance of the PDF Format

The Why Revival Tarries PDF has become a vital resource, offering widespread accessibility for individuals, churches, and ministries seeking to understand why revival remains elusive. This digital format allows readers to study Ravenhill's arguments in detail, share the material easily, and reflect on the timeless principles he articulates.

Core Premise of the Book

At its heart, Why Revival Tarries explores the reasons why spiritual revival often seems delayed despite fervent prayers and strategic efforts. Ravenhill asserts that revival is not merely a matter of waiting or human planning but hinges on divine sovereignty coupled with human repentance and holiness. The book is both a diagnosis and a call to action, urging believers to examine their own hearts and corporate spiritual health.

Key Themes and Lessons from Why Revival Tarries

1. The Need for Repentance

Ravenhill emphasizes that true revival begins with repentance—both personal and collective. Without genuine remorse for sin and a turning away from worldly pursuits, revival cannot take root. He challenges believers to consider whether their lives are aligned with God's standards, warning that superficial repentance is insufficient.

2. The Power of Prayer

Prayer is the cornerstone of Ravenhill's theology. He advocates for persistent, passionate intercession as the vehicle through which God's Spirit moves. According to Ravenhill, revival is often delayed because believers fail to pray with the necessary urgency and sincerity. He urges a return to biblical prayer practices characterized by desperation and faith.

3. Holiness and Separation

A recurring theme is the call to holiness—living a life set apart for God. Ravenhill warns against complacency and worldly compromise, asserting that revival requires a holy church that reflects Christ's character. This includes rejecting sin, cultivating humility, and pursuing righteousness.

4. The Role of the Church

Ravenhill critiques the modern church for its apathy, materialism, and lukewarm approach to spiritual matters. He advocates for a revival of biblical church practices—prayer meetings,

evangelism, holiness, and reliance on the Holy Spirit. The church is both the recipient and the conduit of revival.

5. Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility

While emphasizing the importance of human effort, Ravenhill recognizes that revival ultimately depends on God's sovereign will. He encourages believers to pray earnestly, knowing that God responds to humble, persistent hearts.

Historical Context and Relevance Today

The Timing of Ravenhill's Writings

Why Revival Tarries was written during a period of spiritual decline in the mid-20th century, marked by world wars, social upheaval, and diminishing church influence. Ravenhill's urgent tone reflected a longing for spiritual renewal in a time of moral decline—an issue still relevant today.

Modern-Day Applications

Despite the changes over decades, Ravenhill's message remains profoundly applicable:

- The church in contemporary society often exhibits complacency and compromise.
- Societal issues such as corruption, violence, and moral decay mirror the conditions Ravenhill addressed.
- The call for repentance, holiness, and prayer remains central to awakening spiritual revival.

Challenges in Achieving Revival

The book highlights that revival is often hindered by:

- Lack of genuine repentance among believers
- Prayerlessness and superficial spirituality
- Materialism and worldly distractions
- Complacency within church leadership

By understanding these obstacles, modern believers can evaluate their own spiritual lives and foster conditions conducive to revival.

Critical Analysis of Why Revival Tarries

The Strengths of Ravenhill's Approach

- **Biblical Foundation:** Ravenhill's arguments are rooted in Scripture, citing examples from the Old and New Testaments, which lend credibility and divine authority to his call for revival.
- **Urgency and Passion:** His fiery tone and passionate delivery inspire a sense of immediacy that challenges complacency.
- **Holistic View:** The book addresses both individual and corporate spiritual health, emphasizing that revival begins in the heart of the believer.

Potential Criticisms and Limitations

- **Lack of Specific Strategies:** While emphasizing prayer and repentance, some critics argue the book offers limited practical steps for achieving revival.
- **Neglect of Socio-Political Factors:** The focus on spiritual causes might overlook systemic issues influencing societal decline.
- **Repetitive Themes:** Some readers may find Ravenhill's emphasis on holiness and prayer repetitive, though others see this as necessary emphasis.

Overall Impact and Legacy

Why Revival Tarrys continues to inspire believers to seek God earnestly. Its message challenges complacency and calls for a renewed commitment to spiritual disciplines. The PDF availability ensures that Ravenhill's prophetic voice remains accessible to a new generation seeking revival.

Conclusion: The Relevance of Ravenhill's Message in the Digital Age

The digital dissemination of Why Revival Tarrys in PDF format has democratized access to Ravenhill's prophetic insights, enabling believers worldwide to engage with his urgent call for revival. His emphasis on repentance, prayer, holiness, and dependence on divine sovereignty remains as relevant today as it was when first written. In a world increasingly distracted and divided, Ravenhill's message serves as a clarion call for authentic spiritual awakening—a reminder that revival is not a matter of human effort alone but a divine movement that requires prepared and praying hearts.

As churches and individuals reflect on the reasons why revival continues to tarry, Ravenhill's timeless insights offer a pathway forward. By heeding his call to fervent prayer, holy living, and deep repentance, believers can position themselves as catalysts for revival, trusting in God's sovereign power to awaken the church and transform society. The PDF of Why Revival Tarrys remains a vital resource in this ongoing spiritual journey, urging all to examine their hearts and renew their

commitment to God's divine purpose.

In summary, Leonard Ravenhill's 'Why Revival Tarries' remains a compelling, prophetic challenge to the church, emphasizing that revival's delay is often rooted in spiritual neglect rather than divine unwillingness. Its accessibility in PDF format ensures that this call for repentance, holiness, and prayer continues to resonate across generations, inspiring believers to seek God with renewed fervor and expectation.

Question What is the main message of Leonard Ravenhill's 'Why Revival Tarries' PDF? The main message emphasizes that spiritual revival is often delayed due to the lack of genuine prayer, repentance, and holiness among believers, urging Christians to seek personal and corporate renewal. **Answer** Why is Leonard Ravenhill's 'Why Revival Tarries' considered a classic in Christian literature? Because it passionately challenges believers to pursue authentic revival, highlighting the importance of prayer and holiness, and has inspired many to seek spiritual awakening worldwide. How can I access the 'Why Revival Tarries' PDF by Leonard Ravenhill? You can find the PDF through various online Christian resources, bookstores, or websites that offer free or paid digital copies of Ravenhill's works, ensuring you access a legitimate and authorized version. What are some key themes discussed in 'Why Revival Tarries'? Key themes include the importance of fervent prayer, repentance, holiness, the church's role in revival, and the reasons why spiritual awakening often delays among believers. How does Leonard Ravenhill suggest believers can overcome delays in revival? He urges believers to commit to prayer, seek personal holiness, repent from complacency, and passionately pursue God's presence to catalyze revival. Is 'Why Revival Tarries' relevant for today's Christians? Yes, its messages about prayer, holiness, and spiritual urgency remain highly relevant, inspiring believers to seek revival in contemporary church and society contexts.

Related keywords: Leonard Ravenhill, revival, spiritual awakening, Christian revival, prayer, revival history, Christian sermons, revivalism, spiritual renewal, religious revival PDFs

oswald j smith the revival we need

Oswald J. Smith: The Revival We Need

In a world that continues to grapple with spiritual apathy, moral decline, and a waning sense of purpose, the message of revival remains as vital as ever. Among the many voices calling for renewal, Oswald J. Smith stands out as a prophetic figure whose teachings and life exemplify the urgent need for spiritual revival today. His passionate advocacy for revival, combined with a deep understanding of biblical principles, continues to inspire believers worldwide. This article explores

who Oswald J. Smith was, the essence of his revival message, and why his call for spiritual awakening remains relevant in the contemporary church.

Who Was Oswald J. Smith?

Biographical Overview

Oswald J. Smith (1889-1986) was a Canadian preacher, evangelist, and prolific author renowned for his dynamic preaching and unwavering commitment to evangelism and revival. Serving as the pastor of the Peoples Church in Toronto for over 50 years, Smith's ministry was characterized by a passionate desire to see souls saved and lives transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit.

His Ministry and Influence

- Founded the International Christian Outreach, emphasizing global evangelism.
- Authored numerous books and sermons focusing on revival, missions, and Christian living.
- Emphasized the importance of prayer, personal holiness, and evangelism as keys to spiritual revival.
- Inspired generations of pastors and believers with his unwavering faith and commitment to God's work.

The Core Message of Oswald J. Smith on Revival

Understanding Revival

For Smith, revival was more than just a transient spiritual boost; it was a divine awakening that revitalizes the church and transforms society. He believed revival was a biblical mandate—a return to God's truth and power that leads to personal and corporate renewal.

The Biblical Basis for Revival

Smith often pointed to scriptures such as 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Acts 2:17-18 to underscore God's promise and expectation for revival. He emphasized that revival involves:

- A recognition of sin and repentance.
- A renewed passion for prayer.
- A fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- An increased zeal for evangelism and missions.

The Necessity of Personal and Corporate Revival

Oswald J. Smith argued that revival begins with individuals, but its true power is manifested when it permeates entire communities and nations. He believed that:

- Personal holiness fuels corporate revival.
- Churches must prioritize prayer and evangelism.
- Society benefits when believers are spiritually awakened.

Why We Need the Revival Oswald J. Smith Advocated

The Current State of the Church and Society

Modern society faces numerous challenges that reflect spiritual decline, including:

- Moral relativism and loss of biblical values
- Decline in church attendance and engagement
- Apathy toward spiritual matters among younger generations
- Increasing secularism and materialism
- Global crises that highlight humanity's need for divine intervention

The Relevance of Smith's Revival Message Today

Oswald J. Smith's teachings remain crucial because they address these challenges head-on. His call for:

- Holiness and personal commitment
- Fervent prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit
- Active evangelism and missions
- Renewal of faith and spiritual fervor

are timeless solutions that the church still needs to embrace.

Key Principles from Oswald J. Smith's Revival Doctrine

1. Revival Is a Divine Work

Smith emphasized that revival is initiated by God, not human effort alone. Believers must seek

God's face through prayer and humility, trusting that He will send revival in His timing.

2. Prayer Is Central

He famously said, "The church is just a prayer meeting with a congregation attached." Prayer is the catalyst for revival, awakening the spiritual life of believers and preparing the church for divine outpouring.

3. Personal Holiness and Repentance

Revival begins with individuals confessing sin, turning away from wrong, and pursuing holiness. Smith believed that personal sanctification paves the way for corporate renewal.

4. Evangelism and Missions

A revived church cannot be inward-focused. Smith urged believers to share the gospel locally and globally, emphasizing that revival naturally leads to increased evangelism.

5. Expectancy and Faith

Smith encouraged believers to anticipate revival with faith, trusting that God is eager to pour out His Spirit upon His people.

Implementing Oswald J. Smith's Revival Principles Today

Practical Steps for Individuals

- Dedicate daily time for prayer and Bible study.
- Confess and forsake personal sins.
- Share your faith actively with others.
- Cultivate a spirit of expectancy for God's work.

Strategies for Churches

- Organize targeted prayer meetings focusing on revival.
- Preach sermons emphasizing repentance and renewal.
- Encourage personal holiness among members.
- Launch evangelism campaigns to reach the lost.
- Foster an environment that welcomes the Holy Spirit's moving.

Community and National Level Initiatives

- Engage in prayer movements and fasting initiatives.
- Partner with churches and ministries committed to revival.
- Support global missions as an expression of revived faith.
- Promote social justice as a reflection of true spiritual renewal.

Testimonials and Legacy of Oswald J. Smith

Many pastors and believers testify that Smith's teachings ignited their passion for revival. His sermons continue to inspire revival movements worldwide, emphasizing that spiritual renewal is possible when believers earnestly seek God.

His legacy endures through:

- His writings, which remain influential.
- The ongoing work of the International Christian Outreach.
- The revival fires kindled by his passionate preaching and writings.

The Call to Action: Embrace the Revival We Need

The world desperately needs a spiritual awakening—an Oswald J. Smith-style revival rooted in prayer, repentance, holiness, and evangelism. Every believer has a role to play in this divine movement.

As Smith famously declared, "Revival is a new beginning, an awakening, a spiritual awakening of the church of Jesus Christ." It is time for believers to heed this call, pray fervently, live holy lives, and share the gospel boldly.

Final Thoughts

The revival Oswald J. Smith spoke about is not just a distant hope but an achievable reality through dedicated, collective effort anchored in biblical truth. His life and message serve as a blueprint for spiritual renewal, reminding us that revival begins with individual hearts turned toward God and culminates in a transformed society. Let us embrace his principles and pray earnestly for the revival we so desperately need today.

Oswald J. Smith: The Revival We Need

In a world increasingly marked by uncertainty, moral decline, and spiritual apathy, the words of Oswald J. Smith resonate with urgent clarity: "The revival we need" is not just a nostalgic longing but a divine necessity. As a prominent 20th-century preacher, evangelist, and church leader, Smith's insights and passionate call for revival continue to inspire believers today. His emphasis on prayer, evangelism, and personal holiness provides a timeless blueprint for cultivating spiritual awakening in the modern age. This article explores the life, teachings, and enduring relevance of Oswald J. Smith, illustrating why "the revival we need" remains a vital pursuit for the church and individual believers alike.

Who Was Oswald J. Smith? A Brief Biography

Early Life and Background

Born in 1889 in Canada, Oswald J. Smith's journey into ministry was marked by a deep hunger for God's presence and a desire to impact the world through the gospel. He served as a pastor at the renowned Toronto Baptist Church (later known as the People's Church) for over 50 years, transforming it into a beacon of revival, evangelism, and global missions.

A Man of Vision and Passion

Smith was not content with complacency within the church walls. His life was characterized by a relentless pursuit of spiritual renewal and a conviction that revival is essential for the church to fulfill its divine commission. He believed that revival was not merely a fleeting emotional experience but a divine movement that revitalizes hearts, renews faith, and mobilizes believers for evangelism.

His Legacy

Beyond his pastoral work, Oswald J. Smith authored numerous books and sermons emphasizing the importance of prayer, missions, and revival. His teachings continue to influence evangelical and Pentecostal circles worldwide, inspiring generations to seek the fire of revival anew.

The Core Principles of Oswald J. Smith's Teaching on Revival

- Revival Begins with Prayer

Smith famously stated, "Revival is born in the secret place." He believed that personal, fervent prayer is the foundation of any genuine spiritual awakening. Revival, in his view, does not originate with programs or strategies but from a deep, authentic communion with God.

Key aspects of his teaching on prayer include:

- Consistent daily prayer life
- Corporate prayer meetings for revival
- Persistent intercession for spiritual renewal and global missions

- Revival Is for the Church, but It Must Spill Over into Society

While personal holiness and church renewal are vital, Smith emphasized that revival must extend beyond the church walls to impact communities and nations. The ultimate goal is to see the gospel transform entire societies.

- Revival Leads to Evangelism and Missions

Smith was a passionate advocate for world missions. He believed that revival naturally results in a renewed zeal for evangelism, leading to greater outreach and the salvation of souls. The revival he envisioned was active, not passive—a movement that compelled believers to share their faith boldly.

- Revival Requires Faith and Expectation

He encouraged believers to approach revival with faith, expecting God to move powerfully. For Smith, revival was not a mere hope but an anticipation rooted in God's promises.

- Revival Is a Divine Work

Ultimately, Smith recognized that revival is a sovereign act of God. Human effort must be coupled with divine grace, humility, and dependence on the Holy Spirit.

The Revival We Need: What Did Oswald J. Smith Advocate?

A Call to Personal Holiness

Smith believed that revival begins with the individual. Personal repentance, sanctification, and a surrendered life are essential. Without personal holiness, corporate revival cannot be sustained.

An Emphasis on Evangelism and Missions

He challenged believers to prioritize evangelism, emphasizing that revival should produce a harvest of souls. He famously said, "The church that loses its passion for souls will lose its power." The

revival we need involves a renewed commitment to winning the lost.

Restoring Prayer to Its Central Place

Smith urged believers to prioritize prayer as the engine of revival. He saw prayer meetings as vital moments where divine fire could be rekindled.

Reigniting the Spirit's Power

He called for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, believing that without the Spirit's empowerment, efforts are futile.

Addressing Cultural and Societal Issues

Smith recognized that revival must confront societal ills—poverty, injustice, and moral decay. The church's mission extends into transforming society through the gospel.

Practical Steps Toward the Revival We Need

Drawing from Oswald J. Smith's teachings, here are actionable steps individuals and churches can take to pursue "the revival we need."

For Individuals

- Deepen Prayer Life: Dedicate time daily for prayer and Bible reading, seeking personal revival.
- Practice Repentance: Regularly examine your heart and confess sins, pursuing holiness.
- Share Your Faith: Look for opportunities to evangelize and support missions.
- Expect God to Move: Approach prayer and service with faith and anticipation of divine intervention.

For Churches and Ministries

- Organize Prayer Meetings: Create regular gatherings focused solely on seeking revival.
- Prioritize Evangelism: Launch outreach programs that aim to reach the lost in your community and beyond.
- Emphasize Missions: Support global missions as a vital part of revival.
- Preach on Revival and Holy Living: Regularly teach on the importance of spiritual renewal.
- Foster a Spirit-led Atmosphere: Encourage openness to the Holy Spirit's moving during services.

The Relevance of Oswald J. Smith's Message Today

In today's world, marked by secularization, moral relativism, and apathy, Smith's call for revival is more pertinent than ever. His emphasis on prayer, evangelism, and spiritual holiness offers a comprehensive approach to restoring vitality within the church and society.

Addressing Modern Challenges

- Moral Decline: Revival can lead to renewed convictions and righteous living.
- Global Missions: The global church must heed Smith's call to reach unreached people groups.
- Spiritual Apathy: Personal revival can ignite passion and purpose among believers.

Why We Still Need "The Revival We Need"

Because history has shown that spiritual awakening transforms nations and renews the church. Oswald J. Smith's teachings remind us that revival is both a divine gift and a divine responsibility—something every believer can pursue through prayer, obedience, and faith.

Conclusion: Embracing the Revival Spirit Inspired by Oswald J. Smith

The message of Oswald J. Smith continues to illuminate the path toward "the revival we need." His life exemplified a relentless pursuit of God's presence, a passion for souls, and a conviction that revival begins with prayer and personal holiness. As the church faces new challenges today, his timeless principles serve as a clarion call: revival is possible, and it begins with us.

Let us commit anew to seeking God's face, praying earnestly for revival, sharing the gospel boldly, and living lives dedicated to holiness. Only then can we see the spiritual awakening that will transform our hearts, our churches, and our world—just as Oswald J. Smith envisioned and passionately championed.

Question What is the main message of Oswald J. Smith's 'The Revival We Need'?
Answer Oswald J. Smith emphasizes the importance of spiritual revival within the church, urging believers to seek a renewed passion for God and evangelism to bring about societal transformation. How does Oswald J. Smith define true revival in his teachings? He describes true revival as a divine awakening that leads to personal holiness, fervent prayer, and a renewed commitment to evangelism and service for Christ. What historical context influenced Oswald J. Smith's perspective on revival? Smith's views were shaped by the early 20th-century church movements and the desire to see a renewed spiritual awakening to combat societal issues and moral decline. What practical steps does Oswald J. Smith suggest for experiencing revival today? He advocates for prayer, repentance, personal holiness, and active evangelistic efforts as essential steps toward

experiencing and sustaining revival in the modern church. Why is Oswald J. Smith's 'The Revival We Need' considered relevant in contemporary Christian discussions? Its emphasis on spiritual renewal, evangelism, and societal impact resonates with current church priorities, inspiring believers to seek revival amidst modern challenges and cultural shifts.

Related keywords: Oswald J. Smith, revival, spiritual renewal, Christian awakening, church revival, prayer, Holy Spirit, revival sermons, spiritual revival, gospel revival

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Why revival tarries

Why Revival Tarries: Understanding the Delays in Spiritual Awakening

Why revival tarries has been a question posed by believers, pastors, and scholars for centuries. Throughout history, many communities and nations have experienced periods of spiritual dryness and stagnation, only to see revival moments that seem to delay or linger. Understanding the reasons behind these delays is crucial for those longing for an outpouring of God's Spirit and for churches seeking to see their communities transformed. In this article, we will explore the various factors that contribute to the delay of revival, analyze biblical and historical perspectives, and offer insights on how to prepare for and accelerate the move of God.

Historical Perspectives on Revival Delays

Revival in the Bible: Examples of Tarrying

Scripture provides numerous examples of God's people experiencing delays before revival or divine intervention. For instance:

- **Isaiah's Prophecy:** Isaiah 6 depicts a period of spiritual decline before God's call to Isaiah to be a prophet.
- **Jonah and Nineveh:** The city of Nineveh experienced a delayed revival as they repented after Jonah's message, but only after their own delay in repentance.
- **Early Church:** The disciples, following Jesus' resurrection, waited in Jerusalem for the promised Holy Spirit, which came after a period of waiting (Acts 1-2).

These biblical narratives show that divine timing often involves periods of waiting, testing, and preparation, which can feel like a delay but are part of God's sovereign plan.

Historical Revival Movements and Their Delays

Throughout church history, revival movements often faced delays before breaking forth:

- **The Great Awakenings:** Multiple revival periods in America experienced long periods of spiritual drought before the Holy Spirit moved powerfully.
- **Welsh Revival (1904-1905):** Several years of prayer and spiritual hunger preceded the revival explosion.
- **Azusa Street Revival:** Prayers and persistent faith led to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit after years of expectancy.

These examples demonstrate that revival often requires persistent prayer, spiritual preparation, and patience, which can contribute to the perceived delay.

Spiritual and Theological Reasons for Revival Tarrying

1. God's Sovereign Timing

One of the primary reasons why revival tarrys is God's sovereign timetable. God, in His wisdom, orchestrates events and delays for purposes beyond human understanding. Revelation 10:6 refers to God's "time of delay," indicating that divine timing is often beyond our control or comprehension. Believers are called to trust God's sovereignty, knowing that His timing is perfect.

2. Preparation and Purity of the Church

Revival often requires a church that is spiritually prepared and purified. James 4:8 encourages believers to draw near to God, and He will draw near to them. When the church is compromised by sin, complacency, or worldliness, it can hinder or delay revival. God may delay revival to allow His people to repent, seek holiness, and align their hearts with His will.

3. Repentance and Intercession

Revival is frequently linked to repentance. 2 Chronicles 7:14 states, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven." The delay can be due to a lack of genuine repentance or intercession among God's people, which must precede His outpouring.

4. Spiritual Warfare and Opposition

Revival can be delayed by spiritual opposition from enemy forces. Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that our struggle is against spiritual rulers and powers. Demonic resistance, distractions, and discouragement can hinder the timing of revival, requiring believers to engage in persistent prayer and spiritual warfare.

5. Cultural and Social Barriers

Societal issues such as corruption, moral decay, and apathy can also delay revival. When the culture resists spiritual change, it can take time for the Gospel to penetrate and transform societies. Revival often involves breaking strongholds and overcoming entrenched sin, which can be a lengthy process.

Factors That Contribute to the Tarrying Period

1. Lack of Faith and Expectancy

Revival is fueled by faith and expectancy. When believers lose hope or become complacent, the spiritual atmosphere becomes less receptive. Hebrews 11:6 emphasizes that faith pleases God; therefore, a lack of faith can delay divine movement.

2. Insufficient Prayer and Spiritual Hunger

Persistent prayer and hunger for God are catalysts for revival. Without a dedicated prayer movement, the spiritual climate remains stagnant. History shows that revival often begins with concentrated prayer efforts.

3. Unprepared and Unsurrendered Hearts

Individuals and churches that are not fully surrendered or prepared hinder the collective readiness for revival. God desires vessels that are clean, humble, and obedient to His Spirit.

4. Complacency and Worldliness

When believers and churches become comfortable with their status quo or overly attached to worldly pursuits, revival is delayed. Revelation 3:15-16 warns against lukewarmness, which can hinder God's Spirit from moving freely.

How to Overcome the Delays and Accelerate Revival

1. Pray Persistently and Fervently

Prayer is foundational. Acts 1:14 records the disciples praying together in anticipation of the Holy Spirit. Churches and individuals should cultivate a culture of prayer, fasting, and intercession to create an atmosphere conducive to revival.

2. Seek Personal and Corporate Holiness

Revival begins with personal sanctification. 2 Corinthians 7:1 encourages believers to perfect holiness out of reverence for God. Churches should pursue purity, repentance, and humility as preparatory steps.

3. Cultivate Expectancy and Faith

Expect God to move. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as the substance of things hoped for. Believers should maintain a positive outlook and actively anticipate God's outpouring.

4. Remove Obstacles and Repent of Sin

Identify and confront sin within ourselves and our communities. Acts 3:19 calls for repentance, which prepares the way for divine refreshment.

5. Engage in Community Outreach and Social Justice

Revival often extends beyond the church walls into society. Addressing social issues and demonstrating Christ's love creates an environment for spiritual awakening.

6. Build Unity Among Believers

Unity is a catalyst for revival. John 17:21 records Jesus praying for believers to be unified, so the world may believe. Strong bonds among believers foster collective prayer and spiritual momentum.

Conclusion: Embracing the Journey Toward Revival

While the question of **why revival tarries** can be complex, understanding the biblical, spiritual, and social factors involved provides clarity and hope. Revival is ultimately a divine act, but it often requires human cooperation—prayer, repentance, humility, and faith. Believers should remain steadfast, knowing that God's timing is perfect, and that through persistent prayer and preparation, the delays will give way to divine outpourings. As history and Scripture show, revival may tarry, but it is never denied forever. The key is to stay committed, continue seeking God, and trust in His sovereign plan for spiritual awakening.

Why Revival Tarries: Unraveling the Complexities Behind Spiritual Resurgence

In many spiritual communities and religious circles, there's a recurring question that echoes through the corridors of faith and practice: Why does revival tarry? The phenomenon of spiritual revival—the sudden or gradual awakening of faith, repentance, and renewed divine encounter—has historically been a hallmark of spiritual movements. Yet, time and again, believers and leaders witness seasons of heightened spiritual fervor followed by periods of stagnation or delay. Understanding why revival often tarries involves examining theological, spiritual, cultural, and practical dimensions that influence divine timing and human response.

In this article, we will explore the multifaceted reasons behind the delays or tarrying of revival, providing a comprehensive analysis that blends biblical insights, historical examples, and contemporary observations.

The Nature of Divine Timing: God's Sovereignty and Human Readiness

God's Sovereignty in Revival

At the core of understanding why revival tarries is recognizing the sovereignty of God. Scripture emphasizes that revival is ultimately an act of divine grace, initiated and sustained by God's will. For example, in 2 Chronicles 7:14, God promises to heal the land when His people humble themselves and pray, but the timing of this awakening is subject to His sovereign plan.

God's timing is often different from human expectations. He may delay revival to accomplish specific purposes—such as purifying His people, correcting error, or preparing a community for greater responsibility. Delay does not equate to denial; rather, it reflects God's strategic patience.

Human Readiness and Spiritual Maturity

Revival also depends on the spiritual preparedness of a community. The collective heart must be receptive, humble, and repentant. If pride, complacency, or disobedience dominate, divine mercy and revival are hindered.

In the biblical narrative, the Israelites' repeated cycles of revival and backsliding highlight this dynamic. When they turned back to God with genuine repentance, revival followed; when they persisted in rebellion, delay ensued.

Key Point: The interplay between divine sovereignty and human response determines when revival occurs. God may tarry to allow hearts to be fully prepared.

The Role of Spiritual Conditions and Repentance

Genuine Repentance as a Prerequisite

Revival is often preceded by repentance—both personal and corporate. Without sincere repentance, revival remains elusive. This is underscored in the Old Testament, where prophets called Israel to repentance before experiencing God's renewal.

If a community tolerates sin—be it moral compromise, injustice, or apathy—revival will be delayed. The presence of unrepentant sin acts as a barrier to divine movement.

The Importance of Humility and Brokenness

Revival requires humility and brokenness before God. When leaders and congregations are prideful or self-sufficient, they resist God's work. Conversely, acknowledging dependence on God's grace creates an environment conducive to revival.

List of Factors That Hinder Revival Due to Lack of Repentance:

- Unaddressed sin and moral compromise
- Spiritual pride and self-reliance
- Apathy and spiritual complacency
- Resistance to correction and discipline

Conclusion: Without authentic repentance and humility, revival remains a distant hope.

Cultural and Societal Factors Influencing Revival

Cultural Barriers and Worldview

Cultural norms and societal values can either facilitate or hinder revival. For example, cultures that emphasize individualism over community, materialism over spirituality, or secularism over faith, may resist spiritual awakening.

In societies where religion is viewed skeptically or marginalized, the climate for revival is less favorable.

Political and Economic Climate

Political instability, economic hardship, and social unrest can affect spiritual revival. While adversity

can sometimes lead to repentance and renewal, it can also cause distraction, despair, and apathy, delaying revival.

Historical examples include revival movements during times of societal upheaval, which often emerge as responses to crisis. However, ongoing societal chaos can also hinder sustained spiritual renewal.

Factors that hinder revival due to societal conditions:

- Secularization and decline of religious influence
- Political repression or instability
- Economic hardship leading to focus on survival
- Cultural disinterest in spiritual matters

Practical Challenges and Leadership Dynamics

Leadership Integrity and Spiritual Authority

Effective leadership is vital for fostering an environment where revival can thrive. Leaders who lack spiritual integrity, humility, or vision can inadvertently hinder progress.

Moreover, leadership complacency or resistance to change can delay revival. Conversely, leaders who are faithful, prayerful, and proactive can catalyze spiritual awakening.

Prayer and Intercession

Revival is frequently linked to prayer. A lack of persistent, fervent intercession can slow divine activity. The biblical pattern shows that sustained prayer positions the community for divine visitation.

Challenges in fostering prayer for revival include:

- Complacency in prayer life
- Distraction from spiritual disciplines
- Lack of unity in intercession efforts

Institutional Limitations

Religious institutions may inadvertently inhibit revival through rigid doctrines, traditionalism, or

resistance to change. Flexibility and openness to the Spirit are crucial for renewal.

Summary: Practical leadership issues, prayer deficiency, and institutional rigidity can impede the manifestation of revival.

The Testing and Refinement Process

Purification Through Delays

Delays in revival often serve as a spiritual testing ground. God may use the period of tarrying to refine His people, exposing hidden sins, deepening faith, and strengthening resolve.

This refining process ensures that when revival finally comes, it is sustainable and rooted in genuine transformation rather than superficial excitement.

Building Anticipation and Faith

Tarrying periods cultivate anticipation and hunger for God's move. As believers pray and seek God during delays, their faith is strengthened, making the eventual revival more impactful.

Historical and Contemporary Examples of Tarrying

The Welsh Revival (1904-1905)

The Welsh Revival was preceded by years of prayer and spiritual dryness. Persistent intercession and repentance laid the groundwork, illustrating that divine timing often involves preparation and patience.

The Azusa Street Revival (1906)

Led by William Seymour, this revival emerged after years of prayer and expectation within Pentecostal circles. The delay allowed for spiritual readiness and doctrinal clarity.

Modern Movements

Many contemporary revival movements report prolonged seasons of prayer and fasting before breakthrough. For instance, the Brownsville Revival (1995-2000) followed years of prayer and spiritual longing in the community.

Strategies to Overcome the Tarrying

Cultivating Persistent Prayer and Fasting

Consistent intercession creates an environment for revival. Prayer chains, fasting, and corporate gatherings can accelerate divine activity.

Fostering Genuine Repentance and Humility

Encouraging personal and communal repentance aligns hearts with God's will, removing barriers to revival.

Promoting Unity and Spiritual Discipline

Unity among believers and a focus on spiritual disciplines prepare the soil for divine sowing.

Addressing Cultural and Institutional Barriers

Openness to change, humility in leadership, and contextual sensitivity help create a conducive environment for revival.

Conclusion: Embracing the Divine and Human Partnership

While divine sovereignty ultimately determines the timing of revival, human responsibility plays a crucial role in creating the conditions for God's move. Recognizing that revival tarrying is not a sign of divine reluctance but an invitation for deeper preparation, genuine repentance, and persistent prayer.

In embracing this partnership, believers can remain steadfast, knowing that God's promises are sure, and that His timing is perfect. The tarrying is often a divine setup for a greater outpouring—one that is rooted in authentic transformation and sustained by ongoing faithfulness.

Remember: Revival may tarry, but it is never denied. Patience, prayer, humility, and perseverance are the keys that unlock the divine timetable for spiritual awakening.

Question What does the phrase 'why revival tarrying' mean in a spiritual context? It refers to the question of why spiritual revival or a move of God often delays or doesn't happen as quickly as expected, prompting believers to examine factors hindering divine outpouring. What are common reasons believed to cause revival to tarry? Common reasons include lack of genuine repentance, complacency among believers, unresolved sin, disunity within the church, and insufficient prayer or fasting. How does spiritual dryness contribute to the delay of revival? Spiritual dryness reflects a state of lukewarmness or disconnect from God, which can hinder the readiness and receptivity needed for revival to take hold. Can personal and collective repentance influence the timing of

revival? Yes, sincere repentance on individual and corporate levels is often seen as a key catalyst for revival; without it, divine intervention may be delayed. What role does persistent prayer play in bringing about revival? Persistent prayer is crucial; it aligns believers' hearts with God's will, breaks spiritual barriers, and creates an environment conducive to revival happening. Are societal issues and moral decline factors in why revival tarries? Yes, societal issues, moral decay, and widespread ungodliness can slow down revival, as they reflect a broader need for spiritual renewal and repentance in communities.

Related keywords: spiritual awakening, delayed blessing, divine timing, faith, patience, prayer, spiritual growth, God's plan, perseverance, hope

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