

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF OUR REVIVAL

Revelation 2:5

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. *I recently read of a movie company that bought and refurbished an old gas station to use in a movie. The company hired a security man to watch the station when filming was not happening there. Because the gas station looked real people were constantly driving in to buy gas. The security guard got tired of explaining that gas station was not real but a set for a movie so he decided to have some fun. When a customer drove up he would run out to meet them and pretend to fill their tank with gas. When people tried to pay him the man would say "It is free. There is no charge." People would drive off absolutely thrilled to death...but empty.*
- b. Too often these days...people come to church empty and they leave the same way ...there may be many reasons for this but most often those who don't get anything out of church ... are those who don't put anything into church.
- c. If you are not willing to prepare yourself for worship...if you don't come to church prayed up and expecting and wanting God to speak to you...then most likely you are not going to get a whole lot out of church.
- d. In the same way...you should not expect to get much out of our revival if you are not willing to put your time, effort, prayer and commitment into our revival ... today I want to talk about how to get the most out of our upcoming revival.
- e. We are not having revival just for the sake of having a revival meeting...every Christian and every church needs a spiritual check-up occasionally...it is easy for us to get off course and develop spiritual blind spots in our lives...God uses revival meetings to help get both Christians and churches back on course ... and to get back to doing the things that God has put us here to do.
- f. It does a church good every now and then...to set aside some time to come together ... and seek the Lord for spiritual refreshing and for the souls of the lost.
- g. How can you get the most out of our revival?

II. PRAY FOR OUR REVIVAL-

- a. Revival is a work of God...revival is not something that we do...revival is something that God does.
- b. God will not send revival to a prayerless, indifferent people...God will not send revival to a people who are not praying for revival and seeking revival...to get the most out of our upcoming revival...you need to be praying for our revival.
- c. Pray for our revival speaker Dr. Kim Grueser...pray that God would give him the messages we need to hear... *Ephesians 6:19 (NKJV) “(Paul said pray) for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.”*
- d. Pray for Cheryl...our choir...our musicians...those who may bring us special music...the importance of Spirit-filled music and singing in a revival meeting cannot be over-estimated.
- e. Pray for our church...pray that God will use this revival to increase our love for God...for each other...for all the saints...and for the lost...pray that we will grow in holiness and purity ... pray that we will grow in our joy...pray that we will grow in our commitment to be the church God would have us to be.
- f. Pray that lost people will be saved...pray that God’s convicting and soul-saving power will fill this place...and souls will be saved.
- g. Pray that Satan will not be able to hinder our revival...revival always involves spiritual warfare as Satan always tries to hinder the work of God.
- h. Pray for your family and pray for yourself...that God will speak to you in a powerful way and change your life in revival.

III. PARTICIPATE IN OUR REVIVAL-

- a. You will get nothing out of our revival...if you do not participate in our revival...the more you will participate in our revival...the more you attend our prayer meetings...our outreach...the revival services...the more you will get out of the revival.
- b. I am very conscious of how busy life is these days...that is why we have tried to make attending our revival services as convenient as possible...we are having our revival on a week-end ... on non-school nights...we are preparing meals for

everyone on the Friday and Saturday nights of our revival...so you won't have to worry about a meal for your family.

- c. Think of all those times when we have put work or play or some other activity ahead of God in our life...we all have done it...revival should be a time when we should put God first in our life.
- d. To get the most out of our upcoming revival...you must pray for revival and participate in our revival.

IV. PREPARE FOR OUR REVIVAL-

- a. Revival is not about large crowds and church growth though we all want that ... revival is about God's people getting right with God.
- b. You will get little out of our revival...if you do not personally prepare for revival ...how do we prepare for revival?
- c. The road to revival begins with an honest self-examination of our lives... *Psalms 139:23-24 (NKJV)* "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting." ... *Psalms 26:2 (HCSB)* "Test me, Lord, and try me; examine my heart and mind."
- d. Have I allowed a sinful attitude, action or habit take root in my life? ... Have I left my first love and passion for Jesus?... Do I love Jesus today as much as I did when I was first saved?... Am I harboring an unforgiving spirit toward someone else?
- e. The road to revival continues with humble confession...the number one obstacle to revival in a believer's life and in the church is pride...*James 4:6 (NKJV)* "... *"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."*
- f. If we are too proud to confess our sins...if we are too proud to humble our self before the Lord...if we are too proud to make peace with those we have offended ... and forgive those who have offended us...we will never experience revival.
- g. The road to revival continues with our return to the Lord...*Revelation 2:5 (NKJV)* "*Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works,*

or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-- unless you repent."

- h. Remember when your life burned with passion and love for Christ? ...remember when no demand or no sacrifice for Jesus was too great? ...remember when you would gladly visit...remember when you never missed church...remember when you read your Bible and prayed every day? ...remember when you would tell others of your love for Jesus?
- i. The reason our love for the Lord cools...is because we allowed things to come between us and the Lord...we need to repent and turn back to the Lord.
- j. (Repeat) We need to get right with God and start doing the things we use to do...go back to reading the Bible every day...go back to praying every day...get back into church as we should... start tithing like we use to...start doing the things we were doing when you were totally in love with Jesus.

V. CONCLUSION-

- a. The most important person in our revival is not the preacher...or me or Mrs. Cheryl...the most important person in our upcoming revival is you...how can our church have revival if you don't have revival?
- b. Will you commit today to Pray, Participate and Prepare yourself for our revival?