

# PERFECTING TRAINING ON PRAYER LIFE

The Church in Brampton, Ontario

December 3, 2006

## Message One

### A New Revival

Scripture Reading: Hab. 3:2; 2:1; Prov. 4:18; Hosea 6:1-3; Joel 2:35; 3:18; Amos 9:11; Haggai 2:7; Lam. 3:22-23; Rom. 8:19-21

**I. This matter of revival is the “kernel” within the “shell” of the books of the Minor Prophets.**

**II. “O Jehovah, revive Your work In the midst of the years”—Habakkuk 3:2.**

**III. The relationship between the revival of God’s people and all of creation:**

- A. Among God’s elect there has always been an aspiration to be revived.
- B. Since the fall of man, there has been in all of creation an aspiration for revival.
- C. The need everywhere for revival can be met only by Christ and in Christ.
- D. Only Christ, who rose up on the third day, is the renewing power—1 Cor. 15:4.
- E. For the whole universe and for all of mankind, Christ is the reality of the third day—John 11:25.
- F. The way to experience revival is to contact Christ through repentance, and confess our sins, failures, and darkness:
  - 1. Habakkuk is a man of prayer.
  - 2. The real prayer is to have conversations with God.

**IV. If there is no revival, we will have no way to practice the God-ordained way:**

**V. We the believers should follow the sunrise to have a revival every morning; if we experience the daily revival, we will become living:**

- A. “But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until the full day.”—Proverbs 4:18.
- B. “Come and let us return to Jehovah; ... He will enliven us after two days; On the third day He will raise us up, ... Therefore let us know, let us pursue knowing Jehovah: His going forth is as sure as the dawn, And He will come to us as the rain, As the latter rain which waters the earth.”—Hosea 6:1-3.
- C. “It is Jehovah's lovingkindness that we are not consumed, For His compassions do not fail; they are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.”—Lam. 3:22-23.
- D. “But unto you who fear My name will the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings, and you will go forth and leap about like well-fed calves.”—Malachi 4:2.
- E. “For Jehovah God is a sun and a shield; Jehovah gives grace and glory; He does not withhold anything good from those who walk uprightly.”—Psalms 84:11.
- F. “But may those who love Him be like the sun when it rises in its might.”—Judges 5:31.

**VI. Besides the daily revival, we also need to experience many revivals throughout our Christian life.**

**VII. We must have the outpouring of the consummated Spirit to have the revival:**

- A. “And afterward I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh.”—Joel 2:28.
- B. We need to experience the revival of the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum continuously—Ezekiel 1:4.

**VIII. The revival life:**

- A. “In that day there will be an opened fountain for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.”—Zech. 13:1.

- B. “And in that day The mountains will drop down fresh wine, And the hills will flow with milk; And all the waterways of Judah Will flow with water, And a fountain will go forth from the house of Jehovah.”—Joel 3:18.
- C. “Indeed days are coming, When the plowman will overtake the reaper, And the grape treader, him who sows the seed; And the mountains will drip sweet wine, And all the hills will melt.”—Amos 9:13.

**IX. Through morning revival, we will restore the years that the locusts have eaten—Joel 2:25.**

**X. The revival ushers in Christ’s ultimate move, consummating in His coming back:**

- A. “From you there will come forth to Me He who is to be Ruler in Israel; And His goings forth are from ancient times, From the days of eternity.”—Micah 5:2.
- B. “Hurry and come, All you surrounding nations, And be gathered. There cause Your mighty ones to descend, O Jehovah!”—Joel 3:11.
- C. “In that day I will raise up The fallen tabernacle of David, And I will wall up its breaches And raise up its ruins And build it up as it was in the days of old.”—Amos 9:11.
- D. “And I will shake all the nations, and the Desire of all the nations will come; and I will fill this house with glory, says Jehovah of hosts.”—Haggai 2:7.

**XI. “I will stand at my watch and station myself on the fortress.”—Hab.2:1:**

- A. “It is you, O son of man, whom I have appointed as a watchman to the house of Israel; therefore when you hear the word from My mouth, give them warning from Me.” —Ezek. 33:7.
- B. “And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of supplications; and they will look upon Me, whom they have pierced.”—Zech. 12:10.

**Excerpts from the ministry:**

**THE UNIVERSAL ASPIRATION FOR REVIVAL**

The revival revealed in the Minor Prophets can be applied to the family, to the church, to the nations, to the entire human race, and even to the whole universe. In principle, everything and everyone on earth are in the desolation of the two days spoken of in Hosea 6:2.

Since the fall of man, there has been in all of creation an aspiration for revival. Concerning this, Romans 8:20-22 says, “The creation was made subject to vanity, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will also be freed from the slavery of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans together and travails in pain together until now.” As a result of Adam’s fall, corruption, slavery, and death have come into the whole creation. Today everything is decaying and is under the slavery of corruption. All the things that are under this slavery aspire to be revived.

**CHRIST—THE REALITY OF THE THIRD DAY**

Man’s fall brought in corruption, and with corruption there is slavery. Because of this corruption and slavery, there is the need everywhere for revival, for restoration. This need can be met only by Christ and in Christ. Christ was resurrected on the third day, and as the pneumatic Christ in resurrection, He is the reality of the third day. Christ, therefore, is the element of the revival for which all of creation aspires. The corruption and desolation can be swallowed up only by Christ’s resurrection.

Unbelievers as well as believers aspire to be revived, to have a new beginning. Everyone wants something new. Only Christ is the renewing factor. Only Christ, who rose up on the third day, is the renewing power. For the whole universe and for all of mankind, Christ is the reality of the third day.

When we received Christ, we received Him as the One who is Himself the resurrection (John 11:25). Immediately after receiving Him, we had a new beginning in our human life. That new beginning was a revival. However, eventually we again entered into a state of desolation and thus needed another revival. This cycle of desolation and revival, revival and desolation, has been repeated again and again.

The way to have the revival we need is to contact Christ, repenting and confessing our sins, failures, and darkness. By doing this we are brought from the desolation of the two days to the resurrection of the third day. Whenever we are in desolation, we need such a revival. We need to come to the third day, and the third day is nothing other than the person of the resurrected Christ with the reality of revival. In addition, we have the outpouring of the Triune God as the consummated, all-inclusive, life-giving Spirit, and our spirit responds by being stirred up. (Life Study of Malachi, msg. 4)

### **GOD'S COMPASSIONS DO NOT FAIL, BECAUSE HE IS THE FAITHFUL ONE.**

Lamentations 3:22 and 23 say, "It is Jehovah's lovingkindness that we are not consumed, / For His compassions do not fail; / They are new every morning. / Great is Your faithfulness." I believe that this word came to Jeremiah as he was contacting the Lord in the morning, reviewing all the afflictions of his people. While Jeremiah was reviewing these afflictions, he must have regretted the sinfulness of Israel. At this juncture the word of Jehovah came to him, that no matter how much He had punished Israel, He had not utterly consumed them. Jeremiah and many others remained. This was God's lovingkindness. Realizing that he and all the others who remained with him were under God's compassions, Jeremiah praised, saying, "For His compassions do not fail" (v. 22b). The people of Israel had failed, but God's compassions did not fail. His compassions had preserved the remnant of Israel.

Referring to Jehovah's compassions, Jeremiah went on to say, "They are new every morning" (v. 23a). This indicates that Jeremiah contacted the Lord as the compassionate One every morning. It was through his contact with the Lord that he received this word regarding His lovingkindness, compassions, and faithfulness.

In verse 23b Jeremiah declared, "Great is Your faithfulness." God's compassions do not fail, because He is the faithful One. The faithfulness of God refers to His word. His faithfulness is also related to His covenant. Because He had made a covenant with Abraham and confirmed it with Isaac and Jacob, God had to be faithful to keep His word. God had spoken to Israel's forefathers, and He was faithful to keep His word. (Life Study of Lamentations, Msg. 2)

### **MAY THOSE WHO LOVE HIM BE LIKE THE SUN**

Judges 5:31b says, "May those who love Him be like the sun / When it rises in its might." For the sun to rise in its might means that it shines brightly, brilliantly, and gloriously. We need the searchings, the resolutions, and the rising up to shine like the sun. If all the churches would be like this, they surely would enjoy the victory. May all the dear saints in the Lord's recovery have great searchings and make great resolutions, and may they all, by loving the Lord, rise up like the sun to shine brightly. (Life Study of Judges, msg. 4)

### **RAISING UP THE FALLEN TABERNACLE OF DAVID**

"In that day I will raise up / The fallen tabernacle of David, / And I will wall up its breaches / And raise up its ruins / And build it up as it was in the days of old; / That they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations which are called by My name, declares Jehovah who does this" (vv. 11-12). This portion of Amos is quoted by James in Acts 15, when the apostles and the elders were gathered together to solve the problem of circumcision.

This prophecy in Amos indicates that one day Christ will come back to be the real David. When Christ comes back, in His last appearing He will be the real David to restore His kingdom and His royal family. That will be the millennial kingdom, in which all the nations will be called by the name of Jehovah, that is, all the nations will belong to God. It was based on this that in Acts 15 James told the Jewish believers not to be bothered by Peter's and Paul's going to the Gentiles, because in the restoration all the Gentiles will belong to God, just like the Jews.

Christ will come and restore the fallen kingdom of David to set up His kingdom for the restoration of the entire universe. At that time all the nations will become God's people. This is a great item in Amos's prophecy. (Life Study of Amos, msg. 3)

### **SETTING THE WATCHMAN**

In His recovery by life, the first thing the Lord does is to set the watchman. Ezekiel 33:7 says, "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me." A watchman is one who has been commissioned by God to give His people a warning, to sound the trumpet to cause God's people to turn to Him and repent. The principle is the same in the New Testament, where God sent John the Baptist as a great watchman. When John the Baptist came, he sounded the trumpet of repentance, crying, "Repent!" (Matt. 3:1-2). In principle, Ezekiel voiced the same thing when he urged the people to turn from their evil ways. God did not want them to die; His desire was that they would turn and live. Concerning this, Ezekiel 33:11 says, "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Life Study of Ezekiel, msg. 16)

### **JEHOVAH GOD POURING OUT THE SPIRIT OF GRACE AND OF SUPPLICATIONS**

Zechariah 12:10a says, "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of supplications; and they will look upon Me, whom they have pierced." In Acts 2 God poured out His Spirit upon all flesh (v. 17), and three thousand were saved. But when God pours out the Spirit of grace upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, many thousands of Israel, even the entire race of Israel, will be saved.

The Spirit of grace in Zechariah 12:10 is a sweet term, and is in contrast to the Spirit of power in Acts 1:8 and 2:1-4. We should experience the Spirit both as the Spirit of power and as the Spirit of grace. The Spirit of power is to strengthen us, but the Spirit of grace is to bring us into the enjoyment of the Triune God. In Acts 2 there was the participation in the divine power through the Holy Spirit, but there was not that much enjoyment of the Triune God. In Acts 2, at the beginning of the age of grace, the church age, the Spirit was mainly the Spirit of power. But in Zechariah 12, at the ending, the consummation, of the age of grace, the Spirit will be mainly the Spirit of grace for the enjoyment of the Triune God. (Life Study of Zechariahs, msg. 13)