

Why No Christian Revival?

Everything that happens in the physical world has a cause, this is also true of the spiritual world of the Kingdom of God.

Reasons for God's obvious refusal to send revival in the true Christian Church may lie deep but we need to be realistic and honest as we confront one undeniable fact.

People who comprise the Church as a whole have been trying to substitute personal and public praying for obeying, and it simply will not work.

A church, for instance, follows its traditions and ritual of public worship, without much thought for whether or not they are in harmony with God's Word, the Christian Bible.

[Please download and study articles on this website under the sub-heading of 'Religion'].

Or the leaders of the church surrender to pressure from public or political opinion and falls in with the popular trends that carry it far from the pattern as laid down in the Old and New Testaments in the Word of God, the Christian Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 [NIV] *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

Note it says **all** scripture, not just those parts that fit in comfortably with Church traditions.

When the leaders of a particular denomination notice a lack of supernatural spiritual power among the people and become very concerned about it.

What do they do?

How can they achieve the revitalisation of the Holy Spirit they can see is so badly needed?

The answer that is given in many books on revival, to pray.

So the pastors call the congregation to prayer.

Days and nights are spent begging God to send revival and the power of the Holy Spirit to work among them and in the community that they seek to serve.

A tide of feeling runs high, but nothing happens, no noticeable presence of the Holy Spirit, and the zeal for prayer begins to flag.

Before long the congregation is back where it was before and discouragement settles over everyone.

What has gone wrong?

Simply this, neither leaders nor the people have made any effort to obey the Word of God, the Christian Bible.

The conditions that determine the working of the Holy Spirit among them, the **only** power that drives any revival, have **not** been met.

Acts 5:32 [NIV] *"We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."*

The Holy Spirit is only given to those who obey the Word of God, the Christian Bible.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 [NIV] *“Do not put out the Spirit’s fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.”*

Additional conditions are listed in this corrective scripture.

Ephesians 4:30-32 [NIV] *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*

A grieved Holy Spirit will not release reviving power within leaders and congregation if these listed attitudes are found among the leaders or people, nor if there is a lack of compassionate love and humble seeking for forgiveness.

1 Samuel 15:22-23 [NIV] *“But Samuel replied: ‘Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.’”*

The Old Covenant sacrifices were a type of prayer to God, but were only accepted by God if they were accompanied with obedience. In this example Saul lost his kingship as a result of disobedience.

Acts 5:29 [NIV] *“Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than men!’”*

We are to obey the Word of God, the Christian Bible, rather than the traditions of other human beings.

The act of committal to Jesus Christ for salvation releases the believing human from the penalty of sin, which is eternal death, [**Romans 6:23**], but it does **not** release them from the obligation to obey the words of Jesus Christ.

Rather, it brings that person under joyous necessity to submit totally to the authority of Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

This is out of gratitude for what Jesus Christ has done for us that we could **never** do for ourselves.

Romans 12:2 [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Such submission to Jesus Christ then allows the Holy Spirit to re-educate our minds and human spirit.

Prayer will **only** become effective when we stop using it as a substitute for obedience.

We must be constantly aware that there is a certain blindness in human beings that prevent us from seeing what we do **not** want to see.

This and the direct work of Satan [**2 Corinthians 4:4**] may account for the fact that the doctrine of obedience is so largely neglected in modern religious circles.

Many people seem to feel that our obligation to obey has been discharged by the act of believing in Jesus Christ at the beginning of our Christian lives.

Acts 16:31 [NIV] *“They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”*

If we quote this as a “proof text” we must not be blinded to the fact it says “Lord Jesus” indicating that He is to be obeyed as our Master!

Acts 20:28 [King James] *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”*

Don’t overlook the word “purchased” which clearly means we are “bond slaves” of Jesus Christ having no personal rights only responsibilities towards His will.

The Greek word used is *“pēripōiēōmai”* meaning to acquire for oneself.

The apostles understood the relationship with Jesus Christ and introduced themselves as *“servants”* of Jesus Christ, [**Romans 1:1; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1; Revelation 1:1**].

A mere passive surrender may be **no** surrender at all. Any real submission to the will of God must include willingness to take orders from Him at any time.

We are not likely to see any remarkable transformations of individuals or churches until leaders and congregations again give obedience the place of prominence it occupies in God’s Word, the Christian Bible.