

THE MESSAGE OF REVIVAL  
Acts 2:14-36

Intro: We must be careful in our study of revivals not to expect God to do today exactly what He has done before. One thing that is impressive about God-given revivals is that they all seem to be different.

The passage before us today records the first major outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Scripture. It is the first occasion of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was on this day of Pentecost that the church was born. The people to whom Peter ministered was primarily Jewish people. Peter and the other apostles were divinely enable to speak in foreign languages which they did not know and had never studied. So a number of things took place on that day which will not be repeated.

But there are some characteristics of revival that can be seen in all revivals. These characteristics may be present to differing degrees, but it is these characteristics which make a revival a revival. And so I want to consider Acts 2 with you today to take a closer look as these traits, and especially at THE MESSAGE!

First of all, let us look at

I. THE PREACHER.

It was the Apostle Peter.

The statement in v. 14 indicates that the eleven stood with him in the sense that he was their choice to do the preaching at this time. All of them had been preaching, but Peter now was the chief spokesman.

It is evident also that Peter was the Lord's choice. In all revivals God has His men who speak for Him.

Peter was not an educated man in the eyes of the world, but he was deeply trained in the things of the Lord. He was a man of deep convictions regarding the Lord and the truth. He was deeply devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ. Not too long before this he had gone through a most humbling experience in denying His Lord, but, by the grace of God, he had come out of that experience spiritually stronger than ever before.

But the Lord chose to work in this instance through a very common man, one who had failed Him at a very crucial time, that it might be even more evident that all of the glory for what happened on this Day of Pentecost might be given to God alone.

Secondly, I want you to notice . . .

## II. THE SPIRITUAL CLIMATE.

— That is, I want you to see the condition of the Apostles and the other believers spiritually as they awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Now remember: The Holy Spirit was going to be given at this time anyway. Historically the Day of Pentecost had been set in Moses' day under the Law. But the Day was the beginning of one of the greatest revivals the world has ever seen because certain conditions were met. We see these especially in Acts 1:12-14, esp. v. 14.

### A. Obedience.

See what the Lord had told them to do. Cf. v. 4. They did it!

### B. Oneness.

Notice the words in v. 14, "with one accord." They were (1) one in heart and (2) one in purpose.

### C. Prayer.

— Prayer is always the forerunner of blessing. When the people of God begin to pray, look for things to happen.

### D. Faith.

They was anticipating the coming of the Holy Spirit. They expected what the Lord had promised. There was no uncertainty about what they were doing because they had the Lord's word to go on.

Finally, all of this was done with

### E. Perseverance.

Be sure to note that verb, "continued." See it again in Acts 2:42, 46. How often we miss blessings because we start obeying and praying and believing, but we do not persevere!

— If we want to see revival in our day, then we must pay attention to the conditions which resulted in revival on this particular Day of Pentecost. Notice these characteristics also in other times of true spiritual awakening.

## III. THE MESSAGE.

We have had it read to us; now let me point out the main characteristics of it. Remember that Peter did not have any time to prepare a special message. He was speaking by the Holy Spirit, but obviously his heart had been filled previously with the truth which he here proclaimed.

Let me point out 5 outstanding features about Peter's message.

A. It was simple preaching.

Peter was a simple man, and his preaching was uncomplicated. The people who heard him could understand what he was talking about.

B. It was bold preaching.

Peter knew that there were risks which he took in preaching the Gospel. This was the very city where the Lord had been condemned and crucified. This was the city where Peter had fearfully denied His Lord. The Jews were not there to hear the Gospel; they were there to observe the Day of Pentecost. And yet notice his bold words in Acts 1:22-24.

C. It was scriptural preaching.

1. Vv. 16-21 are Joel 2:28-32.
2. Vv. 25-28 are Psalm 16:8-11.
3. Vv. 34, 35 are Psalm 110:1.

Not only was Peter quoting these passages, but he was explaining them, applying them, and exhorting the people from them.

There can be no true awakening without the preaching of the Word of God.

D. It was Christ-centered preaching.

It is amazing to see how much Peter said about the Lord Jesus Christ in these 23 verses.

1. His humanity -- in v. 22.
2. His miracles, their chief purpose -- in v. 22.
3. His death -- in v. 23.
4. His resurrection -- in vv. 24, 31, 32.

5. His ascension -- v. 33.
6. His reign on David's throne -- in v. 30.
7. His sending of the Holy Spirit -- v. 33.
8. His Deity and Messiahship -- in v. 36.

If we want to see the blessing of God, then we must preach Christ! And we cannot preach Christ if we deny any of the above truths.

But there is one final feature that I want you to see. The preaching of Peter had one more special characteristic.

E. It was God-centered preaching.

Peter was not seeking to exalt himself. Nor was he making great claims for the other apostles. He told the people assembled in Jerusalem what God had done, especially in connection with the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. God and Christ's miracles (v. 22).
2. God and Christ's death (v. 23a).
3. God and Christ's resurrection (vv. 24, 32).
4. God and Christ's exaltation (vv. 33-35).
5. God and Christ's reign (v. 30).
6. God and the coming of the Holy Spirit (v. 33).
7. God and His declaration concerning Christ (v. 36) -- that He is "both Lord and Christ."

Preaching which declares the sovereignty of God is also the forerunner of blessing!

But, in conclusion, let us look at . . .

IV. THE RESULTS.

The record is given in vv. 41-47 -- and remember that this is the Holy Spirit's record, not just the record made by these early Christians.

- A. Three thousand were saved -- really saved!
- B. The church persevered in:

1. Doctrine, the truth.
2. Fellowship.
3. Prayers.

All of this is in v. 42.

- C. Generosity -- vv. 44, 45.
- D. Oneness, true unity -- v. 46, "with one accord."
- E. Joy -- v. 46b.
- F. Praising God -- v. 46b. They were not praising Peter.
- G. A continued fruitful witness -- v. 47.

Concl: And so here we have the conditions,  
the characteristics,  
and the consequences  
of a true work of God in revival.

What do they mean to us?

They mean that we need to be concerned about:

- 1) Our obedience to the Word of God.
- 2) Prayer.
- 3) Unity.
- 4) The preaching of the Word -- which means that we will preach Christ, and seek to show to the church and to the world the sovereignty of God.
- 5) Perseverance in all of these, believing that God will give us the blessing that He intends to give.
- 6) Our witness to the world.

Let me close with the prayer that Elijah prayed when he was seeking a revival from God when he had the contest with the prophets of Baal. Listen to it:

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said,

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel,  
let it be known this day that thou art God  
in Israel, :  
and that I am thy servant,  
and that I have done all these things at thy word.

Hear me, O Lord, hear me,  
that this people may know that thou art the Lord God,  
and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

This is revival!