**Questions And Answers**

**~2 Chronicles 34 - What Is Spiritual Renewal Or Revival~**

**\*\* As we begin:**

* Recently a revival broke out at Asbury University that continued for weeks and impacted other colleges and individuals. We will use “renewal” and “revival” interchangeably.
* **Let us note what revival is not:**

1) It is not man-centered.

2) It is not emotion driven though emotions can and usually are a part of it.

3) it is not the same as evangelism.

4) It cannot be forced or manufactured.

5) It is not about gifted preachers or leaders.

* One of the Hebrew words translated as “revive” means “to turn back, to return.” Revival requires a focus on God’s holiness and Who He is, His attributes.
* Just because we do not have a personal revival, that does not make us unspiritual. If we are growing as a believer, we are experiencing renewal. Everyone should do a spiritual reflection on our lives.
* Richard Owen Roberts defines revival as, *“In using the term revival, I am speaking of an extraordinary movement of the Holy Spirit producing extraordinary results.”*
* Revival yields results. What changes were made in a person’s life? What has God taught them?
* Today we are going to look at the life of King Josiah found in **2 Kings 22-23 and 2 Chron. 34-35**.

**Some Thoughts On Spiritual Renewal**

**Renewal can happen when we get desperate to know God.**

* What is more important than God? We are not talking about being legalistic when it comes to things like church attendance. The issue is if we allow things we can control to keep us from worship.
* The Lordship of Christ is a forgotten doctrine in renewal. See **Lk.6:46-47**. It is not optional for a believer, but we can choose to not obey Him.
* In **2 Chron. 34:2** we read that Josiah did what was “right” (pleasing, righteous) in God’s sight.
* Several people influenced Josiah as he grew up. He did not “turn aside” (vs. 2), getting caught up in what was happening in the nation.

**For renewal to happen, we must deal with any idols in our lives.**

* At age 16, Josiah began to “seek” (inquire, consult, seek God in prayer and worship, study). He applied himself to know God. He then dealt with the idolatry plaguing the nation **(vss. 3-7)**.
* **Point:** We may have to make some adjustments, cutting back on things, recalibrating priorities.

**Renewal requires us not being passive, but active, in our pursuit to do what is God honoring.**

* Others helped Josiah get rid of idolatry, but he was actively involved in the process as well.
* **Phil. 2:12-13** show that we have a part to play in spiritual growth as God conforms us into the image of Christ **(Rom. 8:29)**. We cannot sit idly by and expect our faith to grow.

**There must be a desire to be open to God working.**

* This means setting aside time to get to know God through the Word and prayer.
* Allow the Word of God show us where we need to improve in our life, along with wisdom about how to live.

**Renewal requires dealing with sin (repentance).**

* This is tied to our second point. Repentance is a change of direction, not just a change of mind.
* When Josiah saw the sin in Judah, he knew he had to do something. Are we willing to allow God to work in us to bring us to repentance.

**The Word of God must be at the center of renewal.**

* The Word of God was found when the temple was being repaired. When it was brought to Josiah, he tore his clothes **(vs. 19)**, a sign of mourning and humility.
* In **2 Chron. 34:22-28**, we read that Josiah sends a group to the prophetess Huldah. He wants to hear from the Lord.
* Note **vs. 27**. There are three attitudes noted that are important for renewal to happen.
* **First**, we need to have a “tender” (soft, responsive) heart. We must be open to what God wants.
* **Second**, we need to be “humble.” Think of **Isa. 6**. Humility is comparing ourselves to God, not others.
* The idea of “humbling” ourselves before God means “to submit, behave submissively” before God.
* **Third**, we must take sin seriously. Josiah did and we must also. No excuses.