

Nurturing Revival Towards an Awakening

Showing the Goodness of God is the Bedrock of Revival

1. Actions:

- a. Birthed and carried in Intercessory Prayer.
- b. Create a Revival Culture.
- c. Develop a life of power that is Naturally Supernatural.
- d. Frequent and repeated Testimonies are a key to sustaining faith.
- e. Showing the Goodness of God is the bedrock of revival.
- f. Understanding our identity brings the gift of righteousness.
- g. Live in expectancy with a personality of Hope.
- h. The greatest of these is Love.
- i. Honoring one another is the value system of Heaven.
- j. Prioritize freedom over order.
- k. Joy - the atmosphere of Heaven.
- l. The Church functions with limitless restoration as believers constantly walk in forgiveness.
- m. Unity among God's people shows the world the truth of Jesus.

2. Showing the Goodness of God is the bedrock of revival

a. God's Goodness:

- i. **Exodus 33:19 NKJV** ... "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you..."
- ii. Goodness is God's nature making it impossible to be otherwise.
- iii. His goodness stands without measure and has no limits.
- iv. The word "God" comes from a Saxon word that means "The Good"
- v. Everything God has done and will do is good.
- vi. Everything God does flows out of His goodness.

b. Glory and goodness:

- i. In Exodus chapter 33 Moses ask God to show him God's glory.
 1. Remember this is after:
 - a. Miraculous deliverance from Egypt
 - b. Parting of Red sea
 - c. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire at night that guided & protected them.
 - d. Mt. Sinai was shaken and covered with fire and smoke.
 2. Setting the stage for God's response to Moses
 - a. Moses asked God in **Ex. 33:13** ... "let me know your ways..."
 - i. Moses wanted to please God.
 - ii. Moses had seen mighty acts of God but wanted to now know His ways.
 - iii. "Ways" – refers to the motives behind God's behavior.
 - iv. To gain understanding of the way God's power and authority are exercised.

- v. Paul had a similar request when he said “that I may know him”
 - vi. Gaining deeper intimacy and revelation of the Savior allows us to respond in tune with heaven.
 - b. Later in Exodus chapter 33 God offers to send an angel with them as they enter the land.
 - i. Moses response was – “If Your presence does not go with them that he did not want to go into the land.
 - ii. Moses then declared that the presence of God served as a distinguishing mark of the people of God.
 - iii. In other words, the world would know God’s people because the manifest presence of God was among them.
- 3. God response to Moses’s request to see His glory.
 - a. **Exodus 33:19 NKJV** ... “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you...
 - b. See Moses asked to see God’s glory and God responded that He would show Moses His Goodness.
 - c. **God’s goodness on display is a revelation of God’s glory.**
 - d. Moses left seeing God’s goodness with a radiant face that was so bright that he had to veil his face for others to look upon him.
 - e. Moses desire to please God and for the presence of God was met when he was shown God’s goodness.
- c. **The Bible tells us God is good.**
 - i. From Genesis to Revelation God’s goodness is on display.
 - ii. Remember at the end of creation – God declares that all creation was good.
 - iii. It could not have been otherwise as it came from God’s nature – which is always good.
 - iv. Satan crafted his temptation to Adam and Eve so they would question God’s goodness. He convinced Eve that God was holding something from them.
 - v. When Adam and Eve took their eyes off God’s goodness, they caused the fall of man.
 - vi. All because they doubted the goodness of their creator.
- d. **God’s goodness has been under attack ever since the garden.**
 - i. Satan knows if people would see God’s goodness, they would turn to Him for salvation.
 - ii. Satan uses the same tactic on Christians today – tempting them to focus on something they think they need, while they miss the evidence of the glorious goodness of God all around them.
 - iii. Satan use religion as his tool to undermine God’s nature. Religious legalism converts God’s desire for relationship with a set of rules.
 - iv. To try to explain circumstances that we do not control, Satan’s tactic is to convince us that is negative from Satan are from God.

- v. This undermines the truth of God's goodness.
- vi. Deception then creeps in – even to the point of people believing:
 - 1. God makes a person sick to make them a better person.
 - 2. God makes a person poor to keep them humble.
 - 3. Etc.
- vii. God is good and does not use sickness or poverty to discipline us.
- viii. Religion always reduces and restricts what we believe God can or will do.
- ix. Legalism dictates that you must get right with God before He will touch you.
- x. Because of God's goodness He is always willing to show you His love and goodness.
- xi. An example from Steve Wilson's book.
 - 1. One day two men were walking around their Church property.
 - 2. Hannah, one of their teachers saw that one of them had a cast on his arm.
 - 3. She spoke with them and found out that he had just broken it.
 - 4. She asked permission to pray with him.
 - 5. As she prayed, he reported feeling a tingling sensation in his arm.
 - 6. A few minutes later they left, and the man's arm felt so much better that he decided to go to the doctor for a checkup.
 - 7. After the doctor examined him and removed the cast, as the man was completely healed.
 - 8. Sometime later, one of the men came back to the church. He confessed to one of the pastors that they were both wanted by the police and they were casing the church to rob them.
 - 9. But once they encountered the goodness of God – a God so good that He would ignore their evil motives and respond with His goodness to heal.
 - 10. This revelation of the goodness of God powers the awakening.
 - 11. It challenges legalistic and religious norms.
 - 12. It shows the world what the freedom they have waited for.
 - 13. The world needs to hear from us that God's disposition exudes goodness, not anger.

e. Awakening to His goodness.

- i. How we view God is one of the most important components in sustaining the awakening.
- ii. What comes to your mind when you think of God?
- iii. A.W. Tozer says:
 - 1. "What comes to your mind when you think about God... is the most important thing about you."
- iv. This truth applies to individuals and corporate groups.
- v. **"As Individuals and as a church, if we do not align with who God really is – it will prove very difficult to sustain a significant move of the spirit."**
- vi. See – Doubting God's goodness keeps us from receiving all He has for us.

- vii. When we doubt God's goodness, we lower our expectations of what we receive from God.
 - viii. Too often people attribute human emotions to God – this leaves us with a distorted view of Him.
 - ix. Understand this: We cannot learn to host the presence of God if we do not believe He is good.
 - x. Believing fully in God's goodness allows us to approach Him when we are in temptation.
 - xi. Otherwise, we will not allow the light of His presence cleanse us. Instead, we tend to hide in our sin and avoid God's presence.
 - xii. All of us are created to live in the presence of God, this right was lost in the garden with the sin of Adam and Eve.
 - xiii. However, we still have the ability – we can have an intimate relationship with God.
 - xiv. The blood of Jesus purchased back the right.
 - xv. We now can come boldly to the throne of grace and receive full acceptance of the Father who loves us.
 - xvi. God's presence is the source of any move of God and is crucial for revival and awakening.
 - xvii. You can live continually in revival if you learn to host the presence of God.**
 - xviii. Bill Johnson in a conference about "Hosting the Presence of God" asked:
 - 1. How would you respond and live if Holy Spirit, as a dove, rested on your shoulder?
 - 2. After being challenged with this question teachers at a church school printed pictures of doves and clipped them to their shoulder to remind them to host the presence.
 - 3. An immediate change began, and the presence of God began to invade the school.
 - 4. The atmosphere changes as attitudes changed.
 - 5. The Spirit would fall in the classrooms, making it difficult to teach.
 - xix. When we host the presence of God – God changes the atmosphere.**
 - xx. The more we live in God's presence the more we gain revelation of His goodness.
- f. God of grace and compassion:**
- i. One of God's covenant names revealed to Moses was "The Lord compassionate and gracious."
 - ii. God's goodness manifest to us in grace and compassion.
 - iii. Grace – God's response that covers our sin and continues to cover our weaknesses.
 - iv. Compassion – God's way of responding to us as we grow in Him, and as a way of responding through us in reaching out to others.
 - v. Our image of fatherhood is related to our ability to grasp God's goodness.
 - vi. When we stand secure in the righteousness of Jesus we can easily stand in the presence of God.

- vii. God not only wants to demonstrate His goodness to us, but also through us.
- viii. Ask God to baptize you with His love.
- ix. When our faith is linked to God's grace and compassion we can grow in the miraculous.
- x. See – God does not work through us because of our goodness – but because of His goodness.
- xi. Miracles are not a validation of our ministry – they are expressions of God's grace and compassion.
- xii. God extends His hand to and through believers as they receive a revelation of the goodness of God and then allowing Holy Spirit to move through them.
- xiii. Signs, wonders, and healings are being recognized and restored to the gospel message.

g. The Gospel:

- i. An old English meaning of gospel was "The good story"
- ii. **Acts 8:12 NKJV:** But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.
 - 1. Good news – because of the message of redemption
 - 2. Good news – of our restored relationship with our good God.
- iii. The Father's love and His goodness found perfect expression in every word and action of Jesus.
- iv. After Jesus' ascension the disciples lacked understanding until they were Baptized in the Holy Spirit. At that moment they gained a fresh understanding.
- v. **Acts 10:38 NKJV:** ... God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.
- vi. Jesus did on earth what God does in heaven. Jesus tells us He did not do anything until He first heard or saw it in the Father.
- vii. Because of God's goodness Jesus went about demonstrating that goodness and destroying the works of the devil.
- viii. We are called to do what Jesus did.
- ix. See, Jesus had the fruits of the Spirit – one of which is goodness, and we are to walk in that fruit as well.
- x. To fully preach the gospel (the good news) we must be convinced of God's goodness.
- xi. God's goodness should constantly influence our actions.**
- xii. **Luke 16:16 NKJV:** "The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time, the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it."
- xiii. The law and prophets could not reveal to us the Father – Jesus did that.
- xiv. If we do our part in nurturing this revival, we will see signs and wonders following the preaching of the gospel. We will see many pressing into it.
- xv. See, the goodness of our God is evident in that He made a way for salvation.
 - 1. The goodness in that God loved us so much He sent His son to die. (John 3:16)

2. His unconditional love and goodness is demonstrated as He washes us clean by the blood of Jesus.
3. He gives us a new nature.
4. He transforms us from darkness to light.
5. It is the goodness of God that He puts His spirit in us.
6. Marking us his own.
7. In His goodness He adopts us as His own and gives us a new identity.
8. In His goodness He transfers all the rights and privileges as sons and daughters.
9. He puts His ring of authority on our finger.
10. In His goodness He heals our bodies, our minds, and emotions.
11. He puts His spirit on us so we can release His goodness to others.
12. It is this revelation that compels us to go and touch others with His love.

h. Goodness and Repentance:

- i. Paul writes to the church in Corinth and tells them that one of his motives for preaching the good news was because he understood the fear of the Lord. Therefore, he was compelled to persuade men and women to come to Christ. (see 2 Cor. 5:11)
- ii. Hell, and eternal judgment are undeniable truths of scripture.
- iii. If a person does not accept Christ, they are doomed for eternity.
- iv. Why? Because they choose to reject the goodness of the Father who gave His son as the sacrifice for their sins.
- v. However, as valid as the fear of the Lord is – it has limited value as a motivator for conversion.
 1. Scaring people into repentance may get some decisions but for them to become disciples they need to respond to His message that displays His power and His love.
 2. See – people need to see the goodness of God so they can make the decision to give their lives to Him. Not, making the decision to avoid hell.
- vi. In 2 Cor. 5:13 Paul tells the church that “the love of Christ controls me”
 1. Paul also had the motivation to share the good news because he knew the consequences of missing salvation.
 2. Paul’s message was controlled by the love of God.
 3. In fact, it was so full of love and goodness of God that people were captivated by it.
- vii. Paul’s message was so wrapped in love that it was presented with powerful demonstrations of the Father’s goodness.
- viii. **Romans 2:4 NKJV:** Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?
- ix. People repent because the goodness of God has been revealed to them and their hearts are captivated by His love and mercy.

- x. Today, a revelation of God’s goodness through His church that can alter the course of history.
- xi. Testimony from Laos:
 1. A few years ago, in Thailand a group of pastors from Laos crossed the border to attend a conference.
 2. The man who led the delegation had been an official in the secret police years before.
 3. His role was to arrest and persecute Christians and he did his job well.
 4. At some point he became ill.
 5. One day he arrested a group of believers
 6. These prisoners noticed he was sick and offered to pray with him.
 7. The man let them pray and was immediately healed.
 8. This incident started to disturb him. “What kind of people would offer to pray for me while I am arresting them and what kind of God is this that would heal me while I am persecuting His people?”
 9. This led to his conversion.
 10. He himself was almost immediately imprisoned along side those he persecuted.
 11. In jail he only knew to do what he had saw other believers do.
 12. He prayed for other prisoners and had many amazing encounters as God moved through him.
 13. The jailor eventually got so fed up with the disruption of normal depressing jail life that he went to the authorities.
 14. He told them that it was too dangerous to have this man in jail.
 15. The authorities released him.
 16. As of a few years ago this man planted 50 churches. All built on premise that we serve a good God.
 17. A God who wants to demonstrate His goodness by healing and setting people free – even before they turn to Him.
- xii. **Hosea 3:5 NKJV:** Afterward... They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days.
 1. Hosea looked forward to a powerful last days’ revival that will be displaying the goodness of God.
 2. If we do our part this revival can see:
 - a. Millions fearing the Lord and experiencing His goodness.
 - b. Whole cities and nations awakened to their Savior.
 - c. Cultures transformed.
 - d. Many loving and serving our God.
- i. **Please God by showing His goodness to the world.**
 - i. Remember, the ability and confidence to share His goodness with others is rooted in knowing our true identity.
 - ii. Jesus not only removed our sin at the cross, but He made us new creations.
 - iii. He adopted us into His family.

- iv. Understanding and living in the rights and privileges of this new relationship are crucial to sustained revival.