

Nurturing Revival Towards an Awakening

Frequent and repeated Testimonies are a key to Sustaining Faith

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. Frequent and Repeated Testimony are a Key to Sustaining Faith.

- a. **Rev. 12:11 (NKJV)** And they overcame... by the word of their testimony...
- b. Experience of other congregations is that when they began to create a revival culture the frequency and number of physical healings increased.
- c. As each new breakthrough came the anticipation for more grew.
- d. We should begin to expect more to happen each week. Prepare our hearts before each service in expectation.
- e. As a congregation was seeing breakthrough:
 - i. they often began to see a pattern in which they saw many profound healings and then the wave of healing would slow. Weeks would go by without seeing much happening.
 - ii. Soon they would see another wave of healings and growing excitement.
 - iii. In praying about this cyclical reality, the Lord spoke to them about the place and power of testimony.
- f. In the book of Psalms David tells us about Ephraim.
 - i. They were trained soldiers and they fought a battle they should have been a victory but instead they ran from the enemy.
 - ii. David tells us:
 1. **Ps. 78:9-11 (NKJV)** The children of Ephraim, being armed and carrying bows, Turned back in the day of battle. They did not keep the covenant of God; They refused to walk in His law and forgot His works And His wonders that He had shown them.
 2. There is two things we see here:
 - a. They were unfaithful in keeping God's law.

- b. They forgot the things God had done for them. Forgot miracles – the Testimony of the house of Israel.
 - iii. Look closer at this truth:
 - 1. They were skilled military warriors – they were fully equipped.
 - 2. Yet they ran because they forgot the testimony.
 - 3. They lost confidence as they forgot how God always came through for them.
 - g. We need to discipline ourselves to keep track of what God is doing.
 - i. In our congregation we can fall into this same trap of the enemy. We fail to remember what God has done and what he is doing around us.
 - ii. Each of us need to make a listing of all the miracles and things that God has done in our life.
 - 1. Once prepared we need to review it weekly.
 - 2. As we do so most of us may be surprised at how much we have forgot or possibly did not recognize to start with.
 - h. John wrote in Rev. 12:11 that they overcame because the blood of the lamb and because of the word of their testimony.
 - i. The power of the blood and testimony work together. They are weapons to overcome the enemy.
 - ii. Not only are they a defensive weapon but they are also an offensive one.
 - iii. Utilizing them allows us to possess all that was purchased for us by Jesus.
 - i. When you talk about Jesus from the perspective of your testimony, what He has done for you, people cannot argue that with you. However, they can argue doctrine forever.
 - i. Your testimony is linked to the dealings of God through history.
 - j. Steve Wilson in his book Keep the Fire Burning share a story to illustrate the power of testimony:
 - i. He was ministering in a run-down rehabilitation center in Mexico.
 - ii. The atmosphere was dark and foreboding and as the meeting progressed things got worse.
 - iii. When it was his turn to speak, he knew something needed something that would break through the atmosphere.
 - iv. Holy Spirit reminded him of a testimony about his friend, David, father's salvation.
 - v. The testimony is:
 - 1. David's father was a disciple of a Hindu guru his whole life.
 - 2. All of David's brother's and David had been born-again and most were in ministry.
 - 3. The father never came to faith.
 - 4. His father was in the hospital in a coma with an uncertain prognosis.
 - 5. David sat beside his bed and began to cry out to God for his father's soul.
 - 6. David received a vision of his father's inside. It was full of a twisted mass of insects, snakes, and every kind of disgusting creepy crawlers. His father's entire torso was filled as such instead of healthy organs.

7. David cried out to God and asked, “What should I do?” The Spirit answered, “Plead the Blood.”
 8. David began pleading the blood as instructed. As he prayed, he saw one drop of blood fall from heaven and land on the chest of his father. As it made impact life began to spread and replace death – the blood brought life.
 9. As the life continued to spread it finally reached his father’s head. At that moment, his father woke us from the coma.
 10. His first words were “David sing me a hymn.” After David sung a couple hymns, his father looked around his room and said, “Get rid of this rubbish,” referring to all the paraphernalia related to his idol worship.
 11. Steve relates in his book that as he began to share this testimony the atmosphere at the rehabilitation center shifted. At the end of his speaking he gave an invitation and things began to happen immediately.
 - a. Several responded for salvation.
 - b. Two women who heard voices responded to a word of knowledge and were healed immediately.
- vi. Testimony has the potential to shift atmospheres that usher in the presence and power of heaven.
- k. Why do some congregations experience the swing in periods in and out of frequent healings?
- i. Other congregations concluded it was related to how they moved in testimony.
 - ii. The testimony cycle they used was when a healing occurred, they would share that testimony in response to God’s goodness.
 - iii. However, in time they would forget that testimony or would neglect testimony.
 - iv. When they started giving more focus on the testimony both during their service as well as in sermons – the cyclical pattern ended. They then entered a time of steady increase.
- l. As they continued to evaluate other trends and lessons were learned.
- i. As any good believer would desire, they wanted the testimony to be true and pure without hype.
 - ii. In this quest they decided that if nothing happened the previous week then they had no testimony to share. They had defaulted to this because they had felt it would be false if it were not fresh.
 - iii. In evaluation they realized this belief was causing them to rob vital faith nutrients from the body that they required to thrive.
 - iv. **Testimonies have an unlimited shelf-life.**
 - v. King David shared testimonies that were hundreds of years old. In the feast of Passover, as only one example, God himself told the house of Israel to teach the testimony of the deliverance for all generations
 - vi. We need to realize that showing what God has done shows others what God wants to do.

- vii. It will be important for us to share at least one testimony a week. If we do not have something that happened among our congregants, then we need to find one from elsewhere to share.
- m. We must understand the value of testimony.
 - i. King David understood the value of testimony and shared old and new ones.
 - ii. Insights into understanding of how testimony can be used found in Psalm 119.
 - iii. **Psalm 119:14 (NKJV) I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.**
 - 1. Testimony has more value than wealth
 - 2. The word testimony in Hebrew means:
 - a. Continuance
 - b. Still or again
 - c. Its root word means to repeat or to do again
 - 3. It implies that if God has done it, He is able and willing to do it again.
 - iv. **When you speak out a testimony – it has the power to reproduce itself.**
 - v. Another part within the definition is that it carries the idea of the continuance of past events with the idea of repetition and permanence.
 - vi. **Everything God does becomes part of the permanent record of what he is willing to do again.**
- n. John writes about the prophetic element of the testimony of Jesus Christ.
 - i. Rev. 19:10 (NKJV) John tells us that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
 - ii. The prophetic speaks things into existence based upon things God has already done and said.
 - iii. The testimony provides the miracle the power to repeat itself.
 - iv. **Testimony not only gives God glory; it also releases God's goodness to repeat it.**
 - v. When we share a testimony, it goes forth with prophetic potential.
- o. Another testimony shared in Steve Wilson's book:
 - i. A young mother named Jerrica in his church suffered a broken neck in a car accident.
 - ii. Through much prayer God sent a miracle and not only spared her life, but also spared her from paralysis.
 - iii. She had lingering neck muscle weakness and it was bent slightly forward and had limited ROM.
 - iv. Jerrica was a worshipper and often had used flags in worship. Her condition after the accident recovery caused this to be a challenge with her posture brace she wore.
 - v. Two years later they had Randy Clark at the church in conference. A word of knowledge was released for her neck trauma and she began to move her neck in obedience to the word.
 - vi. People around her heard her neck popped loudly and she felt fire in the back of her head.
 - vii. All the stiffness was gone, and she had full ROM.

- viii. Her orthopedic doctor was in attendance and was able to confirm this miracle.
- ix. Shortly after this Steve was ministering in Mexico and started to share this testimony and received a prompt from God to have anyone with neck problems to stand as he shared the testimony. Three people stood.
- x. When he finished sharing the testimony, he instructed those standing to check out their necks and two of the three were healed before any prayer was given.
- xi. The third person standing was the Pastor of the church and as people gathered around him to pray, he was healed.
- xii. Testimony is pregnant with possibility.**
- xiii. One of the works of Holy Spirit is to empower testimony to be repeated.
- p. Testimony gives Counsel:
 - i. Testimony are powerful – they give us counsel from the spiritual realm.
 - ii. When we find ourselves uncertain of what to do in a situation – if we refer to a testimony of what God has done – or what His Word promises to do – faith is released to see God do it again.
 - iii. When we are ministering to someone – it will help engage their faith if we are able to share a testimony of someone God healed of similar situation or condition.
 - iv. This creates expectancy for God to do it again.
 - v. In Ps 119:24 David writes “Thy testimonies are also my delight; they are my counselors.
 - 1. They are a delight – he rehearsed them and meditated on them.
 - 2. David learned that by referring to a testimony that is provides counsel for current situation – it confirms God’s will for a situation.
 - vi. Consider the story of David and Goliath:
 - 1. When David heard Goliath blaspheme, he decided to act.
 - 2. He was taunted by others, but his focus was on what he knew God could do through him.
 - 3. In the natural Saul’s counselors indicated he could not do it.
 - 4. When Saul challenged David – his response was his testimony: (1 Sam. 17:34-38)
 - a. One day a bear came to destroy my sheep and I killed it.
 - b. Another day a lion came after my sheep and I killed it as well.
 - c. This philistine will be no different.
 - 5. By repeating his testimony, he was able to overcome the negative and defeat the enemy.
 - vii. While we now understand that testimony reproduces itself. It is not limited by that experience – it can go further and be greater than before.
 - viii. Testimony catapults us further than we could ever go on our own.
 - ix. God has no limits on how far He is willing to move through us.
 - x. God can do abundantly more than we ask or think.
 - xi. This means we are not limited to our experiences – but it does support our faith to go further.
- q. Testimony brings boldness:

- i. **Ps. 119:46 (NKJV)** I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, And will not be ashamed.
 - ii. Boldness comes upon us when we are sharing testimony – things we are certain of.
 - iii. We can respond to intimidation when we remember a testimony that shows God moving.
 - iv. The word witness is related to testimony.
- r. A testimony from Tommy Hicks
 - i. He went to Argentina in 1954 to replace an evangelist who could not continue in his commitment for a series of meetings.
 - ii. On the plane there, the Holy Spirit gave him the name of the person that would help him. (Peron) and the size of stadium they should rent.
 - iii. He asked a stewardess if she knew Peron and she said he was the president of the nation.
 - iv. Upon arrival he met with those who invited him and told them what size of stadium to rent and they laughed at him.
 - v. In previous attempts to gather large crowds had failed.
 - vi. Tommy went to see the president. When he arrived, armed guards stopped him and asked what he wanted.
 - vii. Tommy explained he was wanting to hold an evangelistic healing crusade. During the questioning one guard asked if God could heal him and Tommy said yes. The guard had hepatitis and in severe pain.
 - viii. Tommy prayed for him and the pain immediately left. And the man was healed.
 - ix. The guard then told Tommy to come back the next day and he would get him into the president.
 - x. The next day the guard took Tommy and his interpreter into Peron.
 - xi. After explaining his desire for meetings Peron asked if God could heal him.
 - xii. He had been suffering for years with a skin condition that was so bad he would not allow any pictures to be taken of him and published.
 - xiii. Tommy prayed with him and he was completely healed in front of all.
 - xiv. See Tommy knew the Holy Spirit told him and that allowed him to speak in boldness to see the signs and wonders that confirmed what the president needed to comply.
 - xv. Peron gave Tommy the permission required and everything he asked for.
 - xvi. They were meeting in a 25K seat stadium and it quickly filled.
 - xvii. Then then moved into a larger stadium that was quickly filled. Newspaper reported 200K packed into it and the surrounding streets.
- s. Testimonies create faith:
 - i. **Ps. 119:99 (NKJV)** I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.
 - ii. See David keep testimony before him, and they had profound influence over him.
 - iii. Worldly wisdom that tells you something is impossible that is country to what you have seen God accomplish will never change your opinion.

- iv. God's activity in the earth becomes our teacher – therefore we should become students of researching of what God is doing around the world today and in past.
- v. El Shaddai – The God who is willing and able to circumvent his own natural laws.
- vi. He revealed himself to Abraham and Sarah by making impossible possible. (Gen 17)
- vii. The more we share testimony and study testimony the more we will see God do – the more we see God do the more our faith and expectancy will grow.
- viii. Remember – God wants to do more that we can yet think or imagine.
- t. Another testimony from Steve:
 - i. He had been praying for years to begin to see blind eyes healed.
 - ii. On his first trip with Randy Clark to Brazil he had a Word of knowledge for a blind right eye.
 - iii. He watched as someone came forward and received healing.
 - iv. He had not prayed for him, but it still increased his faith.
 - v. He was seeing blind receive sight night after night
 - vi. Then finally one night when he prayed, he saw blind eyes opened.
 - vii. See confidence grows as we see God move and our faith grows. This takes us from glory to glory with each release of God's power.
 - viii. Towards the end of that trip he was part of a prayer team that was ministering with Carter Wood.
 - ix. Just before he started to speak, he asked those who were terminally ill to come over to the right side of the platform. The prayer team was asked to pray for them as he continued to minister.
 - x. As they prayed, they saw dramatic healings:
 - 1. Tumors disappeared
 - 2. Cancer was healed
 - 3. Blind eyes were opened
 - 4. Stroke victims restored
 - xi. Steve realized he stepped into a place he wanted to live. Holy Spirit spoke to him and said, "The impossible has finally become normal."
- u. Testimonies are our inheritance.
 - i. One meaning of Inheritance is:
 - 1. something of the past that is still important or valuable.
 - 2. The origin means to appoint an heir.
 - 3. Someone becomes heir to something that has value.
 - ii. **Ps. 119:111 (NASB)** I have inherited Your testimonies forever, For they are the joy of my heart.
 - 1. A child of God became heir to all God had ever done
 - iii. We can grasp that testimony becomes our inheritance.
 - iv. What God has done becomes a solid foundation and all He has done is ours.
 - v. When we see someone, who is sick the first thing that should come to mind is a testimony of what God has and does do.
 - vi. It builds faith as a testimony that will reinforce what God is about to do.

- vii. When Moses died, Joshua took responsibility to lead God’s people into the promised land.
 - 1. He had seen God do amazing things through Moses and those wonders and miracles were his inheritance.
 - 2. When it was time to lead the Israelites across the Jordan River, he needed his own testimony.
 - 3. God gave him specific instructions and a permanent testimony was established.
 - 4. **Joshua 4:3 (NKJV)** ... ‘Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.’
 - 5. The next morning in obedience Joshua and the priests carry:
 - a. The Ark of Testimony (representing the presence of God)
 - b. In the Ark the tablets of the Law as the Testimony to God’s righteousness
 - c. The bowl of manna as testimony of God’s provision
 - d. The Rod of Aaron as testimony of God-given authority.
 - 6. As the Ark of testimony went ahead the moment the feet of the priests touched the water it parted, and they stood in the middle of the Jordan and all the people crossed over into the promise land.
 - 7. They took the 12 stones from the Jordan and set them up in Gilgal to be a permanent memorial to the hand of God upon His people.
 - 8. When future generations saw these stones, they would remember the testimony.
 - 9. Joshua 4:24 (NKJV) that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever.
- viii. Remember that one meaning of testimony from its root means to repeat or to do it again.
- ix. The testimony of God has life in it.
- x. When God does something powerful and wonderful it does not stop there.
- xi. God is willing and able to do it again and even greater so.
- xii. **The life cycle of testimony is repetition and permanence.**
- xiii. Joshua 4:9 we see that in addition to Joshua doing exactly what God instructed he also set 12 stones right in the river where the priest stood.
 - 1. This was an unseen memorial, but it was a testimony that Joshua and all those who witnessed it would have.
- v. Has the testimonies shared, and the truths examined done something in your soul?
 - i. How much of your personal testimony have you forgotten?
 - ii. How much of your testimony have you stopped sharing because you have told it “enough”?
 - iii. Consider making a listing this week of all the miracles God has given you and the miracles you have seen God do.

- iv. Meditate upon it.
- v. Holy Spirit spoke to Steve Wilson and told him **“If you remember the miracle, you will sustain the deliverance.”**
- vi. Whenever we rehearse or share a testimony, we declare the goodness of God. We show His character. We show others what God is willing to do for them.
- vii. This understanding of the testimony is essential to nurture the revival and stoke its flames.

(Note: Week 4 Recap through God’s Goodness the Bedrock of Revival)

3. 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 males 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 shown 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.