

Culture of Revival “The Recipe”

Intro:

“Culture” Defined: *features of everyday existence shared by people in a place or time*

“Revival” Defined: *restoration of force, validity or effect*

Therefore “Culture of Revival” means living in daily expectancy of God’s power to break in

I can’t make it rain, but I can stare at the sky until it does and savor every drop that falls

The Text/Recipe:

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

2 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. ² For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. ³ I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, ⁴ and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

The Recipe: weakness; fear; much trembling. These led to a demonstration of the Spirit and Power.

I. What happened to Paul?

A. Before we delve into each of these virtues in more detail, first what was it about Paul that even produced them? Cause/Effect

Acts 9:1-5

Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, ² and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; ⁴ and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He *said*, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,

1. Paul was born into the Kingdom by Encountering Jesus.
2. Many of us have come into the Kingdom Mostly Encountering Religiosity, not the person of Jesus or at least a mixture of both
3. When we encounter more of this kind of religion than Jesus it produces what I call "spiritual birth defects" in us
4. Only a spirit of wisdom and revelation can reveal to us these birth defects.
5. Don't confuse the acquisition of more info to mean we are growing spiritually. Knowing truth makes us free not more data! (Knowledge puffs up love builds up)

II. The cure for Religion is Encounter with Jesus!

A. Encounter will often offend the mind in order to expose the heart, when the heart is exposed either we will humble ourselves or bow up in pride.

Illustration: Revival at Hinton Methodist

B. Primary purpose of Jesus' 3 years was to set His people free from religion. He is still doing the same today.

Example: David's undignified dance revealed the heart of his wife Michal

2 Samuel 6:21-22

²¹ David said to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the Lord. ²² I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.”

C. Revival comes when Religion is displaced by Love/Presence/Power

From this place the “recipe” emerges

III. The Recipe: weakness-fear-trembling

A. Weakness

-Paul’s Thorn made him weak in order to experience Grace

-We need a right view of suffering realizing it is the gateway to greater glory

-If we kick, scream and run away from suffering we may well miss what God wants to release

-you don’t have to seek opportunities to suffer, it will visit all of us so don’t be surprised.

1 Peter 4:12

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

-Viewed rightly it will take us deeper into the heart of Jesus than anything else, viewed wrongly pride, arrogance, offense will siphon off what God desires to do

-We encounter Jesus from the place of weakness

Philippians 3:10

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

-“know=ginosko” “fellowship=koinonea” the are both powerful intimate words

Illustration: “discovered a grace I wish I didn’t know existed”

This work of being made weak affects how we communicate the message of the cross

Illustration: Watchman Née on preaching the cross:

"So often what we preach is indeed the Cross; but our attitudes, our words, and our feelings do not seem to bear witness to what we preach. This is because much of the preaching of the Cross is not done in the Spirit of the Cross. Only a crucified person preaches the message of the Cross in the spirit of the Cross."

"How can we give to other people what we ourselves do not have? Unless the Cross becomes our life, we cannot impart that life to others. The failure of our work is due to the fact that we are not eager to preach the Cross without that Cross being within us."

Illustration: Life can feel like a jig saw puzzle dumped on the ground. Need to find the corner pieces...

B. Fear

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Loving what God Loves and Hating what He Hates

Romans 1 speaks of the “Spirit of Holiness” that was at work in Jesus

Not just Spirit Power.... but HOLY Spirit Power

Illustration: There are two tables spread, the one you eat from the most will determine if you survive or thrive

C. Trembling

- Intimacy with Sobriety
- We will all appear before Judgment seat of Christ
- The Lord disciplines those He loves

Conclusion

-encounter produces a “humble hunger” in us which constitutes a culture of revival.