

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 09.02.25

PREACHER: PS NATHAN BEAN

DEVOTED TO A HARVEST

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

BEING, THINKING & DOING

Conviction of a Disciple: Revival requires us as believers to prepare for the harvest of revival by being devoted to the core spiritual practices, like prayer, fellowship, and obedience to the Word, as we live in line with the Spirit.

OVERVIEW

The Early Church experienced a season of being overrun by revival, in all of its beauty, mess, and chaos. They grew in spiritual maturity (and church size!) during this season by devoting themselves to core spiritual practices. Today, as we begin to prepare for revival, we have to ask ourselves how truly devoted we are to these practices.

ACTION

Step 1: Reflect: Which spiritual practice (prayer, fellowship, obedience to the Word) do you feel the most confident in? Which one(s) do you need to grow in?

Step 2: Commit: What is one way that you can grow in that more challenging spiritual practice this week?

Step 3: Act: Commit to acting on that area of growth and ask your connect group to keep you accountable. Check in with them next week!

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 2:41-47

Revival sounds exciting—until it actually happens. Then it's messy. In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit moves powerfully, and 3,000 people are baptised in a single day. That's 3,000 brand-new Christians—people bringing their pasts, their questions, and their brokenness into the life of the church.

If we pray, "Send revival!" are we ready for the disruption that comes with it? If we pray, "Use me!" are we prepared for God to take us seriously? The early church didn't just experience a move of God; they devoted themselves to it.

Acts 2:42 gives us a picture of what this devotion looked like: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." The Spirit's presence wasn't just marked by fire and signs—it was marked by transformed lives.

1. Devotion to the Word

Revival isn't sustained by emotion; it's sustained by truth. The early church wanted the word of God. They couldn't get enough of it. Devotion isn't about obligation—it's about desire. We always find time for what we love. What does our devotion to Scripture say about the hunger of our hearts?

2. Devotion to Fellowship

There's a difference between gathering and fellowship. You can gather at a concert or a sporting event, united by a shared moment, but when it's over, everyone goes their separate ways. Fellowship is deeper. It's life-on-life. It's the difference between just showing up and actually belonging.

The Spirit moves when the church shifts from being an event to being a people. And people—real people, with messy lives—need time, patience, and space to grow. Are we willing to open our homes, our schedules, and our hearts to create true fellowship?

3. Devotion to Prayer

The early believers didn't just pray in the temple; they prayed in homes. Revival doesn't just happen in large gatherings—it happens around tables, in quiet moments, in the spaces where people seek God together.

The Spirit moves where there is hunger. We don't create the fire of revival, but we build the altar. We set the conditions through prayer, through Scripture, through fellowship. And then, we wait for God to breathe on it.

The question is: Are we ready? Are we willing to embrace the long, sometimes inconvenient journey of revival? Because when God moves, He doesn't just bring power—He brings people. Are our hearts prepared, not just for the moment of revival, but for the process of transformation?

DISCUSSION

1. Would you consider yourself to be 'devoted' to the Word, fellowship, or prayer, like the early church was? What would it look like for you to become more devoted?
2. Do you feel that you are acting and serving gladly, or do you find yourself leaning into obligation? How could you recalibrate your heart to become more sincere?
3. This week, what are two things that you could do to step towards fellowshiping over simply gathering?

PRAYER

Father,

Make our hearts insatiably hungry for more of You, Your word, and fellowship with Your people. Would You ignite our devotion and fill our hearts with Your Spirit? As we prepare for the harvest season, please give us grace for the mess, patience for the journey, and an overflowing measure of Your joy. Your Spirit is welcome here, in our hearts and our homes.

Amen.