

EPHESIANS: GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR OUR SPIRITUAL MATURITY
EPHESIANS INTRODUCTION; ACTS 18-19
2ND STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Good morning flock! It's good to be together again, and I'm excited about beginning this verse-by-verse teaching through *The New Testament* book of **EPHESIANS**, which was written by the Apostle Paul while he was imprisoned in Rome in 62 A.D. ... a chapter of his life that Paul writes about in detail in **ACTS 28:11-31**.

Our study of this six-chapter letter written to the Christians living in the Asia-Minor town of Ephesus will take us through the end of 2010 ... after which time, I'm being led to head back to *The Gospels*, studying verse-by-verse through *The Gospel of Mark* ... which is the story of Jesus, told through the ***EYES*** and ***EXPERIENCES*** of the Apostle Peter, and through the pen of Peter's scribe, a man by the name of John Mark.

This morning we're not going to jump right into **EPHESIANS**. Instead, we're going to look into **ACTS 18-19** and the events that led up to the Apostle Paul being led by the Holy Spirit to plant this church. And here are three important questions I'm going to ask and answer throughout this morning's teaching ...

- 1. *What is revival?***
- 2. *How does revival happen?***
- 3. *What is the fruit of revival?***

Here are the first two of four quotes, by people who experienced first-hand the movement of God, commonly referred to throughout Church history as "revival"

19th Century American evangelist and pastor-teacher, Charles G. Finney said, "Revival is the renewal of the first love of Christians to God ... revival is nothing less than a new beginning of obedience to God."

Is Jesus Christ your first love? We can measure the honesty of our answer to this question by our obedience to God. What does your "obedience to God" look like?

20th Century British author and teacher, Brian Edwards writes, "In revival, the minds of people are concentrated upon things of eternity, and there is an awareness that nothing else really matters."

Are the things you value the most rooted in earth, or in heaven? Does how you spend and invest your time, your energy, your gifts, and your money more closely reflect the culture of this world, or God's priorities and values?

Read through *The New Testament* book of ACTS, and you'll see that these definitions of **revival** were what the Early Church experienced. And the fruit of **revival** was that people were responding to the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in huge numbers.

Much of the first half of ACTS focuses on the story of Peter and his ministry of evangelism to the Jews. And much of the second half of ACTS focuses on Saul's conversion, the changing of his name to Paul, and then the story of how God used Paul to reach out, not only to his fellow Jews, but to the *Gentiles*, which is what *The New Testament* calls anyone who wasn't born a Jew. And again, it's clear to see how all the stories in the book of ACTS grow up out of the soil of **revival**. And out of this same soil of **revival** we see the Early Church growing up through its theological infancy and adolescence. Here are two more descriptions of **revival** ...

20th Century American pastor and author, Vance Havner wrote, "Revival is the church falling in love with Jesus Christ all over again."

Is your love relationship with Jesus Christ growing or diminishing?

21st Century American seminary professor and author Robert Coleman writes, "Revival is the work of God in which He visits His own people, restoring and releasing them into the fullness of His blessing."

How's your *proximity* to God? Is God close by or far away? God will be as close to us as we invite Him to be. *Revival* and *restoration* are always the fruit of our closeness to God.

Remember the three questions I asked about revival a bit ago?

1. *What is revival?* It's you and me choosing to go deeper with God.
2. *How does revival happen?* Whenever you and I seek it.
3. *What is the fruit of revival?* We mature in our faith - reflecting more of the holiness of God, and the character of Jesus Christ in our thoughts, in our words, in our actions, and in our priorities.

Again, the story of the Early Church found in ACTS is best described by this word **revival**. And to understand EPHESIANS, we've got to first understand some things about **revival** and about how God uses the Holy Spirit and other people ... people just like you and like me ... to reach out to others who are hungry for the things of God, and who are calling out to God to find out if He is who He says He is.

In ACTS 2 we read that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was spread out into the area around Ephesus within days after Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to the Early Church ... Here's what was happening: The city of Jerusalem was filled up with Jews from all over the known world, who'd traveled there, thinking that this would just be another one of the predictable kind of Pentecosts they'd celebrated for centuries. Pentecost was when the Jews celebrated God's giving of the Ten Commandments 50 (**pente**) days after their exodus out of slavery in Egypt.

But God had a new kind of Pentecost experience up His sovereign sleeve. And on this Pentecost God sent the Holy Spirit into the world, to fill up and empower His people ... no longer commemorating the giving of the Ten Commandments 50 days after the exodus of the Jews from their Egyptian slavery, but celebrating the freedom of the New Covenant between God and us that began 50 days earlier at the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

And thousands of the Jews who'd gathered in Jerusalem for Pentecost that year encountered Jesus Christ and gave their hearts and lives to Him ... and then they all returned to their homes ... to the North, South, East, and West of Jerusalem ... out to the furthest points of the known world, and the Gospel went with them. And this is how the Gospel first traveled to Ephesus.

ACTS 18:24 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

²⁴ Now a [*certain*] Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. [*emphasis maintained ... although the word "certain" is left out in the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE for some reason*]

This is the first mention of the man named Apollos in *The New Testament*. A "certain Jew." Throughout the book of ACTS, beginning with ACTS 3:2, this phrase, "a certain man, Jew, disciple, woman, prophet, etc..." is used thirty-two times, and it always refers to a person who is special, central, or key to the story. And gang, we're going to find out in this story that this certain Jew, by the name of Apollos is key to the revival that happens in Ephesus.

Let's go back in ACTS 18 just a bit. In ACTS 15:36 Paul heads out on his Second Missionary Journey - which continues through ACTS 18:22 ...

ACTS 18:18-22 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

¹⁸ Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow.

¹⁹ They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

²⁰ When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent,

²¹ but taking leave of them and saying, "I will return to you again if God wills," he set sail from Ephesus.

²² When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and went down to Antioch.

So the movement of God had been going on in Ephesus before Apollos came along because the Apostle Paul had previously been there for a short while. The Greek word for reasoned in v. 19 is dialogomai ... the word we get dialogue from. As you might remember, Paul was primarily called to share Jesus with the Gentiles, but whenever he showed up in a new town, he always went to the Jewish synagogue first, and entered into discussions with the Jews in the city about Jesus ... showing them

from *The Old Testament* that Jesus was the Messiah they'd been praying for, and waiting for for centuries.

Paul was just passing through Ephesus at this point, on his way to Jerusalem ... and so he didn't do much **tending** or **harvesting**. He mainly did **planting**. Here's how he describes this later in **FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:6** ...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:6 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

⁶ I [Paul] planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

And even though God wanted Paul to **just plant seed in Ephesus** on his first trip there, and even though it may have seemed to the people in Ephesus that Paul left them before they were totally grounded in their faith, God **WOULD HAVE** Paul eventually come back to spent three years in the church he planted there.

ACTS 18:23 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

²³ And having spent some time *there*, he [*the Apostle Paul*] left and passed successively through the Galatian region [*Asia Minor / modern-day Turkey*] and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples. [*emphasis added*]

1. 44-46 A.D., Paul's First Missionary Journey ...
2. 49-50 A.D., Paul's Second Missionary Journey
3. 53-57 A.D., Paul's Third Missionary Journey

And it was during Paul's Second Missionary Journey that he eventually headed back to Ephesus. He'd been traveling around ministering, and when he ran out of money, he went into the tent making business with, working with fellow Christ-followers, a husband and wife team by the names of Aquila and Priscilla. Paul worked making and selling tents all week, and then he taught people about Jesus Christ one day a week.

Later, Paul and Aquila and Priscilla were joined by Timothy and others from his team, who came from an area to the NE of where they were ministering called Macedonia and they brought Paul a tremendous offering that enabled him to continue living out the mission God had given him. In fact, the Lord used His people to contribute so much money to Paul, that he was able to bring Aquila and Priscilla along with him and together they took the gospel further than it had ever gone before. And in **SECOND CORINTHIANS 8-9** and **PHILIPPIANS 4** Paul talks gratefully about what this offering meant to him, how it equipped him, and what it freed him up to do for God.

And then one day while on this Third Missionary Journey, Paul, and Aquila and Priscilla came, once again into the town of Ephesus. And after leaving Aquila and Priscilla to minister in one part of town, Paul went to the synagogue and began preaching the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And Paul found a greater openness to the Gospel than he'd found in almost any other city. And I see our **FIRST FAITH LESSON** for us here this morning ...

FAITH LESSON

When people are hungry for the message of Jesus Christ, and then when people are willing to do whatever it takes to mature in their faith, God will move heaven and hell to make sure they hear about Him, and have the opportunity to go deeper in Him.

Do you know the difference between an **evangelist** and a **pastor**, and between **preaching** and **teaching**? The answer will help us understand God's plan for spreading the Gospel, and equipping new Christ-followers to grow up in their faith, taking on more of the character of Jesus Christ ... so that they'll become more and more equipped to live into the will of God in the day-to-day circumstances of their lives.

Evangelists proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ, so people can hear about Him and then come into a relationship with God. The proclamational ministry of the *evangelist* is often referred to as *preaching*.

Pastors teach the truth of God's Word verse-by-verse to the body of Jesus Christ [the church], so people can come into a relationship with God and then mature in their relationship with God. The proclamational ministry of the *pastor* is often referred to as *teaching*.

Most *evangelists* aren't also gifted as *teachers*. And not all people gifted as *teachers* are also called to be *pastors*. But it's God's plan that all *pastors* are gifted as *teachers*, otherwise the local body of Jesus Christ called the church, won't be effectively discipled and will lack maturity.

And this is what was happening in Ephesus when Paul showed up. People were hearing the Gospel **preached**, and then they were being **taught** how to mature in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Gang, there comes a time for every person that's commonly referred to as our "**God consciousness**" ... and it happens in the heartland of the USA, and in the mountain regions of Tibet. And it happens in the highlands of Scotland and in the most remote jungles of Africa and South America. And it happens across the plains of Canada, and at the icy weather stations found at the North and South Poles. Because God is everywhere, this "**God consciousness**" happens everywhere.

And when a person comes to their own moment of "**God consciousness**" whether it's through hearing truth shared through the teaching of God's Word, or from another person, or whether it comes through seeing God revealed up close in nature or far away in the universe ... when a person has their own "**God consciousness**" moment and says to God, "**I want to know more about this God who is revealing Himself to me**" then God is under a self-prescribed obligation to do whatever it take to get someone to that person to share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them in a way that they can understand and then respond to.

But if, at a person's moment of "God consciousness", they say to themselves and to God, "I don't want to know You God, in fact, I reject You", then God is under no obligation to get the Gospel to them. This is what Paul teaches in ROMANS 1.

And I believe that this reality of how God works is how Apollos and then Paul received their callings to go to Ephesus ... and that this is also the way you and I came into contact with God and His messengers at our moment of our own "God consciousness." One day, someone or a whole group of people in Ephesus, had a moment of "God consciousness" ... and in that moment, when they responded to God and reached out to God, God sent Apollos and then Paul to Ephesus ... just like when you and I responded to God and reached out to Him, God sent somebody to us, to speak into the major hunger for the things of God that we were experiencing.

Paul was having a great time in Ephesus ... and people were coming to God, but then God asked Paul to head back to Jerusalem ... but before he left, Paul said that if God made a way for him to come back to Ephesus, that he would. And yet the hunger in the hearts of people remained ... a vacuum and a void ... and so God laid it on the heart of Apollos, who was an evangelist, to go there. And Paul also left Aquila and Priscilla there to help as well. God always has a plan. **ALWAYS**. Do you see it?

Gang, it's great to pray for revival. But we've got it all backwards if we ever begin to make the mistake of thinking that God's hands are tied until we pray. The truth of the matter is that it's our hands that are tied until we pray. God isn't ever held back by you or me not praying. If that was the case, how did God create the universe when people weren't even around yet?! Even if the whole world stood up and shook their fists at God, God would still do what God wants to do. And I see a **SECOND FAITH LESSON** for us here this morning ...

FAITH LESSON

Let's pray that the hunger for revival begins in us, and moves through us. Let's pray that God will come to us at this point of our deepest need and our greatest hunger, and begin His work of revival in us.

Remember what Charles G. Finney said about revival?

"Revival is the renewal of the first love of Christians to God ... revival is nothing less than a new beginning of obedience to God."

Ephesus was a great worldly city, a city that was centered on the worship of the false goddess Diana ... and we'll talk much more next Sunday about the city of Ephesus, and what it was like. But the Ephesians, Jews and Gentiles alike, were hungry for the Truth, and so God sent Paul, and then Aquila and Priscilla, and Apollos to **preach** to them so that they'd have the opportunity to come into a relationship with Jesus Christ, and then to **teach** them so that they'd have the opportunity to grow in maturity in their life with Jesus Christ, becoming fully-devoted disciples.

In between ACTS 18:22 and ACTS 18:23 about three years go by, and we transition in the story from the end of Paul's Second Missionary Journey, to the beginning of Paul's Third Missionary Journey ...

ACTS 18:25-28 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

²⁵ This man [Apollos] had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;

²⁶ and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

²⁷ And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace,

²⁸ for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

Achaia is the area where the Greek city of Corinth is located. Apollos is in Ephesus ... he's met Aquila and Priscilla ... and he's going to Corinth. And guess who'd just been in Corinth? The Apostle Paul. This is like the biggest spiritual chess game in the world ... discerning, obedient, courageous followers of Jesus Christ crisscrossing one another, going where God needed them to go in order to make the biggest impact, first making converts, and then helping converts become devoted disciples.

You see, up until this time in his ministry Apollos was good at making converts, but he didn't have much experience at making disciples. But then Apollos met Aquila and Priscilla, they taught him how to make disciples, and then Apollos went from being an evangelist, to also being a pastor and a teacher. In fact, we find out later that Apollos more than likely pastored the church in Corinth for a while.

Then we come to **ACTS 19**, and Paul is back at Ephesus. And Paul finds that while Apollos has helped a lot of people come to God in repentance (which Paul referred to here in **ACTS 19** as the ministry of John the Baptist), since Apollos didn't know much yet about the whole story of Jesus Christ, and about His death and resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, that the people had only heard part of the story. And so God sent Paul back to Ephesus to fill in the blanks and help people come more fully into the new life that God had for them.

So again, do you see how Apollos tilled up the soil, and then Paul planted, and then later Apollos watered, but that it was God who brought about the growth and the change? And this is the way effective ministry still takes place today. None of us is more important than another. No spiritual gift is more important than another spiritual gift. We're all needed ... even the many different Christian denominations, and parachurch ministry organizations are needed for the body of Jesus Christ to be most fully realized and lived out in the world.

And this transformation of the hearts and the minds, and the affections, and the priorities, and the words, and the thoughts, and the actions of people just like you and me always begins with a hunger in the hearts ... and God always responds to this spiritual hunger by sending people an evangelist like Apollos, and then a pastor-

teacher like Paul, and then people can grow and be intentionally disciplined in the Word of God ... and the fruit of this growth and maturity in their lives will be visible.

Remember last fall when we studied the seven letters Jesus sent to the seven churches **REVELATION 2-3**? Most Bible teachers believe that the church at Ephesus was the church body that planted the other six churches in the region of Asia Minor. Yes, as you probably remember, some of those churches were struggling and having a hard time moving toward maturity and consistency when Jesus wrote to them. But this is the same way it is with us too. We all have ups and downs in our faith ... sputtering stops and starts, sometimes taking two steps forward and then one step back. But gang, when we hunger and thirst after righteousness, God will always take us from spiritual infancy to maturity in the Lord Jesus Christ the easiest and most direct way we're willing to come.

How awesome to see how God wove together the ministries of Paul, and Apollos, and Aquila and Priscilla ... the strengths and the gifts of one connecting with the strengths and the gifts of the others ... and together living into and fulfilling the plans of God. And as the lead pastor-teacher of 2nd Street, this is my passion and desire for what we'd see happening here.

Listen to me ... none of us is able to give 2nd Street everything it needs to grow and mature. Some will water, others will plant, and still others will bring about the harvest. Some will evangelize, others will teach, some will disciple, and hopefully all will serve ... for this is how God has planned that His body, the church would come to maturity, and be equipped to live out the calling He gives us to connect with the spiritual and physical needs in Newberg, in Yamhill County, and even further out from here, even to the other side of the world, to Rwanda and to Ireland where we have missionaries serving right now. How great are God's plans. Do you see it?

The attitude of "I've got it all covered and I don't really need you" is craziness! Jesus was the only person who ever came to the earth with all the spiritual gifts. We all need one another! And there's not a need out there that God can't meet through His people, as we obediently respond to His leading in our lives. You do your part. I'll do my part, and together God's church will grow towards maturity.

Apollos disciplined some of Paul's converts in Corinth. And then Paul disciplined some of Apollos's converts in Ephesus. I love to see this holy cycle of **CONVERSION** and **DISCIPLESHIP**. And the beauty and the simplicity of this cycle is another reason why it's so important that we not make more out of our denominational distinctives than we should. Yes, different denominations and different Christian traditions have made some great contributions to the bigger picture of what Christianity looks like and what it accomplishes in the world. But again, just like no individual gifts are more important than another, so too, no denomination or movement or group within Christianity is more important than another. And I see a critically important **THIRD FAITH LESSON** for us here this morning ...

FAITH LESSON

We've got to remain Jesus-focused, not personality-focused or denominationally-focused. Because only as we remain Jesus-focused,

will all the glory go back to Jesus Christ. And it's all *about Him*, not about us. It's all *for Him*, and not for us.

Has God ever used you in the life of someone else ... in either of these two parts of this cycle of *CONVERSION* and *DISCIPLESHIP* ... and then you had to move, or they moved and you said something like ...

“God, how are they going to make it? I’m thankful You helped me bring them to You and then become a more devoted disciple ... but they need me and now they won’t have me?”

And gang, if ever and whenever you and I begin to think like that, I believe that God will bend down out of heaven and clearly say to us ...

“I love you, but let’s get one thing straight ... I don’t need you to get My work done. Yes, you were obedient and did what I asked you to do. But it’s time for a new chapter in their life, and in your life too. Don’t worry. I’m sending them their own personal ‘Apollos’, and I’ve got a new job for you to do. Are you listening? Keep pressing into Me! Let My fire of revival burn in you.”

Friends, you and I won’t fully know until we get to heaven, how God has orchestrated our lives and the lives of other people. But it’s so amazing to depend on Him and rely on Him moment-by-moment, and day-by-day, and then give Him all the credit.

ACTS 19:8-10 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

⁸ And he [Paul] entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading *them* about the kingdom of God.

⁹ But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

¹⁰ This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

Just like in **ROMANS 1**, the church in Ephesus is going to be divided on some of this new theology they’re learning. Paul is entering into dialogue with them, teaching and discipling them toward maturity in Jesus Christ. But some of the people in the church will have to divorce themselves from some old friends who keep dragging them back into the way their lives were before Jesus ... worshiping idols and being sexually immoral. But God had their back, and He helped them to form new friendships with other believers, and He took care of them as they matured in Him.

Tyrannus was a famous doctor in the ancient world, and the **school of Tyrannus** was a medical school. But it was only open until noon. And so in the evenings, Paul used it to preach and share the Gospel and invite people into relationship with God through Jesus Christ, surrendering their lives and their futures over to Him ... and during the afternoons, Paul used it to teach and make disciples.

And what happened? God used Paul to bring **revival** to the people of Ephesus. And within three years, out of this town of early 250,000 people, the Christian church in Ephesus was made up of over 25,000! How does **revival** come? Through open hearts. Through open hearts. Through open hearts.

Remember what Jesus said to Nicodemus about the Holy Spirit in **JOHN 3**? He said that **the Holy Spirit is like the wind ... blowing where He wants to. We can feel it, but we can't really see it.** And what Jesus meant is that we can't really see the wind or the Holy Spirit **WITH OUR NATURAL EYES.**

But let me tell you something ... the wind doesn't just blow because it wants to blow. The wind blows when it's moved by high and low-pressure areas. There are high pressure areas and there are low-pressure areas, and when there are low-pressure areas, the air moves to that area and the wind begins to blow.

And likewise, whenever there's a little vacuum area over here where somebody, or a group of people say, **"We want to know more about Jesus"** the Holy Spirit starts to move there. Friends, the Holy Spirit moves over here and over there ... He moves to wherever people are seeking Him ... the Holy Spirit always moves in response to the movement and the response of the people seeking more of God.

Even when it's just one person in The Philippines crying out, **"God, I want to know about You!"** somebody is picked up by the wind of the Holy Spirit from the United States, or from somewhere else, and blown over to The Philippines the way Dick and Helen Cadd and their family were 50something years ago now.

Or just a few years ago, when some students from China on the George Fox University campus began to say, **"God, we're beginning to see that You brought us here for more than an education. We want to know You God. Please send somebody to us who speaks our language and knows our culture, to share with us more about You."** And so the wind of the Holy Spirit blew and picked up Ping Yi Shih and brought her to Newberg, and she started ministering on the GFU campus, and then she became a part of 2nd Street, and in the past few years many of the Chinese students at George Fox University have come into a life-changing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

And this is exactly what happened in Ephesus ... as the biggest **revival** the world had ever seen up until then took place ... as the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ blew through Paul, blew through Aquila and Priscilla, blew through Apollos, blew through Barnabas, blew through John Mark, and then blew through Timothy, and through Peter, and through the other ten original disciples ... and God used this chapter of Christian history to turn the world upside down.

And this nation that Ephesus was a part of ... called Asia Minor [which is now modern-day Turkey], grew in their faith in Jesus Christ to the place that they sent out their own missionaries around the region and around the known world. And eventually, some of the most famous pastors in the history of the Christian church pastored the church at Ephesus ... from Paul, to John, to Timothy, and to Polycarp.

And again, it all started with people whose hearts were open. And not just hearts that were open to hearing more about God, but that were also open to say, **“God, I want the wind of Your Spirit to carry me to the places You want me to go. Here I am. Send me. I’ll be sensitive and obedient to Your will and I’ll do whatever You tell me to do.”**

And we don’t have to go to Africa or even across the state of Oregon. There are people right here in our city and in our neighborhoods who are saying, **“God, I want to know more about You.”** So won’t you say to Him this morning, **“God I’m willing to go wherever You send me, do whatever You ask me to do, and say whatever You ask me to say. I’ll share You with my neighbor, with my family, with my co-workers, with my friends ... I will walk through the doors You open up for me to walk through, and I’ll speak the words You put in my mouth.”**

Revival is the pathway the church of Ephesus traveled toward becoming one of the most stable, Christ-honoring churches in the first century of Christianity. And as you and I travel this same route, we’ll experience the same fruit in our lives as followers of Jesus Christ, and as the church of God called 2nd Street.

Revival doesn’t always begin because we’re praying that it will begin. **Revival** begins when one person opens themselves up to God and tells Him that they want a bigger revelation of who He is so that they can see Him more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly. Day by day. Oh, glory to God!

NEXT SUNDAY ... EPHESIANS 3:1-3 ... COME PRAYING AND EXPECTING!