

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO HAVE A REVIVAL?

**Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** There once was a man God called on to deliver a message for Him, but the man didn't like the people God wanted him to deliver the message to, so he tried to run away from God. Nobody runs away from God. The man's name was Jonah and God wanted him to go tell the people of Nineveh that He cared for them and if they would repent He would forgive them. Jonah wanted God to punish Nineveh, not bless them, so he refused to obey God. We all know about the storm, the whale, being swallowed, then thrown up on the beach. To make the long story short, Jonah finally delivered God's message and the people of Nineveh had a revival. What does it take to have a spiritual awakening, a revival?

### **I. WHEN GOD'S WORD IS DECLARED, REVIVAL COMES**

1. The person declaring God's Word is not what causes revival to come. (Jonah didn't want to be there)
2. When God's Word is proclaimed, by whoever, or whatever means and is accompanied by the Holy Spirit, revival comes
3. People don't cause or produce revival, God does whenever His Word is "shared."
4. Jonah's message from God was of few words and in spite of his stubbornness, God still brought revival to Nineveh.

### **II. WHEN GOD'S WORD IS BELIEVED, REVIVAL COMES**

1. It's not enough to just hear God's Word, it must be accepted as God's true Word and then be responded to in faith by whoever hears it.
2. The people of Nineveh heard God's Word, believed it and then took action. They showed grief over their sin and their lives were changed.
3. God's Word won't make any difference in a person's life until one's heart and mind is opened up to what God's Word says and receive God's Word into one's heart.

### **III. WHEN GOD'S WORD IS APPLIED, REVIVAL COMES**

1. Hearing God's Word is not enough. Making a profession of faith is not enough.
2. Real faith, genuine, authentic faith produces positive action.
3. When a person truly believes and is willing to let Jesus Christ be Lord and Savior of his/her life, then there will be transforming differences in one's life.
4. The people of Nineveh had shown grief over their sin, put on their mourning garments and then gave up their evil and violent ways.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Preachers don't cause revivals to happen, no matter how well he might speak or be popular.
2. Music, choirs, bands, popular musicians or soloists don't cause revivals to happen.
3. Publicity, door to door invitations, etc., don't cause revivals to happen.
4. God's Word is what causes revivals to happen.
5. People believing with all their hearts God's Word cause revivals to happen.
6. People "putting action" to their professions of faith in God's Word cause revivals to happen.
7. If YOU want revival, then it is **GOD'S WORD** that must be emphasized, not anything else, then those who hear God's Word must believe what they hear and then act on what they believe.  
- God brings revival in **HIS** time, in **HIS** way only!
8. Remember the story of Jonah and the final ending - a **REVIVAL** and he only spoke a few words (8).