



GOING DEEPER

Discussion Questions and more from Sunday's message, before we begin, here are the verses for this week's study! Open your bible to the book of 2nd Chronicles 7:12-14; 1st Samuel 16:7; Luke 9:23.

How much time have you spent this past week reflecting on Jesus and the hope of the gospel? How has reflecting on Him been of help to you? Because that is how we grow in how we think about our relationship to God and how we bring Him Glory each day, in each conversation, interaction, our work, our family. **In everything.** The gospel and the love of Christ should indwell us, and we should be burdened to share that good news with others in these last days. ***Have you shared the good news with anyone this week? Have you showed the love of Jesus to anyone this week?***

If my people...

"A Call to Return"

Billy talked about how it's been a rough week for churches in media...

Crazy VBS -story of a Church in Chickamauga

WE NEED REVIVAL... Not "A" revival... but "revival"

2 Chronicles 7:12-14

What culture says this verse is about:

If America repents, God will heal our nation.

What it's really about:

God outlines the path from discipline to restoration for His covenant people.

There are people who think...insert something here _____... saves people. Such as a

Church building - orchestra - proper attire - Sunday school room- Lords Supper -

Sermons

They don't

Before we jump into the study, let's start simple: what is one thing this week that reminded you that following Jesus is more about a surrendered heart than an outward appearance?

God's greatest work of revival begins in His own people and never from tradition or culture.

When you hear the word revival, what comes to mind first—a church event, a personal heart change, or something else?

1. God Calls His People to Reflection

2 Chronicles 7:12-13

12 “Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. **13** When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people,”

CONTEXT: Solomon is king over Israel, likely around the mid-900s B.C. This is during the United Kingdom period, before Israel splits into the northern and southern kingdoms. Israel is at one of its highest points politically, economically, and spiritually. David's son is on the throne, the temple has been completed, the ark has been brought in, sacrifices have been offered, and the glory of the Lord has filled the temple.

The Temple has been completed by Solomon

The ark has been moved in/Priest are blowing trumpets/The Glory of the Lord filled the Temple. ...*however*

Billy showed a picture of a Mint truck but the catch was it had.... no engine

A Beautiful Building Can Hide an Empty Soul

Vs 12 “Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice.’

Solomon had just built the most impressive worship center on earth.

The nation was at its peak.

God reminds them: "Don't confuse what I have blessed with who you have become."
"Dedication of a building to God includes the dedication of the people who use the building," Henry Blackaby

God Answers Solomon's Prayer...Then Immediately Redirects His Attention.

Yes, God answers Solomon's prayer, But notice what he doesn't emphasize...

Solomon spends Chapter Six praying about the temple's beauty, purpose, and national importance.

God compliments the architecture.

He calls it a "house of sacrifice"

The value of the temple was never in its gold.

This is an often-missed theme in scripture...

Noah built an altar—not a monument.

Abraham offered Isaac—not a speech.

Romans 12 shifts worship from buildings to living sacrifices.

God has never been captivated by what we build, but what we surrender.

It was not first a national landmark, a beautiful building, or a symbol of Israel's success. It was the place where God's people came to deal honestly with sin, worship Him, and surrender before Him.

In the Old Testament, sacrifice was central because it represented several things:

Atonement — sin had to be dealt with before a holy God.

Surrender — the worshiper brought something valuable and laid it before the Lord.

Dependence — the people were admitting they needed God's mercy.

Restoration — sacrifice pointed to the way sinful people could be brought back into fellowship with God.

So when God says, "I have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice," He is basically saying: "This place is not mainly about what Solomon built for Me; it is

about My people coming before Me in humility, repentance, worship, and surrender."

Practical Application for us this week:

A Beautiful appearance will never replace a surrendered heart.

If someone looked only at your schedule this past week, what would they say you were surrendered to?

1 Samuel 16:7

"Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

If God looks past what everyone else sees and looks directly at the heart, what would genuine revival need to start with in us?

God examines character before accomplishments.

And about that temple... This explains... centuries later

Jesus admired a widow giving two mites while walking past one of the greatest temples ever constructed. ... She had a heart of WORSHIP

2. Our sacrifice reveals our worship.

In fact... Are we the smart ones at all??

Vs 13 "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land"

The rain and the Locust "get it"! Why can't we?

God calls the temple: "a house of sacrifice."

Not a house of...celebration -tradition -status- **Sacrifice is the center.**

Practical Application for us this week:

Convenience never produces spiritual revival.

Luke 9:23 "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Where does following Jesus feel most costly for you right now — your time, comfort, priorities, relationships, or control?

Comfort always competes with commitment.

... I saw real effort this week...

Samaritans Purse out helping again as Billy showed some pictures:

The terrible earthquake in Venezuela

1700 dead, thousands seriously injured

Portable hospital - 2 operating rooms - 56 beds

That is revival in action

It can be in lots of places, even here at FBCFO, in our Nursery, or when you see our Greeters and Security, Our Growth Groups Leaders, our Choir, Orchestra, singers and worship teams, Our Deacons serving, our kitchen volunteers etc.

Revival will never happen when we want the blessings of God without the surrender to God.

After everything we've talked about in this past week's message, what is one area of your life where God may be calling you to move from appearance, comfort, or routine into real surrender?

Psalm 51:10

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

LIVE IT OUT

Bible Study should ALWAYS lead to taking action with what you learned. Think of it as Vitamin A. "Application" into your day, week and interactions.

So how do we actually live this out?

If revival is not just something we attend, but something God does in surrendered hearts, then it should begin to show up in the ordinary places we live every day.

In our homes:

It may look like choosing humility instead of always needing to be right. It may mean apologizing first, praying with our family, being more patient with our spouse or kids, or making sure the people closest to us see the same faith we talk about at church. Sometimes surrender starts at the kitchen table before it ever shows up in a sanctuary.

In our church:

*It may look like serving without needing to be noticed, worshiping with a sincere heart instead of just going through the motions, encouraging someone who feels unseen, or asking, "Where can I help?" instead of "What am I getting out of this?" **A surrendered church is made up of surrendered people.***

In our workplaces:

It may look like doing our work with integrity, treating people with kindness even when they are difficult, refusing gossip, being honest when it costs us, and seeing our job as a place to represent Christ — not just earn a paycheck. Following Jesus daily includes how we speak, work, lead, and respond under pressure. Would your co-workers know you are a Christian in a positive way? Of surrender, grace, humility, integrity.

In our community:

It may look like noticing needs instead of walking past them. It could be checking on a neighbor, serving someone who cannot repay us, showing compassion to hurting people, or being willing to bring the love of Christ into everyday conversations. Revival becomes visible when surrendered people live with open eyes and willing hands.

The question is not just, "Did this message move me?" The better question is, "Where will surrender show up in my life this week?"

Where is one place this week — your home, church, workplace, or community — where God may be asking you to live with a more surrendered heart?"

Remember:

"We are to run the race with endurance, not in our own strength, but by fixing our gaze on Jesus. He is not only the goal of our faith—He is the source and sustainer of it." R.C. Sproul

***"The gospel is not only about changing WHERE you will live for eternity, it's also about changing HOW you will live today." Shane Pruitt
And that is a heart change. So that we glorify God in all we do.***

Having Jesus as Savior will cost you nothing. Having Jesus as Savior will cost you everything. How so?

Who do you say God is? You cannot "come after" Jesus unless you come to Him.

Two roads stand before us in this world today. There is the way of the divine things of our Lord, which is the way of Christ. And there is the way of human things of the world. There is a way to save your life, and you will lose it there. And there is a way to lose your life for the sake of the Kingdom, and there you will find it.

How do we follow Jesus' ways? First of all, we turn from our sin and entrust our lives to Him as our Savior and Lord. Then, we seek His will in His Word each day and put it into practice by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. We learn to deny our selfish desires and give ourselves completely to following Jesus.

This choice we have — to seek first the kingdom of God — is the fundamental choice everyone makes when they first repent and turn to Jesus Christ. Yet every day after that, our Christian life will either reinforce that decision or deny it.

Remember the gospel is personal. Your changed life shows that to others around you based on what happened at the cross. You are at a crossroads if you have not accepted Christ. Which road are you traveling on right now? Are you on God's side?



Are you in a Growth Group at First Baptist? In this isolated world, Growth Groups help people connect in a healthy way. God has created us for a deep longing for community. We grow when we are living out our faith in a small group with others

and we do this by loving, caring for, and encouraging each other. If you have any questions about our Growth Groups, contact the Church Office for more information.