

# GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



## GIG148 – Should We Believe for Revival?

Hello, and welcome back to the podcast. I am glad you are with me today. I want to talk a little bit about this idea of revival. I am hoping in the days to come to do several podcasts about this idea of revival, or outpouring; I believe it is something that is very pertinent and important for us right now. The question today is, should we be believing for a revival, or an outpouring of the Lord's Spirit?

Now when you get into this concept, there are many names that this event is known by. It is called revival, awakening, outpouring, renewal, move of the Spirit, move of God – it has been called by many different names at different times. I personally like outpouring. Revival is something that we hear being used quite a bit today by people who are believing for something to happen. However, I tend to think of a revival as an event that is manifesting to those who have previously had something from God. Many times in the past, in church history, it has been an event that has been planned by the church; maybe every summer, or during the year sometime, you would have a special evangelist or preacher come in and stir the church up, really try to get people back into their hunger. That, to me, is kind of the definition of a revival; and I think it is the definition in a lot of people's minds. So that is why, when we are talking about something that God is going to do in the end time, or that we are really looking forward to, I would rather use the terminology of an outpouring; because I think that is more specific to what we are looking for. Or, you could call it a move of the Spirit, any of that works for me. But the important thing is that we really have an understanding of what we are talking about.

We are asking the question, "Should we believe for revival? Should we believe for an outpouring?" Some would refer to it as an end-time event of outpouring. And my feeling is, yes, very definitely, we should; and I think that we are seeing signs of things that are taking place during the time we are in right now. We have had this movie that just came out, the *Jesus Revolution*. This talks about the move of God that transpired in the early 1970s surrounding Chuck Smith and the area there in Los Angeles, which spread quite a bit to different places. We also have had just recently the Asbury Outpouring, which began on February 8th of 2023. And that is a follow up, really, to an original outpouring that transpired at Asbury University in early 1970. So we see that there was a timeframe in the seventies where things transpired. We are experiencing, then again, God beginning to move – and I love that, because I believe that it gets our attention on this idea of prayer for, faith for, a contending with God for, a time of a real outpouring of His Spirit.

Now let's talk specifically, because as I said, I would like to do several different podcasts where I focus on this subject of revival, or outpouring. But the specific question we are asking right now is, should we believe for, should we have faith for, or maybe, why should we have faith for, an outpouring of God's Spirit? And to answer that, I want to look first beginning in Acts the second chapter, which speaks about the Day of Pentecost. I am going to start reading the Scriptures at verses 1-8: "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them

utterance. Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. They were amazed and astonished, saying, 'Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?'"

This is the Day of Pentecost – of course, immediately following the ascension of Christ to the right hand of the Father; and as He promised, there would be the coming gift of the Holy Spirit, which He asked the Father to give them. This Day of Pentecost, then, is recognized as the beginning of the Church, which it obviously was. And yet, at the same time, I like to think of it really as the beginning of the age of Spirit, and the outpouring of the Spirit; because it is more than just church. What was called church really was birthed out of this event of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which brought gifts and ministry and power upon the one hundred twenty who were gathered there, who were the ones following Christ at the time – that same one hundred twenty that were at the Last Supper, and were gathered together in the Upper Room following the ascension of Christ. It was this group of people that were the followers of Yeshua, and they were all endued with power. Now, Christ Himself had told them, "Don't be dispersed. Go back to Jerusalem and wait for this event, until you are endued with power from on high." And they were changed, really transformed by this event. They were equipped by this event of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

We see the fact that the Holy Spirit was poured out upon a group of people. Therefore, we have a biblical illustration that when we talk about an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we are talking about a biblical event; something that we are not just hoping for, but something which has in fact transpired in the past of the Bible. It began, as we are saying, the Church. So this type of event has happened; and we must be aware of the fact that the outpouring has happened before, and it is biblical, and it has manifested. We are not looking for something which we do not find in the Bible, and which has not already happened.

One of the reasons why we could say yes, we are believing for something further in the day that we are living in, is because we have prophecies about that. When we go to the book of Joel, in chapter two, and I will begin reading at verses 28-32, it says, "It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, blood, fire and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls." So we have this prophetic proclamation through Joel that God will in the end time pour out His Spirit.

He says at the beginning, in verse 28, "It will come about after this...." So obviously, He is referring to the Scriptures preceding this in Joel the second chapter. And when we go to Joel the second chapter, we see that it is a time when the Lord is talking about the restoration and the deliverance of Israel and the Jewish people. Let's pick it up with verses 23-27 of Joel 2. "So rejoice, O sons of Zion, and be glad in the Lord your God; for He has given you the early rain for your vindication. And He has poured down for you the rain, the early and latter rain as before. The threshing floors will be full of grain, and the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil. 'Then I will make up to you for the years that the swarming locust

has eaten, the creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you. You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you; then My people will never be put to shame. Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and there is no other; and My people will never be put to shame.”

Then we go on to verse 28: “It will come about after this...” So the “after this” outpouring of the Holy Spirit is speaking then and referring to the time following the restoration of the Jewish people to the land of Israel, God beginning to bless them, the land beginning to produce, all of these blessings – the restoration of their goods and the blessings which He had stripped away from them because of their disobedience. We are in those days right now of the blessing on Israel, and that is why this prophecy becomes more important in our time than it ever has been before, because we are in the days. We can look around at Israel, we can see the Jewish people returning to Israel. We can see the land of Israel itself beginning to flourish once again – the crops are going in, the trees are being replanted – the reestablishment of the blessings of God on the land, and the blessings of God on the people of Israel.

So when Joel 2:28 says, “It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit,” it gets our attention, because we are already seeing, since the establishment of the state of Israel, this time of blessing. And so, we are now at a place where we should be very conscious of the fact that God has more in store for Israel, more in store for the Jewish people; and that blessing and promise is about Him pouring out His Spirit. And when we see this prophecy, it is not limited to an outpouring of His Spirit on Israel and the Jewish people. It says, “I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.” It is this global event that transpires in the fulfillment of Joel chapter 2. And that is, again, why our attention should be fixed. We should be in times of prayer, believing to see revival, believing to see things happen.

We have seen this in the past, not only in the book of Acts, but really in our generation; just preceding our generation, there has been much that has happened. Just as the movie *Jesus Revolution* was talking about, during that time came the Jesus Movement in the sixties and seventies. This movement of God spread all through North America, Europe, Central America, and it did not subside really until the 1980s. So for me, personally, when I look at my walk with God, going back into the early seventies, I recognize that all through the time of my Christian walk and my Christian service as a pastor and so forth, it has been during this time when God was beginning to move again. And I believe that during these early moves of God that just predate the nineteen hundreds and through the beginning of the nineteen hundreds, and really all the way through up into 1980, continuing through many timeframes, there is so much that has happened that we have kind of been living, I believe, in what have been the predecessor movements to the great fulfillment that Joel is prophesying about. During this time, we had Campus Crusade for Christ, founded in 1951. This was a huge movement, and very, very effective. We see that there was born out of the Azusa Street Revival things like the Pentecostal movement, the Charismatic movement; and honestly, even up until today, the Evangelical movement is still called a movement. It is not a denomination, but it is seen as a movement that was born during these years when God was moving through many different lands and through many different peoples. Again, talking about Asbury, in February of 1970 was the original Asbury Revival that really did sweep the country; because after it began at the University, the young people went out all over the United States. And there were other moves of God like this – the Latter Rain movement, for instance, that began in 1948 and went through into the sixties. People from that movement didn’t just stay isolated into their little groups; they moved

out across all of the nations and carried with them the flames of these revivals, these awakenings, and these outpourings.

We have seen, literally, at least through my lifetime, an ongoing Presence of God that may have begun back with Azusa Street, or even going into the Welsh Revival, in 1904. Azusa Street began around 1906. We have many movements that were true outpourings of God's Spirit, that were filled with people being saved, confessing their sins, reaching for purity in God, and cleansing, sanctification of their spirits. But we also saw great healings, and many manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit. Much has transpired. And so, for all of these reasons, I think that we, in our day and age, should really be anticipating, hungering, crying out to the Lord, praying to see revivals. Again, revival would apply here, because there are so many areas – America itself has seen these experiences of outpouring, and therefore we would believe for great revival to take place, where America would return to some of these events and the things that happened during them in our country. For other countries that never experienced it, it would be an awakening, or an outpouring of His Spirit, maybe for the first time. But definitely, we have the precedent in Scripture. Starting with the Day of Pentecost, the Spirit was poured out upon the one hundred twenty. There was an explosion following that of people coming in to the Church and to a walk with God, by the conviction of the Holy Spirit, by repentance, by opening their heart. Remember, on the Day of Pentecost, Peter stood up and spoke, and over three thousand people were brought into salvation and into a faith in Christ as Messiah. From there, it just expanded into what we read throughout the book of Acts; and through all of the New Testament Scriptures, we see that this power and anointing spread and effectively ministered to multitudes of people.

As we are saying here, we also see again that even in the late eighteen hundreds, the early nineteen hundreds, and through into the middle of the 1980s, more outpourings of God's Spirit have transpired. I could go into more detail, and maybe we will do that in a further podcast, to talk about some of these actual expressions that took place. But one thing we know is that God has never stopped moving from the time He poured out His Spirit in Acts 2 at that Day of Pentecost. And we also know that in Joel, the second chapter, and in other places, we have prophecies that there will be great outpourings of His Spirit preceding His return, and during what we call the last days.

And so, I can only say, yes, we should believe for revival. We should believe for outpouring. We should believe for God's moving in this day and age. And I would just say one last thing, that we are living in very troubled times right now. We see that things are very difficult in the society that we live in. But when you go back and you look at these times of God moving, they were never necessarily, in the society surrounding God's people, wonderful times. Look at these days of 1970 that we are talking about, with the early Asbury Revival and some of these other things that took place, in Campus Crusade, even Billy Graham – these were very troubled times in the United States. They were times of protests. They were times of the Vietnam War. And you don't know whether or not it was because of the difficulties that were being faced by a nation or a people, that they began to cry out and ask God to move. But the fact that we see very troubled times for our young people today – through college campuses, and through schools all the way down to elementary schools, we see unheard of things transpiring – that, to me, is not a reason to have unbelief. It is the reason to have faith to see God move, because we need Him to move.

We need revival. We need awakening and outpouring in this day and age. And all I can say is, Father, bring it. We believe, in the name of Yehoshua HaMashiach, that You are going to move in this generation. And as You spoke in Joel 2, there will be an outpouring of Your Spirit, and it will be global,

and it will be on all flesh. You will move, and people's hearts will be transformed by Your Holy Spirit to believe in and walk with You. We loose these days with all of our heart, and believe for this day to be the day of fulfillment.

Amen.