

why revival tarries by leonard ravenhill

why revival tarries by leonard ravenhill is a profound exploration into the reasons behind the delay of spiritual awakening and renewal within the church and society. Leonard Ravenhill, a renowned evangelist and author, delves deeply into the spiritual, moral, and practical causes that hinder revival from taking place. This article examines the core themes and messages presented in Ravenhill's work, emphasizing the necessity of holiness, prayer, and repentance. Understanding these factors is crucial for anyone interested in spiritual revival and the dynamics that influence its occurrence. In this comprehensive analysis, the key reasons for the delay in revival will be unpacked, followed by a discussion on the implications for modern believers. The article will also highlight the enduring relevance of Ravenhill's insights in today's religious context, providing a detailed overview of why revival tarries according to his perspective.

- Understanding the Concept of Revival
- Spiritual Causes of Revival's Delay
- Moral and Social Factors Hindering Revival
- The Role of Prayer and Intercession
- Repentance and Holiness as Foundations for Revival
- Practical Implications for the Modern Church

Understanding the Concept of Revival

The concept of revival in Christian theology refers to a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit that brings about spiritual awakening and widespread transformation among believers and communities. Leonard Ravenhill's work on why revival tarries provides an in-depth examination of this phenomenon, emphasizing that revival is not merely an emotional experience but a profound, spiritual renewal that impacts individuals and the church as a whole. Revival involves returning to a passionate commitment to God, increased prayer, holiness, and a genuine desire for God's presence to be manifest among His people.

Ravenhill stresses that revival is a sovereign work of God but also highlights human responsibility in preparing the way for it. This preparation includes repentance, humility, and a wholehearted pursuit of God. The delay of revival, therefore, is tied directly to the spiritual state of the church and the readiness of its people to embrace true transformation.

Spiritual Causes of Revival's Delay

Leonard Ravenhill identifies several spiritual causes for the delay of revival, focusing primarily on the condition of the church's heart and its relationship with God. One of the primary reasons revival

tarries is a lack of fervent prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit. Without a deep, persistent prayer life, the church cannot expect the power of revival to be released.

Complacency and Lukewarm Faith

Complacency within the church is a significant spiritual barrier. When believers grow comfortable and indifferent toward their faith, the hunger for revival diminishes. Ravenhill warns against lukewarmness, which he views as a form of spiritual death that stifles revival.

Unconfessed Sin and Spiritual Compromise

The presence of sin and compromise in the lives of believers and church leadership is another critical reason why revival tarries. Sin creates a barrier between God and His people, hindering the flow of His Spirit. Ravenhill emphasizes the necessity of confession and repentance as prerequisites for revival.

Moral and Social Factors Hindering Revival

Beyond the spiritual causes, Ravenhill explores how moral decay and societal influences contribute to the delay of revival. The church's failure to uphold biblical standards in the face of cultural pressures weakens its witness and diminishes the possibility of spiritual renewal.

Worldliness and Cultural Conformity

Ravenhill critiques the church's tendency to conform to the world's values rather than standing apart as a holy community. This conformity dilutes the church's message and impedes revival, which requires a clear separation from worldly practices.

Neglect of God's Word

The neglect or superficial handling of Scripture within churches leads to a shallow faith that cannot sustain revival. Ravenhill insists that a deep reverence for and obedience to God's Word is essential for revival to occur.

The Role of Prayer and Intercession

Prayer is central to Ravenhill's explanation of why revival tarries. He argues that persistent, heartfelt prayer and intercession are indispensable for awakening the church and society. Without prayer, the spiritual atmosphere remains unchanged, and revival remains elusive.

Persistent Prayer as a Catalyst

Ravenhill calls for a return to fervent, continual prayer as the foundation for revival. He highlights biblical examples where persistent prayer preceded great spiritual awakenings, underscoring its power to move God's hand.

Intercession for the Nation and Church

Intercessory prayer for the church and the nation is another vital aspect. Ravenhill believes that believers must pray specifically for revival, repentance, and the breaking of spiritual strongholds that hinder God's work.

Repentance and Holiness as Foundations for Revival

Repentance and holiness are foundational themes in Leonard Ravenhill's message on revival. He contends that true revival cannot occur without a collective turning away from sin and a commitment to live a holy life dedicated to God.

Call to Genuine Repentance

Ravenhill emphasizes that superficial repentance is insufficient. Revival requires deep, heartfelt repentance that results in real change and restoration of relationships with God.

Holiness as a Prerequisite

Holiness involves consecration and separation from sin. Ravenhill argues that revival demands a return to biblical holiness, which serves as a fertile ground for the Spirit's work.

Practical Implications for the Modern Church

Leonard Ravenhill's insights on why revival tarries hold significant practical implications for today's church. His analysis challenges believers and leaders to evaluate their spiritual condition and take deliberate steps toward fostering an environment where revival can flourish.

Implementing Ravenhill's principles involves:

- Renewing commitment to prayer and fasting
- Encouraging corporate and individual repentance
- Promoting holiness and biblical obedience
- Resisting cultural compromises that undermine the gospel
- Revitalizing preaching and teaching centered on God's Word

These actions, grounded in Ravenhill's teaching, form a strategic approach to breaking the barriers that cause revival to tarry and pave the way for a powerful spiritual awakening.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Why Revival Tarries' by Leonard Ravenhill?

The main theme of 'Why Revival Tarries' is the examination of the spiritual causes behind the lack of widespread Christian revival, focusing on personal and corporate repentance, prayerlessness, and lukewarm faith.

Why does Leonard Ravenhill believe revival is delayed in the modern church?

Ravenhill believes revival is delayed due to the church's complacency, lack of true repentance, insufficient prayer, and a failure to live holy and devoted lives according to biblical standards.

How does 'Why Revival Tarries' challenge contemporary Christians?

The book challenges Christians to self-examine their spiritual lives, repent from sin, commit to fervent prayer, and pursue holiness in order to become vessels through which revival can flow.

What practical steps does Leonard Ravenhill suggest for sparking revival?

Ravenhill suggests deep repentance, passionate prayer, wholehearted dedication to God, and a rejection of lukewarm Christianity as practical steps necessary to ignite revival.

Why is 'Why Revival Tarries' still relevant for churches today?

The book remains relevant because it addresses timeless issues of spiritual lethargy and calls for a return to biblical principles of revival, which are necessary for churches seeking genuine spiritual renewal in any era.

Additional Resources

1. *Revival Praying: The Battle to See God Move* by Leonard Ravenhill

This book delves deeply into the power and necessity of fervent prayer as the foundation for revival. Ravenhill emphasizes that genuine revival begins when believers seek God with relentless passion. The book challenges readers to re-examine their prayer lives and embrace a more serious, committed approach.

2. *Why Revival Comes Late* by Leonard Ravenhill

In this compelling work, Ravenhill explores the spiritual reasons behind delayed revivals throughout church history. He discusses the hindrances such as lukewarm faith, sin, and lack of prayer that prevent God's move. The book serves as a call to repentance and wholehearted pursuit of holiness.

3. *The Normal Christian Life* by Watchman Nee

Watchman Nee outlines the principles of living a victorious Christian life that is essential for revival. He explains how the believer's union with Christ leads to overcoming sin and experiencing spiritual renewal. This foundational teaching supports understanding revival as a natural outcome of a transformed life.

4. *Revival: The Spirit of the Last Days* by Leonard Ravenhill

Ravenhill addresses the urgent need for revival in contemporary Christianity, highlighting the signs of spiritual decline. He warns against complacency and outlines the characteristics of genuine revival movements. The book inspires believers to prepare themselves for the outpouring of God's Spirit.

5. *Through the Gates of Splendor* by Elisabeth Elliot

This true story of missionary martyrdom illustrates the cost and passion associated with spiritual revival. It challenges readers to consider the depth of commitment required to see God's kingdom advance. The book serves as a powerful example of faith and sacrifice fueling revival.

6. *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer

A.W. Tozer encourages believers to cultivate a deep hunger and thirst for God, which is vital for revival. He explores the intimate relationship between God and His people, emphasizing that revival comes when God's presence is genuinely sought. The book is a timeless call to spiritual earnestness.

7. *Revival Fire* by Leonard Ravenhill

This book focuses on igniting the spiritual fire necessary for revival within the church and individual believers. Ravenhill discusses the role of repentance, prayer, and holiness as prerequisites for God's powerful move. It serves as both encouragement and exhortation for those longing to see revival.

8. *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Bonhoeffer's classic work challenges Christians to follow Christ with absolute surrender, a principle crucial for revival. He outlines the dangers of cheap grace and the necessity of costly discipleship. The book provides insight into the spiritual disciplines that prepare believers for revival.

9. *Fresh Fire: What Happens When God's Spirit Invades the Heart of His People* by Jim Cymbala

Jim Cymbala shares testimonies and practical insights about the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in revival movements. He emphasizes the importance of prayer, humility, and dependence on God. This book encourages believers to expect and participate in God's renewing work today.

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