

*From the pastor's desk. (2 Chronicles 7:14 –18)*

**Message by Rev. Nathan Ondego on 18.02.12. "The cost of a Revival"**

The context of this verse relates to the dedication of the Temple under King Solomon. God has just finished demonstrating His acceptance of the new house of worship by sending fire down from Heaven to consume the sacrifice which was upon the altar, **7:1**. He filled the Temple with His great glory, and the people worshiped their God with praises, humility, sacrifices and several days of celebration, **7:2-11**. Then, God comes to speak to Solomon, **7:12-22**. God tells Solomon that He will bless Israel if they will honor the Lord; but if they refuse, there will be serious consequences, **7:12, 19-22**. However, our text promises them that God will hear them, heal them and help them if they will return to Him in humble repentance. This is the cost of revival;

**1). The cost of revival is to be humble.** The first step that we all must take before a revival of the presence of God in our hearts can take place is that we have to learn to humble ourselves, and confess our sins in true repentance. This is more than just a confession of guilt and sorrow at being caught; it is a heartfelt sorrow for having failed in the first place, coupled with a decision and a determination to never fail again by God's help and grace. Before we will ever experience the revival, we must call the solemn assembly, with sackcloth of humiliation before God, humbling ourselves in His sight. Then we must "heap ashes" upon our heads, ashes of the fires of repentance; ashes of the sin that has been burned away; and ashes of our self-centered and rebellious attitudes.

**2). The cost of revival is to be separated from sin.** The next thing that happened in the land was that everyone who was truly born of the Jews, being a genuine Israelite of the seed of Abraham began to separate themselves wholly unto the Lord. That's the kind of revival we need right now; one that will cut us asunder from the world of sin and the things of this life that have us so entangled. The process of separation was very costly to many of them. Some of the Jews had married wives of the Gentiles, strangers to the commonwealth of Israel, in direct disobedience to God's Law. Every one of them was convicted in their heart for their failures when they heard the Law they began to separate themselves from these ungodly marriages. They considered this act of separation as the greatest proof of the truth of their repentance. Separation from the sin of the old life in the world is one of the primary signs of true repentance. There hasn't been a true salvation experience, or a true revival of the presence of God in a man's heart, until you can see an outward change in his lifestyle.

**3). The cost of revival is to seek God's face.** The picture we should get in our minds is that of a path that we are set to follow, a singular way to travel. Seek God and God alone. You have torn down the high places; your vision should be singular and focused on God alone. Seek after Him, and don't give up until you find Him. Can you imagine the frustration you may have when you lose your mobile phone or your car keys? Is there anything more frustrating than not being able to find it? I wonder how much longer God will allow His people to live in comfort in this life, at the expense of their eternal soul? I fear that we are facing some hard days ahead. God's judgment will come upon us as surely as it came upon the Jews when they broke their vows.

**The cost of revival is to be prayerful.** Let's pray and repent now before that judgment comes. When we get as hungry for God as the Jews were in Chronicles day, and when we will follow their example of repentance, praise, worship and commitment, then we will see the revival come that they saw. There will be a cost, but the result will be wonderful.

Are we truly hungry for a mighty move of God, or are we just saying so because it sounds good? Is it just words? Are we willing to sell out to God so that the revival can come? Let the Holy Spirit reveal to you right now, whether you mean business with God or not.

I believe that we aren't seeing revivals in our days because we are not ready for that kind of commitment. We love our lifestyle too much. We love our leisure time too much, what little we may have. We love our possessions and our entertainment too much, but we don't hunger for the Word of God enough. We don't desire the presence of the Lord in our hearts in a greater measure enough. Just mention commitment to the House of God and the Work of the Lord and most Christians will quickly fade into the distance because they don't want to hear it. They would rather live in obscurity and live a life of mediocrity, then face God with the guilt of broken vows than to really serve Him with all their hearts. It is no wonder that we don't have a revival sweeping our land today, as it is in many of the poorer nations of the world. We are too satisfied, too self-sufficient and too comfortable with where we are. **Take revival for your eternity. Amen**