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## OUR HIGHEST HOPE ON EARTH

“So the Word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily” (Acts 19:20)

When the church experiences revival, *God comes down*, in the sense that He gives a deepened awareness of His inescapable presence as the Holy One, mighty and majestic, dwelling among His people. Revival experience begins with being forced to realize, like Isaiah in the temple, the intimacy of the supernatural and the closeness of the living God.

*God’s Word comes home*, in the sense that the Bible, its message, and its Christ reestablish the formative and corrective control over faith and life that is theirs by right. In revival the divine authority of the Bible is realized afresh.

*God’s purity comes through*, as God uses his Word to quicken consciences. The perverseness, ugliness, and guiltiness of sin are seen and felt with new clarity, and the depth of one’s own sinfulness is realized as never before, so that the forgiveness of sins becomes the most precious truth.

*God’s people come alive*. Joyful assurance of salvation, conscious, communion with a living Savior, a spirit of prayer and praise, a readiness to share with other believers, and a love that reaches out to all in need are the characteristic marks of revived Christians. Inhibitions dissolve, and a new forthrightness in utterance and initiative in action take their place.

*Outsiders come in*, drawn by the moral and spiritual magnetism of what goes on in the church.

Scripture shows, and history confirms, that revival is a distinctive and recurring work of God whereby he has again and again revitalized flagging churches and through the consequent evangelistic outflow vastly extended the Kingdom of Christ. Revival, therefore, is the highest hope for the church on earth until the Lord comes to take us home. AMEN.

~Dr. J.I. Packer

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

