

why revival tarries by leonard ravenhill

why revival tarries by leonard ravenhill is a profound and thought-provoking exploration into the reasons spiritual awakenings and revivals are delayed in modern times. Leonard Ravenhill, a renowned Christian evangelist and author, delves deeply into the causes behind the absence of powerful revival movements despite the urgent need for them. This article will analyze the key themes in Ravenhill's work, focusing on the biblical, spiritual, and practical factors he highlights as barriers to revival. Emphasizing the importance of repentance, prayer, and holy living, Ravenhill's insights challenge believers and churches to reflect on their roles in fostering genuine revival. The article will also examine the historical context of revival movements, the spiritual disciplines necessary for awakening, and how contemporary society's distractions contribute to the delay. Readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of why revival tarries by Leonard Ravenhill and the essential steps required to usher in spiritual renewal.

- Understanding the Concept of Revival
- Key Reasons Why Revival Tarries According to Leonard Ravenhill
- The Role of Prayer and Repentance
- Spiritual Apathy and Its Impact on Revival
- The Importance of Holiness and Consecration
- Historical Examples of Revival and Their Lessons
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Understanding the Concept of Revival

Revival, in the context of Leonard Ravenhill's writings, refers to a renewed spiritual awakening among individuals and communities, characterized by a deep conviction of sin, heartfelt repentance, and an outpouring of God's presence and power. This awakening often leads to widespread transformation in both personal lives and the broader society. Revival is not merely emotional excitement but a profound and lasting change that brings believers closer to God and ignites a passion for holiness and evangelism. Ravenhill emphasizes that revival is essential for the church's vitality and its ability to fulfill the Great Commission. Understanding the nature and purpose

of revival sets the foundation for exploring why it may be delayed or hindered in contemporary times.

Key Reasons Why Revival Tarries According to Leonard Ravenhill

Leonard Ravenhill identifies several core reasons why revival tarries, which are deeply rooted in spiritual conditions and attitudes within the church and individual believers. These reasons include a lack of genuine repentance, insufficient prayer, spiritual complacency, and a failure to pursue holiness. Ravenhill argues that revival is delayed primarily because the church has not returned to the foundational principles of faith and obedience that invite God's intervention. He stresses that revival is a sovereign act of God but is contingent upon the church's readiness and humility. The delay is often a wake-up call to believers to examine their hearts and lifestyles.

Lack of Genuine Repentance

Repentance is central to revival, and Ravenhill insists that without true sorrow for sin and a turning away from it, revival cannot take place. Many believers may acknowledge sin superficially but fail to experience the deep conviction necessary for transformation. This lack of heartfelt repentance creates a barrier that prevents God's Holy Spirit from moving powerfully among His people.

Insufficient Prayer

Prayer is the lifeblood of revival. Ravenhill highlights that persistent, fervent prayer is essential to invite God's presence. When prayer is reduced to a ritual or neglected altogether, the spiritual atmosphere becomes dry, and revival is hindered. Prayer aligns believers with God's will and prepares hearts for awakening.

The Role of Prayer and Repentance

In Leonard Ravenhill's analysis, prayer and repentance are inseparable pillars that sustain revival. Both disciplines cultivate a humble dependence on God and a willingness to change.

The Power of Fervent Prayer

Prayer is not only communication with God but a means of spiritual warfare that breaks down strongholds and invites divine intervention. Ravenhill encourages believers to engage in persistent and passionate prayer, emphasizing that revival often begins in the prayer closet. He warns against superficial or self-centered prayers and calls for intercession that pleases God and aligns with His purposes.

Repentance as a Pathway to Revival

Repentance involves a sincere acknowledgment of sin and a decisive turning away from it. According to Ravenhill, revival requires a corporate and individual repentance that goes beyond mere confession to a lifestyle change. This repentance opens the door for God's forgiveness and the outpouring of His Spirit, creating fertile ground for revival to take root.

Spiritual Apathy and Its Impact on Revival

One of the most significant barriers to revival highlighted by Leonard Ravenhill is spiritual apathy. This condition manifests as indifference, lukewarmness, and a lack of zeal for God's work and holiness. Spiritual apathy dulls the senses to spiritual realities and stifles the hunger for God's presence.

Causes of Spiritual Apathy

Spiritual apathy often arises from comfort, distraction, and a failure to prioritize spiritual disciplines. The busyness of modern life and the allure of worldly pleasures can lead believers away from a passionate pursuit of God. Ravenhill warns that when the church loses its first love and zeal, revival becomes unlikely.

Consequences for Revival

Apathy results in a weakened prayer life, diminished repentance, and a general lack of spiritual hunger. This spiritual lethargy creates an environment where revival cannot flourish, as the heart must be receptive and yearning for God's renewal.

The Importance of Holiness and Consecration

Holiness and consecration are vital themes in Leonard Ravenhill's teaching on revival. He stresses that revival demands a holy people dedicated entirely to God's purposes.

Holiness as a Prerequisite for Revival

Ravenhill underscores that God's presence rests where holiness abides. Revival occurs when believers separate themselves from sin and worldly influences, living lives marked by purity and obedience. This consecration creates a spiritual environment conducive to God's powerful work.

Consecration and Surrender

True revival requires a total surrender of the individual and corporate will to God. Ravenhill calls for believers to consecrate themselves fully, rejecting compromise and embracing God's call to righteousness. This surrender invites God's glory to manifest in revival.

Historical Examples of Revival and Their Lessons

Leonard Ravenhill frequently references historical revivals as models and warnings for the contemporary church. These examples illustrate both the power of revival and the consequences of neglecting God's call.

The Great Awakenings

The 18th and 19th-century Great Awakenings serve as prime examples of powerful spiritual renewals marked by widespread repentance, fervent prayer, and holiness. Ravenhill points to these movements as evidence that revival is possible when the church returns to God with sincerity and zeal.

Lessons from Past Revivals

From historical revivals, Ravenhill draws several lessons: the necessity of

prayer, the urgency of repentance, the importance of preaching the Word boldly, and the need for personal and corporate holiness. These lessons remain relevant to understanding why revival tarries today.

Practical Steps to Overcome Barriers to Revival

Based on Leonard Ravenhill's insights, believers and churches can take concrete actions to remove the obstacles delaying revival.

1. **Commit to Regular, Fervent Prayer:** Establishing consistent times of intercession to seek God's face.
2. **Embrace Genuine Repentance:** Cultivating a culture of confession and turning from sin.
3. **Renew Dedication to Holiness:** Pursuing a lifestyle that reflects God's standards of purity and obedience.
4. **Resist Spiritual Complacency:** Maintaining zeal and passion for God's work despite challenges.
5. **Study and Preach the Word Boldly:** Allowing Scripture to convict and transform hearts.
6. **Foster Unity and Accountability:** Encouraging mutual support among believers to sustain revival efforts.

By implementing these steps, believers can create an environment that welcomes God's transformative power and helps break the spiritual stagnation that causes revival to tarry.

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 reasons why spiritual revival is delayed or hindered in the church and society, emphasizing the need for repentance, prayer, and holiness.

Who was Leonard Ravenhill and why is he significant in Christian literature?

Leonard Ravenhill was a prominent Christian evangelist and author known for his passionate calls to prayer, revival, and holiness. He is significant for his influential writings that challenge believers to pursue deeper spiritual commitment.

What are some key reasons Leonard Ravenhill gives for why revival tarries?

Ravenhill cites reasons such as prayerlessness, lukewarm faith, compromise with the world, lack of holiness, and neglect of the Word of God as key factors that delay revival.

How does 'Why Revival Tarries' encourage personal spiritual growth?

The book encourages personal spiritual growth by urging believers to engage in fervent prayer, self-examination, repentance, and a renewed commitment to living a holy life aligned with biblical principles.

Is 'Why Revival Tarries' relevant to modern Christian communities?

Yes, 'Why Revival Tarries' remains relevant because many of the issues Ravenhill addresses, like prayerlessness and compromise, continue to affect modern Christian communities seeking genuine revival.

What practical steps does Leonard Ravenhill suggest for sparking revival?

Ravenhill suggests practical steps including persistent prayer, studying the Bible deeply, total surrender to God, rejection of worldly influences, and cultivating a hunger for holiness and God's presence.

How has 'Why Revival Tarries' influenced contemporary revival movements?

The book has influenced contemporary revival movements by inspiring leaders and believers to prioritize prayer and holiness, leading to renewed efforts in seeking spiritual awakening and transformation in churches worldwide.

Additional Resources

1. *Revival: The Missing Dimension* by Leonard Ravenhill

This book delves deep into the spiritual barrenness that plagues many churches today and explores the necessary conditions for genuine revival. Ravenhill challenges readers to examine their personal lives and congregations, highlighting the urgency of wholehearted repentance and fervent prayer. It serves as a wake-up call to believers to seek God with earnestness and expectancy.

2. *Why Revival Tarries* by Leonard Ravenhill

A classic work that investigates the reasons why revival often delays or fails to manifest in churches and communities. Ravenhill emphasizes the importance of holiness, confession, and a passionate pursuit of God's presence. The book is both a critique and a call to action for those longing to see spiritual awakening.

3. *The Normal Christian Life* by Watchman Nee

This profound book outlines the essentials of living a victorious Christian life, which is foundational for revival to take place. Nee discusses the believer's union with Christ and the power available through the Holy Spirit. Understanding these truths helps address the spiritual lethargy that hinders revival.

4. *Revival Praying* by Leonard Ravenhill

Focused on the power and necessity of prayer, this book explains how revival is birthed through persistent and fervent prayer. Ravenhill provides practical guidance on cultivating a prayer life that can ignite and sustain spiritual awakenings. It reinforces the idea that revival is impossible without a praying church.

5. *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist* by John Piper

John Piper explores the idea that God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him. This perspective encourages believers to seek God passionately, which is essential for revival. Piper's theology challenges complacency and inspires a deeper hunger for God's presence.

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

A timeless classic that calls Christians to a deeper, more intimate relationship with God. Tozer's passionate writing urges believers to seek God wholeheartedly, laying a foundation for revival. The book highlights the spiritual hunger and longing necessary for awakening.

7. *Holiness* by J.C. Ryle

Ryle's book stresses the critical role of personal and corporate holiness in preparing for revival. He outlines the biblical mandate for sanctification and the dangers of spiritual compromise. This work is a sobering reminder that revival is connected to a holy lifestyle.

8. *Fresh Fire* by Jim Cymbala

Drawing from his experience as pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, Cymbala

recounts how prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit led to powerful revival. The book encourages believers to embrace humility and seek God's power for transformation. It offers inspiring real-life examples of revival in action.

9. *Let Revival Come* by Leonard Ravenhill

Another compelling work by Ravenhill that pleads for God's presence to sweep across the church. It examines barriers to revival and calls for brokenness, repentance, and a return to biblical priorities. The book is a passionate appeal for a divine awakening in modern times.

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