

Revivals throughout “His Story”

The Revivals in the “former days”: (Old Testament)¹

For example, Judges, I Samuel 7:1-13, II Chronicles 15:1-15, II Kings 11-12, Ezra 8, and...
Jonah 3!

The Ten Greatest Revivals in the “later days” (Beginning with Pentecost)²

1. Pentecost, the Beginning of Revival, A.D. 30
2. The Pre-Reformation Revivals, 1300-1500
3. The Protestant Reformation, 1517
4. The Great Awakening, 1727-1750
5. The Second Great Awakening, 1780-1810
6. The General Awakening, 1830-1840
7. The Layman’s Prayer Revival, 1857-1861
8. The Revival of 1904
9. The World War II Revival, 1935-1950
10. The Baby Boomer Revival, 1965-1975s

The Nine Faces of Revival³

1. **Repentance Revival:** *emphasis on cleaning up one’s life and society.*
2. **Evangelism Revival:** *emphasis on winning souls to Christ.*
3. **Worship Revival:** *emphasis on magnifying God.*
4. **Deeper Life Revival:** *experiencing God’s indwelling.*
5. **Spiritual Warfare Revival:** *battling demons and Satan.*
6. **Holy Spirit Revival:** *emphasis on the Spirit’s manifestations.*
7. **Reconciliation Revival:** *removing barriers to racial harmony.*
8. **Liberation revival:** *freeing from corporate and personal bondage to sin.*
9. **Prayer Revival:** *an enormous movement of intercession and prayer*

Characteristics of All of These Revivals:

1. Each began in the heart of a consecrated servant of God who became the energizing power behind it.
2. All resulted in a return to the worship of God.
3. Each revival rested on the Word of God, and most were the result of proclaiming God’s Word with power.
4. They occurred in times of moral darkness and national depression.
5. Each witnessed the destruction of idols where they existed.
6. In each revival, there was a recorded separation from sin.
7. In every revival the people returned to obeying God’s laws.
8. There was a restoration of great joy and gladness.
9. Each revival was followed by a period of national prosperity.

¹ The following link lists 14 revivals in the Old Testament: <http://www.revival-library.org/pensketches/revivals/02ot.html>

² Admittedly this list is highly subjective. It does not mention, for example, the revivals in India, China, Africa, and South America. But these ten are usually cited by church historians who focus on Western Civilization. Read more by browsing this link:
http://www.phpreaston.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/10_Greatest_Revivals.pdf

³ <http://www.prayer2000.org/Teachings/Public/prayers/THE%209%20FACES%20OF%20REVIVAL.pdf>

The DBS (“Discovery Bible Study”)⁴

*“When my word goes forth,
it shall not return empty or void,
but will accomplish the thing for which I sent it.”*
Isaiah 55:11

This verse best encapsulates the Discovery Bible Study. God’s Word does what He said it would do—and the DBS helps us get out of the way so that God proves Himself faithful to His promise. There is absolutely nothing “mystical” about the DBS, but it is miraculous.

- The DBS is a God-honoring and God-exalting process. As people directly engage with God’s Word transformation often happens. In doing so, God alone receives the glory as He proves Himself faithful over and over again as HE enlightens the hearts of people to discover who He is directly from His Word.
- The Holy Spirit becomes the Teacher. This process gets the teacher, dvds, and other “book studies” out of the way, allowing the “True Teacher” - the Holy Spirit - to enter and teach.
- There is a dependency on God to reveal Truth—and He does—every time.
- God delights in speaking through people; He speaks through His Word and through people to reveal Himself in the DBS process. That is spectacular to see unfold.
- The DBS disciplines and inherently makes disciples.
- The DBS is relentless in shepherding towards transformational living through: personal authenticity, accountability, personal responsibility, evangelism, prayer, and acts of service. People often tire of a study, but the DBS process it is so natural, engaging, and empowering. Who gets tired of encountering the God of the Universe?

The DBS is much like a cake: it needs to be tasted first in order to really “get it”. Then, after tasting it, a discussion of why it was so good and how it was made is more profitable and enlightening. It’s the “tasting” that makes the difference, as the ingredients below don’t “wow” or convince. But like most good cakes, it’s about simple, good ingredients—mixed in the right way and in precise amounts--that make it work. The same is true with the DBS.

The words, the order, and the methodology behind each ordered step have immense value, purpose, and intentionality. You’ll find that in “tasting and seeing it” that the Lord is good. The best thing that you can do is to DO the DBS with a group of people AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Test and taste it.

The Discovery Bible Study in 10 Words⁵

1. **Thankful?** (What are you thankful for this week?)
2. **Challenge?** (What struggles did you have this week?)
3. **Reflect** (How did it go since last week applying God’s Word in your life?)
4. **R-R-R-D** (Read, Read, Re-tell, Details)
5. **God?** (What does this passage say about God?)
6. **People?** (What does this passage say about people?)
7. **Obedience?** (What does this passage say about obedience? “I will ____.”)
8. **Share?** Who needs to hear this?)
9. **Needs?** (What needs can we meet this week? Prayer, Fellowship, Practical help)
10. **Meet?** (When can we meet again?)

⁴ I have adapted this information from an article found at: <http://www.lipscomb.edu/missions/upload/file/65178/discovery%20bible%20study.pdf>

⁵ Refer to the bookmark that captures these key components and 20 suggested passages to study.