



## HISTORICAL REVIVAL

Note from the Author: What follows is an edited compilation of materials on revival gained primarily from conversations with David Mains, formerly of *Chapel of the Air*, reflecting research identifying common elements of significant historical revivals. I have taken liberty with David's original materials and amended them in minor ways to reflect my own research and thoughts on the subject. –Alec Rowlands

### Definition of Revival

Revival is the **overwhelming sense of God's Presence...** that falls **powerfully** on a **Christian people** who have become dead and lethargic in their spiritual life... **reviving** those elements of the Christian life that **God intended to be normal** for His Church.

### Characteristics of Revival

When God's overwhelming Presence falls on His people there are seven characteristics of revival that seem to be common to all of the major awakenings.

1. **Worship comes alive** and becomes fresh and new.
2. There is **conviction of sin** and a return to **holiness**.
3. The importance of **brotherly love** comes alive again.
4. There is a new excitement in **serving the Lord...** both in **witnessing** to the lost and **ministering** to one another.
5. There is an unquestioning **belief** in and **obedience** to **God's Word**.
6. There is a new and powerful desire for **prayer**.
7. There is a new and unequivocal **battle** launched **against** the **strongholds of Satan**.





## Stages Of Revival

In addition to identifying the nature of revival, there appears to be a certain sequence of events common to these visitations of God.

1. In a day when the forces of evil are blatant, a sense of **deep dissatisfaction** begins to mark certain of God's people.
2. Within a core group, a vision comes alive regarding what could be, a protracted **ministry of prayer is started**.
3. In this setting of prayer, God richly anoints the **gifts of the Spirit** and an overwhelming sense of **conviction** is felt.
4. Believers experience **forgiveness of sins** plus a new **spirit of victory**, and non-believers are strikingly converted.
5. This special sense of the **Presence of the Lord** has a way of **spreading very rapidly**.
6. A renewed **commitment to ministry** on the part of **all true Christians** results in great **social benefit**.

