

November 5, 2006

**“Revive Us, O Lord!” (Part 7: What Is The Source of Revival?)**

**Isa 61:1-3 NLT**

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The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me, because the LORD has appointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to announce that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. 2 He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the LORD's favor has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies. 3 To all who mourn in Israel, he will give beauty for ashes, joy instead of mourning, praise instead of despair. For the LORD has planted them like strong and graceful oaks for his own glory.

In today's message I want to answer the question: What is the Source of Revival? The short answer to that question is not a *what* but *Who* - the Holy Spirit, He is the Source of revival. He is mentioned in the first words of our text: *“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me...”*

Once Jesus was asked to preach before His family and friends in His boyhood home of Nazareth. That's difficult enough, preaching before family and friends. The local Rabbi asked Him to read the lesson and afterwards say a few words about it. First someone would read from the Law, then Jesus was asked to read from the Prophets. The scroll containing this passage that we read this morning from Isaiah was handed to Him. He stood up and began to read from the scroll given to Him: (recorded in Luke 4:18-19 NIV)

*"The Spirit of (YAHWEH) the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me (from which the word “Messiah” is derived – “Anointed One”)*

*to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to release the oppressed,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

And He stopped there in mid-sentence, handed the scroll back, and sat down (in that culture they sat to teach rather than stand as we do in our culture). There was a long dramatic pause. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him. Then He began His talk with these exciting words, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:21 NIV) Amazing! The One this prophecy was written about was now reading the prophecy. "...the ancient words of hope and restoration came to life on the lips of the one about whom those words had prophesied."

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And the people were amazed and said, “Who is this? Isn’t this Joseph’s son? The One we have known since He was a youngster?” At first they were excited, you know, “local boy makes good!” But notice the part Jesus did not quote. He omitted the last part of verse 2, “the day of God’s anger against their enemies.” And as He continued to speak it became clear that Jesus was proclaiming that the Gentiles also would be shown God’s favor, well, they didn’t like that and they became furious. They were ready to kill Jesus.

With much of Old Testament prophecy, there are three levels of fulfillment and we see that here. The prophecy was for Israel just returning after the exile in Babylon, that’s the first level. Then, as we have seen, the second level, and the supreme fulfillment is in Jesus. Just as Jesus Himself said, “this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” The third level is that this prophecy is relevant to us today. Since the events on the Day of Pentecost, Jesus has sent His Spirit to the church. God has anointed all Christ’s followers with the same Spirit that anointed Jesus: in the same way and for the same purposes we see described in these verses. This third level is what makes this passage relevant to us today. If you have asked Jesus to come into your life and you are committed to serving Him, then He gives you His Spirit.

Anointing was often connected with the giving of the Holy Spirit. What does the Holy Spirit anoint us to do? In our passage today from Isaiah, we see the results of the anointing with the Holy Spirit which helps us understand why we need the Holy Spirit and His anointing today. *The Spirit of (YAHWEH) the Sovereign LORD is upon me (us), because the LORD has appointed me(us) to:*

1. *Bring good news to the poor.*

This phrase in the Greek language is one word (*euangelizomai*), from which we get the word “evangelize.” It is good news or a joyful message that we have and are anointed to bring to others. The poor are the distressed, distressed in any form; the socially and materially disadvantaged, and those burdened with guilt. Jesus and now Jesus through us came to bring a joyful message to those who were oppressed and weighed down by the evils of poverty and calamity. What is the Good News? The Good News is that the Savior of the world has come, He is Jesus Christ, and all who receive Him will be forgiven of sin, their lives will be transformed and they will receive Eternal Life. When we receive Jesus we receive the Holy Spirit and when we are committed fully to being led by the Spirit He empowers us and gives us the authority to share this Good News. To tell all the downcast that they can receive hope, be forgiven, and that their guilt can be removed. The Spirit of God anoints and equips us to speak The Word of God with boldness and power. Acts 4:29,31 NLT (readings this week) the believers had been warned not to preach about Jesus, but they prayed, *“And now, O Lord, hear their threats and give your servants great boldness in their preaching...” After this prayer, the building where they were meeting shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. And they preached God’s message with boldness.*

When we are filled and led by the Holy Spirit we will be anointed and excited about bringing the good news to the poor. Second the Holy Spirit anoints us to:

## 2. *Comfort the brokenhearted.*

Do you know anyone who is brokenhearted and in need of comfort? The brokenhearted are those deeply afflicted and distressed...because of sin, because of illness, because of death, because of bad relationships, in other words, on any account. This covers any human breakdown: physical, emotional, and spiritual. Those who are afflicted with grief and trouble, mental sorrows, a troubled spirit, to a heart made sad in any way; God has provided healing and peace. The Holy Spirit, the Comforter wants to give joy and peace to all such hearts, and He wants to do that through you. We have God-given authority and anointing to bring healing to the broken hearts, lives, and relationships around us. Our society is in desperate need of this ministry. (Just this week I attended a funeral for a 21 year old young man who died of an overdose...probably of heroine. His father wept when I entered the room and asked me to come up to the coffin with him and say a prayer. With the help of the Holy Spirit I did my best to find the words to comfort the brokenhearted.). Just about everyone you meet is hurting in some way. The Holy Spirit anoints you so that you may minister to them.

## 3. *Announce that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed...tell those who mourn that the time of the LORD's favor has come.*

We are anointed to proclaim deliverance. *"the time of the LORD's favor"* referred to here probably means the year of Jubilee. Every 50 years the people of Israel were meant to celebrate a Jubilee year (although they may not have done so). The Jubilee Year began with the blowing of the Ram's Horn or trumpet and liberty throughout the land and to all its inhabitants was to be proclaimed. Houses and Lands could be redeemed in the Jubilee year. Slaves were set free and could return to their families. Remember the three levels of prophecy fulfillment. The immediate fulfillment, the supreme fulfillment in Christ, and the future fulfillment. At the time of Isaiah's writing Cyrus had in effect brought freedom for the Jews to return from exile in Babylon, yet only a few actually returned. I read once that a similar thing happened when the slaves in our country were set free. Many did not believe it or did not know about the proclamation by President Lincoln setting them free. Thus some still served as slaves even though they were free. In some cases their former owners had to tell them, "You are free."

Many Christians are like that today. They are still living as slaves, though Jesus has set them free. "You are free." (John 8:36 NKJV) *"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."* Many Christians would say that Jesus sets people free, but they have not experienced that freedom for themselves. Jesus frees us from habitual sin, addictions, and the burdens of hatred and rejection. We have been anointed and have been given the authority of God to proclaim this freedom to one another. Make the most of our present opportunity to proclaim God's grace.

(v3a) *To all who mourn...He will give beauty for ashes, joy instead of mourning, praise instead of despair.* This is what the Lord has promised. And He has anointed you to

share this message (v3b) *For the LORD has planted them (you) like strong and graceful oaks for his own glory* He has planted you to be used for His glory. (v10) *I am overwhelmed with joy in the LORD my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness.* We have been saved and made right with God. The Holy Spirit transforms our lives and anoints us to preach good news, to be comforters and delivers. But to be anointed, first ask is the Spirit of the Sovereign LORD upon me?

Are you experiencing the Spirit filled life? Are you being used by God as a preacher, comforter, deliver? He is calling you to a deeper level of spirituality that you can never acquire on your own efforts. If you struggle with your faith and Christian living, if you need more victory in your life, if your heart is not satisfied, if you know in your heart that you need a deeper level of spirituality, purity and power, then I say come because God has something for you today. He wants to fill you with the Holy Spirit.

We receive the Holy Spirit in His fullness the same way we received Jesus in salvation, by faith. He is a gift from God to us for power. We receive the Holy Spirit when we are saved by asking Jesus to forgive our sins and come into our lives. But I am talking about something different now. I'm talking about asking the Holy Spirit to take full possession of you, your body, mind, heart /soul and all of your life. You can be filled right now. God is here and ready to fill you right now, when you offer yourself to Him, when you are willing to obey Him, when you ask Him to fill you, and believe. Will you do it?