

## DAY 2

# REVIVAL

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### God's Word for Today

Read Zechariah 1:1-6

### Thoughts for Today

God's people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon. God raised up Zechariah to declare: "Return to Me," declares the Lord of hosts, "that I may return to you..." (Zechariah 1:3 NASB). God was declaring that He wanted:

- Not simply a physical return to the LAND, but a spiritual return to Him, the LORD!
- Not simply a return to their RITUALS, but a return to their RELATIONSHIP with Him!
- Not simply a return to REBUILD the physical temple of their city for Him, but a return to REBUILD the spiritual temple of their hearts for Him!

Returning to God means:

1. I'm LOVING Him above everything else... It's recognizing the value of who He is and the value of time in His presence. When I love (value) someone, I love (value) them and enjoy being in their presence. Is He more valuable to me than anything? It may seem that I'm too busy to pray, but isn't it really that His presence isn't valuable enough to me to cause me to pray. I pray because He's inestimably worth it!
2. I'm LACKING more of Him... Simply put, I return to Him because I recognize my desperate need of Him. No matter how much I have received from the Lord in the past, I still need more of Him today. Do I realize I need Him more today than the day I first believed?
3. I'm LISTENING to Him... Zechariah warns them not to be like their fathers who did not listen or pay attention to God's former prophets (v4). Obviously, their fathers were listening to other voices, rather than God's voice. To return to God is to make His voice preeminent in my life, and to shut out the "noise" of the other voices. Whose voice really has my attention?
4. I'm LOSING without Him... Not listening to God brings great losses into my life. If I'm not listening to Him, I'm losing out on who He is and what He has for me! Think about all the loss they had experienced for the past 70 years... the loss of homes, family, friends, homeland, God's favor, blessings, protection, wisdom, purposes, etc. Zechariah reminds them that God's words proved to be true and overtook their fathers (v6). The other voices their fathers had listened to had failed them miserably and brought unprecedented loss.
5. I'm LEAVING my evil ways and deeds... The people repented (v6), meaning they turned from their evil ways and deeds, and returned to the Lord. Am I willing to allow God to show me what He sees as "evil ways and deeds" in my life? I may not be a murderer or thief, but am I too proud to admit the flaws God sees in me? Am I too busy to pray and listen to God? Do I lose my temper easily? Am I patient with my children? How do I measure up to the fruit of the Spirit in my character: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control? "Evil ways and deeds" are anything (good or bad) that takes me away from God... anything that I love more than God in my life. What "evil ways and deeds" does God want me to turn from, so I can return to Him?

REVIVAL happens when I RETURN to God. The word "revive" means "to live again." When I return to God, He returns to me, awakening me to Himself... causing me to come alive in relationship with Him. The first evidence of revival is always a burning heart of awakened love for God. The two disciples on the Emmaus Road found their "hearts burning within," as Jesus' words revived their despondent hearts (Luke 24:31-32 NASB). John Wesley felt his heart "strangely warmed!" What about my heart?

### It's Time to Pray

1. Pray through #1-5 above, asking God to help you return to Him. Listen and respond to His voice. Ask Him to return to you, to revive you, and awaken your heart to Him.