

Zec 7:3-6 (AMP)

3 And to speak to the priests of the house of the Lord of hosts and to the prophets, saying, [Now that I am returned from exile] should I weep in the fifth month, separating myself as I have done these so many years [in Babylon]?

4 Then came the word of the Lord of hosts to me [Zechariah], saying,

5 Speak to all the people of the land and to the priests, saying, When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months, even those seventy years you were in exile, was it for Me that you fasted, for Me?

6 And when you ate and when you drank, did you not eat for yourselves and drink for yourselves? The people who returned to Bethel after 70 years in Babylon wanted to know if they still had to maintain their times of separation now that they were no longer in exile. God asked them this question—for the last 70 years that you have been doing this, were you doing this FOR ME!? What was your MOTIVE for your fast, was it to get out of Babylon, or was it to get closer to me, so that when I brought you out of Babylon your heart would be right and your relationship with ME would be right, and you would never have to leave this land again?

We see the tragic results at the end of the chapter:

Zec 7:11-14 (AMP)

11 But they refused to listen and turned a rebellious and stubborn shoulder and made heavy and dull their ears that they might not hear.

12 Yes, they made their hearts as an adamant stone or diamond point, lest they should hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore there came great wrath from the Lord of hosts.

13 So it came to pass that as He cried and they would not hear [He said], So they shall cry and I will not answer, says the Lord of hosts,

14 But I will scatter them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they know not and who know not them. Thus the land was desolate after they had gone, so that no man passed through or returned, for they [the Jews by their sins] had [caused to be] laid waste and forsaken the pleasant land (the land of desire).

There are times I wonder if our precious saints of God fully understand the purpose of the fast we are calling. We who have been delivered from Egyptian bondage and captivity, need to use this time of fasting and separation to keep Egyptian captivity and bondage out of us. Do we not realize that Egypt is still beckoning us to return home through technology and worldly amusements? Should not we who have experienced so great salvation do everything we can to keep so great salvation?

Heb 2:1-4

1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

2 For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will? Fasting should be a time of disengagement from the world, not as some exercise in religious semantics, but to truly get closer to God.

Isa 58:3-6 (AMP)

3 Why have we fasted, they say, and You do not see it? Why have we afflicted ourselves, and You take no knowledge [of it]? Behold [O Israel], on the day of your fast [when you should be grieving for your sins], you find profit in your business, and [instead of stopping all work, as the law implies you and your workmen should do] you extort from your hired servants a full amount of labor. [Lev 16:29]

4 [The facts are that] you fast only for strife and debate and to smite with the fist of wickedness. Fasting as you do today will not cause your voice to be heard on high.

5 Is such a fast as yours what I have chosen, a day for a man to humble himself with sorrow in his soul? [Is true fasting merely mechanical?] Is it only to bow down his head like a bulrush and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him [to indicate a condition of heart that he does not have]? Will you call this a fast and an acceptable day to the Lord?

6 [Rather] is not this the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every [enslaving] yoke? [Act 8:23]

When our motives for fasting are to truly get closer to God, and to keep our spiritual sword razor sharp, and to get the “non spiritual” earwax out of our ears so we can hear what thus saith the Lord, and be in congruence with what is preached over the pulpit, we will see TRUE Apostolic revival. We will get TRUE Apostolic results. The gates of hell will not be able to prevail against His church. Our young people truly will stand up and be counted, instead of sitting down thinking of ways to compromise.

Joe 2:12-19

12 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

14 Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

18 Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.

19 Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen:

When does it happen!?! When we turn to Him with ALL of our heart, AND with fasting, and weeping, and with mourning. Revival doesn't just happen, true, lasting, Apostolic revival takes place when the people of God get closer to God through fasting and prayer.