

Now Put on Hope

Another critical aspect of this personal revival is Hope. Hope is the fulfillment of the promises of God. Hope keeps us praying and believing and persisting. The hope that God is indeed a God Who hears and answers prayer, and will fulfill the heart that longs after Him. No matter what the circumstances, God keeps His promises.

Hope looks beyond the circumstances that surround us and looks to what awaits us in God's timing. Living in personal revival—being “soaked” with God—will always be the result of a forward gaze of the soul. Looking forward with hope purifies us because we know that we must give an account to our Lord. And our desire to please Him spurs us on (1 Jn. 3:3; 2Cor. 5:9-10). We have this “North Star” to give us direction and purpose in our lives.

And Finally, Put on Love

Deuteronomy 6:4 gives us the heart of God for our lives. We are to love the Lord with all our heart and soul and strength. The soul speaks of our mind, will, and emotions. If there is any part that we have not fully given over to the Lord, or if there is sin lurking in some corner, we cannot experience the full “soaking” of God, the filling of the Holy Spirit of God.

That means **in my mind**, my thinking, I must constantly seek *“being transformed by the renewing of my mind”* (Rom. 12:2). My thought life must always be transformed to reflect the love of God

My will must be constantly be “renewed” also. My will is the “decider,” the instrument with which I decide whether or not to love God, others, etc. Being “soaked” with God, walking in constant relationship with God, walking in constant revival, means that I am living in constant relationship with God in such a way that He has complete freedom and access to my mind, will, and emotions; to check me and change me if He so chooses.

My Emotions also must be involved in loving God. Again, we may have to buck against culture, and even natural tendencies to allow this to happen. But more than

not, blocked emotions for God are the result of unresolved issues within us. When we have inner freedom from sin, the past, hurts, and memories, then we can be free to express emotion to God and others.

Think about it. When we stand around the Throne of Christ in heaven, what will we be like? I believe there will be complete freedom to give expression in our love and thankfulness to God—in all its various facets.

So, Faith, Hope, and Love

Three interconnected parts of being “soaked” with God, filled with His Spirit, and walking in personal revival are not lived out as a formula. They are lived out in a relationship.

Don't fall for the trick that if we just make this into a formula—like a vending machine—and we put in our dues of faith, hope, and love, then POOF! Out pops personal revival, or SPLASH! I get “soaked”! It is essential to see this always as a part of a relationship with the Living, Holy, Loving God who sent His Son to die on the cross for my sins, and sent the Person of the Holy Spirit to live within me to make me a partaker of the divine nature. This relationship is nurtured, grown, pruned, and learned through a life of prayer and drinking in of the Word of God.

Let us each one continue to seek God; to hunger after Him in deeper and deeper ways. He will indeed come and soak us with His presence.

“...acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind thoughts. If you seek him he will be found by you; but if you forsake him now, he will reject you forever.”
I Chronicles 28:9

— Steve Loopstra

How To Experience Personal Revival

Being Soaked with God

By Steve Loopstra
Director

Your Servant in Christ Ministries

16935 Odom Lane SE

Monroe, WA 98272

360-863-2490

www.yourservantinchristministries.org

How to Experience Personal Revival

For the true believer there is perhaps no more haunting question. In the midst of the flood of pressures, and temptations of daily life, *how do I maintain my relationship with the Lord in such a way that I am walking in “continuing revival”?*

How can I keep my “fire” burning, When it seems that those around me are simply “smoldering” or have let their fires go out? Is it really possible to maintain a fervency for the Lord in today’s modern world? Because we live in such different times, should we simply lower our expectations of spiritual intimacy with God?

What is Personal Revival?

What do we mean by “personal revival”? Not surprisingly there is disagreement even among Christians as to the definition of revival. For our purposes, let us use the definition put forth by Richard Owen Roberts which states: Personal Revival is living a life that is “saturated with God.” Webster defines saturate as “to soak, impregnate, or imbue thoroughly or completely.” Got the idea? Personal revival (and corporate revival) is simply the extension and multiplication of personal revival—living in a continuing state of being “soaked with God.” I like that! It sounds a little like Ephesians 5:18, where Paul tells us, “Do not get drunk with (soaked) with wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled (soaked) with the Spirit.”

I freely admit this is a subject much deeper and more vast than can be tackled in such a short attempt as this.

In this modest attempt to speak to this subject, allow me to provide a short personal testimony and then to follow a simple three-point outline for walking in personal revival.

My Story of Faith in Christ

Before I came to Christ I was well on my way to destruction through drugs, alcohol, and lifestyle choices. My first year as a believer at age 20 was spent in Viet Nam. I tell people that was one of the best years of my life, but also that I was “ruined.”

The first two Christian books I read were, “*The Autobiography of Norman Vincent Peale* and *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoffer. As a baby Christian I was bottle fed by the likes of Leonard Ravenhill, A.W. Tozer, Andrew Murray, Oswald Chambers, A.B. Simpson and A.W. Pink—all men who wrote on prayer, revival and the deeper life. It was some time before I realized that not every believer shared those same passions.

In the pursuing years I joined the ranks of the “clergy” and offered my mind, body, and soul to the ministry “grist mill.” Soon I was among those who became dry and shriveled in the pursuit of the right program or church growth formula. After several years of this “grist mill desert,” God began a deep work in my life that would call out from my soul the seeds that had been planted there in that first tender year. Through prayer summits, involvement in the prayer movement, and a personal 40-day fast, God brought me back to the place where I longed to be “soaked” with Him.

For a long time I searched for a term to describe what I had discovered. Finally, I settled on having the sense that God was “romancing me” to Himself. God in His Grace has wonderfully invited me to a new level of walk with Him that is unlike any that I had known before.

Three Strands of Personal Revival

Throughout Scripture there is a triad of terms that come forward over and over, especially in the New Testament. These terms are put forth in the biblical writings in various orders, depending on emphasis. But together they form a “chord of three strands that is not easily broken.” This biblical triad is formed by the three words:

Faith, Hope, and Love.

I will use them as the framework for understanding

personal revival or being “soaked with God.” Faith, Hope and Love are products of being filled with the Spirit of God.

Put on Faith

The aspect of Faith has the following parts:

1) Faith in God’s love for us.

This may be one of the hardest areas in the secret depth of our hearts that keep us from being “soaked” with God. We really don’t believe that He loves us! We give mental assent to the fact that God is Love and that He demonstrated His love for us on the cross. But when it gets to the core of who we see ourselves to be, we do not see ourselves as ones who are the objects of God’s Infinite, Passionate, Unconditional, Boundless, All-Giving Love.

To know that God loves me in that way opens up the flood gates of God’s Spirit in my heart. Henry Blackaby in *Experiencing God* reminds us that God is always pursuing a love relationship with us that is both real and personal.

2) Faith in the Truth of God’s Word

You cannot be “soaked” with God if you do not believe what He speaks to you! That seems simple enough. In our rationalistic western culture, we have been raised to be skeptics and to question authority—which then includes God’s authority over me.

We must believe *all* of the Word of God. We must believe the promises God gives to us, as well as the warnings against sin. We cannot pick and choose what we believe. Sure, there are hard things in the Word of God (2 Peter 3:16), but we are still called upon to listen and obey when He speaks to us. We must obey the Word in the “positive” — those things that He tells us to do that will develop a heart to be “soaked” with God. And we must obey the Word in the “negative” — those areas that will hinder us being “soaked” with God through sin, neglect, ignorance or grieving the Spirit of God.