



TIMES OF REFRESHING

Text: *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”*
Acts 3:19-21 NKJV

Introduction:

- A. In the last year we have experienced catastrophic disruption:
 - 1. Disease - COVID
 - 2. Discrimination- Social Injustice
 - 3. Depravity- Corruption
 - 4. Depression
 - 5. Domestic Chaos
 - 6. Division
 - 7. Death
 - 8. Devastation- loss & grief
 - 9. Disillusionment

- B. This can take a toll on every aspect of our existence:
 - 1. **Body** - sickness, fatigue, stress, tiredness, weight gain etc.
 - 2. **Soul** - worry, anxiety, depression, emotional sensitivity
 - 3. **Spirit** - depleted, stagnant, disengaged

I. We Need Times of Refreshing

- A. Old Testament term meaning: Revive

“Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? 7 Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation. 8 I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants— but let them not turn to folly. 9 Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. 10 Love and faithfulness meet together righteousness and peace kiss each other. 11 Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. 12 The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our

land will yield its harvest. 13 Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.” Psalms 85:6-13 NIV

B. Revival means different things to different people:

1. To some it means singing, dancing, shouting.
2. To some revival means services under a tent.
3. To some it means multi-night services.
4. To some revival means signs, wonders, miracles and salvations.

C. Revive - Biblical Usage meaning is to be restored to life or health

1. To live
 - a. to have life
 - b. to continue in life, remain alive
 - c. to sustain life, to live on or upon
 - d. to live (prosperously)
2. To revive, be quickened
 - a. from sickness
 - b. from discouragement
 - c. from faintness
 - d. from death

*“Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”
Ephesians 5:14*

D. A Recovery of Breath

- a. Life has a way of knocking the breath (the wind) right out of you!
- b. In Genesis God breathed into man the breath of life.
- c. It is a picture that you can have a form and structure but it means nothing until it has breath.
- d. In Acts chapter 2 God releases the wind of heaven into the church.
- e. It symbolizes that you can have teaching and training and even experience, but it means nothing unless you have breath (the breath of God).

II. Paul Prays for Revival

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:14-21

- a. Be strengthened in your inner man.
- b. May Christ dwell within you.
- c. May Christ be formed in you - Christ the Anointed. Gal. 4:19
- d. Be rooted and established in Love.
- e. May you receive a fresh revelation of God's love for you.
- f. May you be filled up with God