

# Lord Send *Vival* To Us

by

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**Revival** : an act or instance of reviving : the state of being revived: as

a : renewed attention to or interest in something

b : a new presentation or publication of something old

c : a period of renewed religious interest (2) : an often highly emotional evangelistic meeting or series of meetings - **Miriam Webster**

**Vival**: “Getting *it* for the first time and allowing *it* to change us inside and out.” – **My Tuesday Morning Prayer Group**

Ok I realize you will not be able to look up the word “*Vival*.” It is not found in a dictionary. I checked to make sure. The reason is because it is a new word, as of today. My early morning prayer group created the word. Since we created it, we have the right to define it. So the word and definition is introduced above.

Like the Greek scholars who dissect a Greek word and tell us where its roots come from, I will do the same thing. So here goes my Arkansas translation of “*Vival*.” Our word comes from the root word “Revival,” which means to return to something. “*Vival*” describes going to something for the first time. In other words, you must have had something at some point in time to have lost it and then found it again to have a *revival*. But finding for the first time something that you didn’t really have is something else. Right? We call it “*Vival*.” Makes sense doesn’t it? Well, my Southern colleagues think so, especially since we have all heard the *revival* phrase most of our church life, and understand it is about a high-powered evangelistic effort by a church or tent meeting. But the prayer, “*Lord send us a revival*,” are words that have been prayed by church leaders and hungry church members for many, many years and it wasn’t about a dedicated evangelistic effort then. It was about reconciliation with God and with each other. It was originally a request of God to take us to something new, fresh, to build us up, to strengthen our faith, to empower us to live Christ-like lives, and to love one another. In other words, it was a request that God would “*Disciple us in His word and His Spirit, and fill us up with Himself!*” But it changed. Somewhere in time, the *Revivalist* preacher was changed to an *Evangelist*, and the emphasis became about soul winning of the lost rather than the discipleship of the church. The preaching and emphasis became another message and another target, and while there might be additional members added to the church, the current church members were rarely changed. It stayed the same as before after the evangelist left.

I have a dear friend in my morning prayer group. Jonathan is a fine pastor in Fayetteville, AR and is a disciple maker in his heart and activity as a pastor. His father, before his death, was one of the most well respected and well-loved “*Revivalist*” who traveled primarily in the Southern states, but at some times across the Nation and internationally. His name is the late Manley Beasley. Jonathan shared that Manley’s mission to a church that he preached in was to disciple this church by accurately teaching God’s word, but not only teaching it but also trying to make it burn into their hearts and create application, repentance and restoration. For instance, if his message was about reconciliation, he was speaking directly to neighbors and fellow church members who sat on opposite walls from one another and would not speak to each another. His message was to these people and those like them to hear the heart of God about reconciliation and understand how their discord kept them away from the intimacy

with Christ that brings "*Vival*." Unfortunately, that was a challenge they had not heard before and those members had never taken the action needed. However, when they responded and met one another before the church for reconciliation, a church was "*Vived*," but it took the honesty of the discipleship of God's word and its application to lives to bring the reconciliation. It took "*Vival*." Are you connecting with this?

I asked Jonathan if those church people were likely hearing this message for the first time. He said yes, and I quickly told him that his daddy was not a "Revivalist" but rather a "*Vivalist*." He was bringing something fresh, something new, something never experienced before, and it was this blessing that took members and a church to a new place, a place that everyone deep down longed for but had never been to. We all laughed at the idea in our prayer group, but then we connected that what we were understanding is truly as deep a truth about what is needed in a church as anything can be now days. Indeed, many churches need to go to a place where they have never been to find that which they are deep down longing for. It is in close proximity with Christ that they will find it, and many times it will require a true "*Vival*".

I wonder how many good church going people or pastors do not understand the depth of blessing we have by being in a right place with Christ? You know He does teach us how to live when we listen to Him, and being close to Him causes us to listen to Him? It is not just being an active member of a church that causes this. Rather, it is being close to Christ that creates a change in a life that can know His heart in things. Now if your church is investing their time, energy and resources to help you become a true disciple of Christ, then you are in a good place. You should support your church and your pastors, for what is being done is good and essential. However, if your church is not committed to the discipleship of its members, then pray for it. Don't leave. Stay and pray for "*Vival*" for your church. Pray that something fresh, new and real falls over your church. Pray that your church members will long for this and that your pastors will long for this as well. Stay with your prayers. Don't give up. Many churches have been changed this way and then empowered to do a great work for God. Next, be ready to be used as a disciple-maker when the Holy Spirit begins to move over your church. God will use you in this endeavor, for the "*Vival*" began first in you. It can go from you to your church, if you are willing to ask to be used by God to serve your pastor and church. Remember to represent Christ by your life and not just your words. Seeing an authentic representation of Christ in you is the most attractive advertisement you can make to fellow church members, and this alone can create interest to seek this "*Vival*" in you. This is especially true with most pastors. They are looking for a guy like this who wants to help him make disciples in his church. He might even be praying that God will raise this man up to help him bring "*Vival*" to your church. How great would that be?

May God bless you as you serve Him. To His glory we serve.