

**YAG 6th RETREAT**  
**Pulai Springs, JB**  
**8-10 November 2007**  
**Theme: “Revive me”**

**Session 6**

**ANALYSIS OF THE THIRD PRAYER FOR REVIVAL**  
**Psalm 119: 81-88**

**1. Review**

(Always practise Review)

a) Prayer for revival of strength to conquer adverse external circumstances  
Psalm 119:25-32

b) Prayer for revival to bring about power to overcome internal problems like  
covetousness                      Psalm 119: 33-40

**2. A New Perspective**

Problems in life, like persecution, can affect the soul adversely.  
Revival needed to overcome foreboding sense of despair.

**3. The special problems of life that threaten the vitality of our soul**

a) The persecutors

*“How many are the days of Your servant?*

*When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me?”*                      Psalm 119:84

*“All Your commandments are faithful,*

*They persecute me wrongfully; Help me!”*                      Psalm 119:86

*“They almost made an end of me on earth;*

*But I did not forsake Your precepts”*                      Psalm 119:87

b) The proud

*“The proud have dug pits for me,*

*which is not according to Your law”*                      Psalm 119:85

**4. The more worrying problem**

a) Weaknesses

b) Inadequate responses

i) A complaining attitude                      (Cf. Psalm 73-77)

ii) Despair

iii) Almost on the verge of giving up

## **5. Some inadequate responses observed**

a) Fainting (desperation and despair)

*“My soul faints for Your salvation,  
But I hope in Your word”* Psalm 119:81

i) Faints

ii) Hope needed to shore up feelings of desperation and despair

b) Failing to find comfort

*“My eyes fail from searching Your word,  
saying ‘When will You comfort me’”* Psalm 119:82

i) Comfortless

ii) Seeking special comfort from the Lord (Cf. 2 Corinthians 1)

c) Drying up

*“For I have become like a wineskin in smoke,  
Yet I do not forget Your statutes”* Psalm 119:83

i) State of the soul hinted at... drying up

ii) Holding on to the word of God for dear life

## **6. A plaintive cry for revival**

*“Revive me according to Your lovingkindness,  
so that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth”* Psalm 119:88

a) A desperate cry for life itself (preservation) Cf. Psalm 140

b) A desire to keep God’s testimony despite problems

## **7. Basis of pleading for Revival**

a) Pleading revival according to God’s word Psalm 119:25b

b) Pleading revival according to God’s righteousness Psalm 119:40b

c) Pleading revival for to God’s lovingkindness Psalm 119:88a

## **ANALYSIS OF THE FOURTH PRAYER FOR REVIVAL**

### **Psalm 119: 105-112**

#### **Review:**

1. Prayer for revival of **strength** amidst a generally barren/hostile world environment
2. Prayer for revival to have **power to overcome the flesh** that is inclined towards covetousness
3. Prayer for revival to **overcome mood of despair** when under persecution

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The 3rd-6th Prayers for Revival are closely related
2. The common theme - Affliction
  - a) Revival amidst **persecution** (3rd prayer - Psalm 119:81-88)
  - b) Revival despite **affliction** (4th prayer - Psalm 119:105-112)
  - c) Revival amidst feeling **deeply troubled** (5th prayer - Psalm 119:145-152)
  - d) Revival to **battle wickedness** (6th prayer - Psalm 119:153-160)
3. A recurrent theme
  - a) Many psalms attempt to deal with the problem of affliction
  - b) Afflictions come in many forms, hence the theme is dealt with frequently
  - c) Afflictions make different impact, hence there will always be variations of responses

#### **REVIVAL AMIDST AFFLICTION**

The subject of affliction

##### **1. When orchestrated by the Lord**

*“Before I was afflicted I went astray,  
But now I keep Your word”*

Psalm 119:67

*It is good for me that I have been afflicted,  
That I may learn Your statutes”*

Psalm 119:71

*“I know that Your judgments are right,  
And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me”*

Psalm 119:75

- a) There is direct mention and reference to the Lord giving the affliction
- b) The psalmist speaks of learning much from these afflictions

## 2. When afflictions are caused by the wicked

*“I am afflicted very much;  
Revive me, O LORD, according to Your word”* Psalm 119:107

*“My life is continually in my hand,  
Yet I do not forget Your law”* Psalm 119:109

*“The wicked have laid a snare for me,  
Yet I have not strayed from Your precepts”* Psalm 119:110

- a) There is no mention of the Lord in these afflictions
- b) Instead there is the mention of the wicked involved in these afflictions

c) See also the following texts

*“I am small and despised,  
Yet I do not forget Your precepts”* Psalm 119:141

*Trouble and anguish have overtaken me,  
Yet Your commandments are my delights”* Psalm 119:143

## 3. Wherein is the significance of a prayer for Revival?

*“I am afflicted very much;  
Revive me, O LORD, according to Your word”* Psalm 119:107

There is tremendous determination expressed to keep God’s laws when afflicted and suffering for one’s faith in the Lord!

## 4. Strong and powerful determinations

a) Oath

*“I have sworn and confirmed  
That I will keep Your righteous judgments”* Psalm 119:106

b) Not strayed

*“The wicked have laid a snare for me,  
Yet I have not strayed from Your precepts”* Psalm 119:111

c) Heritage forever

*“Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever,  
For they are the rejoicing of my heart”* Psalm 119:111

d) Decided Inclination

*"I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes  
Forever, to the very end"*

Psalm 119:112

## **ANALYSIS FOR THE FIFTH PRAYER FOR REVIVAL**

### **Psalm 119: 145-152**

Review:

1. Hostile world

Revival - Strength to cope with living in a hostile world

2. Materialism

Revival - Conquering of materialism/covetousness

3. Persecution

Revival - To overcome feelings of despair

4. Affliction

Revival - Determination to be steadfast in faith

## **REVIVAL AMIDST PROXIMITY OF WICKEDNESS**

1. The Problem of Wickedness

a) General understanding

b) Uneasy acceptance

2. The Proximity of wickedness

*"They draw near who follow after wickedness;  
They are far from Your law"*

Psalm 119:150

a) Concern about people who are far from the law and who follow after wickedness

b) Concern about their proximity

i) Influence

ii) Inflicting of harm on the innocent

### 3. Prayer for Revival

a) Manner of prayer stands out

*“I rise before the dawning of the morning,  
And cry for help; I hope in Your word”*

Psalm 119:147

*“My eyes are awake through the night watches,  
That I may meditate on Your word”*

Psalm 119:148

i) There is a great sense of urgency

ii) There is a sense of desperation

### 4. Basis of pleading for revival

Review

a) “Revive me according to Your word”

Psalm 119:25a, 107b

i) According to God’s plan

ii) This plan may be discovered through the knowledge of God’s word

b) “Revive Me in Your righteousness”

Psalm 119:40b

i) God’s righteousness

ii) For the sake of His righteous name

c) “Revive me according to Your lovingkindness”

Psalm 119:88a

i) According to God’s own declaration about His attributes

ii) Pleading for God’s mercy essentially

### 5. Special Features of this prayer for revival

a) Proximity of God

*“You are near, O LORD,  
And all Your commandments are truth”*

Psalm 119:151

i) An appreciation

ii) As comfort

iii) As defence

b) Prayer effort

*“I cry out with my whole heart;  
Hear me, O LORD! I will keep Your statutes.*

*I cry out to You;*

*Save me, and I will keep Your testimonies.”*

Psalm 119:145-146

i) Urgency

ii) Earnestness

## **ANALYSIS FOR THE SIXTH PRAYER FOR REVIVAL**

### **Psalm 119: 153-160**

#### **Review:**

1. Revival - Strength to live above a hostile world
2. Revival - Power to overcome Materialism/covetousness
3. Revival - Might to battle dark feelings of despair caused by persecution
4. Revival - Steadfastness amidst afflictions
5. Revival - Sensing the Nearness of God rather than nearness of wickedness

#### **REVIVAL TO BATTLE WICKEDNESS ACTIVELY**

1. Strong cries for revival

*“Plead my cause and redeem me;*

*Revive me according to Your word”*

Psalm 119:154

*“Great are Your tender mercies, O LORD,*

*Revive me according to Your judgments”*

Psalm 119:156

*“Consider how I love Your precepts;*

*Revive me, O LORD, according to Your lovingkindness”*

Psalm 119:159

2. Context of these cries for revival

a) Affliction

*“Consider my affliction and deliver me;*

*For I do not forget Your law”*

Psalm 119:153

b) Vindication

*“Plead my cause and redeem me;  
Revive me according to Your word”*

Psalm 119:154

c) The wicked

*“Salvation is far from the wicked,  
For they do not seek Your statutes”*

Psalm 119:155

d) Persecutors

*“Many are my persecutors and my enemies,  
Yet I do not turn from Your testimonies”*

Psalm 119:157

e) The treacherous

*“I see the treacherous, and am disgusted,  
Because they do not keep Your word”*

Psalm 119:158

**Revived to Battle wickedness**

1. Holding fast to the word of God

*“I do not forget Your law”*

Psalm 119:153b

2. A steadfast love for God’s word

*“Consider how I love Your precepts”*

Psalm 119:159a

3. Banner of truth

*“The entirety of Your word is truth,  
And everyone of Your righteous judgments endures forever”*

Psalm 119:160

**REVIEW OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL (Psalm 119)**

1. Survival - amidst hostile surroundings
2. Strength - to overcome materialism/covetousness
3. Steadiness - to overcome dark feelings of despair
4. Steadfastness - amidst affliction
5. Sensing the nearness of God
6. Success in battling wickedness