

PRINCIPLES FOR PERSONAL REVIVAL

by A.W.TOZER

(scriptures and quotes added)

- 1) Get thoroughly dissatisfied with yourself. Complacency is the deadly enemy of spiritual progress. The contented soul is a stagnant soul.

“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. (Rev. 3:15-19.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways... (Jer. 17:9-10).

- 2) Set your face like a flint toward a sweeping transformation of your life. Timid experiments are tagged for failure before they start. We must throw our whole soul into our desire for God.

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word. With my WHOLE heart I have sought You...” (Psa. 119:9-10)

“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with ALL your heart...” (Jer. 29:13).

- 3) Put yourself in the way of blessing. It’s a mistake to expect God’s help to come as a windfall apart from conditions known and met. To desire revival, and at the same time to neglect prayer and devotion, is to wish one way and walk another.

“Revival converts are born in fire, they carry fire, they spread fire and they are always hungry for more! Their conversion is much more like the powerful N/T conversions and less like the mediocre conversions that characterize the compromised and lukewarm church in Western world nations. When the Bible talks about the falling away at the end of the age, falling away will not be revival converts but the lukewarm “convinced” believers in church pews who are still tied to the world” (Dr. Wes Adams & Rhonda Hughey)

- 4) Do a thorough job of repenting. Hasty repentance means a shallow spiritual experience. Let godly sorrow do her healing work. It is our wretched habit of toleration sin that keeps us in our half-dead condition.

“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.” (2 Cor. 7:10)

“...The goodness of God leads you to repentance.” (Rom. 2:4)

- 5) Make restitution wherever possible. If you owe a debt pay it. If you have quarreled with anyone, go as far as you can to achieve reconciliation. As fully as possible, make the crooked straight. **(Matt. 18:15)**
- 6) Bring your life into accord with the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5) and other such New Testament Scriptures as are designed to instruct in the way of righteousness. An honest man with an open Bible and a pad and pencil is sure to find out what’s wrong with him quickly.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life”
Psa. 139:23-24 NLT

- 7) Be serious minded. The people of the world used to go to the movies to escape serious thinking about God and religion. There must be a radical change in your habits, or there will not be any permanent improvement in your interior life.

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.” (Titus 2:11-12)

- 8) Deliberately narrow your time and interests. Too many projects and pursuits use up time and energy without bringing us nearer to God. The mansions of the heart will become larger when the doors are thrown open to Christ and closed against the world and sin.

“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.” (2 Tim. 2:3-4)

“And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”
(1 Cor. 9:24-27).

- 9) Begin to witness (share Christ boldly). Find something to do for God, and your fellowman. Make yourself available. Do anything you are asked to do. Learn to obey.
- 10) Have faith in God. Begin to expect. Look up toward the throne. All heaven is on your side. God will not disappoint you.

These principles constitute a formula for personal revival. When personal revival is experienced, there is no telling how far it may spread. The Church is in desperate need of new spiritual life and it can only come through the awakened individual.