

Habakkuk 3:2 – “O Lord, revive your work in the midst of the years.” This is a clear prayer for revival. Somewhere “in the midst of the years” first love tends to get left, responsibility is neglected, and the flame of revival goes out. The history of revivals is a record of the renewal of vital Christian values and experiences that have been lost and forgotten over time. Revivals are identified by spiritual effects. No effects, no revival! Revivals are more than good and happy times at church. They are life-changing, and sometimes culture changing. Certain revivals have changed the moral landscape of nations. Charles Finney, a leader of the Second Great Awakening in the United States, lists characteristics of revival as he had witnessed them: (1) The prevalence of a mighty Spirit of prevailing prayer. (2) Overwhelming conviction of sin. (3) Sudden and powerful conversions to Christ. (4) Great love and abounding joy of the converts. (5) Intelligence and stability of the converts. (6) Their great eagerness, activity, and usefulness in their prayers and labors for others. When we pray for revival, that is what we are praying for. HA