

# Revival Testimonies

by Don Courville

---

*This sermon emphasizes the transformative power of revival, sharing personal experiences of encountering God in a profound way. The speaker highlights the importance of brokenness, humility, and surrender as key elements to experiencing revival and the subsequent unity, purity, and power that follow. The message underscores the need for spiritual pride to be overcome and encourages a deep reliance on God for true transformation and revival.*

**Duration:** 28:26

---

## Description

This sermon emphasizes the transformative power of revival, sharing personal experiences of encountering God in a profound way. The speaker highlights the importance of brokenness, humility, and surrender as key elements to experiencing revival and the subsequent unity, purity, and power that follow. The message underscores the need for spiritual pride to be overcome and encourages a deep reliance on God for true transformation and revival.

---

## Transcript

Let's have a word of prayer. I'll introduce myself, and Garrett left me up here to do that. We're supposed to be moderating together, sharing it, but somehow or another he keeps putting me up here.

Okay, let's pray. Dear Father, thank you for the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for all that you've done for us at Calvary, and thank you for these wonderful speakers that you've sent, and we recognize this is an unusual gathering, and we've been excited about the possibility of you visiting us in an unusual way.

It has been a long time since you visited our country in revival, and we do just cry out to you to have mercy upon us, our churches, and our nation, and Canada also. Now, Father, I just commit myself here to you, for you to lead and use me how you want, in Jesus' name, amen. Well, I'm Don Corville, I pastor Maranatha Baptist Church out west of Springfield, Missouri.

We meet at a Bible camp near Mount Vernon, Missouri. We've been meeting there several years. They're happy to have us, and we're happy not to go into a million dollars debt on a building.

We just believe God would just give us a building if we need a building, and we've been meeting there many years. Now, I'm supposed to share with you about revival. I just maybe call it some of the nets and

boats of it, experiencing it to the degree that we did.

There's all types of experiences that we can have in revival, and we can have just revivals where nobody is a speaker, just the Spirit of God is there working in hearts. We happened to have a revival where we had an evangelist in that was, at that time, working through Canadian Revival Fellowship, to some extent, especially with the youth by the name of John Musser, and so he came into our area. Before I forget that, I wanted to tell you, Herob Wong offered you something free, and I want to offer you, this is *The Masters in Dwelling* by Andrew Murray, and this is *If You Shall Ask* by Oswald Chambers.

They're not very pretty, but they're powerful inside, and there's other books on the Keith Daniel table out there that you can just have if you'd like them. What happened, I'm going to just go through this, and I'm going to say this, that revival to me was a gateway, and I haven't got over it. Twenty-two years ago, it's just changed my whole life, and I don't think that you will ever really get over meeting Jesus in such a way as you do in revival, and those that get over it, you wonder how much of it they really got, so it was a gateway.

I can just say this to you, do you want it? Do you want it? I was desperate to have God in a fresh way, and so I just want to encourage you that you can have it, and through that, meeting God in revival, God gave me a tremendous burden for pastors. As a matter of fact, the revivalist tried to get me to go with him and his ministry for five years. I just kept telling him, John, I just can't do it, and I would have been traveling over to India or Africa or someplace like that, but I said, that's just my burdens for America, the pastors, because I know what it's like being a pastor and going through the up and down experiences, going through the school systems and being programmed to have a fat head.

Not all of them are like that, but a lot of that happens. You come out and you got all this stuff in your brain, but you haven't really met God in such a way you come out broken. As a matter of fact, most of the time you come out the other end of it, and so then God had to take me and unwind me.

It took about 15 years to really get me around, to learn the ways of the Holy Spirit, and the ways of the Holy Spirit, I've learned, are very offensive to the flesh and to men that are used to operating by the flesh, because the Spirit of God just doesn't check with us and tell us why he's doing things, and so it sort of drives us crazy. So what happened, coming into my second church back in the early 80s in western Nebraska, I come into the typical church scene. They'd had a church split, not too nice, left a little small group of people with a brand new building with \$60,000 in debt and hadn't paid a cent on it in a year with \$8,000 interest with one very nervous banker.

That was the first problem, the split and then the debt, and then I got in and found out the bad stuff, and the bad stuff was the main deacon, when I come in he proceeded to go out and divorce his wife and marry his nurse, and he happened to be a leading surgeon in the area, and everybody knew him, and everybody knew everything in a small town of 2,200, you know how that goes, and then I found out the bad stuff. Why the pastor had left real quick before leaving a Sunday school teacher with a baby. So I come into that situation with those four problems.

Other than that, we didn't have any problems. But what happened is when I come in, the people were so loaded down, this little group of people that were left with this thing, that some of the leadership was really not geared to be leadership, and they sort of backed off and said, here, you run with this thing. Brother Shipley out here, he's smiling, and you know what happened? I would look sometimes down the road, prayer meeting night, and there's one of the deacons down there going to play basketball.

Lord, we need to be praying. We're in bad shape. And do you know what happened? I just sort of began to get bitter, just for a little time, I began to get bitter over this thing.

This isn't fair, Lord. I come into this thing, and they jump all this on me, and even on top of that, we've got to pray without everybody here. Just one little old thing like that.

So what happened, I was just that little seed, that's all it is, just a seed planted by the enemy. I hadn't learned yet to just give it to God. A few weeks ago, I was just going around giving God all my problems I got done.

I said, well, Lord, I don't have nothing to do but just praise you and work for you. You got all my problems. Isn't that great? Well, I hadn't learned that yet, that God can take care of those things.

I thought I had to be bitter and worry about it and get all stewed up inside. Nobody knows those things that are going on inside. That doesn't happen to you, does it? All right.

But anyway, what happened was, I was just sort of a typical Christian at that time, been pastoring for about, I don't know, started in 75, and had already preached ten years before that, and had some experiences, preached in some other countries and stuff, but had something to learn about God. And I was honest enough to come to God and say, God, there's something wrong in my life. I shouldn't be up when we've got big crowds and then discouraged when we don't have many crowds.

Preachers go through that. They resign every Sunday night and then that type of stuff. Pray for your pastors, your elders.

So what happened? A friend of mine, a pastor, we began to pray for a revival, and he experienced it before I did. God got his attention one day when he rolled his vehicle down a hill seven times, and God had his attention. Wes Labrie was his name.

He was invited to go down to some Canadian Revival Fellowship meetings down in Arizona, Phoenix, I think seven weeks, down in Phoenix. While he was down there, God worked him over, jerked him inside out, and got him straightened up, and he come back, and we got together praying for a revival. I remember him sharing what God had done in his heart.

I remember sitting there across the couch looking at him thinking, well, you young whippersnapper. I was ten years older than him. So now, let's see, I'm 61, he'd be 51 now, and I'd say, what are you doing preaching at me? Well, he wasn't preaching.

He was just sharing, but I was under conviction because he had something and I didn't have it. But we began to pray for revival. We prayed for several months, starting probably the first part of 85.

We'd get together, our wives would get together, and we'd pray for revival. I didn't even know what I was praying for. It just sounded like something I needed.

And so what happened? We lined an evangelist to come up. He was going to come into Wes' church for a week, my church for a week, and then his brother-in-law's for a week. And his brother-in-law was an organizer type.

Me, I'm the opposite end. We'll put it together 30 seconds before it's supposed to go. But he came in, John came in, the evangelist, the first week, the very first day, I think it was, one of the deacons got saved.

Missionaries came off the Indian Reservation, off the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. God began to work on their hearts, tune them up, jerk them inside. It was an anointed time from the Word.

As a matter of fact, I've listed some things, about 13, 14 things at this revival about it. But there was anointed preaching, there was the anointing of the Holy Spirit present. It had been prepared by prayer.

I doubt we really see anything happen of any significance without prayer. So what happened? In eight days there, God's work, wow, powerful. People getting saved, getting right with God, and moved down our way about 36 miles away into our church.

Went 18 days in our church. This was April of 1985, 18 days in our church. I sat through 12 messages.

Now remember, I was over in this part of church. God was working right from the very beginning. I was back in the back of the church when the invitations were given, directing people downstairs to go to the prayer room.

I didn't even have enough of God on my life to go down and pray with him. I was just, God, you've got to do something in my life. But after the 12th message, the Spirit of God hit me, I was over there, and he'd come along and said, you bitter old rascal.

He ripped me right open, and I saw God, and I broke, and I went down on my knees right there. And God answered my prayer, and he began to work in my heart, and he dealt with me on my bitterness. And of course, when these things happen, you've got to get up and tell the whole world.

That was the second thing about it. Anointed preaching, but anointed testimonies. And many times it was said that the flame of revival was the fame of what God was doing in lives, and they give testimonies.

We start off at 7 and go to 10 o'clock at night, and just sometimes the testimonies would just carry things on. You'd hear a holler here, you'd see somebody running across the room to get things right, because God was working. And so that's what went on for 18 days.

And then it went on down the road to the third guy, he's really jumping up and down and hollering by this time, because he had it all organized, probably advertising the paper and all this. But the evangelist is in the process now of moving his family out, because we're close to a month, and he went over a month, and he's moved his family out. And this went on then spontaneous, went two weeks in the third church, and then it went spontaneous for two years.

The evangelist came back to our town, went south to my wife's home church, went down there for three weeks. Just God moved in. But God had those ranchers, this is Sand Hill country out in western Nebraska.

God had those boys' attention out there, because it come June, haying season, the hay was one inch tall. Not that tall, but one inch, with a drought. God had their attention, and he got a hold of those ranchers, that's why it was referred to many times as the rancher's revival by the evangelist.

So God worked down there for three weeks, and I had to go to Louisiana and came back, and he moved back to town and moved into our house with his family and everything, and come back into another church, went into a Wesleyan church. We were in just a little independent Baptist church, went into a Wesleyan church. And then it just kept going like that, and ended up going over down into Kansas, northeast Kansas.

Just the Spirit of God just carrying it like that. And God would work in such ways as I've never seen anything like it. Now, that I would consider just the tip of the iceberg of what's happened in my life that's since then has just been phenomenal, just phenomenal.

I feel sorry, you know, I don't live perfect, ask my wife and kids, whatever, but I know what to do with it, to stay there with God. Just talking with Harold, Don Curran a little bit ago, you know, I finally got it figured out with all these problems coming in and things, I'm supposed to rejoice, give it to God and just rejoice, give thanks, God's in control. He's the great circumstance of life, as Hudson Taylor said after he went through a trial.

So it went from city to city, a little town here, we've seen the whole football teams get saved, bars get closed down. As a matter of fact, I jotted down some things here. Let me just go through it.

There was conviction of sin. There was repentance of sin, restitution for sin. These are the basics of revival, testimonies given.

Many were saved. Many said, it's like being born again, again, and John and I talked about that. We believe many of them probably just got saved the first time because they never had such a great thing as this, but there was a lot of opposition.

The enemy likes to get in and stick his nose in and see if he can get some attention. We learn, just glance, you can keep your gaze on God when those things go on. He wants to get attention, and so there was lots of opposition.

Right at the beginning, we'd have like three septic systems go out and these things, this just, you know, we learn the enemy tells on himself by the amount of opposition we get. So we shouldn't get excited. He'd just tell us, God's going to do something, and I'm going to distract you if I can.

But we just go back to God and ask him to take care of the distractors. There was a lot of prayer. There was a lot of prayer.

After God got a hold of my heart, then I didn't have to go pray. I wanted to go pray, and others, and the prayer continued on even several years after that. The pastors, some of the pastors, we'd keep getting together and praying.

There was a lot of humbling, dealing with pride. I shared something with you earlier this morning. Not that I wanted to share it, but just so that you understand, that's a good way to keep walking with God, is look for opportunities to humble ourself.

Even if you're not sure, go ahead and humble yourself, it's not going to hurt you. Spontaneous, continuous into the other churches, I just had jotted down some notes. I read a little booklet a couple days ago that I wrote on this revival, and I've got a few copies.

If any of you would be desperate to have one, I don't pass these out anymore. It's called Revival of Ruin, so I went back over my own little story to see some things there. The evangelist sent this out all over the world, a whole bunch of countries, but it seemed to be anointed by God.

I just sat down and wrote it in a short amount of time, I think maybe an hour or so, but I told the story of what happened there in this little thing, in this little booklet. There will be a few more details in it, but I'm

going to tell most of it here. Just how God was able to come in and cleanse our hearts when we would finally get honest with God.

As Harold was talking this morning, and Ralph, and Danny was talking last night, we have to do this. We just have to do this. Now, what happened in the church? That was an interesting thing.

I mean, we had a little church, and maybe seat 120 people, packed back to the entry to the vestibule, and that thing was filled back to the door a couple times. But after the revival was the most interesting thing. After the smoke all settled, and dust got all down, and everything settled back down to normal, so to say, it wasn't normal.

It wasn't normal. We had three things we didn't have before. These three things, whatever it costs you, get them.

We had purity, we had unity, and we had power. We didn't have but half as many people. How about that? Have you ever experienced that? What happened? It got so real, those that didn't get revived couldn't stand and stay around there.

So they left, and the rest of them, God moved them out. It was amazing to get jobs to go here and there. And so here, God said, it's a humbling process, let's go on down all the way.

And then the other brother, he moved down with me because his church refused to go on with the Holy Spirit. So he moved down with me. And we had a ball.

We just literally had a ball. Neither one of us got a salary. God taught me 32 years ago to get my money from Him.

So we didn't get a salary, and so we'd go out and work on people's roofs, fix their this and that. And we'd be up on the roof praying, having a prayer meeting, having a revival on the roof, and watch what God would do down below. We just had a wonderful time of God working in the community and the area.

So we had unity, and we learned you had to guard. We had to guard our spirit of unity. We had to guard, check with people that come in, find out what was there.

And then we had a change of lives. People quit their jobs because they sold liquor here. One young man in the area sold his ranch and went off to seminary and just things like that.

He's in the ministry now. There is, let me share with this, see how much time we've got here. About six years later, God came back into the area of western Nebraska again and used a different evangelist, moved into a railroad town.

I wasn't involved on that one. The pastor there, he was the one that sold his ranch, he ended up pastoring over there. He's on the phone every week, you've got to get back up here, God's come back again.

And they went ten and a half weeks out in Alliance, Nebraska. And I was, at that time, I'd moved down to Missouri to take some time off. Three years later, God came back and told me, drop everything.

Just drop it. Put it on the altar. And we did, we went down to Missouri, and that's another whole story.

So God worked there in Alliance, ten and a half weeks, a thousand people prayed to receive Christ and understand how many got saved, only God knows. But here's an interesting thing that happened through that revival. It's a railroad town, Burlington.

These guys are hauling their junk back, they stole, to Burlington. Burlington's ended up with thousands of dollars on their doorstep. These railroaders are bringing back stolen material.

It doesn't look too good in the books. You got all these thieves working for you. They wrote a special bulletin out, anybody bringing anything back in the next thirty days, just bring it back, no questions asked.

Revival affected Burlington Railroad out there. We can have it. Well, let me just say a couple things about, some things I learned on it.

The cost. It won't cost you much, but it'll just cost you everything you have. You have to be willing to give God everything.

Just a couple years ago, three years ago, I went through something, a tremendous thing. Oh, wow, it was just something. God's taken me to the cross, and I was mumbling about it one day, it was a horrible thing happening, you know how those things happen.

And he said, what are you grumbling about? He said, you've been praying for years to be crucified with Christ, that you'd know the power of his resurrection, the fellowship of his sufferings. That's all that's happening. Oh, I see.

You know, if we ever get it figured out, that God wants us to walk in quietness and confidence in him. He's letting these things happen. Matter of fact, he came back later, he said, you know all the problems you've got and everything? He said, I did it.

I let the devil come in. Oh, he said, by the way, I did it because I wasn't getting the glory anymore. And if you ever experienced God coming in, he likes to undo all our stuff so he can rebuild it back.

And we're usually complaining, moaning and grumbling. When we get through revival, we get in step with God. And this is what God did in this time.

He got me in step 22 years ago. It's just been wonderful. Has it been easy? No.

It's sure not been boring, a little too exciting sometimes. But walking with God is one adventure. And revival would be the gateway to get you through there.

So it's going to cost you a lot. The only question I have, are you willing to pay the price to have revival? Are you willing to pay the price not to have revival? Guess which one costs more? You better believe it. Whatever it takes.

Pray. Believe God to do it. Believe God to do it.

I was praying, God, it's revival or. I had no other thing to put there. When I wrote this little booklet, I put down, it's revival or ruin, which is basically what it is.

Since then, God has really taught me some tremendous lessons on how Satan gets into our lives. And this is why these men are here to help us. Brother Shipley is going to come.

And they're going to keep sharing things with us. But the enemy has amazing ability to deceive us and to penetrate and invest into our churches and lives. I'm just sharing these things for your encouragement.

How can I help you? How can I help you? Brother Shipley would help you. Brother Vaughn, Brother Kern, Brother Dean, how can we help you? Don't go away discouraged. Go away believing God to do it.

You can have it. It may not be a national revival or an awakening what we'd like, but we can have God come. There are some keys.

God taught me several keys on this. And one of the keys was brokenness. Let God break you.

Just let Him break you. A lot of it doesn't feel good to go through the process. You see, there's the preparation for revival, and then there's the process of revival, and then there's the product.

We'll never get the product if we don't go through the preparation and the process. Well, yeah, revival, I'm allowed to have it. Oh, no, I don't want to humble myself and go out there and tell these people, I've been a hypocrite.

We've seen pastors get saved, pastors' wives. It just doesn't matter who you are. It's not going to do you any good to keep pretending.

Charlie Orr has a message, professing Christians in hell. Wouldn't that be a great place to spend eternity? Oh, it's not worth it. Who is the Lord of the church? I'm going to just close up here a couple of things.

I better quit because I got a whole list. I just keep going. But one of the things that happened in my life, at that time, I began traveling around the country.

And because the evangelists are getting these calls, what's going on out there? Come to our church. And he said, I won't go to your church unless you get Don Corby to come in. And I'd go in, and I would meet with the pastors, and I would share my testimony with them and how God had dealt with me and broke me and my pride and all this other garbage that was there.

And they're, oh, we've got to do that to have revival. One pastor in Harrisburg, he came up to me, tears just flowing down his cheeks. He said, thank you, brother.

He had 1,000 people in his church. I don't know what God did. But if God can break us, we'll be broken bread that can feed others.

But he's got to... We're hard nuts, though. I think I'm just going to close up with this little thing. I've got a thing in my Bible in the front.

And then the other brother's going to read. This is the most deadly thing, and that's spiritual pride. Jonathan Edwards lists it, number one.

He said, the first and worst cause of errors that abound in our day and age is spiritual pride. This is the main door by which the devil comes into the hearts of those who are zealous for the advancement of Christ. It is the chief inlet of smoke from the bottomless pit to darken the mind and mislead the judgment.

We're very good at pretending. There I was in the revival, back to the door smiling at everybody going down the prayer room. I was the biggest sinner there.

I was in more need than anybody. And we really are not of any practical use to the Lord until we have experienced a working of God in our lives. This is why I was desperate for God to do it no matter what.

It was revival or ruin, and it was a gateway. It's a gateway into a whole new life. It's a gateway into the life that Christ bought for us at Calvary.

He never intended us to be struggling around, groping around in the dust. He intended us to be walking in the power of the Spirit in victory. We're too soft.

God's sending some things along to help us out, I think. We better be ready because when God moves in, and we know He's shutting down on our countries, are we going to be ready to reach out to others? Will we be revived and walking in the Spirit and listening to God and able? Suppose there's another 911 that covers a huge area. Can we as a church minister? I don't know.

It all depends on us. Let's pray. Thank you, Lord, for this little time.

And now, Father, we ask you to guide us the rest of our time. Oh, Lord, may you be glorified. May you receive all the glory.

There's a rascal that lives inside my heart. Call him the old man. He's saturated with pride.

He'd like to get out anytime he can. But, Lord, we all got him there. So you do have mercy on us to learn that we were given the victory over him and also the enemy that likes to use him.

Thanks be to God which gives us the victory. Lord, I pray that your blessing would fall on this place. We're inviting you to come.

I just thank you, Father, that I could just even be here. And I pray that you'd just use this for a short testimony to encourage others. In Jesus' name, amen.

---

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/btcQjhjUYJY.mp4>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/don-courville/revival-testimonies/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**