

Personal Revival

by George Verwer

George Verwer emphasizes the importance of personal revival through the Holy Spirit, encouraging believers to live in joy and obedience to God.

Duration: 40:00

Scripture: Galatians 5:13

Topics: "Personal Revival", "Walking In The Spirit"

Description

George Verwer emphasizes the necessity of personal revival for every believer, drawing from Galatians 5 to illustrate the contrast between living in the flesh and walking in the Spirit. He encourages Christians to embrace their liberty in Christ, not as a license for sin, but as an opportunity to serve one another in love. Verwer highlights that true revival is not merely a spectacular event but a daily experience of the Holy Spirit's power, producing genuine fruit in our lives. He urges believers to reject discouragement and guilt, instead living in the joy and strength that comes from a vibrant relationship with Jesus. Ultimately, he asserts that personal revival is the inheritance of every Christian, enabling them to live out their faith authentically and powerfully.

Transcript

Book of Galatians and we're going to start chapter 5 verse 13.

For brethren ye have been called unto liberty only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh but by love serve one another for all the law is fulfilled in one word even in this thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself but if ye bite and devour one another take heed that ye be not consumed one of another this I say then walk in the spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh for the flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh and these are contrary the one to another so that ye cannot do the things that ye would if ye be led by the spirit you're not under the law now the works of the flesh are manifest which are these adultery fornication uncleanness lasciviousness idolatry sorcery hatred strife jealousy wrath factions additions heresies enmities murders

drunkenness revelings and the like of which I tell you before as I have told you in the time past they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God but the fruit of the spirit is love joy peace long-suffering gentleness goodness faith meekness self-control against such there is no law they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts if we live in the spirit let us also walk in the spirit let us not be desirous of vainglory provoking one another envying one another you may wonder why do we have in the

middle of our missions conference a message on personal revival there is a book by the way back there on the table called personal revival it's in magazine form and it's the best possible follow-up on this morning's message again whether you can leave a

donation or not since it's a magazine book that costs us a few pence to print just take it and even if you leave a postage stamp you'll cover the cost of that book it's a miracle that we are able to publish these books in magazine form a hundred thousand at a time it's an answer to many years of praying because you see there four and a half thousand million people out there and if we just publish little editions of five thousand books ten thousand books it's going to be a long road and so we're producing these in a printing press that's about as long as this building Christian printer does this a hundred thousand at a time so you take one personal revival the Ministry of OM from the very beginning has been revival first and mission second and so it is fitting that on this missions weekend

we consider the subject of personal revival we've already read those verses in Galatians 5 now maybe I could just read three of them again starting at verse 22 but the fruit of the Spirit is love joy peace long-suffering gentleness goodness faithfulness meekness self-control against such there is no law and they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and let me read it also in this living paraphrase just to amplify the thoughts to some degree through different wording but when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us love joy peace patience kindness goodness faithfulness gentleness and self-control and here there is no conflict conflict with Jewish laws those who belong to Christ have nailed their natural evil desires to his cross

and crucified them their personal revival is the privilege of every believer and I would beg of you to consider carefully this subject from the Word of God with me this morning because I believe that if you grasp all that you have in Jesus Christ that you will be able to experience from now on personal revival in your life I really believe that as a result of my first book one that you can pick up free this morning I've had about 14,000 letters and I've seen through those letters and of course through constant contact with people how easy it is for Christians to get discouraged discouraged in their prayer life discouraged in their witness continually feeling guilty never good enough never praying never going to church never doing this and this is not the plan and the purpose of God that a

Christian just live in discouragement and in guilt we read that the joy of the Lord is our strength and here this morning we've read about the fruit of the Holy Spirit we have a spirit we are commanded in Acts and in Ephesians to be filled with a spirit therefore it is clear that God wants us to be living in personal revival not in discouragement not in the endless syndrome of guilt and failure but in the joy of the Lord sometimes because we often listen to testimonies of people who get away from the Lord and come back to the Lord we get the idea that this really is the normal Christian life isn't it you come to the Lord and you're excited for a while and then you sort of drift away and you get lukewarm or you get blown away by some problem or some misunderstanding and then somehow maybe

at Philly or Keswick or at some summer Bible camp you come back to the Lord again and in September you're allowed to give your testimony in church of how you wandered away from the Lord but you're back again and everybody's happy now I'm thrilled when I hear the testimony of somebody who's come back to the Lord of course that's good that's wonderful but I know something better don't ever get away from him in the first place you say oh then I won't be asked to give my testimony it's interesting how sometimes we we gravitate toward wanting testimonies of people who have gone through some special difficulties and there's nothing wrong with that but sometimes spiritually speaking a wonderful testimony can be almost

boring of course I guess it depends how you how you share it I'm convinced

that it's the purpose and plan of God that when we come to the Lord Jesus Christ we never go away from him anymore we don't go into sort of the back the back garden of spiritual defeat but we stay out in the battlefield living day by day in the Holy Spirit as we see here verse 16 walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the loss of the flesh now revival is a term that sometimes people don't understand and for a while I hardly use the term because it was so misused and people often think of revival only as that which happened like over in Wales in 1904 the Welsh revival when there was this special movement on this of the Spirit almost as if the Holy Spirit was forcing people we hear stories of you know a drunkard walking down the street and suddenly zap the Lord hits him and he falls

on the ground throws his bottle into the woods and gets converted it's easy to become infatuated with a spectacular after all as Christians we're interested in the spectacular but I believe that there are different kinds of revival and that the Scriptures put a greater priority on personal revival than on large group or corporate revival we're not against anything that the Holy Spirit is doing and to see that which happened in 1904 and that which happened in other parts of Britain at different periods of history praise the Lord we can pray for that we can work for that probably as Christians will never fully agree about it it was interesting to read as I was doing a little homework in preparation for speaking at Keswick to read about when the Welsh went up there during the Welsh revival

to the Keswick convention and and they sort of attempted to somehow get Keswick going into the revival and they had nights of prayer and they had different things happen but it didn't break out in the same way that it broke out in Swansea and other parts of Wales you can't force it you can't crank it up like an old car you know the old cars used to have to go around the front and get it going you're not going to get revival going that way there's an element of mystery in revival there's an element of God's timing then there's an elements of Providence I've seen people going through sort of a revival purgatory praying year after year that God would send a revival and sort of castigating themselves that blaming themselves or blaming their church it's always easy to blame the church for

anything that's a good scapegoat the church for why we don't have revival I believe there's another side to this coin it's our inheritance in Jesus Christ that as individual believers we don't have to sit back and wait for a warm special wind to blow through the church or a dove to break through the window in Christ we have all that we need to live a life of joy and revival and spiritual power day by day not just for a couple of years because let's face it that revival in Wales and in other parts of the world for many of the people involved it was one or two years and it was over many of them backslid many of them even left the Christian faith afterward the spiritual warfare continued even Evan Roberts the human leader of the Welsh revival went through deep times and struggle and

extremism came in and out of that Jesse Penn Lewis wrote war on the Saints a book that I don't really recommend to too many people which got many people discouraged confused and depressed and that spread into the writings of watchman knee watchman knee one-third of his writing is rehashed Jesse Penn Lewis and a few other things thrown in we think it comes from China but you know it can be a dead-end street as believers we have the Holy Spirit and as believers it is our privilege to live day by day in the fullness and the power of the Holy Spirit now a lot of people don't understand this because they're looking for something spectacular they think when the Holy Spirit comes upon them something really weird is going to happen their eyes are going to change color or their hair is going to

stand straight up or they're going to get a new voice have you ever been in a prayer meeting when a brother with a real gruffy huffy voice comes in and but when he prays suddenly there's a different voice you know God's not going to change your voice I wanted to get mine changed I can't stand listening to my the filling of the Holy Spirit is not only for the pulpit it's for the kitchen not only for the door-to-door visitation it's for the driving it's not only for the work in the church but to work in the factory the filling and the living in the power and the energy of the Holy Spirit is not firstly a spectacular experience it is a whole new way of life which is very down-to-earth and which will not just function one or two years but it will function the rest of your life and the filling

of the Holy Spirit in personal revival and reality will not destroy your humanity I was helped in this particular area because so many of the people that I've met and as you can imagine I've been in thousands of churches some of the ones who claim to be and others felt were spirit-filled I found a bit strange myself some of the real hyper spiritual types they really to me something something plastic something unreal about them and yet I realized that that was just their human factor they were a little eccentric they were a little different we're all different aren't we but some of them are and my wife says about me but I realized that this treasure this is what the Bible says this treasure is in an earthen vessel and as you're filled with the Holy Spirit as you learn to live in revival

that doesn't destroy your humanity and it's dangerous to repress ourselves or to try to be somebody else in our effort to be more spiritual to try to be Andrew Murray or F.B.

Myers or to try to be George Duncan or Alan Redpath two very different men their their method of preaching if you've listened to them is completely different George Duncan quiet short beautiful Redpath like a storm you know one hour long you're shaking the whole time God uses different people in different ways God doesn't as you're filled with the Holy Spirit and learn to live in revival destroy your humanity liquidate your personality obliterate your temperament if you're the shy kind of quiet person soft-spoken as you're filled with the Holy Spirit you're not going to become like me relax you'll probably be still relatively quiet and shy but you will experience God's grace to open your mouth at the right time and the fruit of the Holy Spirit will become more and more a reality in your

life there's nothing that represents revival more than the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer that's why again and again I've meditated on those words I went to a home sometime ago I was a little hungry and I saw some fruit and I should have asked but I sort of reached for it as I was asking whether I could have some and as it got near my I discovered it was wax have you ever seen these fruit displays they have plastic ones as well the wax is a little more digestible than the plastic and so oftentimes as Christians the fruit it isn't real you know how we can tell when the fruit is plastic or wax rather than the fruit of the Holy Spirit under pressure that's what really counts isn't it it's not what we're like when we're sitting in church on Sunday morning though that's

important everything is important with God but what are we like when we're under pressure on the m1 sitting in the same place for two hours listening to the radio that tells you that a large lorry has just overturned with 1,000 apples rolling down the m1 and that will be several hours before you're cleared and there's no exit anywhere in range how do you handle that yes it's pressure that brings to the surface what we're really made of it's pressure that determines whether that blessing we got three weeks ago in church is still a blessing today and I want to just share from my own experience that ever since my conversion I have known personal revival every day that's 29 years you say wow what what cheek this preachers got tell us he's been living in revival for 29 years you see it's a

normal Christian life I don't believe that's any great boast I don't believe that's any special statement that's God's provision that's not me I can't maintain revival even 20 minutes but when I was converted to Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit came to live in me Jesus by his spirit came to live in me I'm the earthen vessel he's the treasure and it is now the normal experience that every day he lives in me he doesn't die for several days and then come back to life again now we can grieve the Holy Spirit we can quench the Holy Spirit and I have to be honest I've had moments I've had hours I've even had half days to be quite honest in some cases almost whole days in which I was not living in revival but somehow I learned as a baby Christian that there was cleansing in the blood of Christ there

was forgiveness when one sinned and so as far as I can remember each day even when there's been difficulty or sin or failure or discouragement throughout maybe part of the day somehow through the word and prayer I got my my cord back plugged in to the right source of power it's very clear in 1st John chapter 2 the first part of the verse says sin not that's my goal each day and as I spend some time early in the day in the word and in prayer my goal as I launch out in that day is to live a life of love holiness fruit may be seen in my life but the second part of the verse is the reason I'm still here if you sin that's me if you sin you have an advocate with the Father Jesus Christ the righteous you see we sort of have this idea that Christians who live in revival they they they they don't

sin well we don't say that but we expect that it's sort of the way some churches treat their pastors theologically they don't believe the pastor is perfect I mean that would be bad theology but through insinuation and implication they expect the pastor more or less to be perfect I mean we don't want I mean he's allowed little things and the pastor's wife oh thank you Lord that I'm not the pastor's wife of course that would be difficult but in so many places I go the pastor's wife seems to be really put on the spot if the pastor's a dynamic sort of extrovert evangelistic preacher teacher and has an out ministry sort of the people expect the wife you know she's gonna be a teacher she's gonna be an exhorter she's gonna be at every meeting she's gonna be encouraging the elderly taking care of

the young ones teaching in the Sunday school and of course taking care of the pastor and a lot of pastors have big families for some reason I've never been able to explain change these days more balance in the theology and of course no wonder many a pastor's wife has landed up with a nervous breakdown people have the idea that missionaries these are the real super saints really and they can get away with more because the local churches don't see them they just come sailing in on a weekend give their spiritual messages people who a man of God he gets out of town before the dust falls or maybe they never see the dust he's back in the Congo the same loudmouth carnal missionary upsetting all the Africans and back home they're thinking he's a great man of God and the Holy Spirit is so

wonderful using him perhaps out there in that town where he lives half the town can't stand him and are praying that he'd return to England missionaries are human incredibly human we have enormous problems on the mission field there's moral problems there's divisions there's carnality there's plastic fruit there are all kinds of things this is why when a missionary prayer meeting is called the Lord's people need to mobilize because I tell you it's total war maybe the church needs a new remembrance service once a year to remember the missionaries who have fallen in action or have been wiped out on the battlefronts in the spiritual warfare because just as in the Falklands there were casualties though it was kept to a minimum so in the work of God on the front lines of spiritual action there

are casualties there are mental and emotional breakdowns there are often physical and health breakdowns and there are spiritual breakdowns and when we see this happen out on the mission field we

need to realize that sometimes it's linked with a weakness in our heavy artillery program back in the home country what do I mean by that the heavy artillery one great Whitcliffe Bible translator said was the intercessory prayer I was reading this morning in 1st Timothy chapter 2 how first of all prayer and supplication and intercession with Thanksgiving should be made unto all men how is your heavy artillery ministry is your home an arsenal for spiritual warfare in which the big guns of intercessory prayer are aimed out to the unreached parts of the world where the strongholds of the enemy are

still holding back the missionary forces as we'll be talking more about perhaps this evening or tomorrow yes being filled with the Holy Spirit living in personal revival doesn't destroy your humanity you know about 20 years ago when I was first living here in Britain many people were coming into new experiences with the Holy Spirit the Holy Spirit of course works in different ways in different people some of the people that I've seen live in revival for long periods of time have never had any great one spectacular mind-bending foot tingling experience with the Holy Spirit but they've had the ongoing work of grace in their hearts by the Holy Spirit in all fairness others in our work have had very shattering experiences with the Lord it may be in have been in the context of the working of

the Holy Spirit it may have been in the context of what we've read here in Galatians the crucified life many have come into a new dimension in their spiritual walk when they realized the reality of the crucified life and they begun to understood understand that it wasn't only Jesus who was crucified but they as believers are to reckon themselves as being dead unto the world and as being crucified spiritually speaking with Jesus Christ that's how this revival is maintaining an ongoing work of the cross day by day that's why Jesus said if any man come after me let him deny self take up the cross and follow that's Jesus speaking of me therefore it is the privilege it's the plan of God that every Christian knows continuous revival in his life the human factor will still be there failure will

still be there tears will still be there you know as I thought of those who gave their lives in the war and listened to a remembrance song this morning there in the back of my old coach I just wept now maybe I weep easy my wife's father was killed in that war some of you have loved ones and friends who were killed in that war nothing wrong with weeping I see it as a greater problem that many Christians no longer weep we've been emotionally brainwashed by overexposure to violence and bloodshed on television and in the media so that we become hardened and no longer do we have the softness of heart and the tenderness of heart that we can weep with those who weep and yes rejoice with those the fullness of the Holy Spirit does not destroy the human factor it will not turn you into me or me

into you that's why it's so foolish to spend too much time judging other people or running around measuring everybody spiritually to see who is the spiritual or the most spiritual of all we're all God's children if we are born again we all have a blank page in the book of heaven it's not a matter of Billy Graham being ten times more important than you or Hudson Taylor having 50 pages in the book and you have only a small inch in the index God has created every one of us God has a plan for all of our lives God has a totally different way of measuring things than the Daily Mirror or the Gospel Gazette and he looks at the faithfulness of your heart he looks at the fruit on your spiritual tree and his burden is firstly quality not quantity it's not how many nations you can take for Christ or

how many souls you can win though those things have importance in the context of Christian and world evangelism but are you abiding in Jesus are you living in personal revival and I know that if a weak struggling often confused person like myself can experience this grace and power to varying degrees every day for 29 years then there's nobody that cannot know this way of life I've seen this also in my own

wife my own wife who was greatly affected by her father's death so she spent part of her life in sort of a sort of an orphanage and then there was some other difficulties in the home don't want to go into detail I talk a little bit about this in my book and after she was converted to Christ she still had a lot of difficulties as a result of these these sort of damaged emotions is a book

on the table there called healing for damaged emotions and you know in a day when it's more and more possible to have good physical health through medicine and other things there are more and more people with damaged emotions who need spiritual healing that's a beautiful book and long before that book was written my wife in the quietness of her own room had an experience with the Lord Jesus that brought beautiful healing to her emotions and in her case also the healing of three physical diseases which were linked with emotional damage I'll never forget that day and if God hadn't moved in her life and brought her into that healing though it's an ongoing process and she would be the first one to say that it's just got to keep going on because old memories come up old hurts come up the old

humanity whatever you want to call still there but I've lived with her for 23 years and I've seen reality in her life as a very very homespun ordinary shy quiet woman who often feels inferior to almost everybody God works in different ways in different people don't try to be somebody else don't read too many biographies at once spend more time perhaps in the word and understanding from the scriptures God's purpose and God's plan for your own life as a beautiful original creation of a glorious omnipotent God yes it's the purpose of the Lord for all of us to be rejoicing in his grace for all of us to be abounding in his work for all of us to have the fruit of the spirit in our lives and a vision for others and a lost and dying world this is not the exception for a few people who go to

missionary conferences but this is the privilege of all believers who have a Bible and can read it and appropriate this way of life for me it's been a lot of repentance oh quickly I grieve the Lord so quickly my eyes wander to places they should not go so quickly my heart gets cold so there's no interest in the souls of men I'm a natural backslider what about you maybe some of you just automatically go uphill spiritually I I'm always looking for those kind just spiritual life for you is just automatic you just going up from victory to victory the bounding day after day automatically more and more spiritual many of you are in that category I'd love to really see you after the meeting and and get your autograph here and in my Bible I've got a special section I write here in the top of the

page for hypocrites the fact of the matter is for all of us it is an ongoing spiritual warfare if we're going to go forward if we're going to go forward and it will remain at times that we sin we fail and it's at that moment we need more than at any other time to know God's love he does not abandon us at that moment of sin or failure for we are his children we are bought with a price and therefore we have no excuse but to bounce back to drink afresh from the fountain of never-ending water and to claim in his power and grace revival daily revival personal revival from now till we meet him at the end of the road let us pray let's just take a few moments to just again have silent prayer this time in remembrance of what Christ has done for us and our inheritance in Christ let us have

confession if we have failed to claim that inheritance that Holy Spirit daily reality let us confess our unbelief let us confess that sometimes we have been deceived into discouragement into a way of life that's plastic and not real let's turn let's turn fresh to the fountain of living water let's return to the cross and spiritually allow those nails again to go into our own hands so that we can say we're crucified will you say that with all your heart if you will by faith day by day and you will know personal revival tis your privilege tis your inheritance in Christ just pray father we do remember the death of your son the Lord Jesus on the cross

for our sin we thank you for forgiveness we thank you for cleansing we thank you for the privilege of living in revival and in victory and in

the power of your Holy Spirit we realize the flesh that this doesn't destroy the human factor it doesn't liquidate our humanity but it brings us into balance and into crucified living thank you Lord we believe that world missions will grow from a heart that's revived by your Holy Spirit and from a church that's experiencing revival and grace by your Holy Spirit may we be that kind of people may this be that kind of church for your glory for your honor through Jesus Christ our Lord

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