

Turn Us Again, O Lord God of Hosts

by Ian Paisley

The sermon emphasizes the need for God's intervention and the power of God's presence in our lives, calling us to repentance and seeking His redemption and forgiveness.

Duration: 50:46

Scripture: Numbers 6:22

Topics: "Revival And Renewal", "Holy Spirit Power"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the powerlessness of man in the face of the challenges and issues of life. He highlights the futility of human efforts to overcome sin and darkness. However, he also emphasizes the transformative power of encountering Jesus and experiencing His glory. The preacher calls for a revival similar to the one that occurred in the past, where God moved mightily and brought blessing to His church and people. He encourages believers to trust in God, pray fervently, and engage in evangelism with the power of the Holy Spirit. The preacher also expresses a longing for God to vindicate His holiness and calls for a return to God's ways. He concludes the sermon with a prayer for God's presence and guidance in the worship service.

Transcript

If you would turn with me now to the 80th Psalm, I want to read it to you. Psalm numbered 80. Give ear, O shepherd of Israel, Thou that ledest Joseph like a flock, Thou that dwellest between the cherubim's, Shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, Stir up thy strength, and come and save us.

Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine, And we shall be saved. O Lord God of hosts, How long wilt thou be angry against the prayer of thy people? Thou feedest them with the bread of tears, And givest them tears to drink in great measure. Thou makest us strife unto our neighbors, And our enemies laugh among themselves.

Turn us again, O God of hosts, And cause thy face to shine, And we shall be saved. Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt, Thou hast cast out the heathen and planted it, Thou preparest room before it, And didst cause it to take deep root, And it filled the land. The hills were covered with the shadow of it, And the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedars.

She sent out her boughs unto the sea, And her branches unto the river. Why hast thou then broken down her hedges, So that all they which passed by the way To pluck her? The bore out of the wood doth waste

it, And the wild beast of the field doth devour it. Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts.

Look down from heaven, And behold and visit this vine, And the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted, And the branch that thy mate is strong for thyself. It is burned with fire, It is cut down, They perish at the rebuke of thy countenance. Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, Upon the Son of Man, Whom thy mate is strong for thyself.

So will not we go back from thee? Quicken us, and we will call upon thy name. Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, Cause thy face to shine, And we shall be saved. God will stamp with his own divine seal of approval and blessing this reading from his very own infallible book.

Let's stand for a word of prayer before the preaching. O God our Father, We need to hear thee speak to us tonight. What a sad and terrible plight we would be in if we heard ourselves and heard one another, but did not hear the still small voice of thyself.

Intensify our experience of thy divine presence. Intensify the reality that thou art amongst us. Lord Jesus, walk down these aisles.

Sit beside every worshipper. Open our hearts to receive the engrafted word of God. If thou speak not to us, we will be like those that go down to the pit.

O save us from that this night. Let us hear thy voice. Let us know thy presence.

Let us see thy light. For in thy light we shall see light. To this end I take the promised Holy Ghost, the blessed power of Pentecost.

To fill me to the uttermost I take. Thank God he undertakes. For me and the people of God said, Amen, Amen.

You may be seated. The psalm numbered 80. At the verse 3, Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine, and we shall be saved.

And at the verse 7, Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine, and we shall be saved. And then at the last verse, the verse 19, Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, cause thy face to shine, and we shall be saved. Note the difference between these prayers.

In the ascription given to God, verse 3, Turn us again, O God. In verse 7, Turn us again, O God of hosts. And in verse 19, Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts.

You would be well aware, I'm sure, of the tabernacle and the arrangements of the furniture within the tabernacle. The first verse of this psalm brings us to the tabernacle and talks about the place where God dwelt in the tabernacle. And addresses Him and says, Thou that dwellest between the cherubim, shine forth, shine forth, shine forth.

And then in each prayer of verse 3 and 7 and 19, Cause thy face to shine. Remember, when you enter the outer court of the tabernacle, you are confronted with the brazen altar, but God does not dwell there. You go further in the outer court and you're confronted with the laver, but God does not dwell there.

You enter the holy place and on one side is the golden candlestick, but God does not dwell there. Opposite that candlestick is the table of Shuvrat, but God does not dwell there. Before the veil that divides

the holy place from the holiest of all, before that veil there's the table or altar of incense, but God does not dwell there.

And then once a year, the high priest parting the veil and carrying with him the precious blood of the sacrifice, the body of which was burned without the camp, he approaches to the ark of the covenant with the overshadowing cherubim and the lid of the ark, which was a mercy seat. And there on the mercy seat was the Shekinah glory, the dwelling place of the Lord God, Jehovah God. And so brilliant was that glory that it went through the fabric of the tent roof and caused in the daytime the pillar of cloud, which overshadowed the whole of the encampment.

And at night the cloud became a fire, lighting up the whole encampment. But that shining was always upward. The glory shone upward.

But when you turn over to portions of scripture, we have a striking change in regard to that matter. Turn first of all with me to Numbers chapter 6. And in Numbers chapter 6, we have recorded for us, for our information, the Aaronic blessing, the blessing that Aaron and his sons were to use in blessing the children, the six children of Israel. The sixth chapter of Numbers and the verse 22.

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying on this wise, We shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, The Lord bless thee and keep thee. Mark it well. The Lord make his face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace. Keeping in mind that that was the blessing which was offered by the high priest. Turn over now to Leviticus chapter 9. And in the ninth chapter of Leviticus, we have a special incident.

When the glory of God, instead of going up, went out. And it resulted as a result of Aaron blessing the people. The ninth chapter of Leviticus and verse 22.

And Aaron lifted up his hand toward the people and blessed them and came down from off the offering of the sin offering and the burnt offering and peace offering. And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation and came out and blessed the people. And the glory of the Lord appeared unto all the people and there came a fire out from before the Lord.

The consuming fire of the Shekinah glory and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fact which when all the people saw they shouted and fell on their face. The glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ That's what we need. The glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But that same glory that brought infinite blessing and kindled the fire that consumed the sacrifice of the sin offering also came a second time. Nadab and Abihu the sons of Aaron chapter 10 of Leviticus took either of them a censer and put fire therein and put incense thereon and offered strange fire before the Lord which he commanded not. And there went out fire from the Lord and devoured them and they died before the Lord.

One manifestation of this holy fire was blessing. Another manifestation of this holy fire was wrath to the uttermost. Here in this psalm the psalmist calls to God and he cries to Him Shine forth! When God shines forth there is a quickening among the true believing people of God.

When God shines forth God's people are uplifted their chains are snapped their bondage to sin is destroyed their hearts are lifted heavenward, homeward, Godward the spirit of God at work. But that same fire that burns for the blessing and the quickening and the resurrection of the church also burns in judgment against all false religion and all false fire not of the Lord's kindling. And in every movement of the spirit of God in history there has not only been the blessing and the uplifting and the strengthening of the true church but there has been the curse and judgment of God on evil, apostasy, sin and wickedness and the violation of God's commandments.

Now let us turn and look at these three prayers and the difference between them. First of all in verse 3 the prayer is turn us again O God and cause thy face to shine. Please notice this petition.

It does not say turn our captivity it does not say turn us away from our weaknesses it does not say turn us away from our darkness it does not deal at all with our circumstances. The burden of the prayer is turn us turn us turn us and God before he can revive his people has got to turn them and turn them not in regard to circumstances but in regard to their whole character and when God turns the people to himself the circumstances are quickly dealt with because they themselves have wholly turned unto God. We cannot turn ourselves it is a sovereign act of God that turns us to himself.

Turn us O God thou must take us thou must seize us we walk the wrong way we go the wrong road we have rejected thy way and thy paths and thy word and thy commandments and we're so entombed and snared and imprisoned and incarcerated O God it's an act of omnipotence we need to break the chains to set us free that we may be turned unto thee Turn us O God Notice that he uses the title O God we have a view of God here in his aloneness there is nothing added to the expression it is just turn us O God God alone God in the infiniteness of his aloneness God in the infiniteness of his solitariness O God Turn me When you come to the next prayer you will notice that we leave the thought of aloneness and we come to the thought of creativeness O God of hosts God the infinite creator the one who made

all things by the word of his power and the one who upholds all things by the word of his power and the one that preserves all things Turn us You will remember the young man who served Elisha and one morning he woke early and he got up and he walked on to the battlement of the city and he saw all around the city the chariots of Syria the enemy of his master and he came down to where his master was and he said Alas master the enemy is all around us There is no possibility of help and Elisha said Open the young man's eyes He is blind and God opened and he saw around about his master the hosts of the most high God and he saw that those that were the enemies of Elisha were few and weak and impotent but those that were for Elisha were armed with the strength of the Lord God Jehovah I want to

say to you tonight it will take the omnipotence of our great creator of God to bring the church the true church out of the mess it's in and bring people out of their love of materialism and their love of the world and the love of the flesh and their love for the things that are devilish in their heart It's a miracle it's needed a miracle of God and thank God he can do the miracle and thank God he can answer the prayer of the heart that says Turn us O God of hosts God is mighty to deliver his people I visit Europe every month for one week when the European Parliament is in session The European Parliament is the expression today of all that characterizes the beasts of the earth In fact our new building in Strasbourg is built after the fashion of the Tower of Babel and it's an unfinished

building purposely unfinished and in fact recently in one of their posters that they issued was the Tower of Babel that was their symbol Another symbol of European unity is the woman riding the beast In the new

building built in Brussels on the dome of that building there is a life size painting of the beast and the harlot riding the beast Symbols of what this is all about Man has sought to raise his kingdom and make it reach to heaven and make it the gate of God but it's not the gate of God it's the gate to hell and last month, this past month of October we were discussing homosexuality and before us was a directive to elevate homosexual marriages onto the same plane as Christian marriages and also to make it lawful that there could be no discrimination by any church body who refused to

employ a person because they were homosexual One would have thought there would have been outrage but there was no such thing I made a speech on this issue it was very badly received, I can assure you because I quoted that such people cannot be members of the kingdom of God and I also quoted from Romans chapter 1 and when I sat down a woman member of the parliament got up and said we found out just a moment ago why we must have this legislation when we heard the awful, filthy remarks of Ian Feathley as he reeled against this matter My remarks were the remarks of the holy book of God and when the vote was taken it was only 34 members voted against the elevation of the homosexuals and 500 voted for it that's what's happening today What can turn that?

Thank God, God the great creator can turn it He can turn it Things were bad in Strasbourg in the days of Luther and Calvin In fact Strasbourg became a refuge for many of the reformers that had to flee including both Luther and Calvin Calvin opened the first reformed church in Europe in Strasbourg but in their day there were no fundamentalist churches across the world no Bibles all was darkness they called it the dark ages but God still lived and God turned the people and the great reformation shook the foundations of Europe It can be shaken again by the power of God Got to realize that it's the doing of God Every revival in history is the doing of a sovereign God and God is evil and God is willing and God will turn His people if we constantly cry to Him for such a turning but then when we come to the last verse you'll find that the emphasis is not upon the aloneness or the creativeness of God it's upon the redemptiveness of God Turn us again O Lord In an authorized version that's printed in small capitals It's Jehovah O Jehovah God of hosts Creation only needed God's breath Redemption required God's blood The might of a redemption is greater than all the might of creation The greatest work God ever did was the work of redeeming people The doing of the cross was the height of His omnipotence His omniscience and His omnipresence You can't get a higher power than the power of the cross The preaching of the cross is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes And so we turn to the God of redemption Mighty to see Him Mighty to deliver Mighty to turn the tide The darkest wave must obey Him The strongest wind must lie down at His feet in silence He rules He reigns He is the King of kings and Lord of lords And all heaven's power is at His disposal All power in heaven and in earth is His So we're calling tonight to that God Now look at that prayer and you will find after each petition of Turn Us there's a little word again It's a very encouraging word, isn't it?

God has done it before This is not a new thing with our God This is something that God has done and will do He calls us He calls us from the depths and He calls us to cry to Him Turn us again Do it again I wonder do we really believe that God can give us another reformation Some people seem to think that with the turn of the 20th century omnipotence power has faded that God is dead that God doesn't do things like that today I don't believe a word of it I believe God is the same yesterday, today and forever and I know that things will get bad and wicked and worse but that doesn't mean that God doesn't parallel that with His blessed, saving, regenerating and reviving work and that's what happened in the day when the martyrs died It was a dark day It was a terrible day but it was also a day of glory After darkness you heard on Sunday night Light came My, we have the darkness today but the light can shine the light of God

If you turn over to that great chapter in Corinthians you will find what it says there It says that the light that shines out of darkness 2nd Corinthians chapter 4 worth marking, worth pondering on worth taking to our hearts and using it as an encouragement to us for God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness the darkness of the whole world 2nd Corinthians chapter 4 and verse 6 God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness Go back see the abyss see the deep see a world chaotic but God commanded the light to shine and what happened?

The light did shine and it says here He has shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ Where does God's light shine? God's light shines in the face of the Lord Jesus Man can bring all his powers together and do his very best but all the power of man all the confederate power of man can do little or nothing in the terrible issues that are before us but just a glance of that shining face of Jesus just one glance of it and the glory of God will break upon the soul If you are a child of God you remember the day when his glory broke upon you and you were a sinner and you couldn't rid yourself of your sins oh you made a mighty effort and you tried the religious way and you tried the ethical way and you tried every way and you went farther into your sin and deeper into your darkness and you found you were jammed and you had no power and you were lost and you were dead in trespasses and in sin and then the light came and what happened?

The impossible happened you were freed from the darkness and what God does when he saves a man and saves a woman and saves a boy and saves a girl the miracle of regeneration the bringing in of the light God can do that ten thousand million times over God is not limited He is the unlimited God How dare we set limits to the omnipotence of God There he could do no mighty work it says because of their unbelief God says we should be praying turn us again Look at the second part of this prayer not only the turning of ourselves to God I was very interested the other day in reading a sermon by C.H.

Spurgeon and Spurgeon had a tremendous ministry as you know in the city of London in the reign of Queen Victoria but after he had built his tabernacle and after his ministry had gone on he mourns for the days when he first came to London and he says your minister feels that he needs to be turned more thoroughly to the Lord his God His prayer shall be God helping him that he may be more fearless and faithful than ever before that he may never for one moment think what any of you will say in regard to what he utters but that he may only think what God his master would say concerning him that he may come into this pulpit with the resolve that he cares no more for your opinion with regard to the truth that if you were all stoned he only resolves come loss or come gain by it whatever the Lord

saith unto him he will speak and he desires to ask his master that he may come here with more prayer himself than her other two that whatever he preaches may be so burnt into his own soul that you will all know even if you do not like it that this man is speaking the burning word of God every preacher needs to pray like that we need a rekindling of the Holy Flame within our heart and every person in the congregation needs to pray that someone said to John Wesley our preacher is useless and he's hopeless it's an easy thing to blame the preacher but Wesley said I'll tell you what you do pray him on fire and the whole village will come out to see him burning so we need to have fire man in the pulpit and if you have fire man in the pulpit there'll be not many snow men in the pew they'll melt

when the fire comes down upon us we need that melting fire the fire of the Holy Ghost turn us again O Lord cause thy face to shine cause thy face to shine and Spurgeon said further in that sermon there are people who limit the word of God and limit its power have you never heard that under one of Whitefield's sermons there have been as many as two thousand saved he was a great man but God can use the little

as well as the great to produce the same effect why should not there be souls saved why what keeps it from happening not God but we are the stumbling blocks and we can only be turned into the way if God turns us into the way cause thy face to shine revivals in the church are a matter of record God has sent revivals you can't deny them God has done great things in this country of yours

the days of Whitefield and the days of Edwards there were real happening real changes took place society was changed to their very depth in 1858 God moved in this country in 1859 in our own country moved mightily turned the tide sought to drift the broken hedges of the church were repaired the vine that was broken down grew up again God gave blessing to his church and to his people and what happened in the last century can happen today God is still the same yesterday, today and forever O for faith to believe him O for faith to trust him O for prayers that will set the place on fire O for prayer meetings that will warm the very heart and the soul and the energy of God's people and call them to evangelism with power to reach the loss for Jesus Christ and at this same time that God sends his

blessing he sends the same fire to curse that which is evil and my we need a demonstration of that power we need to see God vindicating his holiness it grieves me when I hear my Lord's name taken in vain it grieves me to see the society that hates him the society that crucifies the Christ and puts him to an open shame I pray God that we will see his holiness vindicated that the fear of the Lord will come down upon districts that man will cry bent double with agony of heart before God that's what God can do and he wants to do and he tells us we should be praying to him cause thy face to shine revivals are commenced continued and completed by God alone he turns the tide and he alone can turn the tide what a harvest revival brings the harvest of souls being saved the promotion of love in the

church truth glorified taken out of the gutter and enthroned in glory holiness abounding and the rejection by the church of the world the flesh and the devil and the glorifying of his sons as the doctrine of the gospel is adorned by the life and separation and holiness of the people of God turn us again O Lord and we shall be saved turn us again and cause thy face to shine and we shall be saved when I was a young preacher and I'm no longer young I know that but I feel young and after all you're as young as you feel but I used to use an illustration it was an illustration concerning the suffering of the Savior this mother sat one day and her child little girl sat upon her knee the little girl looked up into her mother's face and she said, Mammy and she touched her mother's face she said, I

love your face and she touched her mother's eyelids she said, I love your eyes and she put her hand across her mother's lips and she said, I love your lips I really love you I love your face and then she took up her mother's hands and the mother's hands were scarred broken fingers were missing and she said, I don't love your hands I really hate your hands they're ugly I don't love your hands and the mother said to her dear let me tell you a story when you were just a babe and you were caught and you were sleeping one morning I got an urgent message that one of the neighbors was in sore trouble and I thought you'd be alright and I ran down the street to help my neighbor I wasn't long there till a terrible cry reached my ears and when I came out the road was packed with people and they were

all running to our house and when I got there the firemen were there and they wouldn't let me in and I tore my way through them and I went up the stairs and I took all the blankets I could get and I wrapped them round you and I brought you down that fiery stairway but my hands were burned to the bone my fingers had to be taken away some of my fingers had to be taken away after it it was a terrible ordeal I had that's why my hands are not lovely and the little girl with the ears running down her cheeks she picked up the hands of her mother and she said I do love you and then she kept she took the hands and she kissed

them and she said I love your hands most of all for it was those hands that saved my life the face of Jesus what did we do to it? we spat upon it we tore the hairs from off it

we battered it we crowned it with thorns we turned our back upon him there was no beauty that we should desire he is despised and rejected of men the battered, bleeding, disfigured face of Jesus his visage was marred more than any man and his form more than the sun's but oh I want to look into his face tonight and I want to say Lord Jesus I know your face was scarred I know it was crowned with thorns I know my sins, my cruel sins were your chief tormentors I know that I spat upon your face and battered it I took the reed and drove the thorns into your brow but Lord Jesus I love that face that bore the scars for me to save me from hell and oh Lord Jesus I want to see something tonight I want to see the glory of God in your face turn us again oh Lord God of us and cause thy face to shine

and we shall be saved what do you need? you need to be saved from your backsliding, your coldness your lack of love for the Lord believer your lack of earnestness your lack of zeal when we have done all we are unprofitable servants I know it but God wants to stir our hearts and our hearts can only be stirred when he turns his face towards us do you remember Peter? hard Peter he just used words of blasphemy dissociating himself distancing himself from the blessed Savior who had saved him and the Lord turned and looked upon Peter and he went out and he wept bitterly oh that the Lord would look on us tonight smite our love for sin and the world may we weep the tears of bitterness and may we know what Peter knew the blessed restoring of God and of his love turn us again oh God turn us again

oh God of us turn us again oh Lord God of us cause thy face to shine from between the cherubim shine forth shine forth oh God and thy glory shall dispel the darkness and after the darkness there shall be light let's bow our heads Heavenly Father we thank thee for thy good and thy gracious word we thank thee for this cry that thy was told us to cry to the highest heaven to keep on crying until the light shines and we see the face of Jesus turn us again oh God turn us again oh God of us turn us again oh Lord God of us and we shall be saved answer that cry of our hearts this night for Jesus sake and everybody said Amen

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