

The New Testament Church  
*Revival #1: Desperation: What Might Happen when God Moves?*  
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### I When does Revival Come?

- A. When we and the culture are no longer vibrant
  1. Revival means to come alive again – meaning we have grown cold
  2. Like a withered cornstalk, we are in need of rain and tender care
- B. God uses a dry heart and a dry culture to produce hunger and thirst (desperation)
  1. Psalm 42:1 - *As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.*  
– The deer will do almost anything when thirsty for water
  2. Matthew 5:6 – *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for the shall be filled* – revival often comes when we are thirst and hunger for Him!
  3. In short, God moves often we are most thirsty and that produces revival

### II What is God's goal for revival? The Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20

- A. The four “alls” of the Great Commission
  1. *All authority* – God brings revelation during revival that Christ is in charge
  2. *All nations (ethnic groups)* – God draws in people of all kinds in revival
  3. *All things* – we are to see how Jesus (God's Word) applies to all things
  4. *He is with us always* – at every time and in every place He is present
- B. The Great Commission is for every believer, not just for leaders!
  1. We know that Christ has all authority in heaven and on earth so home, church and state are delegated from Him, they are not absolutely sovereign
  2. We are to lead people to Christ (ready for baptism) and also to disciple them
  3. Discipleship is teaching and learning about how God's Word applies to every area of life and how we ought to obey Him in all things

### III The Scope of Revival is the Kingdom

- A. Mark 4:26-29 – revival is not just a work in the heart, but a river!
  1. First the **blade** - this is revival, life in Christ for the individual
    - a. A corn seed germinates with the right water, air and soil – it takes time
    - b. The root (radicle) grows down toward minerals, shoot grows up for light
  - c. It grows in darkness like the Word in all of us – “we know not how”
  2. Second the **ear** - this is awakening, bringing things into order in home & church
    - a. The next stage of growth is vegetative, beginning with the flag leaf appears
    - b. The ear shoots appear, bring order and form to the plant, and the silk appears
    - c. The plant (like our lives) awakens, can make its own food, but focused within
  3. Third is the **full corn in the ear** - which is reformation, or harvest, influence
    - a. The next stage is reproductive, with kernels 85% water, small and white
    - b. The ear fills out, kernels only 55% water, filled with starch, ready to be harvested
    - c. The focus is now on harvest – immediately – *everyone can enjoy the fruit!*
- B. When God moves, everything changes! People *desire God*, and *many are converted*, and an entire town can be changed – excerpts from Jonathan Edwards about North Hampton!