

# **Revival: Common Misconceptions and the Distinguishing Marks of an Authentic Move of God (Weekly Teaching, 20 August 2024)**

## **Common Misconceptions Regarding Revival**

### **Misconception 1**

Revival is something that occurs only at the corporate level in the Church.

### **Misconception 2**

Revival is something we can include as part of our regular church or ministry programme.

### **Misconception 3**

We can designate a time, length, date, and space for revival.

### **Misconception 4**

Revival is equivalent to church growth or an increase in numbers.

### **Misconception 5**

Revival is for the purpose of church growth and to galvanise people to get more involved with the programmes and activities (such as outreach) of the church.

### **Misconception 6**

Revival has to produce or create a particular physical or emotional response, or has to produce a certain outward expression of worship and how we praise God.

### **Misconception 7**

Revival is all about signs, wonders, and miracles.

### **Misconception 8**

Revival is for the conversion of unbelievers.

### **Misconception 9**

Revival will introduce new doctrines.

### **Misconception 10**

If a revival is authentic, there will be no counterfeit or hype in the midst of the revival.

### **Misconception 11**

Revival is meant to make my life better and easier or solve all my problems (also known as “revival fantasy”).

**Misconception 12**

Everyone (especially the rest of the church) will embrace this with open arms.

**Misconception 13**

People who have been impacted by authentic revival will not fall away into “gross errors” or “scandalous practices”.

**Five Distinguishing Marks of an Authentic Work of the Spirit of God According to Scripture**

*(Source: Jonathan Edwards)*

1. The Person of Christ and His work is exalted, magnified and becomes “more real” in the hearts of many people (1 Jn. 2–3).
2. Many people are convicted of their sin and fear God. They hate sin and turn away from what is “of the world” according to 1 John 2:15–16. (1 Jn. 4:4–5).
3. There is a greater reverence and love for God’s Word, people are more established in the truth and divinity of the Bible, and His Word is taken seriously (1 Jn. 4:6).
4. The spirit behind the work operates as a spirit of truth that leads people to truth and convinces them of things that are true (1 Jn. 4:6).
5. Genuine Christian love towards God and towards man is produced in many hearts (1 Jn. 4:6–19, 12–13). This is the most eminent of the distinguishing marks of the Holy Spirit’s work.