

# Finding Renewal Under the Sovereignty of God

*"Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us.<sup>2</sup> "He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him.*

*<sup>3</sup>"So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth."*

**Hosea 6:1-3**



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*"In our biblical desire for revival, we must refuse to seek any experience which proposes to eliminate our natural weakness."*—**WALTER CHANTRY**

*"When God is about to do a great work, He pours out a spirit of supplication."*  
—**JONATHAN EDWARDS**

### Ask yourself:

- In seeking revival, am I seeking to eliminate my weakness? In other words, am I looking for the removal of the person, pain, or challenge that I am facing as I ask for revival?
- Has God given me a desire to earnestly pray? Do I long to unclog the channel of communication with my heavenly Father through Christ? If so, try to describe the longing?

Here are some principles that can be lifted from our focal text to help us find renewal under the sovereignty of God.

### Return to God

*"Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us."*

It is one thing to see that God has the power to tear us and the power to heal us; it is another thing to see that God tore us *in order to* heal us. Physicians do this all the time. They carry sharp steel and cut us in order to heal us of sickness.

Christ is far greater than the best physician. As the source of life, He comes to bring healing where it matters most—deep down in the heart and soul.

### Remember His Promise

*"He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him."*

What the Jews could not see in this prophecy, we understand on this side of cross and the resurrection. Christ's body lay in a tomb for two days, and on the third day the resurrection took place (1 Cor.15:3-4). Our resurrection is connected to His (Eph.2:4-6). Jesus is the first fruits of them that slept (1 Cor.15:20). The purpose of our salvation is that *"we may live before Him,"* not behind Him, but literally, *before His face*. When His face is turned away, we feel the displeasure. But it is turned full upon the one it loves. In Christ, God has made His face to shine upon us (Num.6:25). When we remember His promise, we live. When we forget, we hide in the shadows and wither up spiritually. Jesus said, *"...because I live, you will live also."* (John 14:19). That's a promise.

### Rededicate Yourself to Grow Spiritually

*"So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth."*

In Hosea 4:1, God said there was no knowledge of Him and in 4:6, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge,"* but in Christ God has given to us *"all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"* (Col.2:3). We know in order to follow; and we follow in order to know. Light prepares the way for obedience, and obedience opens the heart and the mind for more light. Just as the dawn is seen by all and cannot be hidden, His renewal will be visibly known to all. Like the rain—which if withheld yields no chance of harvest—His presence and power cultivates our parched souls and brings life. Forever.

Return. Remember. Rededicate. This is the how we find renewal under the sovereignty of God.

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