Urgent and Dependent
1 Samuel 17:45-47

Introduction:

- Revival is a life or death matter.
- Experience God's path that leads to joy.

Learning from a revival story: David and Goliath

- This story took place about 3,000 years ago in the country of Israel.
- According to 1 Samuel 17, when the Israelite army heard Goliath's words, they and King Saul were dismayed and terrified.
- The Philistines were invading Israel. If the Israelites didn't beat Goliath, they faced certain death.
- **Question:** How do you defeat evil when it surfaces in your life, your family, or your civilization?
- **Answer:** David was prepared to face off with pure evil because David had been reviving his love for God daily.

The core principle:

- **Pursue revival** as if your life depends on it.
- **The Ripples of Revival:** Your choice to pursue revival affects:
  - Your closest friends
  - Your kids and grandkids

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- Your church
- Entire regions
- Entire nations

The posture of revival:

If you want revival, you have to live with a posture of _____ and _____.

- **Urgent Action:** We will do all that is in our control to do as we work for revival.
- **Total Dependence:** We recognize revival is a spiritual thing, and we need God to show up.

The pattern in 1 Samuel 17:

- **God's Part:** David declared, "For the battle is the Lord's, and He will give all of you into our hands."
- **David's Part:** He ran quickly out to meet him in battle, reached into his bag, took out a stone, and slung it.

The Golden Rule of Revival:

- _____ for revival like it all depends on you.
- _____ for revival like it all depends on God.

Why does revival matter?

1. **God commands us to pursue it**
   - When asked for the greatest commandment, Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart."

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- If we do not pursue the reviving of our love for God, there will be a cooling off of our love for God. As love cools off, the allure of sin starts to heat up.

2. **The blessing-judgment cycle:** Humanity has a natural propensity to wander away from God through a predictable cycle

    1. People _____ to God (1:00 position)

    2. God _____ (leads to improvement in relationships, freedom, and career)

    3. Blessing leads to _____

    4. Comfort leads to _____

    5. Out of complacency people start to _____ other things (wealth, comfort, family, sexuality, self)

    6. Whenever a person of God starts to worship some other thing, God sends a call to _____ (The Fork in the Road at the 8:00 position)

The three stages for people and nations:

- **Stage One:** The hearts of God's people slowly _____, especially in times of prosperity and blessing.
- **Stage Two:** God sends a call to people who have known Him to _____ to your first love.

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- **Stage Three:** God's people choose one of two paths:

  1. The path of _____ – Leads to revival

  2. The path of _____ – Leads ultimately to death and ruin

Four reasons why you should ask God to revive you:

1. Your _____ needs it

2. Your _____ needs it

3. Your _____ need it

4. Our _____ needs it

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways does your daily love for God face the most competition from your love for self, comfort, or other things?

2. How can actively reviving your love for God daily prepare you for the moments when you face "Goliaths" of evil, sin, or addiction in your life?

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3. What does it look like practically in your life this week to "work for revival like it all depends on you, but pray for revival like it all depends on God"?

4. When we experience God's blessings, it is easy to slip from comfort into complacency. At the "fork in the road," why is choosing the path of repentance so vital to stopping that downward cycle?

5. Distraction is the greatest enemy of revival. What is a specific, consistent time and place you can set aside each day this week to protect your one-on-one time with God from distractions?

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