***Psalm 85:4-7 Restore us, O God of our salvation, And cause Your anger toward us to cease.
5Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?6Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You? 7Show us Your mercy, Lord,
And grant us Your salvation.***

Next Sunday starts an event that we call Revival in our church, but Revival cannot start in a church unless it has first started in the people of the church. If Revival is not sought in the individual heart, it will not be caught in the heart of the whole. If the individual does not seek Revival, the church will not be revived. The prayer Revive us must be preceded by the prayer Revive me O Lord! Lord set Your fire in me this week so we might burn with fervor next week as we seek Your Presence and Purpose in the life of our church!

Verse 4 starts with a plea. *Restore us, O God of our salvation, And cause Your anger toward us to cease.*The plea starts with turn us back. No one asks to be turned back, restored, unless something has indeed gone off course in the first place. Before a plea for restoration is made, a realization and repentance of wrong must come. God knows we’ve sinned. Now, He wants to know that we know we have sinned. It’s only through the Salvation offered by Jesus that we can hope that God’s anger will cease. He is our propitiation, the only path to restoring God’s favor. Now we, as the Jews at the time of the writing of this Psalm, cry – Restore us Father and cause Your completely deserved anger to cease. We repent. We are wrong. Revive us we pray.

Verse 5 goes on - *Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?* Psalm 85 was likely written around the time of Nehemiah and the return of the Jews from captivity. It’s interesting – the word for anger in verse 4 carries the idea of frustration and vexation. The word for angry in this verse has the idea of being enraged. God, will You be enraged with us for eternity, until time vanishes? There is a sense of pleading – really seeking forgiveness and restoration. I used to have a friend who would say, “Please don’t stay mad at me forever.” When we seek forgiveness through Jesus, we have true Hope God forgives. Psalm 103:11-12 promises *For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

Verse 6 *Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?* Will You bring us back to life O Lord? Cause us to live again. Renew the Spirit inside of us Lord. Many of us recall Ezekiel 37 where God caused the valley of dry bones to come back to life, completely restoring the bones into living flesh. Revive is this same Hebrew word. Revive us again God… why? That we may continue in our sin and transgressions? Certainly not! But that we might have restoration of relationship, that we might Rejoice in God and Live for Him. In John 6, we see followers turning away from Jesus. His preaching was becoming difficult, not tickling the ears. In verse 67, we read *Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”* Many in the church today are turning away. The church is not very good at looking like the world while staying true to the Word. If the church is true to the Word, it doesn’t look like the world and many are offended; therefore they turn away. Listen to Peter’s answer in verse 68: *But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.* Likewise, we cry out to Jesus in this time of Revival – Lord Jesus, You are the source of Life! Pour Your Living Water upon us so we might Rejoice again in You! Make us a terrible replica of the world as we represent Your Living Word.

Verse 7 *Show us Your mercy, Lord, And grant us Your salvation.* Show us Your kindness and favor God. Grant us freedom, deliverance in You. Notice that Revival is only possible when God moves. God draws nearer to us when we draw nearer to Him. It is only in repentance and return that we are revived and restored. God graciously convicts us, chastises us, calls us. Our privilege is to follow the Giver of Life, the Lord of Mercy, Our God of Salvation. As we do, we are given life and life more abundantly than we could have ever imagined.

This week, let’s pray for Revival – starting in our heart, then our home, then our church, spreading to our nation and world. The God that can breathe life into a valley of dry bones, causing them to live again, can and will breathe life into lifeless Christians sitting in dead churches across a nation lacking the Living Water of Jesus. May that Restoration start in this little church in Frogsboro, NC because prayer warriors prayed for Revival starting this week beginning in me.