The FAILURE to PURSUE PEACE

Revival is blocked when brethren are NOT dwelling together in unity.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments (Psalm 133:1,2)

Prayers for revival are not “heard” (i.e., answered) when there is contention in God’s house.

Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. (Isaiah 58:4)

The Holy Spirit works as the author of peace in every local church.

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. (1 Corinthians 14:33)

God wants us to “live peaceably” with every human being.

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. (Romans 12:18)

God is the greatest peacemaker.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (Luke 2:14)

Jesus is the Prince of peace. He came to teach us to be peacemakers.

To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1:79)

Peacemaking is a learned skill which those who are not children of God cannot master.

Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known (Romans 3:14-17)

And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children. (Isaiah 54:13)

All God’s children are known as peacemakers.
**Blessed** are the **peacemakers**: for they shall be **called** the **children of God**. (Matthew 5:9)

To “mind” (i.e. be sensitive to) the Spirit of Christ brings peace with **God**, peace in **ourselves** and peace with **others**.

For they that are after the flesh do **mind** the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the **things of the Spirit**. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be **spiritually minded** is life and **peace**. (Romans 8:5,6)

**Those sensitive to the Spirit of Christ do the necessary work of clearing up blockages with men in order to have unhindered communion with God.**

Therefore if thou bring thy **gift** to the **altar**, and there rememberest that thy **brother** hath **ought** against thee; **Leave** there thy **gift** before the altar, and go thy way; **first** be **reconciled** to thy brother, and **then** come and **offer** thy **gift**. (Matthew 5:23,24)

*Maintaining* the “unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” is **hard** work that requires **diligent effort**.

**Endeavouring** to **keep** the **unity** of the **Spirit** in the **bond** of **peace**. (Ephesians 4:3)

*endeavor* > Greek verb - spoudazo > **be diligent**

Because there is not a diligent commitment to live in true peace with those around us, the Holy Spirit is often **absent** from our midst without our even realizing it.

Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, **live in peace**; and the God of love and **peace** shall be **with you**. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

*Pursuing** genuine revival involves **pursuing true peace**.

Let us therefore **follow after** the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. (Rom. 14:19)

**Peace must be diligently pursued.** When we are slothful we put **little** or no effort into it. **It is easy to "throw in the towel."**

What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; **seek peace**, and **pursue it**. (Psalm 34:12-14)

“**Sweeping things under the rug**” is **not** the solution. Even God “requires” that we face our **past offenses** toward Him before true reconciliation can take place.
That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past. (Ecclesiastes 3:15)

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. (Matthew 18:15)

**Offenses are created and relationships are ruined by unpaid debts.**

My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger, Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth. Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend. Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids. Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler. (Proverbs 6:1-5)

When we are in another's debt, we need to get out of debt quickly not only to be released from another’s anger, but to give them the opportunity to be released from possible bitterness and anger.

When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, as thou art in the way, give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the officer cast thee into prison. I tell thee, thou shalt not depart thence, till thou hast paid the very last mite. (Luke 12:58,59)

When we are not diligent in reconciliation we allow bitternesses to grow in ourselves and others.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled (Hebrews 12:14,15)

We who hope to be a part of the new heaven and earth are called to be diligent to be found in peace.

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. (2 Peter 3:13,14)