

the UNEXPLAINABLE *life*

Last week, we began a new series called “The Unexplainable Life.” This series is about how the Holy Spirit can bring personal revival to your life. Last week, we introduced you to a moment in church history when God swept the Scottish island of Lewis with a revival in the late 1940s and early 1950s. This all began with two 80-year-old women in the village of Barvas who started to pray because they were burdened that there were no young people in their church. Soon, they gathered others from the church, and for weeks, they began to beg God to move in their community. Last week, we discussed Preparation for Personal Revival – that we must get back to a fear of the Lord in our lives and get back to a consciousness of the presence and authority of Christ in our lives. Today, we will talk about “The Conviction of Personal Revival.”

Key Passage: Ephesians 3:20

Discussion Questions:

1. What events sparked the revival on the island of Lewis, and what role did prayer play in it? How can you follow the example of the two women in Barvas by praying persistently for a specific need in your life?

The revival began when two 80-year-old women in the village of Barvas felt so burdened that no young people attended church. They committed to persistent prayer, gathering others to join them, and prayed fervently for weeks. This led to God moving powerfully in their community. How can you follow their example? Identify a specific burden in your life and commit to consistent, faith-filled prayer. God may use your prayers as a catalyst for change.

2. According to Ephesians 3:20, how is God described, and what does the word "able" signify? How does knowing that God is capable, powerful, and strong enough influence how you approach Him in prayer?

God is described as “Him who is able,” meaning He is capable, powerful, and strong enough to do far beyond what we ask or imagine. Knowing God’s ability should encourage you to approach Him confidently in prayer, trusting that He can handle even your biggest challenges.

3. Why do we sometimes struggle to believe God wants to move in our lives? What doubts or struggles make it difficult to believe that God desires to work in your situation, and how can you address them?

We struggle to believe because of feelings of unworthiness, unanswered prayers, or the weight of life’s challenges, which can lead us to doubt God’s care and involvement. How can you address these doubts or struggles? You can reflect on moments when you’ve doubted God’s care and surrender those doubts to Him, asking for renewed faith to believe He loves you and desires to work in your life.

4. What is the significance of the phrase “far more abundantly” in Ephesians 3:20? What “far more abundantly” prayers could you begin praying, trusting that God can do more than you imagine?

The phrase “far more abundantly” highlights God's limitless, super-abundant power to do what we ask and beyond what we can imagine or comprehend. Think of a prayer or situation where you've limited God by your expectations. Begin praying boldly, trusting that God's plans exceed what you can envision.

5. According to Duncan Campbell, why is expectancy essential to personal revival? How can you cultivate a spirit of expectancy, trusting that God will move?

Expectancy reflects a deep confidence in God's ability and willingness to move. During the Lewis revival, the people's faith demonstrated their readiness to see God work powerfully. How can you cultivate spiritual expectancy? Start attending church or entering prayer with the belief that “maybe today” God will move in a significant way, and let that expectancy fuel your faith.

6. How is the power of the Holy Spirit described in Ephesians 3:20? What steps can you take to activate the power of the Holy Spirit in your life, such as through prayer or surrender?

The power of the Holy Spirit, which dwells in every believer, is the means by which God accomplishes His purposes in us and through us. How can you activate the power of the Spirit? Take intentional steps to align with the Holy Spirit's work in your life, such as setting aside time for prayer, Scripture reading, and asking God to fill you with His Spirit daily.

7. According to Duncan Campbell's observations, what role does prayer play in personal revival and activating God's power? How can you make prayer a more intentional part of your daily routine to fully experience God's power?

Prayer is the key to releasing the power of the Holy Spirit and bringing about personal revival. Persistent prayer brought revival to the village of Barvas and beyond. How can you make prayer an intentional part of your life? By setting aside specific times each day to seek God, believing He will respond to your prayers in powerful ways.

8. Why is it easy to lose faith or expectancy that God will move in our lives? In what area of your life do you need to regain faith that God can and will move, and how can you intentionally seek Him in that area?

Life's challenges, disappointments, and delays in answered prayer can discourage us and rob us of our expectancy that God will act. Is there an area of your life in which you need to regain faith that God can work? Identify an area where you've lost some faith. Begin praying for God's help to restore hope and expectancy, trusting His timing and plans are perfect.

9. How does the story of the revival in the village of Arnol demonstrate the power of prevailing prayer? What is one area in your life where you need to persist in prayer, believing that God can work a miracle?

In Arnol, despite initial opposition, the church gathered to pray. Before midnight, God's presence was so overwhelming that people were brought to repentance. This shows that nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer. Think of a situation in your life that feels hopeless. Commit to prevailing prayer trusting God can bring change even when circumstances seem impossible.

10. What is the conviction of personal revival, and how does Ephesians 3:20 encourage us to believe that God is able? How can you remind yourself daily of the truth that God is able and desires to move in your life and your church?

The conviction of personal revival is the firm belief that God is able and desires to move in your life and church. Ephesians 3:20 reminds us of God's power to do more than we ask or imagine. Write down Ephesians 3:20 and place it somewhere visible. Let it serve as a daily reminder to believe that God can and wants to move in your life.