

Revival Begins With You!



A Call to Revival

Revival

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“If my people, who are called by my name, will **humble** themselves and **pray** and **seek** my face and **turn** from their wicked ways, then I will **hear** from heaven, and I will **forgive** their sin and will **heal** their land”.

(2 Chronicles 7:14)

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you **(Matthew 6:33)**.

In order for revival to take place in the local church, or in the life of an individual Christian, one must realize the need for revival.

God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves

2 Chronicles 7:13, which states, “If I **shut up** heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send **pestilence among my people.**” In other words, *God told his people that they could not pray the pray of 2 Chronicles 7:14 until they understood that the problems they were having were a direct result of their spiritual rebellion. This means that we must realize the real need for revival in our lives and our church before we can offer the prayer of 2 Chronicles 7:14. To the Lord*

Church growth in the Unites States is as follows:

- 85% of America's churches are losing members;
- 14% are growing, but only by transfer of members from one church to another; and only
- 1% are growing through the conversion of lost people to a saving knowledge of Christ.

In other words, we are losing this generation each day that passes. Yes, we need revival now!

Not only must we realize the need for revival, but we must realize the source for revival. In **2 Chronicles 7:14**, the Lord told us that the HE is the source of revival. He stated it this way, “**Then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**”

We must also realize the *potential for revival*. What will happen if real revival occurs in the individual Christian or in our Church? God will bless us in several ways.

- First, there will be new unity among the church members.
- Church divisions will evaporate.
- Barriers to fellowship will disappear.
- Old grudges will be laid aside.
- We will not complain about when the service took longer
- Actually we will insist on longer time with God in the church.
- God become more important than our lifestyle, He will become our new life style as we die to this world

In addition, revival will bring **social transformation**. The habits of people change when they experience genuine revival. **Unholy practice will be confessed, forgiven and forsaken**. The books people read, the movies they watch, the website they visit, the language they use, will change when real revival comes.

In addition, church growth occurs when real revival takes place. Believers share their faith with lost friends, invite unchurched people to church, have a brighter spirit which draws people into the kingdom, are more accepting of strangers and **begin to display the heart of Christ for the lost**. No church growth plan ever planned will do more for a church than a heaven-sent revival!

Joy is another result of revival. The Bible speaks of “**joy unspeakable and full of glory**.” That is exactly the kind of joy the New Testament Church had at Pentecost. We can have that same joy when we are **fully surrendered** to the Lord and fully filled with his Spirit.

When revival comes, families will be reunited, the lost will be saved, young people will surrender to full time Christian service, and a host of other amazing things will occur. **But, there are no shortcuts to revival**. We will not experience revival until we know just how badly we need for God to revive us!

The Christian's life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new

life altogether. This change can be brought about only by the Holy Spirit

We need to humble ourselves

The first step is a deep repentance, a breaking down of the heart, a getting down into the dust before God, with Deep Humility, and a Forsaking of Sin

By nature we are not a very humble nation, but God calls us to humble ourselves in His presence. The word means a poverty of spirit. We must see ourselves as God sees us. We need to strip off all the old layers of the varnish of pride and iniquity.

To humble ourselves means to bend the knee, to humble oneself. It is to recognize our spiritual poverty, to sense our littleness. It is to see ourselves as God sees us. The Psalmist said, “**The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise**” (Psa. 51:17).

The LORD God said through the Hebrew prophet Isaiah in 1:18, “**Come now, and let us reason together,**” Says the LORD, “**Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.**”

Isaiah saw his own sin and cried out, “**Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of**

unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts” (6:5).

What God said to Solomon is just as true for us. “As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever” (1 Chron. 28:9).

A religious leader asked Jesus one day what was the greatest of the commandments and He responded, “and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30).

We need to pray and seek God’s face

Fight all of your Battles on your knees and you will win Every Time

Seek God and you shall Live

To “seek the Lord” does not mean we pray harder, louder, or longer. To “seek the Lord” means that we move from an approach to God that is centered in ourselves, with our own self-interests at the fore-front, to an approach that is centered in Him, with His interests at the forefront of the relationship.

We are no longer to relate to God on the basis of what He can do for us, but on the basis of how we can know Him and be more fully conformed to His character, will, and purpose, with an ever-increasing tendency to be led by His Spirit. The prayerful and diligent study of Scripture is, therefore, central in what it means to **seek the Lord.**

1. **Don't Seek** the Gifts; Seek the Giver of the Gifts.
2. **Don't Seek** Healing; Seek the Healer.
3. **Don't Seek** Provision; Seek the Provider.
4. **Don't Seek** Revival; Seek the God of Revival.

God is merciful, but motives still matter. At some point, the Spirit comes, not to confirm that we are already perfect, but to convict, to comfort, to guide us into all truth, and to glorify Jesus (**John 16:5-15**). And He does this as we seek Him.

God works with us to help correct our motives for wanting revival. We love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:19), and yet He comes to us in a special way that we call 'revival' when we truly turn from self to Him. We surrender our personal agendas to Him, and He imparts to us His agenda, which is far better. Where does revival start? In the heart of God! And as we seek Him, and not revival per se, He pours out His Spirit in what we call "**revival.**"

Jesus gave us the key:

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you (Matthew 6:33).

We need to turn from wicked ways

We need to turn around and change directions. There is a terrible tendency in our day to straddle the fence and want to be bound for heaven and hell at the same time.

We want the assurance of eternal security like a spiritual fire insurance policy and to enjoy the world's pleasures at the same time. **God will not stand for it.**

He wants a holy people. The Psalmist tells us in 66:18, **“If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear.”** We rationalize and reason to ourselves that this must be for someone else. God calls us to repentance. He demands that we change, and for some of us it is a radical change of attitudes and behavior.

Do we want spiritual restoration? Again the Psalmist in 51:8, 10-15 tells us what will happen if we do what God tells us to do.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will be converted to You. Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; then my tongue will joyfully sing of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, that my mouth may declare your praise.