



shake the city

REVIVAL

Acts 4:31

A Prelude to Revival Prayer Guide

Matt Edwards

Introduction

I have not written a book since 2014. Furthermore, I have not had a desire to write a book since 2014. I contented myself to write blogs at www.followhard638.blogspot.com. I seriously questioned whether I would ever write another book. That is until God mandated that I do so. I feel compelled to write this book.

The purpose of this book is to prepare people for revival. As sure as I wrote that, people who read it will think about a revival meeting. A revival is a time of special emphasis on evangelism, where a visiting preacher and worship leader come to a church for a special period of time of trying to win souls to the Lord. Fewer churches even have those meetings anymore. Even when they did, many came and went without any special touch from God.

That is not the purpose of this book. While those revival meetings had their place in church history, and many were saved as a result, in very few cases can it be said a church really experienced revival. To revive something is to make it come back to life. True revival has little to do with evangelism and everything to do with the church repenting of sin, being touched with the fresh wind and fresh fire of God. When that really happens, in many cases, spiritual awakening happens where masses of people come to know Jesus as their Savior in a short period of time.

This book is written to the church of Jesus. To be more specific it is intended for a special flock named Spring Creek Baptist Church where I am blessed to serve as pastor. It is also written for a much wider audience. For churches all over who truly yearn for a genuine move from God to breathe life into their valley of dry bones. It is a tool to help pastors and individuals prepare for God to move in their lives privately as well as corporately. It is a guide. A series of devotional prayer guidelines. It is not a formula.

Genuine revival is a sovereign move of God. He sends it where He pleases and when He pleases. He uses whom He pleases. This book is no guarantee for a great outpouring in your church. It is preparation to make the conditions right. Much like the farmer who prepares the soil, plows, plants, and waits on the harvest so are the truths in this book. If we do the preparation, it is much more likely we will reap a harvest than if we did no preparation work.

I know a little about revival. I have been in three of them. Two were in churches and the third happened on a college campus. Let me tell you what I learned. Real revival is costly. Let me say that again. Real revival is costly. The fact that we experience so little revival is testimony that few individuals and congregations are willing to pay that price.

Twice revivals broke out in churches I pastored. It cost family time as members gathered for worship and the word of the Lord for weeks on end. It proved costly to the church budget. Electrical payments went up from the extra use. Someone had to show up to run sound, the music team had to do extra practice, the nursery workers had to work extended hours. The normal routine schedule of the church got thrown out of whack and God moved in and took over.

It proved costly in another way. There was a spiritual cost. First, people prayed. Special prayer meetings were scheduled. People were challenged to fast and pray. I define fasting as denying yourself something in order to pray with a spiritual goal in mind. Most equate fasting with abstaining from food. There are different kinds of food fasts. Others fast from television, social media, their phones, or playing video games. The whole point is to take the time you would normally spend in that activity and use it pray for God to move powerfully. There is a cost associated with fasting. A second spiritual cost is the stripping away of pretense. When God ushers in revival He exposes hypocrisy. He calls His people into account and to holiness. He convicts and conquers contaminated areas in people's lives. He peels back the layers working deeper and deeper breaking through pride, pretense and apathy. This is the most-costly part of revival. The breaking, the refining, the convicting and the repenting. In such services I have heard an entire room filled with weeping from sorrowful sinners repenting and getting right with God.

Is the reward of revival worth the costs? You would have to ask those who have experienced authentic revival. On my part I would say a thousand times yes. It is worth it. It is worth the sleepless nights. It is worth the two and three-hour services where most of that time is taken with people responding to God during altar calls. It is worth the countless hours spent in preparation. It is worth the emotional, physical and spiritual toll to watch God breathe life into His church and draw people to Himself.

This book is intended to prepare you and your church for that kind of move of God. I feel compelled to write this book. It is an act of obedience on my part. This is a book I have to write for the people of Spring Creek and beyond. I am convinced God longs to see a fresh wave of revival on us again in these last days.

He did that in the First Great Awakening in the American Colonies with Jonathan Edwards and George Whitfield. He did it again in the mid-nineteenth century originating from a single prayer meeting that spread across a city, region and nation. Hundreds of thousands of people were saved as a result of that great move of God. In the Brownsville Revival, God moved powerfully in one church for over three years where they met continuously in revival. God orchestrated for me to be able to go to that revival on two different occasions. I have never seen anything like it during my thirty plus years as a follower of Jesus. It was while attending that revival that I learned revival is costly.

So up front I want to spell out what I believe God is going to require of you.

1. This is going to be a long journey. This is not a book to sit down and read at one or two sittings. It will consist of a series of devotions. 70 to be exact. 70 devotions aimed at preparing your heart and church for a great encounter with God. Up front I am asking you to commit to God and before those who will hold you accountable to finish this journey. I have seen it too often where people start a commitment like this and then fade over time. This is not a sprint. It is more like a marathon. Will you commit to God to start this journey and to complete it? Will you dedicate yourself to finishing this journey?

2. You will be asked to commit to fasting. The level of your fasting is up to you. Some choose to fast from certain types of foods. Some fast on a particular day of the week. Some choose to fast from one or more meals a day. Some do a Daniel fast where you only eat vegetables and abstain from meat. Some do a juice fast. The extent of your fasting is between you and God. The important thing is that you use that extra time to seek God with more intensity than normal.

3. You will not get any more out of this than you are willing to put into it. You could choose to go forward with this, do all the exercises, and do it halfheartedly. You could just go through the motions. If that is the case, I expect you will get very little out of this. If an entire church did that, I suspect they would not see revival in their congregation. The more vigorous you pursue God during these days the more He will meet with you and touch you. We are assured in the book of James if we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. [James 4:8] I challenge you to fully devote yourself to the pursuit of God during these days. To follow hard after Him. [Ps 63:8] KJV

4. I challenge you to go through this with a group (preferably an entire church.) There will be benefit if you go through this book alone. My prayer is that you will be drawn closer to God than you have ever been. The heartbeat behind this book is intended for groups of believers to go through this for corporate revival. I believe something special can happen, because I have seen it first hand, when a whole church seeks God together with the same devotional material and pray in one accord. We saw God come down and touch our congregation in ways beyond my ability to put into words. The words can tell the story but you will not be able to feel the weighty presence of God in our midst, you will not hear the passionate singing of worshipers, and you certainly will not see the broken people in repentance or see their joyful countenances in baptism. I want you to experience those things first hand.

5. I exhort you to keep a journal. I have kept a journal for three decades. In those notebooks I have recorded times when God spoke to me. I write out many of my prayers to God and I recount ways I have experienced God working. I anticipate God working in your life in profound ways over these next weeks. Take the time to write it down. If writing out your prayers helps you stay more focused, then do it. Your journal is just another tool to help you on this new journey. I have seen people draw pictures in their journals. It is yours. Use it however you choose to help you draw closer to God.

It is almost time to begin. Before we do, I need to tell you a story. A story of revival. A thrilling true-life event that happened not so long ago. God allowed me to have a front row seat to see it all unfold.

Shake The City

I spent four years of my life as a full-time traveling preacher. I do not call myself an evangelist for most messages were directed more toward the local church. I like to refer to myself as a revivalist. I have had an interest and passion for revival since college.

When I traveled full-time, I spent seasons waiting to get invited to the next meeting or event. Some of those seasons extended for long stretches. On my way to a church in Arkansas to preach I prayed about that very issue. I believe my car became a sanctuary down those long two-lane highways in Arkansas. God planted a dream in me. It went something like this. I thought of the Great Commission in [Matt 28:19-20] and [Acts 1:8]. It seemed to me that God already invited me to preach the gospel all over the whole world. Then I thought about the book of Acts and how they prayed and God filled them with boldness to preach. When I arrived at my destination, I looked in my Bible and read Acts 4:31 (ESV).

31) And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Right then I started what I later called the “Shake The City Revivals.” My first one was under a tent in East Texas. I had several college students pray with me and help me. We entered that week filled with expectations. It rained. I mean it came a gully washer. So much so, that the ground under the tent was under the water including wiring for the sound system. It did not turn out to be a great week.

The next time was not a “Shake The City Revival.” It turned into a “Shake The Campus Revival” at a local college in Lufkin, TX. It was scheduled to last three days. It lasted for three weeks. Three glorious weeks. People got right with God. People got saved. The followers of Jesus on that campus got bold. The services lasted as long as three hours. Most of that time was the invitation and people repenting of sin and seeking God. I have no way to describe what those days were like.

I did not do another “Shake The City Revival” until I served as a pastor in Seminole, TX. A church member named Rayburn Houchin came to me one day. He said, “Pastor, I think we need to have a revival. I think you need to preach it and I think it should last longer than four days.” My mind started reeling, as I started stacking up excuses why this would not be a good idea,

God reminded me of something I heard months before. I attended a prayer meeting where I showed up late. Nobody else even knew I came. I heard a lady praying about a prophesy of a great revival coming out of the church I served as pastor. I told Mr. Houchin I would pray about it, which I did diligently. I felt God in it. We scheduled the meeting for 10 days and invited Sherman and Tammy Aten to come lead the worship. What did God do? That “Shake The City Revival” lasted 23 days and 36 people were saved and baptized. Heaven came down and kissed Seminole, TX in the late summer of 2010.

All these years later God has stirred my heart with the call to prepare for revival. He is up to something. In obedience I am preparing myself personally and laboring to prepare all who will read this book. May God sweep across our hearts and churches to shake us and wake us, making us bold to speak His word.

Day One ... Coming Clean

Psalms 51:1-3 (NASB)

1) Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. 2) Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3) For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me.

David sinned. He tried to hide it but he could not hide it from God. God exposed the sin from one of His prophets. David made no excuses. He acknowledged his sin and repented.

That is the first step in preparation for revival. To prayerfully acknowledge sin and repent of it. We certainly do not deserve God's forgiveness. David recognized God's gracious nature and His lovingkindness. He also understood God can blot out transgressions. He might not blot out the consequences, but He does blot out transgressions.

God can wash and scrub our hearts. He wants to do that. First, we must come to grips with our sin. That means taking a real honest look in the mirror. To do an honest self-evaluation. When is the last time you asked God to reveal sin in your life? We often repent in blanket prayers that cover everything like, "Forgive me for my many sins." We did not commit those sins that way. We committed them one at a time. It does not cost us much to pray blanket prayers of confessions.

It digs a little deeper when you confess that you lied, cheated, lost your temper, watched something vulgar, deceived someone or stole from God by holding back your tithes and offerings.

As we start this journey to prepare for revival, we are only pretending if we are not willing to deal with sin in our lives ruthlessly. There is no better time than the present. It's time to do some inward housecleaning.

Steps To Revival ...

1. Pray through the above scriptures. Make them your prayer.
2. What do you need to repent of? Make an honest list.
3. Write those sins on a piece of paper.
4. Either crumble it up or burn it as a sign you are forgiven.

Notes ... _____

Day Two ... Facing a Blameless Judge

Psalms 51:4 (NASB)

4) Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge.

We get away with a lot of things in our lives. There were things our parents never discovered that we had done wrong. Maybe a sibling got punished for something we did, and we got away with it. Maybe we were able to lie our way out of things we did wrong.

None of that is possible as we approach holy God. It is God we offend with our sin. When we choose sin over God's way we stand against God. It is God with whom we must reconcile. He sees it all. Nothing is hidden from His sight.

David confessed that he committed evil in God's sight. Let that sink in for us. God sees our deeds whether good or evil. He brings every secret deed into judgment. To put that another way, we do not get away with it. God keeps a record of sin. All of them. He is justified and blameless when He judges. We will not be able to argue our way out of it or hire a slick lawyer to get us off. That is bad news because all of us have sinned. All of us have offended God.

If we confess and repent of those sins, there is hope. There is forgiveness. Read Psalms 103:3,10-12. That is the good news we need to hear.

Steps To Revival ...

1. Pray through Psalms 103:3,10-12. Prayerfully meditate on what those verses mean.
2. What sins have you been hiding but now realize God sees?
3. What will you do? Will you continue to hide them and live in the shadows or will you repent?
4. You have a choice today to live under condemnation or walk in God's forgiveness. Choose today.

Notes ... _____

Day Three ... Truth in the Inner Parts

Psalms 51:5-6 (NASB)

5) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. 6) Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

There is no way around it. We were all born in sin. We can thank Adam and Eve for that fact. It is inbred into our nature. We are sinners. We love sin. We choose sin. We act and react sinfully. Sin is our natural bent.

God desires truth in the innermost being. Stop. Wouldn't all agree that much of what happens inside people, even God's people is a sham? Many in the church know how to act. To pretend. To live and act one way in houses of worship and another way outside the walls.

God demands the truth. Not what others think is the truth based on what they see from the outside. He wants the truth on the inside of us. He already knows it. He wants us to admit it and see who we really are in the mirror of His Spirit.

If we hope for God to take us seriously about revival, we must get as serious about sin as He is. That means we need to look past the surface sins. We need to look deeper. Way deeper to the innermost being and into the hidden parts. We probably will not like what God uncovers there. Let Him cleanse us, renew us in preparation for His great revival work.

Steps To Revival ...

1. What is your inner truth? Does who you present yourself to be and who you really are match?
2. How would you describe yourself as God sees you at this moment? Write those things down.
3. What do you need to do to make your inner truth and the hidden parts of your life pleasing to God? Are you willing to do that?

Notes ... _____

Day Four ... A Clean Heart

Psalms 51:10 (ESV)

10) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

We all stray from God. We all get off track and wander away from God. Once we repent and return, we need God to create a new heart in us. One that does not will to rebel against God and His word. We need a whole new heart renewed and made to desire God and the path of obedience. This will not and can never happen by our own effort. Sin is too strong, and the carnal heart is enticed. Case in point, how many times have you repeated something you promised yourself you would never do again? Only you did. Probably more than once.

With a renewed heart, along with the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, we can stay on the right track.

As we continue to prepare to pursue God for revival, we must ask Him to create a new heart, and renew the right spirit in us. Until our hearts change our desires will not change. A heart given over to sinful deeds will desire sinful deeds continually. We must ask and trust God for a heart transformation. A spiritual heart surgery. Where old things are pulled out, and new holy things put in.

Steps To Revival ...

1. Do you need a new heart?
2. Ask God for it.
3. Believe God wills to do this for you.
4. Persist until He renews you and your desire to please God.

Notes ...

Day Five ... Restoration of Joy

Psalms 51:12 (ESV)

12) Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Hopefully by now, you have admitted your sinfulness, identified them, repented and asked God to renew your heart.

We must go a step forward. Somewhere along the way you may have lost the joy of your salvation. You lost sight of what Jesus did for you, the miracle of the new birth and the freedom of forgiveness. You were blinded by the lure of temptation. You exchanged true joy for passing pleasures.

It is time to ask God to restore the joy of the salvation He gave you. That means it is time to seek God asking Him to recover the passion and fire in your soul for that salvation. It's time for Him to repair the loss of joy for His wonderful salvation. You may have lost the wonder of it. If so, read the crucifixion account in one of the gospels. Read the first two chapters of Ephesians reacquainting yourself with what Jesus did for you and what you received in salvation.

The word joy means gladness and cheerfulness. Too many lose the wonder of salvation. They take it for granted. A child of God should never cease sitting at the foot of the cross being reminded of unworthiness, the grace and mercy of God. We should never forget the price paid so we could be redeemed. If this happens, it is a sure sign we need God to revive us.

We also need a willing spirit to pursue and obey God. That means we need an agreeable, desirable, pleasurable spirit. If God does not change the heart on the inside to make us willing to seek Him, and follow Him, any changes we attempt to make will be external. Those external changes will only last temporarily. Everything starts with the internal changes of the heart. That is a key step toward revival.

Steps To Revival ...

1. Start by confessing the loss of joy for salvation, if you lost it.
2. Ask God to restore it.
3. Ask God to change your heart internally, to make you willing to seek Him for revival.
4. Read one of the gospel accounts of the crucifixion.
5. Read the first two chapters of Ephesians.

Notes ...

Day Six ... How to Stay Pure

Psalms 119:9 (ESV)

9) How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

Temptations will arise. So, the question is, how can we resist those temptations? How can we stay on the right path? How can we not get tripped and enticed in the Devil's snare?

Think back to when Satan tempted Jesus. How did Jesus fight back and resist? He quoted scripture. In fact, He did it multiple times. If Jesus resisted temptation with scripture, shouldn't we do the same?

Far too many Christians have very little to no scriptures memorized. This one above is a great place to start. We can memorize this one. It's pretty short. I think we can all do it. I challenge you to start scripture memory as a regular discipline in your life.

The word pure in this passage can also be translated clean. To be forgiven. To be holy. When we stand before God, those are things we most certainly will want God to declare to us. That we are pure, clean and holy.

1 Corinthians 10:13 is another great verse to be used when you are tempted. We not only need to read God's word, it is an absolute necessity to memorize it. Quoting the Bible is a great and effective weapon against the wiles of the Devil. Paul calls the Bible the sword of the Spirit. It is the only offensive weapon listed in the armor of God found in Ephesians 6:17.

Steps To Revival ...

1. Ask God to give you the desire and discipline to memorize scripture.
2. Start committing Psalms 119:9 to memory.
3. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 and pray through that verse.
4. You might find it helpful to purchase index cards and write verses on them to help you.

Notes ... _____

Day Seven ... Take Care Not to Fall Away

Hebrews 3:12 (ESV)

12) Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

The phrase take care means to be careful. It is so easy to fall away from God with an evil and unbelieving heart. We can fall away from the living God.

Many years ago, I preached a youth camp in Big Bear, California. The church invited me to come back one month after the camp to challenge the students to stay strong. It surprised me to learn that one of the students I grew close to in that camp was absent when I returned. I asked about him. I could not believe the report I received. In just one month, that student turned away from God, put their Bible up in the closet and refused to return to the youth group.

Satan never quits working to entice people away from staying on the straight and narrow. He never relents. He tempts. He trips. He lays out traps. He deceives. He lures away. Many devoted servants of God have fallen away with evil and unbelieving hearts. Many have fallen away from the living God.

One of the ways he does this is to allure us away from other believers. We are vulnerable alone. He picks us off like ducks off a pond. When we are surrounded with other believers to encourage us, pray for us, and to hold us accountable, we are more prone to run our race with endurance.

Beware. Take notice. Examine yourself to see if you are even tempted to fall away. Is there something or someone out there enticing you to fall away from the living God. If so, flee in the opposite direction. Seek the shelter of God and other believers to help you.

Steps To Revival ...

1. Can you identify anything or anyone enticing you to fall away from God?
2. Is your love and passion for God refueled or waning?
3. If you said yes to either, seek someone to confess your condition and ask for prayer.
4. Find someone who will hold you accountable to stay the course.

Notes ...

Day Eight ... Hiding Treasure

Psalms 119:11 (ESV)

11) I have stored up Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

The word stored in this passage gives the meaning of hiding treasure. The word of God stored in our minds and hearts is better than riches. It helps keep you focused. That requires more than casual reading of the Bible.

It takes reflective reading. Some call that meditation. You have to really think about what you are reading. You have to dig into it, pray through it and apply the principles to your life. Each nugget of truth stored and treasured is more arsenal to keep you from sinning against God.

It may be frustrating in the beginning to know so few verses. Be both patient and consistent in your reading and memory work. In due time, you will discover a great wealth of scripture stored and treasured.

Once you learn a scripture practice quoting it often so you do not forget it. Especially if you feel tempted to sin. Satan is powerless against God's word quoted back to him in faith. At times, you will have to go back and review verses previously learned. Keep reviewing and eventually you will have it down permanently.

Steps To Revival ...

1. Do you treasure God's word? Do you love it? Do you delight to read, study and live it? If not, ask God to that love in you to be a constant student of His word.
2. Practice quoting Psalms 119:9. See if can you write it down.
3. Add Psalms 119:11 to your memory verses. Practice writing it a few times.

Notes ... _____

Day Nine ... Long for Solid Food

Hebrews 5:13-14 (ESV)

13) or everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14) But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

It is perfectly normal to see an infant taking a bottle. It is not natural to see an adult walking around sucking on a bottle. That is exactly what happens to many Christians. They drink the milk of the word. They remain babies in the faith. They make little progress. They do not mature.

If you desire to progress in your relationship with God, you must get off the spiritual bottle. You must get accustomed to the meat and potatoes of the scripture. That means learning about the character of God. Studying and feasting on doctrine. It will include reading the prophetic books, the epistles, apocrypha, poetry and gospel sections of the Bible. It will mean doing a deep dive in the historical books. When you do this, growth will happen. You may not notice it. It will happen. Faith will grow. Love for God will increase. Convictions will take root. Courage will arise. Understanding will abound.

That all starts with a real desire to know God. As you follow on this pursuit make it your aim to learn more about God. To embrace the hard passages. To slowly read and meditate on difficult passages to understand praying. [Psalms 119:18] Develop the spiritual stomach for the meat of His word and move on from spiritual milk. Practice makes perfect. Stay in the practice of reading all the sections of the Bible. Maturity will surely follow.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Would you consider yourself a spiritual infant or growing in maturity? Why?
2. Over the next several days read through the book of Hebrews seeking to grow in maturity. Record in your journal any insights you gain from that exercise.
3. What Bible reading plan will you develop to keep you reading in all the sections of the Bible?

Notes ...

Day Ten ... Enduring in the Will of God

Hebrews 10:36 (ESV)

36) For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

The spiritual journey is not a sprint. It's a marathon. Over the years I have seen many new believers take off like gangbusters only to slow down or even fall away in time. Following Jesus takes endurance. It takes patience, continuance through countless trials, various temptations, failures, prayers of repentance, countless devotions and laying burdens at the Lord's feet.

It takes discipline. It means always staying on guard because the enemy lurks to lure you away. It means going to worship gatherings when you may not feel it. It means steadily reading and studying your Bible. Endurance is constancy. Endurance is not flashy, but is necessary for your progress in the faith.

If you are going to complete this 70 day journey to prepare for the pursuit of God for revival, it will take endurance. There will be days when you do not feel like it. There will be days when you are so tired, you don't feel like you can cram anything else in your jam packed schedule. There will be the temptation to skip a day here and there.

If you want to receive the most from the Lord, I counsel you to endure. If you are committed to go on this journey, it is the will of God that you finish.

In multiple churches, I have lead Bible studies that required several weeks of commitment. Not one time have I ever seen everyone who started, endure to the end. Excuses abound. It is better not to make a vow to the Lord than to make one you will not keep. If you pledged to go through the prayer guide, I challenge you to honor your word to the Lord and pray for His help to endure. It will be rewarding in the end.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Are you faithfully completing the devotions and steps to revival exercises?
2. Are you doing them wholeheartedly?
3. Spend some time praying for endurance and updating your commitment to God.

Notes ... _____

Day Eleven ... Nothing too Hard

Jeremiah 32:17 (ESV)

17) 'Ah, Lord GOD! It is You who have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for You.

Consider for a moment God's power. With just a spoken word He created the heavens and earth. He did not tax Himself. He is so powerful, all He had to do was say what He wanted, and it was created. Mountains, deserts, lakes, oceans, streams, various trees, flowers, wildlife, stars, moon, other planets and galaxies. Created by God by speaking it into existence.

The last part of that verse draws our attention to God's ability to do anything. The question is posed, is anything too hard for God to do? Jeremiah states nothing is too hard for God. What do you say? More specifically, is revival too hard for God? Is He powerful enough to revive you? Is He strong enough to revive your church? Is He mighty enough to revive your community?

For many years I have read the following statement, "Why don't we have revival? Are we content to live without it." Are you content to remain in your present spiritual condition? Are you content with the spiritual climate of your community of faith, and your town?

What you believe about what God can and cannot do could fuel the faith of revival or extinguish the smoldering flames. The way you approach these devotions and guide to prayer could help foster revival or quench it.

Does God will for you to experience revival? Does God desire to awaken the church and rekindle flame in the hearts of His people? Does God wish to transform cities and towns? I believe He does. When people get serious about consecrating themselves for such a great move from Him, and pray, believing this is not too hard for God. Get ready for transformation.

If you believe, pray like it. Cry out to God like you believe He not only can do it, but also wills to do it.

Steps To Revival ...

1. Write down what you really believe about God's miraculous might.
2. Pray through Jeremiah 32:17.
3. If you have doubts about God sending revival, repent and ask Him to build faith in you.
4. Ask God to create conviction in you to go along with your faith for His will to send revival.

Notes ...

Day Twelve ... If You Ask

John 14:14 (ESV)

14) If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Over the past few days, we have been looking into the power of God displayed through prayer. We continue that theme. This verse is very short. It could be misunderstood, just like any prayer promises. On the surface, it seems very self-explanatory.

If a person takes this verse literally, they ask Jesus for a million dollars in His name. No doubt He has the power to provide that amount of money, but is He willing to do it? Someone else might ask for a new house, a new wardrobe, fame, success and a host of other things. That does not necessarily mean you will get those things. We should read the above verse through the lenses of 1 John 5:14-15.

So much asking Jesus for things can be selfishly motivated. Think about it. How much of what you ask for is related to the Kingdom of God and how much is related to things you want?

The challenge is to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness first. [Matthew 6:33] Would asking for personal, church, community and national revival fall into that category of kingdom of God? Why is this not more on the hearts of intercessors to ask for this.

To ask for the church to come back to life. To see that life translate into greater effectiveness. To see more people find deliverance through Jesus. To witness many getting saved. Of all the things you desire, where does that desire rank?

I believe Jesus wants to revive you and His bride. He wants the church renewed with power and passion. He wants people to be clean and effective for Him. Let's ask and believe for Jesus to do that.

Steps to revival ...

1. Check your prayer life, and answer if you ask more for personal things or kingdom of God things?
2. Read and pray through 1 John 5:14-15.
3. Ask God for Him and revival according to John 14:14

Notes ...

Day Thirteen ... Don't Ask Wrongly

James 4:3 (ESV)

3) You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

We ask God for things all the time. Sometimes we do not receive what we asked. Many get disillusioned at this point and give up on praying and God. We are pretty good at asking. Some may not be so good at receiving.

The question is why do we not receive what we ask? The goal of praying is to get answers. There must be reasons why we do not receive. So go through a few of those reasons.

Do we ask in faith? That is a fair question. Do we really believe God can and will do what we ask?
Do we give up too soon because we did not persevere?
Did we ask according to the will of God? Is what we ask for something He wants to do?
Do we ask with wrong motives? For selfish reasons. For self-promotion or glorification?

Steps to Revival ...

1. Answer through the above questions.
2. If we are guilty, we need to repent and put those things away.
3. Commit ourselves to praying perseveringly in God's will with the faith to receive.

Notes ... _____

Day Fourteen ... Friendship With the World

James 4:4 (ESV)

4) You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

The word adultery points to immorality and unfaithfulness. It means cheating and giving self to one with whom you are not committed. The church is filled with such people. People who love the world, and all it offers, more than God. Such people think like the world. Live like the world. Prioritize life like the world. Chase after the things the world offers. All the while, they violate their vows to God.

Are you friends with the world? You will notice I did not ask if you are friends with people in the world. The world refers to the world system. The philosophy of the world. The word friendship means fondness. Many people are more fond of the worldly way of life than they love God. This ought never be.

Such friendship with the world is disrespectful to God and destructive for Christians. God has some very strong words for church people. He says such friendship with the world is hostility toward God. It is open rebellion. It makes a person an enemy of God. I don't think any of us want to be in those places. It is time to really do some soul searching and cleaning.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Search your heart and truly ask yourself if you are friends with the world.
2. Identify things that make up this friendship.
3. Break up with the world right now and give your love and friendship to God.
4. Express your desire for renewed friendship with God.

Notes ...

Day Fifteen ... Dwelling Before God

Psalms 15:1 (ESV)

1) O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill?

Let's first consider where God dwells. As a child, I remember what adults would tell me if they caught me running in the church building. They said I did not need to run in God's house and that God was always watching. I wondered where He lived. There was an upstairs attic in that building. I thought He lived there and thought it creepy that He always watched.

That is not the picture of God. Turn and read Isaiah 66:1. That gives us the proper perspective of God. How vast He is. How magnificent. How glorious. God dwells in Heaven. So, this Psalm is referring not to who can come into a church building. This refers to whom will be allowed into Heaven.

Many people spend their whole life deceiving, lying, manipulating and cheating their way in life. That all stops when they face judgment in eternity. God sees everything and knows everything. Not one thing can be hidden from Him.

You can be a member of the church, a faithful attender and even support the work financially. That does not ensure you have a place in Heaven. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? Have you repented of your sins and trusted His forgiveness and salvation? Apart from Jesus nobody will ever step foot in glory.

The phrase holy hill means consecrated, sacred and set apart. Eternity in God's dwelling place is exclusive. Like a gated community, only these gates are giant pearls. Like a country club where you have to be a member for entrance. Only the fee for entrance on God's holy hill is Jesus. All others will be denied entrance.

On that last day of your life, will you be given entrance? It's easy to say yes.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Will you spend eternity in God's dwelling place?
2. What will you offer to gain entrance?
3. How do you feel about that? Take some time to express your deepest feelings.

Notes ... _____

Day Sixteen ... Genuine Believers

Psalms 15:2 (ESV)

2) He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;

There are certain things that are true in a genuine child of God. If these characteristics are not evident it might indicate a person is not truly saved. Or, it could be evidence that a child of God has fallen away and needs repentance and to be restored. Let's examine a few of those characteristics.

First, a follower of God will walk blamelessly. You could also say, such a person lives with integrity and rightly. It is easy to pretend we are something we are not. It doesn't take much effort to fake it before others. Jesus called that hypocrisy. I read once where integrity is who a person is and how they act when nobody is watching. We are called to live holy lives. [Leviticus 20:26]

The next characteristic of a child of God is doing what is right. That means living righteously. To live righteously looks like living justly. Such living requires fulfilling the commands of God. When we fail, we must repent and not justify our sin. We make it right with God. We repent and confess. We ask for restoration trusting wholly in His grace and mercy.

True believers speak truth. They do not speak with forked tongues. They do not fudge the truth or utter little white lies, which the Bible identifies as just a lie. That means we speak faithfully. Even when the truth puts us in a difficult spot. Even if it will cost us. We are called to be truth tellers.

Do those things characterize your life? Has the Holy Spirit brought anything to light that needs to be addressed? There is no sense trying to hide it. We need to come clean.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Has the Holy Spirit convicted you about any of these areas?
2. Confess it before God. Each one individually.
3. Repent. Make a commitment to turn from continuing in these sins.
4. Ask for God's help in living the way He calls you to.

Notes ...

Day Seventeen ... Sins of the Tongue

Psalms 15:3 (ESV)

3) who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend;

We continue to discover ways God has called people to live and who will make it into God's dwelling place at the end of life.

God's people do not slander others with their tongue. They do not give an evil report to others in gossip. They do not defame another person publicly. Even if they have to keep their mouths shut, followers of God will not pile on when others are talking another down. It would be better not to say anything than rip another person to shreds behind their back. Remember, God keeps a record of idle words spoken.

God's followers do not commit evil acts to their neighbors. That means they do not treat their neighbors wickedly. They do not commit hurtful deeds to them. Nor do they treat them hatefully. It does not matter how they treat you. Remember the Golden Rule in Matthew 7:12? We are to treat others the way we want to be treated. Not how we are treated.

We are not to reproach our friends. We are not to shamefully rebuke our friends. We are not to continually disgrace them. That does not mean that rebukes might not be necessary from time to time. It is not to be in a humiliating way. It is not meant to shame others, especially in front of others.

How did you do? Did you find some blind spots in your life that need to be addressed? It's time to take them to the Lord.

Steps to Revival ...

1. What area or areas did you get convicted?
2. Repentance and confession might be needed? If so, follow through.
3. Are there any people you need to go to and apologize and make things right?
4. Will you commit to obey in restoring those broken relationships as soon as possible?

Notes ...

Day Eighteen ... Do What You Say

Psalms 15:4 (ESV)

4) in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD; who swears to his own hurt and does not change;

Followers of God do not esteem vile persons. They do not celebrate and cheer reprobates, corrupt politicians, deceitful business people or pagan athletes and celebrities who do not revere God. They despise such people. They find vile people contemptible and disdain them.

On the other hand, they honor those who revere God. They prize and value those who fear God. They respect those who fear God and who respect God and His commandments.

God followers swear to their hurt and do not change. What in the world does that mean? It means Christians are people who fulfill their vows. They keep their promises. They honor their word. They fulfill their pledges. Even when it proves costly to do so. That is supposed to be one of the hallmarks of the people of God.

To put it simply, God's disciples are not to worship and esteem vile people. They are to honor those who fear God. They are to do what they say and keep their promises.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Are you guilty of highly esteeming any vile actors, sports figures or music artists?
2. Do you find ways to honor and support those who live in the fear of God which is the beginning of wisdom?
3. Have you kept your word? Is there anything you vowed to do and God has convicted you that you have not done it? As soon as possible, fulfill that vow.

Notes ... _____

Day Nineteen ... Where is the God of Elijah

2 Kings 2:13-14 (ESV)

13) And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14) Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

God called the great Elijah home to heaven. He sent a chariot of fire to take him away and Elisha saw it all. He knew he would never see Elijah again, though others sought for him. Elisha now took up the prophetic ministry and cloak of Elijah.

He asked a great question, "Where is the God of Elijah?" That powerful God who sent and ended a drought at Elijah's word and prayer. The God who provided through the ravens at the Brook Cherith and provided for the widow, her son and Elijah when there was so little. The God who raised that same widow's son from the dead. The God who sent fire to consume wet sacrifices before a watching nation, shaming the prophets of Baal. Elisha wanted to know if that same God who helped Elijah would help him.

Will the God of Elijah come help you? Will He empower you to finish this 70-day journey? Will He burn zeal in you for what He wants to do both in you and through you? Where is the God of Elijah indeed?

Where is He? He sits on the throne of Heaven waiting to be known, trusted and followed. Do you know Him or know about Him? Do you trust Him? Trust Him to send this revival to shake your life, your family, your church and the community? Are you following Him, and will you follow in the upcoming days?

We say we want a miraculous revival. We wonder where the wonder working God of the Bible is in these days. He is still where He has always been. Where are you? When you desire Him and to be used by Him, the God of Elijah will move in your life as well.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Are you properly aligned and relating to God? If not identify why you are not.
2. Can you classify your relationship as knowing God or knowing about Him? What do you see is the difference?
3. Can you say you really trust Him in all things currently?
4. Are you willing to follow Him wherever He leads you?

Notes ...

Day Twenty ... Conforming to the World

1 Samuel 8:19-20 (ESV)

Israel wanted a king. The prophet Samuel was aging. His sons were not men of integrity and the nation knew it. They wanted a king. Samuel told them it was a bad idea and that God was their king. The nation refused to listen to Samuel. They rebelled against the will of God and desired a king.

19) But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, “No! But there shall be a king over us, 20) that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

Israel refused the counsel from Samuel. They rejected his instructions. They had their mind so set on a king they would not entertain what Samuel said for their benefit. In essence, Israel said no to God just as much as they refused Samuel, for Samuel spoke for God.

Are there people God has put in your life who are giving you Biblical counsel and you are refusing? Sometimes we don't know what is best for us. God always does, even if it is painful. He surrounds us with people who will be His mouthpiece in your life, if you are willing to listen.

Israel wanted to be like all the other nations even though God set them apart. Are you trying to be like pagans though you are a child of God? What is God trying to tell you these days through other people? It could be God is trying to save you from something harmful.

Israel did get a king. By the fourth king, the nation split into two kingdoms and strayed far from God. Wicked kings reigned, causing much harm. There was a price for their disobedience just as there is for your life.

Steps To Revival ...

1. Has God been trying to get your attention by speaking something to you through another person?
2. What is that message if there has been one?
3. You must make a choice right here. Will you pay attention and follow God's instruction, or will you refuse to listen and reject God's counsel?
4. You must be warned that refusal of God's commands will bring God's chastisement.
5. Pray through your response.

Notes ...

Day Twenty-one ... God's Woodshed

Hebrews 12:6 (ESV)

6) "For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

We ended yesterday with the warning that disobeying God will bring His chastisement. That means it will bring his reproof and correction. God is a Father. We who have trusted Jesus as our Savior are His children. Just like earthly fathers have to discipline their children to train them, so does God the Father.

That discipline will come in the form of chastisement, rebuke and instruction. It is for our own good. It is motivated by love. If He did not love you, He would never correct you. He would let you go and make a total wreck of your life. Look around you, and see many have done that very thing.

If you are His, truly one of God's children, He will discipline you when it is needed. Like times when He tells you to do something repeatedly and you reject His directions. Many times God has chastised me. Those have been painful times. Foolishly we can bow our necks against the correction of the Lord in rebellion. This will only serve to prolong the pain. It would be far better to submit and repent. This is the path to revival and renewal.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Can you recall a time when God disciplined you?
2. What did you learn from that experience?
3. Is God showing you any area of your life He is not pleased with?
4. What does He want you to do to make that right?
5. Pray through that area and follow through on God's leadership?

Notes ... _____

Day Twenty-two ... Delighting in Obedience

1 Samuel 15:21-22 (ESV)

21) "But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal." 22) And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

God was very clear to King Saul. When he went into battle, he was to destroy everyone and everything among the Amalekites. Some of the men kept back some of the spoils of war. Saul thought he obeyed, but God saw the compromise and sent the prophet Samuel to rebuke Saul.

Saul tried to blame the sin on the people. He even went so far as to spiritualize his disobedience saying the spoils were meant to be offered as a sacrifice to God. God did not accept it nor did Samuel. Samuel set it straight not only for Saul, but for all of us.

God wants our obedience. He does not delight in sacrifices and offerings as He does in the obedience of His children. How many times do we try to hide our disobedience with offerings, worship, service and compromise? What Yahweh longs for is obedience. Full and complete obedience. Does that characterize your life currently? It's easy to cut corners when obeying God. It is easier, but it is not pleasing. It can't be both ways. You cannot expect God to bless and accept partial obedience. He delights in doing what He says. Following through on what He commands. Even when it is hard, costly and risky.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Is there any area in your life where you compromised and only partially obeyed? Write that area down in your journal.
2. What are you going to do about it? You can repent and be restored. You can ignore it. You can continue in compromise. Make your choice right now asking God to help you repent.
3. What is the next step of obedience? Do it fully trusting God.

Notes ...

Day Twenty-three ... Blessed

Psalms 1:1 (ESV)

1) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

Who you surround yourself around Godly people, they can have a deep impact on your relationship with God. When you surround yourself with Godly people, they will help you on your journey. They exhort, instruct, come along side, pray, speak words of life and love you.

On the other hand, if you surround yourself with wicked ungodly people, they will impact your life too. It is even worse if you listen to such people's counsel. That means their wisdom. Their philosophy. They have different interests, motivations and totally different views of the world than a Christian.

It is impossible not to rub shoulders with lost people. They could be in our family, at school or the workplace. The point is you should not walk in the same direction they go, nor should you sit in places where people scoff at God. That means those who mock God and His word. Such people should not be your closest companions. They will pull you down.

It is much easier for wicked sinners to pull a child of God down than for the Christian to pull them up. Who you hang out with will influence you. Whether for good or bad. Choose wisely who you give yourself and your time to.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Name the person or persons you spend the most time with. Are they good influences or bad influences?
2. Which person in your life has the most influence on how you live?
3. What kind of influence are you on others? Are you leading them closer to God or further away?
4. What kind of respect do your closest associates have for your relationship with God?
5. What adjustments need to be prayerfully considered?

Notes ... _____

Day Twenty-four ... Delighting in the Word

Psalms 1:2-3 (ESV)

2) but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3) He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

The person who would pursue God will be one who finds pleasure in His word. In fact, such a person will delight in the scriptures. They will have a deep longing to read their Bible and meditate on it day and night.

The word meditate means to ponder, think deeply or reflect. There is so much to learn from God's word. Reading the Bible is not a book to read speedily. It should be read slowly, prayerfully and thoughtfully. Filled in the pages are more life lessons than you can fathom. They help you on your life journey.

Those truths help root you deeper in the soil of God forming a solid foundation. As your roots deepen into the life giving stream of God Himself. As a result, your life bears fruit and you do not wither in the difficult times. You continue to stand strong.

Many people who call themselves Christians really have no delight in the word of God. They find more delight in other books, social media, streaming movies or sitcoms. When you really watch those people, do you see the fruit of a genuine follower of God? Only God can create that delight in a person's heart. Then it becomes more than reading out of duty. It becomes a joyful desire rather than an obligatory drudgery.

Steps to Revival ...

1. How would you relate your delight in Bible reading and study currently?
2. Do you meditate on God's word? Try meditating or thinking deeply through the verses for today.
3. Pray through those verses asking God to give greater insight.
4. Write down what He reveals to you in your journal.

Notes ... _____

Day Twenty-five ... Possess the Land

Deuteronomy 1:8 (ESV)

8) See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them.

God had a plan for Israel. He desired to give them a land of their own. They called it a promised land. A covenant land. The promise went back as far as Abraham. They waited for centuries for that land. While God promised it, He did not just give it to them. They had to fight to take possession of it.

Israel had to dispossess other nations who occupied the land. God swore to help Israel. He miraculously intervened when Israel obeyed. There were challenges and tests along the way. Still the challenge remained. Possess the land!

The word possess means to dispossess, expel and to seize. They had to battle to secure what God had promised them. Dispossessing the enemy was not easy. Israel's opponents did not want to give up land they had occupied for a long time.

All over this community the enemy has occupied territory that was never his. Satan is deeply entrenched in homes all over. He destroys lives. He enslaves people in bondage to sin. He distracts people from hearing that Jesus sets people free.

The same things are true in individuals. Many are in bondage. Satan has claimed territory in their lives. It is time to dispossess him. It will be a battle. It is time to possess the land. To take back what he stole.

There is a song we used to sing a long time ago. "I went to the enemy's camp and took back what he stole from me. He's under my feet. He's under my feet." He will not give up one square inch of territory he has gained in this community, nor in your life, without a life and death struggle. Will you fight with faith and prayer to dispossess him and to possess all that God has intended for you?

Steps to Revival ...

1. Today's verse starts with the word "see." Ask God to let you see what He intends for your life? Ask Him to reveal areas where Satan has occupied.
2. Prayerfully possess the land Satan has taken from you. God is with you to help. Fight for freedom in faith. Read John 8:36.
3. Pray through today's verse.

Notes ...

Day Twenty-six ... Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:10-12 (ESV)

10) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Few Christians give much attention to the spiritual war we are in daily. We have a real enemy who hates us. He opposes us and everything we attempt for God. We are easily distracted, wounded and disillusioned in this spiritual war.

One of the ways we get distracted is by focusing on other people as our enemy, instead of recognizing the hand of the devil behind it. We must remember our battle is not with people, but with cosmic powers over this present darkness.

There is never a day off in this war. We must stand firm in God's strength. We must also strap on the armor of God to battle. You can read about that armor in verses 13-17. You will notice only one offensive weapon. It is the Bible. Satan is powerless against the word of God.

We are called to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. In other words, we are to be steadfast and not give up ground. Satan is tricky, conniving, deceitful and a master strategist on how to attack people. It is possible he is attacking your life now. Maybe you are not taking these devotions as seriously as you did in the beginning. Perhaps you are not even finishing the steps to revival section, or half heartedly going through the motions.

The devil does not want you to finish. He will get you busy, upset you with trials, wear you down, cause you to lose heart and sow doubt in your mind and heart that all of this is a waste of time. I challenge you to go back to the introduction of this book and reread it. Recall your desire and resolve to encounter God.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Reread the introduction and recall your commitment as you started this journey. Do you still have it? If not, possess the land.
2. Can you identify any areas where the devil has attacked you?
3. Secure a scripture to memorize and use to combat him.
4. Have you been fighting with anyone, instead of directing your fight against the Prince of Darkness? Refocus on who your real enemy is.

Notes ... _____

Day Twenty-seven ... Elijah's Cry - Part 1

1 Kings 18:36-37 (ESV)

36) And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. 37) Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back."

Elijah faced a fierce spiritual battle. The whole nation turned away from serving God to serve the idol Baal. He had a showdown with the false prophets to demonstrate before the whole nation who was the real God. The contest included offering a sacrifice. Prayers were made. The true God would be the one who answered by fire without any human intervention.

The prophets of Baal went first. They begged and pleaded for hours. They even cut themselves to show their sincerity. No fire. No answer.

Elijah made things more interesting when his time came. He doused the sacrifice with barrels of water several times. Then he prayed. A prayer we seek to learn from over the next few days.

The first thing Elijah did in his prayer was to identify the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. We do not have time to research the rich heritage those men received from the LORD. Suffice it to say, each had encounters with God and Yahweh proved faithful to each. God promised Abraham He would make him a great nation when Abraham did not have a child. Through God's faithfulness generations later, Elijah stood before a whole nation that came from Abraham's seed.

When we pray, it is wise to remind ourselves of the faithfulness of God in other people. It builds our faith and confidence to pray more effectively. It is pointless to pray if you entertain doubts as you pray. Prayer sent in the fires of faith are the ones that move Him mightily. Pray confidently. Pray boldly.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Pick one of the characters Elijah mentioned in his prayer and look up that person. Find one incident in their lives that helps build your faith. You can read about them in the book of Genesis.
2. What did you discover? How can that help you pray more confidently?
3. Read and pray through Hebrews 4:16. Pray that way today and everyday.

Notes ...

Day Twenty-eight ... Elijah's Cry - Part 2

1 Kings 18:36-37 (ESV)

36) And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. 37) Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back."

There are so many wonderful stories about God and His mighty acts in the Bible. Millions of sermons and Bible studies recount them. A problem has arisen in the church. People hear about this great God in the Bible and yet barely see His power demonstrated in this day and time. Some get disillusioned. Most just accept the day of the miracle famine.

Elijah asked God to let it be known that very day that He was God. Yahweh. The Almighty. Creator. LORD. Omnipotent. Where is that kind of praying today? Most are satisfied with well crafted creative worship services that wow with presentations and performances. How long has it been that you were awed by the power of God displayed in your life, in a worship service?

God is no less powerful. He is able. We don't hunger for God to make Himself known for a watching pagan world. It should be our deep desire for God to work so powerfully, that people cannot deny or doubt He is God. Many church people could go their whole lives and not see the miraculous might of God displayed. What a tragedy.

One of the things that drew people to Jesus in the gospels and Acts was His miracle power displayed and helping people. God does not have to prove Himself. He has already done that. Do people in our day need to see the power of God just as much as they did in Jesus' day? Does the church need God to show His power, so people will decide for Him as much as they did in Acts?

Elijah was on the spot. A whole nation watched in suspense to see if God would answer. Gawking false prophets watched on, shamed by their failure. Elijah prayed because the nation needed to see God work more than they needed empty religion. So does our world today.

Steps to Revival:

1. Pray, asking God to show Himself today to this community.
2. Pray for God to create that hunger in you to see God's power in this day.
3. Pray for your pastor and other pastors to get that burning burden to pray the same.
4. Pray God shows up in some mighty way in your life and congregation soon.

Notes ...

Day Twenty-nine ... Elijah's Cry - Part 3

1 Kings 18:36-37 (ESV)

36) And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. 37) Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back."

Elijah did not hold that contest before the whole nation at his own will. As a servant of God, he did so at the word of God. He was not after glory. He wanted God to be glorified. He also wanted to obey God's word for him to take his stand. He could have failed and looked foolish before the whole nation. It was a giant leap of faith.

Believing that God wants to transform your life, your church and community more than you ever thought possible, is another giant leap of faith. Are you convinced that is what God wants to do yet? For four weeks we have been praying and preparing for that very thing. I hope you are preparing because you believe God wants to move mightily. I hope you feel compelled to prepare yourself for his great move.

All of this is more than you having an experience. It is about a series of encounters with God. It is not about a church or denomination. It is about God's desire to rekindle fire in His churches and spark a spiritual awakening that ushers in masses to salvation.

Check your motivation. Why are you going through these devotions? Do you feel called by God? Do you take Him seriously? Do you really believe He wills to send revival to your life and community? He sees through pretense. He sees if you are doing all this half-heartedly. He knows if you even desire Him. As we near the half-way point, it is time to come clean.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Have you been taking your preparation for revival seriously? If not, why not?
2. Do you desire fresh encounters with God?
3. What if anything keeps you from fully committing to prepare for His work?

Notes ...

Day Thirty ... Elijah's Cry - Part 4

1 Kings 18:36-37 (ESV)

36) And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. 37) Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back."

Wickedness abounds. Drug addiction. Alcoholism. Sexual abuse. Pornography. Immorality. Rebellion. Defiance of authority. Divorce. Adultery. Rape. Incest. The occult. Hypocrisy over holiness. Impotence over power. Hard hearts. Love grown cold. Tickling of ears. Prodigals turned away. Abortion, murdering babies in the name of convenience. All this abounds and more.

How much longer can we put off crying to God in desperation to turn people back to Him? How much longer can we sleep while the enemy advances, destroying society? When will we beg and plead for God to turn people back to Him. We are powerless to do it by ourselves.

Churches spend big money to do so. How few are making much of a dent in the lostness around them? It is going to take more than programs and creative methods. It is going to take God. He must intervene. He must convict. He must draw. He must move people from repentance to revival. From lostness to salvation. We need the power of God again in His church. Do you want that? Do you care at all that the enemy conquers more and more ground while the church offers such little resistance? What will you do to oppose the Evil One?

Steps to Revival ...

1. Does any wickedness disturb you anymore? If so make a list.
2. What will you do to oppose the darkness and wicked scheming advances?
3. Ask God to break you and provoke you to pray with renewed fervency.

Notes ...

Day Thirty-One ... Run With Endurance

Hebrews 12:1 (NASB)

1) "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

This could be a new beginning and a fresh start for many. You committed to a 70-day journey to walk with the Lord and to prepare your heart and plead with your God to send genuine revival. There are 40 days left. As with most new endeavors there is a great deal of excitement. Expect that excitement to wane somewhere along the way.

We are pretty good at starting things but not finishing. If we do finish we do not always finish well. The focal point of our time with the Lord today is two fold. First, we must begin the process of seeing what sins are entangling us and tripping us up with the Lord. Second, we must set our face like flint to finish this time of preparation strong.

Let's look inside you for a moment. At this time where are you in your relationship with the Lord? Are you closer to Him than you have ever been? Have you cooled in your fervent love for Him? If you are not closer to Him right now than you have ever been, you are in need of revival. Relax. That is exactly where most of us currently are. We need personal revival. We need the Lord to quicken our affections for Him, to restore our passion to pursue Him, and to strengthen us to resist sin and to ardently embrace holiness.

What is standing between you and the Lord right now? What gets your deepest love and devotion? Whatever that encumbrance or sin is, will you give it up right now? We have to stand against evil and that includes subtle forms of evil that creep into our lives. We must pray for God's discernment to see the areas where evil is entangling us. We must be doggedly determined to leave no stone unturned. There are things that need to be put away from us. There are some hard stands that need to be made and some firm lines drawn in the sand. We cannot afford to gloss over this.

Once we have laid aside our sin we must deal with the issue of endurance. Only God can empower any of us to desire Him more and to live in holiness. This is especially true over the next 40 days. There will be distractions. There will be obstacles. God is not asking us only to start, but to finish this journey as well. When these 40 days are up and the revival meetings have ended, we will start the new beginning of walking with the Lord for the remainder of our days.

You will get tired. You will get busy. We must resolve now to put away all excuses and to determine we will finish. We must resolve with God's help to finish strong. These are the first steps toward personal revival.

... continued on next page

Steps to Revival ...

1. Set aside some time for repentance. Take out a sheet of paper and ask the Lord in what areas you need to repent. Is there anything the Lord wants you to remove from your life?
2. Identify those areas that are competing for your love for the Lord. Are there any of these areas that also need to be removed from your life?
3. Spend some time praying about how you will finish these next 40 days. Are you resolved to give your best effort and to complete the challenge?
4. What lost people are you trusting Christ to save? Write down their names and lift them before the Lord.
5. What are you fasting from? Why are you fasting? What is your spiritual goal?

Notes ...

Day Thirty-Two ... Hunger For Holiness

1 Peter 1:15-16 (NASB)

15) "But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16) because it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am Holy.'"

There is little talk in the church about holiness today. Many people do not even know what the word means. The word holy literally means, "To be set apart, pure, consecrated." Now when you look up and down the pews, or more importantly, in your own heart, is holiness evident.

We have compromised and let the world influence and impact us. Many times our compromise happens so slowly we are not even aware of it. Before long we think like the world, talk like the world, react like the world, get entertained like the world, and as a result we are conformed to the world.

God, who is holy or set apart, calls His children to be set apart not just on Sundays but every day. We are commanded by the Lord Himself to be holy in, get this, ALL OF OUR BEHAVIOR. So let me ask the obvious question. How are we doing?

Let's examine our thought lives. What sort of things has your mind been dwelling on lately? Have you been living out Philippians 4:8 or Colossians 3:1-2? Is your mind seeking things that are above, or have you allowed it to drift into the sewer of sin? Are your thoughts dominated with thoughts of the excellencies of Christ, or do you squander your time fantasizing about the fleeting pleasures of sin? Christ wants to rule our minds and not allow them to be conformed to this world. [Romans 12:2]

How are you doing in the area of your speech? Do you habitually use profanity, especially during fits of anger? Do you repeat or laugh at crude jokes? Do you repeat gossip or spend time in slander? None of these things honors the Lord. [James 3:6] "And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell." God wants to rule over our speech and it be seasoned with grace and edification. [Ephesians 4:29]

What kind of things do you watch for entertainment? Do you habitually watch programs where foul language is repeated and God's name is taken in vain? Do you allow movies in your home where the sexual conduct is high? Do you welcome programs that deal with the occult and magnify Satan? [1 Thessalonians 5:22] "Abstain from every form of evil." I think that scripture is pretty clear. There is no wiggle room here. We are not to keep company with evil but go the other way.

This is just a start. God desires and expects us to make holiness a high priority. In order to do that in your life what do you need to change, eliminate, and examine in your life?

Steps to Revival ...

1. As you meditate on [1 Peter 1:15-16] what do you sense the Lord is saying to you about the way you have been living?
2. Is there anything in your life that God wants removed? If so, identify each of those areas.
3. What areas need to be adjusted such as television and movie viewing habits? Where does God draw the line concerning what is appropriate and what is not acceptable?
4. Have you been holy in all your activities concerning texting and Facebook?
5. Is there any area in your thought life that is not holy? If so what is it? Take it before the Lord and ask for His holiness in that area of your life as well.
6. Take time and commit 1 Peter 1:15-16 to memory.

... continued on next page

Notes ... _____

Day Thirty-Three ... Return to Me

Joel 2:12 (NASB)

12) “‘Yet, even now’, declares the Lord, ‘Return to Me with all your heart and with fasting, weeping, and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments. Now, return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in loving-kindness and relenting from evil.’”

The message of Joel is biting. Joel is not a book you would read for a devotional. His message hits hard and stings a bit. Many reading this devotion today have drifted from the Lord. I am not saying you are in all-out rebellion. I am saying that slowly over time you have wandered further and further from Christ. Compromise with sin has dulled your love and devotion for Him. It is not that you do not love Him. You just don't love Him supremely above all else.

We are called to return to the Lord right now. We cannot wait until the start of revival services. Right now, right where we sit, in our present spiritual condition, we are being called to return to God.

The word return means to “turn back, reverse, and to come back.” Can you identify a moment or a decision made when your relationship with the Lord began to suffer? Can you identify an area of compromise in your life that let in other compromises and you began slowly drifting further and further from the Lord? I am not saying you quit going to church or even having a quiet time. I am asking if those things really move you closer to the Lord or have you been going through the rituals without the love?

God is asking you in this moment to return to Him. Not only does God desire you to return to Him but also He wants you to return in brokenness and humility for how you have drifted. It is at this very point where many people get hung up. You have sinned. You have no excuses. You know you rebelled and God knows you rebelled. In your thinking you most likely think God is a mad, angry, tyrant. Did you catch the last part of that verse?

God is gracious, compassionate or full of mercy. You do not deserve it and neither do I. Regardless, God is filled with mercy. He is also compassionate and slow to anger. He is patiently long suffering with us. He also abounds with loving-kindness. This God stands ready to receive repentant hearts and to restore spiritual vitality to them.

He is not calling us to return to Him for a lecture. He is not calling us back to Him to humiliate us. He is calling us back for our own good. Isn't it time to take an honest look at what sin has done to us? We need to take an objective look at our lives, attitudes, and spiritual condition before straying and after straying from the Lord.

It is time right now to return to the Lord. No more excuses. God stands ready to wrap us in mercy, compassion, and loving-kindness. There is no reason to delay. Return to Him at this time with all your heart.

... continued on next page

Steps to Revival ...

1. What is keeping you from returning to the Lord with all your heart? Identify it. Will you turn away from it so you can turn back to the Lord?
2. Will you return to God with all your heart right now? If not, why not?
3. What must God do to break your heart over your sin?
4. Take this time and ask the Lord to “rend your heart”.
5. Do you think God is really willing to accept you back with open arms and mercy?
6. In what ways have you experienced God being “slow to anger” toward you?
7. Will your next step be back toward God or back toward sin and compromise?

Notes ...

Day Thirty-Four ... Repair Shop

Psalms 23:3 (NASB)

3) "He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

I went to visit a friend today and he asked me for some help with an errand. Over the course of the Memorial Day weekend some guests broke a four-wheeler and a go-cart. When I first saw them they both looked in pretty good condition. I saw a green four-wheeler and a blue go-cart. Both looked fine from the outside. Neither of them functioned properly. They looked good on the outside, but on the inside they were broken.

I think that is the condition of many people in the church. People look good on the outside. They dress nice for church. They live in comfortable houses and work in respected jobs. They masquerade around the church and community like all is well but the truth is they are broken in their souls. They may look good on the outside, but something is broken on the inside.

Today God is looking at our souls on the inside. Are we broken? Are our souls thriving and vibrant, or are they broken and in need of repair? Both the four-wheeler and the go-cart had to be taken to the repair shop. The man who owns the shop is a master mechanic. His reputation precedes him. He is able to diagnose the problem and to repair things from boats, lawn mowers, ATV's, and anything else. He understands the intricate components of a motor and how it should function properly.

In the same way God is the master repairman of our souls. He knows how they should function because He created us. He is able to diagnose the exact problem in our souls when we are alive on the outside but dead on the inside. He is able to restore our souls by turning them back to Him. He is able to recover the lost zeal and passion to serve Him. He refreshes us in His presence with a new love and devotion to Him. In essence, God is more than able to repair our souls. He can make the inside match the outside.

Not only does He offer restoration for our souls, He also gently leads us in paths of righteousness or justice. The word "leads" is like the gentle flowing of water in a stream carrying an object along. As we walk with the Lord and He restores our souls He also leads us into right behavior.

Too often we try to put on the right behavior without our souls having been restored. This never works. Righteous behavior should work itself out from within a restored and refreshed soul. Do you need to go to the repair shop? Is your soul refreshed? God is able to diagnose the problem and repair us in a way that is reviving. Take some time and allow Him to do that work of restoration in you today.

... continued on next page

Steps to Revival ...

1. Take some time to sit before the Lord and allow Him to diagnose the true ailment of your soul? Do not move on until you discover what in you needs to be repaired.
2. Now that you know what needs to be repaired and restored, take it to the Lord and ask Him to repair your soul. This may prove to be a process more than an event. Let God take all the time He needs to renew and refresh you from the inside out.
3. What path of righteousness do you sense the Lord is leading you to follow? What steps is He leading you to take today?
4. Sit still before the Lord and breathe in His presence. Feel the embers of your soul begin to glow again. Let the presence of the Lord envelope you and enjoy Him in these moments. Sit with Him awhile and listen to what He has to say to you.

Notes ...

Day Thirty-Five ... Green Pastures and Quiet Waters

Psalms 23:2 (NASB)

2) "He makes me lie down in green pasture; he leads me beside quiet waters."

Most of us are overcommitted. Our plates are full. We live life in a hurry. There is always somewhere to be and something else to do. Many days we have more to do than we have hours to get it done, but we try anyway. We get up early and go to bed late, burning the candle at both ends.

We learn to cope, though we fight fatigue. We wear the badge of busyness like a badge of honor worn by a Boy Scout. We like having numerous irons in the fire and living at breakneck speeds. We see our over-commitments as what gives us validity and a sense of respect in our church and community.

God never intended us to live that way. Livestock have to have a break. Machines cannot run and endure when being red lined on the RPMs continually. People cannot live at the pace of their lives without some negative consequences. Something has to give. It is not the job. Our livelihoods depend on that. It is not the kids. A good supportive parent will not only encourage their children's over-involvement in sports, band, choir, academic excellence, and agriculture related events, they will also drive them as far as needed to ensure they get the best training and play on the best teams.

What about our souls? Something has to give when we live life at that pace and most often it is our souls. We talked yesterday about God repairing our souls but those repairs will not last if we do not slow down to allow Him to continue to work on them. That is why I find Psalms 23:2 so interesting.

The first thing that jumps out at me is David said God made him lie down in green pastures. This symbolizes to me a place of abundance, nourishment, as well as being refreshing. God implemented this strategy in the Ten Commandments. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you." [Exodus 20:8-10]

When was the last time you intentionally rested and refreshed your soul in the Lord? Far too many are burned out physically, emotionally, and spiritually. If we are going to be revived this may sound foreign, but we might need to do less instead of more. We need times to live life slowly, to think deeply, to pray unhurriedly, and enjoy the presence of the Lord. You cannot enjoy God when you are constantly hurrying through devotions because you have somewhere else you need to be.

Our souls begin to dry up and wither. We continue doing, but cease feeling, and more importantly, cease being authentic on the inside. We have learned how to fake it. but God is not handing out academy awards for our portrayal of Christianity. He calls for us to rest in Him and be revived. He calls us to live at a slower pace even if that means saying "no" to some people from time to time. It is time to slow down by the quiet waters. Let the peace and serenity of those times with the Lord revive you.

... continued on next page

A.W. Tozer said something that has stuck with me for years. He commented, "I prefer to keep company with God than men." That doesn't mean Tozer didn't like people. It only means he loved God more. He carved out large amounts of time for private worship in the green pastures and quiet waters of God's presence. We all could use more of this.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Write down your weekly schedule. Is your life out of balance? What things do you need to let go of in order to have more time with God?
2. What is your schedule doing to your family? Are you modeling a healthy revived soul before your family or are you faking it?
3. Do you prefer to keep company with God rather than men? If not, what do you prefer over God?
4. After today's study what is God showing you about green pastures and quiet waters for you? What would those look like in your life?
5. Make a plan to incorporate green pastures and quiet waters into your daily routine.

Notes ... _____

Day Thirty-Six ... Play Acting

Matthew 23:27-28 (NASB)

27) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside appear beautiful but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. 28) So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."

I grew up in grade school with three friends who all attended church regularly. Two of them went to the prestigious First Baptist Church. The other friend attended the Presbyterian Church. All three professed faith in Jesus Christ and were baptized. I saw no difference in their lives.

One was a thief and a drug user, which eventually landed him in prison. The other two were fornicators. All three were foul-mouthed. They pretended to be good at church or around authority figures but I saw the truth. They were hypocrites. None of them ever invited me to church; not that I would have gone with them anyway.

I heard their jokes. I listened to their locker room talk of sexual excursions with girls whom they did not care about. I witnessed the results of their stealing and on more than one occasion saw them guzzling booze even though they were under-aged. I can't say it bothered me at the time. I had seen play-acting in church all my life at home, in extended family, and with my friends.

God's people are not supposed to play act. We are to be distinct, set apart, transformed, and consistent in our behavior both in and outside of church. Far too many pew dwellers appear righteous for the show, but in real life there is no substance.

This can only be attributed to two things in my book. Either the hypocrite has backslidden and out of fellowship with God, in which case, such a person needs to come in repentance and be revived and restored to the Lord, or such a person is not truly saved at all. You cannot revive something that is not alive in the first place. Many people sit smugly in the pews with their names permanently written on the membership roles, yet they have no relationship with Jesus Christ. Hell fire awaits such a one.

Has your life as a Christian been playacting? Are you a hypocrite? Does the indwelling Jesus Christ manifest His life in you and through you? The time is past for hypocrisy. If you pretend to be righteous but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness then let me say what is long past due, you need to repent.

It is time to come clean before the Lord. He is still patient and merciful and willing to revive. Do not think for one moment He is fooled or tolerant of the hypocrisy in the church today. It is time, way past time, to be honest before the Lord and the church. It is time for the bride of Christ, that is the church, to clean herself up and prepare herself to be wed to Christ at His second coming. He does not want a spotted and stained bride. Repentance is the order of the day. Let us not put it off any longer.

... continued on next page

Steps to Revival ...

1. List all the areas in your life where you know you have been pretending and living in hypocrisy?
2. Whom has your hypocrisy hurt and alienated from God and His church? You need to go to them to make it right.
3. Will you repent, "change your mind and turn away from your sin" today? If not, why not? What holds you back?
4. Ask the Lord to empower you through the Holy Spirit to live as a follower of Christ consistently.
5. Who will you allow to come beside you to hold you accountable? Will you give someone the permission to ask you the hard questions about sin in your life?
6. Ask the Lord to let your inward character match with your outward behavior.

Notes ...

Day Thirty-Seven ... The Pursuit of Revival

Psalms 63:1 (NASB)

1) "O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; my souls thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You in a dry and weary land where there is no water."

Part of the pursuit of revival is God awakening within us a passionate hunger and thirst for more of Him. David was such a man. He longed for more of God. There is always more of God to be pursued.

David made God the object of his relentless pursuit. Today the church makes other things the objects of their relentless pursuits. Whether it is accumulating wealth, possessions, success in the job market, or the accomplishments of our children and grandchildren, these become our pursuits. How many people do you know for whom God is their ultimate passion and object of relentless pursuit? Let me go a step further. When you look in the mirror are you such a person?

We have been duped by commercials and by the god of this age. We truly believe things down here will bring us ultimate satisfaction and give so much of ourselves to chasing those things. They never satisfy. Not a raise, new homes, vehicles, or gadgets. Not relationships, clothes, or education. Not championships, accolades, or fame.

David had it all. David's defeat of Goliath made him a legend. He had riches, power, wives, and yet one fateful night he threw all of that away to pursue sin with Bathsheba. It cost him dearly. Listen to David when he says, "My soul thirsts for You and my flesh yearns for You, God." This is the burning need in the church today. We need men and women who cry out from the depth of their hearts, "I am not satisfied. I yearn for more of you in my life. I have an unquenchable thirst to know you more intimately." Is that your burning desire?

Revival will have come when we yearn for God more than anything in our innermost being and are willing to pursue Him at all cost. A.W. Tozer stayed up all night on a train and wrote a book which is now a classic entitled, *The Pursuit of God*. For Tozer those were more than words. He truly lived His life in pursuit of more knowledge of God. Like the Psalmist, may the Lord move us to live and pray, "As the deer pants for water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God". [Psalms 42:1]

Only God can create that hungering and thirsting in our souls. We cannot will ourselves to do it. Our flesh will get in the way. As we cry out for God to develop this in us, we can no longer be satisfied with lesser blessings. God Himself is the ultimate blessing. He is the prize, the treasure, the reward we should go after.

"O God, I plead with you to awaken a hunger that can never be satisfied and an inward thirst for you that will never be quenched. May we find such joy and fulfillment in this holy pursuit it inspires us to pursue you with greater intensity. I ask you to allow us to find you, to enjoy you, to taste you, to experience you, and to know you. Then we will know revival has broken out in our lives as well as in the church."

... continued on next page

Steps to Revival ...

1. What do you most hunger and thirst for? Have you attained it? If so, how did it make you feel?
2. What is the object of your relentless pursuit? In what ways have you pursued this? What has it cost you?
3. Where does your hunger and thirst for God rank among all the other pursuits of your life? Do you need to reprioritize any of your pursuits?
4. Pray for God to awaken a hunger and thirst in your innermost being for Him.
5. How will you go about pursuing God? What disciplines will you incorporate into your life?
6. Close your time by rewording Psalms 42:1 into a personal prayer.

Notes ...

Day Thirty-Eight ... Gladness in Seeking the Lord

Psalms 40:16 (NASB)

16) "Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; let those who love your salvation say continually, 'The Lord be magnified.'"

It might appear that spending our time seeking the Lord is done out of duty and drudgery. This is not the case. As you meditate on this scripture notice two results of seeking the Lord. The word "seek" means to search out, desire, strive after. For the person who truly does this, there will be rejoicing and gladness.

For the person who truly desires God and who strives after knowing Him, that person will rejoice or be cheerful and glad. In other words, they will be satisfied. Their satisfaction will not stop with themselves. There will be a yearning to testify to others about God's great salvation continually.

The word "continually" means constantly, daily, regularly, and perpetually. Let's look at the progression. People who truly want joy and gladness in their life make desiring and striving after God a priority. They experience the joy and gladness they have been looking for but they cannot hoard it for themselves. Over and over again they tell others about this great God who gives salvation, rescuing souls from damnation and delivering from sin.

For such people, they live to magnify the Lord, or to put it another way, they live to advance God, lift God's name, and to promote God to the world. That is revival. We know we have been revived when our love and passion for God turns into a burning desire to see others come to know Him as well. When we live day in and day out to promote God at work, play, in the community, and among family and friends we will not have to tell anyone we have been revived. Revival will be lived out in our lives.

Your passionate pursuit of God is for your ultimate good. God is the greatest source for joy and gladness. When you understand the great salvation you have been given by Him, you will want to know this God more. You will want others to experience the same salvation you have. You will long for others to know true joy and gladness that can only come from seeking God and being in a right relationship with Him.

Your seeking more of God not only turns out for your good but also for the good of those you love and care about. So, let me ask, are you glad and joyful? Have your other pursuits produced this for you? Do your other pursuits demand to be glorified and promoted through you? Don't settle for lesser blessings when God is ultimately what we all need and are seeking.

Steps to Revival ...

1. What do you honestly desire and strive after? Do they produce joy and gladness in you?
2. What are you living to promote and lift up? Is it a worthwhile endeavor? How will this benefit the people you love?
3. Do you truly love the salvation God has given you? Express that love to Him in these moments. You might sing to Him. Write Him a letter. You could write a poem. All that matters is you expressing how much you love Him and the salvation He gave you.

Notes ... _____

Day Thirty-Nine ... Fullness of Joy

Psalms 16:11 (NASB)

11) "You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in your right hand there are pleasures forever."

One Christmas, as a little boy, a burning desire consumed my thoughts and heart. I wanted a "Mr. Quarterback." Mr. Quarterback was a machine with a mechanical arm that would launch a football pass. I could rarely get people to play catch with me and Mr. Quarterback was the answer to my problem.

I could barely sleep Christmas Eve. Around 2:30 a.m. I could not stand it. I threw the covers off to see what I could find under the Christmas tree. There it was shining in green glory. Mr. Quarterback. I could hardly contain myself. It was too dark to go outside but I had to try it out.

As quite as I could I pulled the mechanical arm back without reading the instructions. I pulled it too hard. My mother told me she awoke to these heart wrenching words from my mouth, "Oh no! I broke it." I never did get a pass from my dream gift. It never worked.

Life is filled with such disappointments. Not with God. The Psalmist testifies that in the presence of God is fullness of joy. The word "fullness" means plenty, or excess. The word "joy" can be defined as meaning gladness, delight, and extreme pleasure. Let's put all of that together. In the presence of God a person can find plentiful excess of gladness, delight, and extreme pleasure. WOW! That's what people are looking for. They are looking in the wrong places. God says the source of that gladness and delight is in HIM! We spend years looking everywhere under the sun but never lifting our gaze to Him.

He is not through though. In the bottom part of that verse it says, "In your right hand there are pleasures forever." The word "pleasures" means surpassing beauty, endless delight, and lovely. This echoes the recurring theme over the past several days. Seeking God produces in us pleasures, delights, joy, and plentiful excess of all the aforementioned. Sadly few take Him up on this offer.

My challenge for all of us is to find out if this is true. Let us give ourselves over to this pursuit of God and remain in His presence and see what happens as a result. What do we have to lose? We have everything to gain.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Will you pursue God with a new passion through reading scripture, prayer and worship?
2. Do you believe God is the ultimate source of joy and gladness?
3. If you truly desire pleasure, why not go after that pleasure in God?

Notes ... _____

Day Forty ... Satisfied With God's Likeness

Psalms 17:15 (NASB)

15) "As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Your likeness when I awake."

To behold something is to gaze upon it, contemplate it, and get a vision of it. You might do this with a piece of art. It might be a stunning nature scene. You can even behold beautiful people by staring or gazing awkwardly.

When did you last linger in the presence of God to behold Him? Have you ever stayed in His presence to gaze upon Him in your secret room? [Matthew 6:6] Have you ever caught a fresh vision of Him in the sanctuary as you beheld His glory and power? [Psalms 63:2]

We do too little beholding and gazing. When we do, we too will discover a satisfaction that cannot be equaled or rivaled. Being satisfied means being filled, to have enough, to be given plenty, and to suffice. That is what God does for the soul that is hungry and thirsty for Him. God is the source of plenty, enough, and the source that fills the deepest cravings of our souls.

Do you know what happens when we behold Him long enough? We become like Him. We are shaped in His image. We become the similitude of Him in everyday life. Our heart becomes like His heart. Our words become like His words. Our love is deepened like His love. When people see us they see a reflection of our God. That is how it is supposed to work.

Since we so often foolishly quit seeking Him and chase after the fleeting pleasures of this world, we begin to look like the world and we become shaped in the image of the world. Here is the crazy thing. The world and all it offers never satisfies. It only leaves us hungry for more and more. We never get filled, we never have enough, and instead of plenty our souls are left wanting.

It is time to redirect the focus of our gaze. What is it that has captured your gaze? I ask you to contemplate the spiritual implications of what you are beholding. Is it satisfying? Is it making you more like Christ? If not, today is the day to direct your gaze on Him who alone can satisfy and make us in His likeness.

Steps to Revival ...

1. What are you spending your time beholding? If there are more than one make a list.
2. Are these things satisfying you or leaving you wanting more?
3. Do you feel you are living in the likeness of Christ?
4. Since God alone can satisfy, will you take time to behold him today, to gaze upon Him and contemplate Him?
5. Ask God to satisfy your soul in Him and to make you in His likeness.

Notes ...

Day Forty-One ... A Burning Heart

Revelation 3:15-16 (NASB)

15) "I know your deeds that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16) So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth."

Why is it that so many Christians are apathetic? How have so many become lukewarm in their faith and not maintained burning hearts. One writer of old talked about the fellowship of the burning hearts. Where is such a fellowship in the average church? Are there burning hearts in the pews? The bigger question for us today is whether our heart burns for God within us?

It would be easy to justify being lukewarm in our hearts if it were not for this scripture. Imagine the horrific picture of Christ spewing out lukewarm religion from His mouth. That is not the picture I want for my life or for the church. I want to burn in my soul for the Lord and to pastor a church with hearts that are set ablaze for Him.

I think one of the reasons we become lukewarm is because we do not take the time to linger in the fire of His presence. If you and I were to go camping and start a fire and then go to bed, it would be foolish to get up the next morning and to try to warm ourselves by the ashes. If we found embers we could stir them and get a fire going again, but it would not last long without more fuel being added. We would have to find some fresh firewood to keep the fire going.

Many Christians have become lukewarm or cold in the faith because the fire went out a long time ago and they did not put more fuel on the fire. Worship experiences of yesterday will not suffice for today. We must have the fresh fuel of private worship day in and day out if we are to burn and boil for the Lord.

This is not new but it is tragic how many in the church today are still trying to warm themselves beside the ashes of yesterday's fires. For many, even the embers have died as well. "O God, I plead with You to blow across the ashes of our lives and rekindle Your flame within our souls. I plead with You, blow across those embers until they ignite and cause us to burn for You once again. Please allow the fuel of Your word and prayer to add more intensity to the flame in our souls. May our private worship enhance the heat and fervor of our corporate worship".

Steps to Revival ...

1. What is the condition of your soul? Are you burning, cold, or lukewarm?
2. Are you trying to warm yourself beside the ashes of past experiences?
3. If you are not burning, spend some time asking the Lord to fan the flames of your heart.
4. What new fuel do you need to keep the fire burning in your heart?

Notes ...

Day Forty-Two ... Life on Fire

Luke 24:32 (NASB)

32) "They said to one another, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us.'"

To have a life on fire you have to walk with Jesus day in and day out. It is that simple. Did you catch the testimony of Cleopas and his companion? When Jesus joined their journey and conversation they commented that their hearts burned within them.

The word "burn" can be defined as to set on fire, kindle, and consume. When we take the time to really walk with the Lord, He sets our hearts and lives on fire. This results in a flaming soul that is consumed with knowing Him and making Him known to others.

We cannot shortcut our walk with the Lord. Many do and it does not work. How many professing Christians are hollow on the inside? They may go through all the external motions of worship and service but there is no flame on the inside. Again, I say, you cannot shortcut a personal walk with the Lord if you want to have a life on fire.

The fellowship of burning hearts occurs when a congregation habitually walks with the Lord and allows Him to reveal the truth of Scriptures in their hearts and minds. When Christ reveals Himself and His purposes to a group of people who make walking with Him a high priority, lives will be set aflame.

This is so simple and yet the implications are so profound. A life set on fire needs the daily fuel of walking with the Lord. I wrote this in an isolated cabin located near Palestine, TX. I love that place. I try to go there two or three times a year to pray, soak up God, and to saturate my mind and heart in scripture and prayer. Those days are the highlight of my year spiritually. I am not distracted by television. I am totally alone for hours on end which allows me to give myself to extended times with the Lord.

No matter what I experience there, I cannot go back home on and rest on the experiences from there. I have to continue to walk with the Lord day in and day out over the course of a lifetime if I want to have a life on fire. What concerns me equally, is ever becoming a cold hearted and dry-eyed preacher. My only hope is to keep walking and talking with the Lord.

I enjoyed my time with the Lord this morning. We enjoyed a beautiful sunrise together. I poured out my soul to Him. I interceded for the church and for our community. I prayed over this book and asked for His inspiration, anointing, and strength to write and make the most of my time in that prayer cabin. Above all that, I enjoy my time with Him there. I sit and listen for His voice and relish in the times He reveals the truth of scripture to me. Walking with the Lord is the key to living a life on fire. There are no shortcuts.

... continued on next page

Steps to Revival ...

1. How would you describe your walk with the Lord? Is this something you do consistently?
2. When was the last time you had an unhurried time with the Lord?
3. What things do you desperately need to converse with Jesus about today? Take that time to do so now.
4. Set aside some time to go on a prayer walk with the Lord. You may do it around your neighborhood, at a park, or out in the countryside somewhere. Take this time to enjoy the Lord and have Him speak to you.

Notes ... _____

Day Forty-Three ... The Arrogance of Knowledge

I Corinthians 8:1b (NASB)

1b) "...Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies."

We live in an educated society. We place a premium on a good education. The old saying goes, "Knowledge is power." This is not necessarily the case in the church. There are many Christians who have devoted their lives to studying the scriptures. Through disciplined studies they have become Bible scholars. This is good only if, with this knowledge of the mind in knowing the scriptures, comes a heart to know the God of the scriptures.

I never knew that people could make the study of the Bible so cold and boring. This is what I encountered in many of my Bible classes in college. I sat at the feet of learned professors but some of them did not have fire in their souls. They may have had knowledge but this did not translate into burning in their hearts. Truth be known, some of these professors carried an air of arrogance and superiority.

Knowledge can make us arrogant. In your life, does that describe you? Do you know a lot about the Bible but know very little of the God of the Bible? Do you walk around self-satisfied with your mastery of Biblical themes and yet have no heat in your soul? Do you look down on others as inferior in their Bible knowledge? If this describes your attitude you need to stop what you are doing and repent.

Knowledge can be wonderful in the church when accompanied with the heat of love for Christ and other people. [Matthew 22:37-38] In no way am I advocating less study of the scriptures. I am simply stating that if that is all we do it will not produce a revived life or church.

Think about it. We have endless sermons, Bible Studies, Bible Conferences, and study tools. Have any of these things produced revival? Revival is born out of hearts set ablaze and hungry for more of Him. This will not come when hearts arrogantly think they know it all. No man or woman has ever discovered all there is to discover about God. No person past or present has ever plunged the depths of scripture to study and gathered all the knowledge that can be gathered. There is no room for arrogance. We should prostrate ourselves in His presence, repenting of thinking more highly of ourselves than we should.

There is a knowledge of the holy. Do we dare to venture there? Do we dare go past the knowledge in our minds and pursue knowledge of experience in encounters with the living God? This is the kind of knowledge we need more of but, is so sorely missing in far too many lives. Let us pursue knowledge but let us do so with the desire to pursue fresh encounters with the Lord as well. When we have feasted on both, let us prostrate ourselves in humility before God and people adopting the attitude of John the Baptist who said, "He must increase and I must decrease." [John. 3:30]

Steps to Revival ...

1. Do you have areas of arrogance in your life? What are they?
2. In what ways have you acted superior to other people?
3. What evidence of humility can be found in your life?
4. Do you love God more than knowledge? Are you content to know about Him rather than to know Him?
5. In what tangible ways is your love for God translating into edifying people?

Notes ... _____

Day Forty-Four ... Treasuring God's Word

Psalms 119:11 (NASB)

11) "Your word I have treasured in my heart that I may not sin against You."

As you start this day I wonder how deeply you treasure God's Word. Do you long to get up and read it, study it, meditate on it? I just put down a book I am reading on personal revival. I completed the chapter about loving God's word. In the book I read about a man who had committed to read the Bible through five times in one year! When the author told this story he commented about the countenance, the passion, and love for God he saw in his friend. He wondered if his friend being so committed and disciplined to read scripture had anything to do with his revived state.

The Bible is meat and potatoes for us. God uses His word to comfort, convict, challenge, and create a deeper love for Him. What does it mean to treasure God's word in our hearts? The word "treasure" means to protect, lay up, hoard and to esteem. Do you protect your time in reading scripture? It is a battle. Dozens of things compete for our time in reading and meditating on the Bible. You must protect this time and esteem your time in God's book. It is one thing to read it in your head but a completely different thing to let it sink into your soul.

This morning I read in the book of Job. God used a scripture in Job to speak to my heart many years ago. I made a note of that experience along with a date next to that scripture. As I read it again this morning I can see what God did. That scripture sank into my soul.

The benefit of devoting yourself to reading and studying scripture is found at the end of Psalms 119:11. When we treasure and hide God's word in our heart it helps us in our fight not to sin against God. Knowing the Bible is indispensable in our fight against sin. How did Jesus combat Satan when He was tempted? He quoted scripture to him.

I urge you to begin storing up, or hoarding scriptures in your heart and mind to help you remain strong in the midst of temptation. I know that is not too difficult for most people. It does take time, but the rewards in our striving after holiness and against sin are well worth the price to pay.

I hope you will stop today and check your attitude about the word of God. Do you find reading it boring? I ask you if you are reading it to get to know God and His heart? You will not experience revival if you do not make reading and memorizing scripture a regular part of your spiritual disciplines.

... continued on next page

Steps to Revival ...

1. Ask the Lord to develop in you an insatiable craving for reading scripture.
2. How will you go about adding scripture memory to your life? Why not choose one for today and begin working on it?
3. Set aside a scheduled time to read scripture and fight for that time with all you have.
4. Choose a systematic plan for reading the Bible. You can use a devotional guide such as this one, where a scripture is chosen for you each day. You can choose to pick a book of the Bible and work your way through it daily. You might choose to start in Genesis and work your way through Revelation. Choose the one you get the most out of.

Notes ...

Day Forty-Five ... In the Potter's Hand

Jeremiah 18:6 (NASB)

6) "Can I not, O House of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel."

We, like Israel, are a rebellious people. God, as a potter, continues to mold and shape our lives to be vessels for His glory. How often do we resist, rebel, and defy the pressure from His hands. Our hearts grow hard and our will defiantly opposes God's deep work of character shaping in us.

As you continue to prepare your heart for revival, how moldable are you? As God meets with you and shapes you for His purposes, how compliant are you? Can you think of an area in your life where you are resisting God's work? If you want to experience God's reviving work deep within, you must submit to the work of His hand.

Sometimes the molding of the Potter is painful. Even when it hurts and stretches you and you cannot see the end result, will you trust the Potter? Many times God uses trials to shape us. If we were to look at God's love during this phase of the shaping we might be tempted to doubt it. We must learn to take the long view of our lives. If we can learn to trust the Potter, in time we will see what He was up to. We will see the loving care He exerts with each squeeze of His hand. He has a purpose in mind.

Today our challenge is to do things I learned from Henry Blackaby in *Experiencing God*. We must remain moldable and remain in the Potter's hand. In other words, we have to be willing to submit to His molding and shaping of our lives and to stay in close relationship with the Potter.

Many a person has done the complete opposite. Many have left the Potter and molded themselves after their own desires. Tragically many have wrecked their lives on this course. It is time to quit fighting and resisting the work of the Potter in our lives. Climb into His hands and submit to the pressure. Yield to His design and you will become a vessel of honor.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Can you identify any area in your life where you have been resisting God's work of molding you? If so why?
2. What reasons can you give for why you should trust the Potter and His plans?
3. In what ways can you remain in God's hands and remain moldable?

Notes ... _____

Day Forty-Six ... Eyes Toward the Lord

Psalms 25:15 (NASB)

15) "My eyes are continually toward the Lord, for He will pluck my feet out of the net."

One thing we can know for certain. Satan does not want the church of God revived. To take that a little closer to home that means that he does not want you or me revived. If we can go about our business as usual, all is well. If we get revived, we become powerful tools in the hand of God to oppose the kingdom of darkness.

So He seeks to ensnare us. Temptations are everywhere. If we get tripped up and trapped, we will not be effective. If we give in to temptation we cannot be revived as long as we remain there. Satan is crafty. He can come from many different angles disguised as an angel of light. He is cunning and deceptive in addition to being relentless. He exists to oppose God at every turn.

I love how the Psalmist combats this fact. He keeps his eyes continually toward the Lord. Constantly, day after day, David turns his gaze toward God. Perpetually, night after night, he sets his eyes toward the Lord. When David did this God protected and preserved him.

One fateful night David did not turn his eyes toward the Lord. He let his eyes fixate on a woman bathing. David lusted and acted on that lust. What was the end result? He committed adultery. Bathsheba became pregnant. He had Bathsheba's husband killed in battle. The baby died and David dealt with internal strife in his home the remainder of his days. All of this could have been avoided if David would have just kept his eyes toward the Lord that night.

That is crucial for all of us. Temptation often shows up when we are weak and vulnerable. All it takes is a moment for us to let our eyes wander from the Lord onto the many distractions of this present age. I cannot cast stones at David for I too have let my gaze wander and have found myself in rebellion against the Lord. You have too. Maybe it was not the same sin, but sin of any kind is offensive to the Lord. Any of us is capable of blowing it. We might lose our temper, utter a careless word, have a bad attitude, eat some forbidden fruit like Adam and Eve, or see something as more desirable than God. This is the trick that suckered Adam and Eve.

Anytime we let our gaze drift from beholding God we are headed for trouble. Here is the good news. When Satan has tricked us and we find ourselves caught in his net, God is more than able and willing to pluck our feet out and deliver us. God is our exit out of the sinful sloppy messes we get ourselves into. He is our Deliverer, Rescuer and Savior. Set your eyes on Him anew today.

Steps to Revival ...

1. In what areas are you facing temptation? Where is your gaze? Where have you set your eyes?
2. Where are you most vulnerable? In what area are you weakest?
3. Turn your eyes back to the Lord. Is there anything more desirable to you than God?
4. Ask the Lord for the strength, resolve, and wisdom to keep your eyes toward Him at all times.
5. If you have failed and find yourself in the Devil's net, ask the Lord to be set free.
6. How can you fight against those moments when you, like King David, turn your eyes away from the Lord and face temptation?

Notes ... _____

Day Forty-Seven ... Where God's Glory Dwells

Psalms 26:8 (NASB)

8) "O Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells."

Do you love to be in God's presence? Do you crave those times of private devotions as well as times of corporate worship? Are your affections white hot to draw near to God, and by faith, trust that He is also drawing near to you? [James 4:8]

David loved God. He was not perfect but God says David was a man after His own heart. David also loved God's dwelling place. Many of us would read this verse and think about the church. We often refer to church as God's House. This is not what David is referring to.

God says in [Isaiah 66:1] "Heaven is My throne and the earth is my footstool. Where then is the house you could build for Me? And where is the place that I may rest?" God is bigger than any sanctuary. He is bigger than any denomination, any city, state, or nation. He is bigger than this universe.

When David says he loves God's habitation, what that means is that David loves God's dwelling and abode. God says Heaven is his throne. So let me ask you my original series of questions. Do you love Heaven? Do you long for Heaven because that is where God is?

Try to grasp this? Heaven itself is nothing more than a chair or throne to God. What I am getting at today is God is far more vast than the average Christian thinks. If all of Heaven is but a throne to God, where His honor, weightiness, and splendor resides, is that a place you love and want to be?

It baffles me how many are so mesmerized by the trappings of this world, they actually prefer this to Heaven. Keith Green, a prophetic songwriter, once said that earth is but a garbage can compared to what God has in store for the saved. Do you ever get a little homesick for Heaven?

The more I love God, the more I want to know Him more, and enjoy Him forever. I get frustrated that my earthly body limits my getting to know God more. I get tired and choose rest over seeking. My finite mind cannot grasp the infinity of God no matter how hard I try. I can only see in part, like through a glass dimly. If I really want to know God fully, I will have to do that in Heaven.

While I am here, I will keep pursuing and seeking, but to finally realize the desire of my pursuit and seeking I will have to wait for the other side of eternity. Do you long for that? I do not desire to leave this life one day sooner than God intends. With each passing day this world holds less and less attraction for me, and the God of heaven lures me to another world. I hope to spend my remaining days loving and enjoying God but know I will not be able to do so to the fullest measure until this mortal puts on immortality. "O God, I love you and your dwelling place. I can't wait to see it first hand."

... continued on next page

Steps to Revival ...

1. Spend some time asking God to give you a heart for Heaven and to be in His presence.
2. What excites you most about Heaven?
3. Find a couple of scriptures that talk about Heaven and the glory of the Lord to be found there. Read them and prayerfully meditate on them.
4. In what ways have you shrunk God in your mind and personal worship?
5. What does it mean when God declares there is not a house of worship that can be built that could contain Him?
6. What are the implications of a God of that magnitude to you personally?

Notes ...

Day Forty-Eight ... Six Steps

2 Samuel 6:13-14 (NASB)

13) "And so it was, that when the bearers of the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and fatling. 14) And David was dancing before the Lord with all his might and David was wearing a linen ephod."

There is quite a context to today's scripture. I will give you the very condensed version. The ark of the Lord, which represented the presence and power of God for Israel, was captured by the Philistines. God judged them harshly. In fact, God's judgment was so severe the Philistines sent the ark back to Israel, but it was not taken back to the capitol city. Years passed by and David now sits on the throne.

David decided to bring the ark back. They built a new cart to carry the ark. While transporting the ark back one of the oxen stumbled and the ark began to topple. One of the hired men named Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark. Here is what the Bible says happened afterward. "And the anger of the Lord burned against Uzzah and God struck him down there in his irreverence." [2 Samuel 6:7]

David had two emotions. He was first angry, and then he was afraid. We learn that from that point David was unwilling to move the ark. The ark stayed in the house of Obed-edom for three months and God blessed Obed-edom.

The question begs to be asked. Why did God kill Uzzah for just trying to help? I think I can answer that. First, God gave Israel specific instructions on how they were to transport the ark. God commanded Israel to transport the ark by inserting poles down the sides of it and having priests carry it on their shoulders. [1 Chronicles 15:2,12-15] Uzzah was not a Levite. He was not consecrated and touched the ark. Uzzah also did not reverence God, in that he thought he could steady God when the ark appeared to be about to tumble off the cart. Can you imagine any person propping God up and steadying Him? God was angry and required Uzzah's life for having anything to do with transporting the ark without being consecrated and thinking he could steady and offer God support.

Fast-forward three months. David has done his homework. He knows how to transport the ark. The Levites have been secured and they have consecrated themselves. David goes out for the ark a second time. Picture the scene with me. In silence and reverence the priests approach the ark. Ever so carefully they slide one pole down the side, careful not to touch the ark. Reverently they do the same thing on the other side of the ark. I can picture the fear on each Levite as together they lifted the poles onto their shoulders. Gingerly they take the first step. Ever so carefully they take the next step. They breathe a little easier. They march out steps three, four, five, and then six. After the sixth step something happened. God did not kill anyone.

After the sixth step David could not retain his joy and exuberance. He stops the parade, and offers burnt offerings to the Lord to celebrate. David's fear of the Lord is now turned into lavish adoration and sacrifice for God. David began to leap and twirl before the Lord, not half-heartedly mind you, but with all His might. David was overjoyed.

... continued on next page

What can we learn from all of this? First, we have lost a sense of reverence for God. Just look at the casual way we enter into worship. We sashay into the presence of Sovereign God without reverence or fear. This would not have been the case the Sunday after God struck Ananias and his wife Sapphira for lying. [Acts 5:1-11] In fact verse 11 tells us, "And great fear came over the whole church and over all who heard these things."

Hypocrisy abounds on Sunday mornings but there is no fear. Lying takes place each time the offering plate is passed for what some pass off as their tithes. Others lie when they sing songs with their lips, but they do not mean them in their hearts. God is offended, and one day there will be a day of reckoning.

The bigger lesson is we should have such healthy reverence for God that when we are ushered into His presence we should be so overjoyed we do not hold back in worship. Much of what we pass off as worship today is half-hearted at best and insincere at worst. Where are the worshippers today who worship with all their might? I know some of you cannot get past the fact that David danced before the Lord. How you express your worship to the Lord is not my concern. That you express your adoration for Him is the greater issue. When was the last time you were so overjoyed in the presence of the Lord you worshipped with all your might?

Steps to Revival ...

1. How does your reverence for the Lord manifest itself in your preparations for worship?
2. Can you recall a time when you, like David, worshipped the Lord with all your might?
3. What things hold you back from worshipping with all your might?
4. Do you worship in hypocrisy and half-hearted?

Notes ... _____

Day Forty-Nine ... Not on My Watch

Ezekiel 33:6-7 (NASB)

6) "But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet and the people are not warned, and a sword comes and takes a person from them, he is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from the watchman's hand. 7) Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel; so you will bear a message from My mouth and give them warning from Me."

Our adversary comes to "steal, kill, and destroy". [John 10:10] The kingdom of darkness has cast a menacing shadow over our communities. On many different fronts things appear to be hopeless. While the enemy advances, many in the church sleep. As long as the attendance remains high and the offerings are up all is well. This is not the case though. While we gather under our church steeples the enemy moves stealthily to reap destruction.

Our babies are having babies. Wedding vows, "Until death do us part" means only until "I no longer love you or want to be married." Abortion is every bit as horrific as the holocaust against the Jews. Gay used to be a word meaning happy but now it is twisted into immoral lifestyle, couched in the phrase "alternative lifestyle"

The church slumbers from Hollywood to the backwoods. Christ is mocked from the Whitehouse to our neighbor's house and the church barely takes notice. Immorality has invaded our homes via satellite television and the internet. Nobody is safe. Where is the church of almighty God? Where are the saints who defy Satan and his demon legions on their knees warring for the souls of their cities?

It is past time to wake up and for someone to blow the trumpet of warning. Our adversary is on the move and we must stand up through prayer to oppose him. If we sit on the walls to give watch and allow our enemy to come right to our door steps and do nothing, shame on us. Church, it is time to rouse from the bed and put on the armor of God. We are in a battle. This is not the time for another church social. This is the time for almighty God to move and push back the tide of evil that is rolling down our streets. This is the time to fight!

God has given us a message of Good News in the gospel. How long will we remain tight lipped and intimidated by the cries for tolerance in our society? Our society is only tolerant if we are silent. It is time to shout out the timeless message that Jesus alone is the hope for our communities and America. God appointed us as watchmen for this season where we live. If you drift off to sleep who else will sound the alarm? Many have abandoned their post on the walls. Will you do the same? Let our rallying cry be, "NOT ON OUR WATCH!"

Not on our watch, will we sit by idly while the enemy pillages and plunders people. Not on our watch, will we sit tight lipped while the masses march in unison to the impending doom of eternity without Jesus Christ. Not on our watch, will we allow our children to be sucked into gross immorality while we take a siesta. Not on our watch, will we step to the side so our teenagers can drink the devil's brew and die while driving drunk. Not on our watch, will we stick our heads in the sand toward hypocrisy but call people to the truth. NOT ON OUR WATCH!

... continued on next page

Steps to Revival ...

1. Whom has God put in our path who needs to be warned about eternity in hell apart from a relationship with Christ?
2. In what ways have you neglected to sound the warning for your family as the enemy approaches?
3. What is the evidence you have that you take your responsibility as a watchman seriously?
4. Where do you see the most imminent danger in your life, your family's life, and in the life of your community?
5. What will you do to oppose the enemy?

Notes ...

Day Fifty ... Standing in the Gap

Ezekiel 22:30 (NASB)

30) "I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, So that I would not destroy it; but I found no one."

Many years ago I read this scripture and began to weep. I pleaded with God to never be able to say anywhere I lived, that he could find no one to stand in the gap. Many years have passed by since that afternoon, and still my heart cries out to God to see that I want to be the one who will stand in the gap.

We are blessed in Weatherford. But why is our Community Prayer Room opportunity on Thursdays not filled to overflowing in attendance? What is going on in our lives that is so important we cannot spare time to stand in the gap for the city?

It is past time to talk about praying. It is time to stand up, and take our rightful places in the gap, and pray for God's intervention and protection. America is not beyond God's judgments. He judged other nations in the past that forsook Him. This nation has rejected God and His word, by and large. We are governed by crooks who do not always have the best interest of the nation at heart. We mock the laws of God, thinking they are antiquated when torrential floodwaters of God's judgment on this nation are only held back by God's mercy and patience. One day they will be released, unless we turn back to Him in repentance.

Do we not understand what is at stake? Intercessors, it is time to awake! We must stand in the gap pleading for God's protection. Now is not the time to push the snooze button and slumber longer. I beg of you to start standing in the gap. Please make coming to Community Prayer Room a high priority. I plead with you, to commit that time to the Lord every Thursday at Spring Creek Baptist Church from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We are past time for excuses. Either stand in the gap, or eventually watch our society crumble. It is that simple, and things are getting that drastic.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Will you commit to giving time to the Community Prayer Room on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.?
2. Spend some time asking God to raise up other intercessors to stand in the gap.
3. Find some time to encourage those prayer warriors who have stood in the gap for your community over the years. Commit to join them.

Notes ...

Day Fifty-one ... The Spirit is Willing, but the Flesh is Weak

Matthew 26:40-41 (NASB)

40) "And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, 'So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? 41) Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."

In each of us the Spirit of God is willing and desiring for us to give ourselves more to prayer. On the other hand the flesh within us is weak. The word "weak" means our flesh is impotent, sick, and feeble. Who has not battled the flesh when it comes to prayer? Have you ever sought to pray and fought sleep? Have you ever tried to pray but felt distracted and unable to focus? Have you ever gone into the secret place for intercession only to feel your prayers were getting no higher than the ceiling?

The flesh is feeble. The flesh is literally without strength to get the job done. When our flesh rules our lives you can rest assured your prayer life will suffer. The flesh wants to take the easy road and the path of least resistance. There is no doubt about it. Praying is work. It is hard work.

Did you catch Jesus' question to the disciples. "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour?" We think nothing of giving an hour of time to watching television, playing video games, surfing the internet, exercising, but how many can give the Lord an hour of their time in prayer?

We will never be the people of prayer God is calling us to be until we yield to the Holy Spirit in our lives. Our flesh will never choose the path of prayer. Before I wrote this I was prostrate on the floor at the prayer cabin, praying through Isaiah 62:6-7. My spirit wants to be that kind of man of prayer but my flesh is weak. I pleaded with God to give me that kind of heart to pray.

I have long thought one of the reasons prayer is so hard for many of us is that Satan does not want us to pray. If he can keep us operating in our sick and impotent flesh, we will have little to no impact. Many times as I have struggled to stay awake in prayer, I felt the enemy was attacking.

In this moment we all have a choice. We can be ruled by the spirit or by the flesh. One will have the dominating influence on us. If we yield to the Holy Spirit, we grow in our prayer lives and experience new victory. If we are dominated by our flesh, we will continue to be inconsistent, impotent, and weak in prayer. Which way will it be? The Lord beckons us to watch and pray. Will we obey?

Steps to Revival ...

1. How has the weakness of your flesh opposed your prayer life?
2. Paul found victory over the flesh in Galatians 2:20. Take some time to pray through that verse now.
3. Prayerfully submit your life to more of the Holy Spirit's control?
4. What can you do to devote more time to prayer?

Notes ... _____

Day Fifty-two ... Remove the Cause of Stumbling

Matthew 5:29-30 (NASB)

29) "If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30) If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell."

As long as we are alive the flesh will desire sin. The question facing us today is how willing are we to resist and fight against the flesh. This is a hard scripture. Before I was saved as a child I read these verses and was shocked to think about plucking out my eye or cutting off my hand. What is the point Jesus is making?

If you have areas in your life where you are weak and give into sin, you should remove those areas. For example, there are certain channels that should be eliminated from your television. Like a moth drawn to flame, you might be tempted to view those channels. The best solution is to remove those channels. When we lived in a previous town, I could not get ESPN without getting several channels with garbage. I chose to go down to a different tier in our program package and lost all of our sports channels. It was hard, but it was also worth it.

You might be forced to give up things like Facebook, where you are tempted into immoral communication and actions. You might be forced to give up certain kinds of music, or spending time with certain friends or co-workers who cause you to stray in your thought life. You might be called to give up credit cards, which can be used to feed materialism.

How serious are you and I about resisting sin? Jesus is dead serious. I say dead serious because He willingly died on the cross to defeat the power and penalty of sin. If video games dominate your time, distracting you from more time with the Lord, then perhaps video games need to be removed from your life.

The Holy Spirit is more than able to reveal those areas of your life that cause you to stumble. This is the moment of decision. Will you remove those things from your life or will you embrace them? Each choice has consequences. Obeying the Lord will lead you another step closer to revival. Disobedience will lead you away from the Lord.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Take some time to identify any area of your life that causes you to stumble. Do not rush through this. Let the Holy Spirit reveal these areas.
2. Ask the Lord what things you need to remove. Do not put this off. Whatever He says you need to remove, be diligent to obey promptly.
3. Ask the Lord to give you a hatred for sin and a desire for pure and holy living.
4. Ask the Lord for help in being delivered from any bondage to sin.

Notes ...

Day Fifty-three ... Be Ready for the Day

Mark 13:32-33 (NASB)

32) "But of that day or hour no one knows not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son but the Father alone. 33) Take heed, keep on the alert for you do not know when the appointed time will come."

There will come a moment in history when everything as we know it will change. Jesus promised He would come back. We don't know when. He doesn't even know when. There is a day and an hour appointed by the Father when Jesus will come back. People have tried to predict it. Many have diminished the return of Jesus as myth.

Just as assuredly as I sit at this table working on this book, Jesus is coming back. In these verses Jesus tells us to do two things. Take heed. Keep on the alert. Let's take a closer look at both.

What does Jesus mean when He tells us to take heed? It means to be aware, to perceive, to look on, and to see. We must watch the times and beware of the things going on in the world. In the last days Jesus said there would be wars and rumors of wars. There will be earthquakes and famines. These are the birth pangs. [Mark 13:7-9] If we are to take heed we need to understand that we are living in the end times. That is one thing most Bible scholars agree on.

There are two implications for us. This is not a time to be drifting in our relationship with the Lord. He could come at any moment. That sends chills down my spine to know that He could return before I finish this sentence or this book. I want to be ready when that time comes. The other implication for me, is a lot of people are not ready. They are not saved. It is way past time for the church to open up her mouth to proclaim the gospel of Christ in the highways and byways of our communities. Time is running out. If we care about people, we do not want them to have to endure the seven years of tribulation. It will be catastrophic.

Jesus also commanded us to keep on the alert. Some translations interpret that phrase as "to keep watch and pray." The meaning is for us to stay awake, to keep on our toes, and to pray. Even as I write this I am thinking of two men that I am burdened about their salvation. One I have witnessed to time and time again. The other I am looking for the opportunity prayerfully. We don't see much of each other.

None of us know the appointed time. That is extremely sobering. If we do not know we should live each day with this reality on the forefront of our minds. To be perfectly honest, I had not given this truth one thought until I began meditating on the above scriptures and writing this devotion. Why is that?

Why am I lulled to sleep by the routines and rhythm of this life? Today is Wednesday and I have a routine for Wednesdays as I do for Thursdays and Fridays. All of that could suddenly change in the twinkling of an eye. Do we know people who are not saved? Are we motivated to share Christ with them before it is too late? Take heed and keep on the alert. He could come at any moment!

... continued on next page

Steps to Revival ...

1. How much time have you given to thinking about the Second Coming before today?
2. In what ways do you need to take heed?
3. Do you know people who are not saved and with whom God is calling you to share Christ?
4. How does God want you to respond to this devotion? Are you ready to meet Christ? If not what needs to happen to get you prepared?

Notes ...

Day Fifty-four ... Fishers of Men

Mark 1:17 (NASB)

17) "Jesus said to them, 'Follow Me and I will make you become fishers of men.'"

Sitting on the coffee table in this prayer cabin is a stuffed and mounted large mouth bass that must have weighed well over ten pounds when it was caught. Not more than seventy-five yards off the back porch of this cabin is a ninety-acre private lake stocked with large fish. There have been fish up to twelve pounds caught in this lake. The largest fish I have ever caught was right here.

I am not an avid fisherman but I have enjoyed some times out on this lake with my friend Jimmy who manages this place. Those have been good days. None of those fishing expeditions could come close to comparing to any of the times I have been used by the Lord to introduce people to my Savior and best friend, Jesus Christ. Becoming a fisher of men is a thrill beyond explanation. Few know this thrill, for statistics say that over 90% of Christians have never shared their faith one time.

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ means being active in evangelism. Jesus said that He would make us become fishers of men. I want to be part of that thrilling adventure of watching Jesus transform people from the domain of darkness to the kingdom of light. Those experiences fill me up. Let me just tell you about one that happened a couple of years ago.

I met a man who was a lawyer. This man had a brilliant mind. Though most of his brothers and sisters knew Jesus Christ, he did not and was not interested. When I first met him the Lord gave me a vision. I know it sounds strange, but I saw the day he would follow in baptism at the church where I served as pastor. I began praying for this man that very hour.

I sought him out at ball games. His wife attended church faithfully but with a broken heart. Eventually he began to show up on Wednesday nights. This was fine for me because at the time I taught through the book of Acts for nearly two years. I would teach forty-five minutes to an hour and many times the gospel was presented. I went to visit him at home and witnessed to him formally. He was interested but not ready to commit.

One day I saw his wife at a local restaurant. Her husband appeared to be like a large mouth bass on the end of a fishing line. They are hooked but they fight and dance around in the water before being landed. I consoled her by assuring her that her husband was hooked. It would just be a matter of time.

Not long after that he called me one afternoon to see if he could come by and talk. I nearly leapt out of my seat when he told me he had trusted Christ to save him while driving to work in his truck. True to my vision I had the privilege of baptizing him and his wife (she was saved but had never been baptized) on their wedding anniversary. I could not contain my exuberance on that occasion! That is only one story out of hundreds.

It is time to step up to be the fishers of men Jesus has made us to be. No longer can we allow fear to paralyze us into silence. [2 Timothy 1:7] No fear. Courageous obedience is the need of the hour. Your challenge is to share your faith. Trust God to orchestrate the circumstances. You be ready and obey. The results are up to God.

... continued on next page

Steps to Revival ...

1. Are there people you have been consistently praying for their salvation? If so list them now by name. Ask and believe Jesus for the opportunity to witness to them about Jesus Christ. Do not wimp out on this. Trust God and obey Him by faith.
2. Enlist the help of prayer warriors to pray for you and the one you are going to witness to.
3. Make plans to have this person over for dinner or take them out to lunch. Do not let Satan use fear to immobilize you.
4. Invite this person to the revival services.
5. Believe you are not alone. God is at work and the Holy Spirit will bring conviction and draw people to Christ. Trust Him.
6. When this person is saved, testify about God's faithfulness in saving the lost. Testify about how the Lord uses ordinary people like you do be fishers of men.

Notes ...

Day Fifty-five ... More Lord

Ephesians 3:20 (NASB)

3) "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works within us."

Many years ago I attended a revival where the slogan often repeated was, "More Lord!" This church was not satisfied, though they had experienced a genuine revival by all accounts. Those prayerful people kept hungering for more of the Lord and He kept honoring their request with fresh outpourings of His Spirit. I have never seen or experienced anything like it.

Today's scripture assures us that God is able to do more than we could ask or think. I want Him to do more. More than I can imagine. I want more of Him in my life, in our church, and in our community. I want to see Him do more to clean the church up. I want the Lord to bring more people to repentance and restore them in their walk with Him. I want to see people put away sinful and destructive behaviors that are robbing them of spiritual vitality.

I want to see the hearts of God's people come alive and be quickened with tenderness toward the things of God. I want to see transformations. I am asking the Lord for more love in the hearts of His people for Him and other people. I also want to see the Lord gloriously save the masses with a salvation that endures.

I want more of the Lord's power on our worship and my preaching. I want more of the presence of the Lord manifested in our services. I want to see God impact the community through revived believers. I want the glory of the Lord to be promoted by transformed lives. I want to see the morale climate of our community changed. I want to see young men and young women surrendering their lives to full time vocational ministry and missions. I want to see students unashamedly living for Christ in the hallways of their schools and in the locker rooms.

"Lord, I want more. Not more for my glory or the fame of my name, but for You alone. More of You and less of me."

Steps to Revival ...

1. Today there is only one step. Write out your own prayer based on Ephesians 3:20.

Notes ... _____

Day Fifty-six ... I am Second

John 3:30 (NASB)

30) "He must increase and I must decrease."

The truth in this statement made by John the Baptist is staggering. When he said that Jesus must increase, what he meant was that Jesus must grow in importance. He must be elevated in status. Jesus must be exalted in rank. Jesus must become the "big deal." This short verse really sums up Christ's position.

He is to be our highest priority. Nothing is to rank above Him. Not our spouse or our children. Not our jobs. Not sports, hobbies, or our possessions. He should get the best of our time and energy. Jesus is preeminent above all else in our lives. Everything and everyone takes a backseat to Jesus.

He is our supreme Ruler and Commander. In life He is the Commanding Officer and we are the foot soldiers who obey His commands. Jesus is a "big deal" in life and we are not. Many people live their whole lives like they are more important than they really are. How many sports figures think they are a big deal? Jim Brown retired and so did Michael Jordan, as well as Nolan Ryan. Other blossoming stars have become household names. Fame is fleeting. Not for Jesus. He is King today and forever more. He is increasing in importance. His fame is spreading as well as His influence.

On the other hand we should be decreasing. That means we should become of less importance. Our wills, desires, opinions, and talents are not that important. It doesn't matter if people remember our names. It only matters that they remember Christ and make a big deal out of Him. We are lesser in rank and inferior to Christ. In essence we are not a big deal.

The only reason any of us can boast that we are anything is because Jesus chooses to love us and shower His grace on us. Our only boast is in the cross of Christ. [Galatians 6:14]

Have you lived your life to make much of you or much of Christ? Have you lived out your days to make yourself look more important than you really are? Have you sought to be elevated in status by family? What about by your friends and coworkers? Jesus is preeminent. You and I are and will always be inferior so let us live to make much of Him and less of us.

Steps to Revival ...

1. How have you lived your life? Have you lived to make much of you or much of Jesus Christ?
2. What are some practical steps you can take to make Jesus of more importance and exalted in rank in your life?
3. How can you humble yourself as inferior and of less importance than Christ?
4. Will you live to make much of Jesus Christ and less of yourself?

Notes ...

Day Fifty-seven ... Engrossed in Darkness

John 3:20-21 (NASB)

20) "For everyone who does evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21) But he who practices the truth comes to the Light so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

As I sit writing this, the sun has set, and the darkness has overtaken the light. Outside my window, bugs fly toward the light hanging over the table, unable to get in. I cannot see outside. I cannot see the towering trees all around me. I am unable to make out the lake directly behind the table where I am writing. I prefer the light.

Many people prefer the darkness. Jesus called Himself the Light of the world. [John 8:12] They hate the Light, for they engage in wicked and immoral behavior. Such people do not want their deeds exposed. What sort of person are you? Do you prefer to lurk in the shadows trying to hide your deeds not only from God but other people? Do you prefer to live in the darkness because there is a sense of security when you are engrossed in the darkness? Either nobody can see what you are up to, or they too are engaged in wicked deeds.

We are called to be people who live and practice the truth. We are called to be people who are not afraid or ashamed to come to the Light. We have nothing to hide. We seek to live the truth and we stand righteous in Him. [2 Corinthians 5:21]. When you are living for God, you do not mind if your deeds are made manifest, for they bring glory to God. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is Heaven." [Matthew 5:16]

Some of you reading this have been engrossed in the darkness. The shame of your deeds haunts you even now. You are engulfed in shame and condemnation. I urge you to repent and walk to Jesus, the Light. Put away your evil deeds and be restored to a revived state with Him. Let His marvelous light bring healing and restoration to all the dark places of your soul until you no longer have anything to hide. Rest in Him. Let the Light pick you up and dust off the shame and condemnation. Take off the shackles of sin and dance in the Light, free and forgiven. Let grace flow down like rain over your soul. "There is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." [Romans 8:1]

Steps to Revival ...

1. What dark deeds do you need to put away?
2. What secret sins are you desperately trying to hide from God and others?
3. Come to the Light. Stand in the Light exposed, but receive His grace and declare your righteous standing in Christ.
4. Will you walk away from this encounter with the Lord, choosing to live in the Light and to practice the truth?

Notes ...

Day Fifty-eight ... Cast Your Burden

Psalms 55:22 (NASB)

22) "Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken."

Each of us gets weighed down in life. It might be due to a heavy schedule. There are family issues that weigh on us. We have responsibilities that demand our time and attention. If we are not careful, these burdens can suck vitality out of us.

Learning to cast our burdens upon the Lord is crucial for revival. Why? Because the Lord sustains us. That means the Lord maintains us, He holds us, He nourishes us, and provides for us. When we try to carry the load on our own, our strength fails. God is the one who helps us carry on because He takes the load.

When life presses in, many people sink into deep depression and feel overwhelmed. There is despair and a sense of hopelessness. God is willing to relieve the oppressive weight. We have to be willing to cast those burdens on Him. We have to admit we cannot do it on our own. This is a blow to our pride, but the benefits are huge.

When the Psalmist says that God will never allow the righteous to be shaken, that means He will never allow them to slip and fall under the burden. God will never allow us to waver under the weight. Have you ever seen a person trying to lift something that is too heavy for them? They may make a go at it, but sooner or later, the legs begin to shake and the knees begin to buckle until the weight comes crashing down.

God does not allow it to happen when we cast our burdens onto His broad shoulders. God is not taxed by our burdens. He can handle cancer, financial set backs, rebellious children, ailing parents, death, the IRS, car accidents, home repairs, and grueling schedules. When we come daily into His presence and cast those burdens on Him, we are set free. Far too many people try to do it on their own. They strain under the load of life. It takes all of their energies to make it through a day. If these people would cast their burdens on the Lord, and leave them there, they would enjoy His sustaining power and feel the strength in His hand to live. Why try to do this on your own for another day? It is time to ask for God's help.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Identify those things in life that are weighing you down and robbing you of strength.
2. Take some time to cast those burdens on the Lord. The word cast means to pluck and to hurl. Hurl each of your burdens on Him and leave them with Him. Do NOT try to pick them up again!
3. Lean in to God today for His sustenance and support. Let Him minister to your tired and weary soul. Let His strength undergird you and keep you from slipping or wavering.

Notes ...

Day Fifty-nine ... Whom Have I in Heaven But You

Psalms 73:25 (NASB)

25) "Whom have I in heaven but You, and besides You I desire nothing on earth."

This world loves to entice us to be discontent. There is always something new to be bought, experienced, and to entrap us. I know many people who live their whole lives in pursuit of things that never live up to what was advertised. The dream vacation leaves something to be desired. The new diamond ring loses its luster. The new vehicle gets stained and scratched. Yet the endless pursuit for fulfillment marches on.

Why is it that we will search anywhere and everywhere for this fulfillment, but in the one place it can be found? We look for it in power, pleasure, and possessions. The Psalmist knows better. He has found something better. In eternity none of our "stuff" will make it with us. We are not going to carry our wardrobes, cell phones, I-pads, houses, or business successes with us. In Heaven, all we are going to have is the Lord. We will learn in full there, what we have only learned in part down here, that He is more than enough.

The Psalmist is not willing to wait for eternity to understand this truth. Read this staggering truth. "Besides you, I desire nothing on earth." NOTHING! We need God to move in us in such a way that we desire Him more than anything, even to the point of desiring nothing but Him. The word "desire" means to be inclined to, to be pleased, to delight, and have pleasure in.

It is sad to see the number of people who are desperate for love. They fill their lives with compromise in the pursuit of the ever-elusive dream of finding the love of their lives. If people could turn that pursuit into loving and desiring God, they would find peace, contentment, and a joy they could never find in a human relationship. We are not fit to be in a relationship until we first understand how loved we are by God, and we love Him supremely above all else.

People waste their lives in pursuit of things that leave them only wanting more. Wouldn't it be a blessing to be in a place where you are truly content and where God is enough? Many have lived this life. I am not saying this is an easy lesson to learn. There is an inner joy you gain in God that allows you to walk into a store and leave empty handed, because you desire nothing but God. There is discernment when you desire God that allows you to see through commercials and slick advertising.

God should be more desirable than relationships, entertainment, success, houses, cars, status, technology, and financial security. Learn this lesson. Besides the Lord, may there be nothing on earth we desire more than Him.

Steps to Revival ...

1. What things have you pursued that did not live up to what you expected?
2. Are you possessed by your possessions? What does it mean to know the blessing of not being possessed by anything?
3. How would you rank your desire for God in light of your other desires?
4. Take some time to find true delight and pleasure in knowing God and being known by Him.
5. Compare the infinite worth of your relationship with God to the desires of this world. Which is more rewarding?

Notes ... _____

Day Sixty ... The First Great Awakening

1 Timothy 1:17 (NASB)

17) "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever amen."

The spiritual conditions of the American Colonies in the early 1700's were deplorable. Long gone were men and women who loved God and had settled the land. Behind them rose a generation who had abandoned God.

Immorality was rampant. Debauchery was the rule of the day. Few people concerned themselves with matters of eternity. Church rolls were shrinking. Other sins included irreverence in church, disregarding the Sabbath day, disobedience to parents, sensuality, greediness, and hatred of neighbors.

In the midst of this dark time God called a man named Jonathan Edwards. Edwards followed his grandfather as the pastor of the Congregational Church of Northampton, Mass. Edwards became deeply burdened for the town of 1,100 people. He prayed over this flock for a strong move of God.

Edwards preached fearlessly against sin. Often people spent sleepless nights after listening to one of Edwards' sermons. In 1734 God began to answer Edwards' prayer. In December of that year a handful of young people were saved. One of them was a young lady who was known as a "company keeper." This young lady had been sexually active, and her salvation sent the first waves of revival among her peers.

Edwards wrote about what happened next. "A great and earnest concern about the great things of religion and the eternal world became universal in all parts of the town, and among persons of all degrees and all ages; the noise among the dry bones waxed louder and louder; all other talk but about spiritual and eternal things was soon thrown by."

In just six months' time God began to save the masses. 300 people were converted in Northampton. Night and day they would come by the parsonage to talk with Edwards. Don't forget the total population of the town was a mere 1,100 people. God saved nearly thirty percent of the town in six months.

The revival torch was passed on in 1735 to evangelist George Whitfield. God used him to spread the Great Awakening. Soon God began moving in other towns and using other ministers. As often happens controversy began to swirl around the revival. Many criticized it as all emotional. Edwards wrote to defend the work of God. History can be the judge.

The revival lasted for twenty years. What were the results? Estimates run as high as 50,000 people being saved during this time. The total population for the New England Colonies was only about 340,000. One person has estimated if God were to work like that again in the United States we would see 25 million converted.

... continued on next page

One of the great impacts of this Spiritual Awakening was the reviving of the average church member. Love for God increased and chasing after sin decreased. All of it began with Edwards crying out to God on behalf of His people. Will you be one to cry out to God on behalf of your church and city?

Steps to Revival ...

1. Will you pray for God to move in such a way that His honor and glory are promoted?
2. What public sins exist in your town? Pray against those sins and for God to call people to repentance.
3. Plead with God to bring a spiritual awakening where notorious sinners are convicted and brought to salvation.

Notes ... _____

Day Sixty-one ... The Revival of 1904

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (NASB)

God began a work in 1904 that literally impacted the whole world, and true to form, it was born out of several prayer meetings world-wide. God used a young man named Evan Roberts in Wales. Roberts became increasingly burdened for his land and poured out his heart in fervent intercessions.

Roberts once commented to a friend, "I have a vision of all Wales being lifted up to heaven. We are going to see the mightiest revival that Wales has ever known – and the Holy Spirit is coming soon, so we must get ready." They did get ready. Roberts was young and was not taken seriously by those already established in the ministry. Isn't that just like God to use some ordinary soul to do something extraordinary?

26) "For consider your calling brethren that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, 27) but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things that are strong, 28) and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, 29) so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God."

Roberts' heart continued to burn so much so he asked his pastor if he could preach. Reluctantly his pastor let him preach on a weeknight to some teenagers. God moved that night among a handful of students with revival flames that would soon spread across the whole country. After that night Roberts began preaching to larger and larger crowds. Roberts became the leader of this great revival but continued to devote himself to prayer.

Soon the revival extended far beyond his ministry with churches being filled for two solid years across the nation. In that two year period God gloriously saved 100,000 people! The effects were dramatic. Police had nothing to do because the crime rate dropped. Saloons went out of business. Mules in the coalmines had to be retrained because the converted miners no longer spoke to the mules using profanity.

I am encouraged that God can use anyone he pleases to spark revival. Might He want to use you? If you feel you are ordinary then you might be a prime candidate. Will you receive God's heart for your community and give yourself and the Lord no rest until He revives you, your church, and your city? [Isaiah 62:6-7]

Steps to Revival ...

1. Meditate on 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. How do these scriptures apply to your life?
2. Ask God to give you a vision like Evan Roberts received for Wales.
3. Give yourself to prayer trusting God to restore the saved and call the masses to new life in Christ.

Notes ...

Day Sixty-two ... North American Revival of 1905

Acts 2:47 (NASB)

47) "Praising God and having favor with people the Lord was adding day by day those who were being saved."

The revival God started in Wales through Evan Roberts did not stop in Wales. In 1905 it came to North America. Ministers heard what God was doing in Wales and began prayerfully asking God to bring the revival to North America. God answered their prayers in mighty fashion.

In Philadelphia, the Methodists reported they saw over 6,000 converts. Pastors in Atlantic City reported that God moved so powerfully in spiritual awakening that everyone was saved in the city except for fifty unconverted adults. On one single Sunday in New York City God powerfully saved, and added to the church, nearly 300.

Soon the revival began moving south. One church in Kentucky reported adding 1,000 people to their church in just two months. Noonday prayer meetings were called in various cities with attendance reaching in the thousands. Businesses and schools shut down for a day of prayer.

The movement of God swept across the Midwest and soon into Canada with similar results. God saved people and revived His church. Out of this revival, ministers and missionaries were called. Bible colleges were founded. Only God knows the far-reaching impact of the revival of 1905.

Is God still capable of saving the masses? Does God have the power to save people every day and add them to the church? Is it God's will to save people? He did it in Acts. He did it in Northampton. He saved people in mass in Wales, New York, and Atlantic City in 1905. Do we believe He can do the same thing in 2020 where you live? I believe it and will keep asking for it.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Why do you think we are not seeing people saved day by day?
2. Do you have a true burden for lost people? Ask God to give you that burden.
3. Plead with God to unleash His power as He did in 1904 and 1905.
4. Keep praying for the lost people whom you have a burden for by name.
5. Be resolved you will share your faith with them trusting God for the results.

Notes ...

Day Sixty-three ... Shantung Revival

Matthew 7:18-23 (NASB)

18) "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19) Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20) So then, you will know them by their fruits. 21) Not Everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter."

Galatians 5:19-21 (NASB)

19) Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20) idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes dissensions, factions, 21) envying, drunkenness, carousing and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Romans 8:16 (NASB)

16) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.

In the 1920's the spiritual condition of the churches of North China were dismal. Missionaries were extremely grieved. Church members were apathetic and had little and at times no desire for spiritual things. There were doubts if many of the church members had ever been saved. Many were believed to have made decisions for Christ in their heads only.

In 1920, the missionaries and Chinese leaders devoted one day each month for prayer, asking God to send revival. Seven years later the southern revolutionary army burned Nanking and ordered all missionaries to be evacuated to Chefoo and Tsingtau. Prayers of confusion, wondering why they had been forced out before revival ensued, plagued the minds and hearts of the missionaries.

During this time a missionary named Marie Monsen began challenging the missionaries to repent of sin and get right before the Lord. Sins were repented of. Relationships were reconciled. God laid a heavy burden for the lostness of the nation of China on their hearts. These missionaries were convicted of having more joy for physical healing than the spiritual healing of salvation. Eventually this was also repented of.

Marie asked three penetrating questions to the missionaries. First, "Have you been born of the Spirit of God?" Second, "What evidence do you have of the new birth?" Finally, "Have you been filled with Spirit?"

Once the leaders were revived, God began moving elsewhere in 1932. Twelve years had passed as missionaries prayed for revival. After over a decade of intercessions and repentance, God began drawing the lost to salvation, including an evangelist for 25 years. He preached for free the rest of his life because he had preached so many years without having first been saved himself. A missionary nurse was drawn to salvation, during this time also, realizing she had been a church member but not born again. In one school, all 600 girls were saved. In a boy's school 900 out of 1,000 boys trusted Christ for salvation.

... continued on next page

Many began proclaiming Christ and spiritual awakening followed. People burned their “house gods” as they turned to Jesus for salvation in droves. People began to hunger for God’s Word so much that new Bible Studies were formed, meeting nearly every night of the week. Church attendance multiplied. Prayer meetings began forming. Some of these prayer meetings lasted as long as two hours. Families were reconciled. Fractured relationships were repaired.

All of this started after God’s people repented of sin and obeyed the Lord. I ask you to take some time today to ask yourself those same three questions that Marie Monsen challenged the missionaries with. It is time to get right with God.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Have you been born of the Spirit of God? If so when and how?
2. What evidence do you have of the new birth?
3. Have you been filled with the Spirit?

Notes ... _____

Day Sixty-four ... Bend Us and Save the World

Isaiah 62:6-7 (NASB)

6) "On Your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent, you who remind the Lord; take no rest for yourselves; 7) and give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth."

For the past several days we have been talking about Evan Roberts and how the Lord used this young man to shake the world. Today I want to follow up with the rest of the story. Roberts heard an evangelist use the phrase, "Lord, bend us." The Holy Spirit impressed that phrase on Roberts. That became his personal prayer and his prayer for the nation.

Out of that experience, the motto for the revival was born. "Bend the church and save the world." Little did Roberts know what asking the Lord to bend him would mean or cost. He had the desire to honor God in every aspect of his life, especially in prayer.

A strange thing began happening to Roberts not long after this. By his own admission, he had been a sound sleeper all his life. Suddenly, for no explanation, he was awakened around 1:00 a.m. For the next four hours he would be caught up in prayer. Around 5:00 a.m. the Lord would allow Him to go back to sleep until around 9:00 a.m. At this time he would awake again and be summoned to intercede again until noon. This was repeated for three straight months. For 120 straight days, Roberts was not able to enjoy a full night of sleep and prayed for seven hours a day. Do you and I want revival that much? Revival is costly and there are few who are willing to pay the price.

One reporter attended a revival. He noted how the revival meetings did not have a prescribed order but were spontaneous. One such meeting lasted seven hours. He reports, "In the gallery a woman was praying and she fainted. Water was offered her, but she refused this, saying the only thing she wanted was God's forgiveness. A well-known resident then rose and said that salvation had come to him. Immediately a thanksgiving hymn was sung, while an English prayer from a new convert broke in upon the singing. The whole congregation then fell upon their knees, prayers ascending from every part of the edifice, while Mr. Roberts gave way to tears at the sight."^[1]

Do we really want revival if part of God bending us means waking us up in the middle of the night to pray? Do we really want God to save the lost so badly that we would be willing to attend services lasting several hours? There are some things to consider before revival should be sought. There are no steps today other than these questions. Do we really want God to bend the church and to save the lost? Do we want God to bend us personally? Revival must start with us.

[1] Elmer Towns, *The Ten Greatest Revivals*, 2000, Vine Books, p. 32.

Notes ...

Day Sixty-five ... The First Baptist Church - Springdale, Arizona Revival

James 5:16 (NASB)

16) "Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

Pastor Ronnie Floyd was led to go on a forty-day fast. Toward the end of the fast he sensed the Lord had revealed several things for him to share with the church. Floyd enlisted a group of people to pray for him and for God's outpouring. The date was set for July 4, 1995. This proved to be a day no one in that church would soon forget.

FBC Springdale had a 9:30 a.m. service and an 11:00 a.m. service. God would show up in a powerful way in the first service, so much so that Sunday School was canceled and the early service overflowed to the second. Floyd states about the beginning of that first service, "When we were in the beginning of worship, the Holy Spirit ushered Himself into the room and sat among the people. Unless you have been a part of something like that, you would tend to think my words to be mystical and extreme. The glory of the Lord was there." [1]

He knew God was up to something. He felt the glory of the Lord falling on the people while he preached. As God moved, Floyd felt he must preach all God had put on his heart and could not be bound by time with the start of the Sunday School hour approaching. The altar was flooded during the invitation with people backed up in the aisles. Floyd describes the scene for us. "Even before the public invitation was given, hundreds of people flooded the aisles. There was extreme brokenness over sin. There was outward weeping and wailing. There was silence. It was profound and holy. God was there. It was noon and God's people had been in holy awe for two and a half hours. No one wanted to leave." [2]

When they finally ended the service nobody knew what to expect that evening. Over seventy percent of the church returned for the evening service. People began lining up to confess their sin publicly while others would gather around and pray for those whom had spoken. That service lasted for four hours with people leaving around 10:00 p.m. Floyd says of that time, "It seemed it all had just begun. Yet it was after 10:00 p.m., and we had been there at least four hours. No one wanted to leave." [3]

Have you ever been a part of anything like that? I have and those times are holy to the Lord and awe inspiring. As we near the end of our journey to prepare for the Shake the City Revival I wonder if you are getting a heart for God to send revival. I have intentionally included revival stories in these last days of this devotion to whet your appetite for what God can do. Many Christians do not want to be a part of anything like that. When God chooses to send revival we can only submit to His leadership and get out of the way.

As I have been praying for revival, I want to be willing to follow God's leadership. I want more of God. He can manifest His presence anyway He wants. I hunger for more of Him. Will you keep asking God to send a real revival to us once again?

... continued on next page

Steps to Revival ...

1. When God sends revival it upsets the normal routine? Are you open to whatever God wants to do in your life and the life of the church?
2. Do you long for the glory of the Lord to fall on His church? The word "glory" can also be translated as the weightiness of God.
3. Pray that you will be willing to obey the Spirit of God promptly.
4. Continue to ask God for a fresh outpouring of His Spirit.

[1] Ronnie Floyd, Life on Fire, 2000 Word Publishing, p. 98

[2] Ibid, p. 99

[3] Ibid, p. 99

Notes ...

Day Sixty-six ... The Coggin Avenue Revival - Brownwood, Texas

Several years ago God visited Coggin Avenue Baptist Church in Brownwood, Texas in similar fashion to the way He visited FBC Springdale. At the end of the first service a Howard Payne University student approached pastor John Avant and asked if he could share something with the church. Avant was a little apprehensive but allowed the young man to speak.

He read from [Joel 2:12]. What happened after that was a miracle. God moved on the hearts of the people and they began to weep and come forward in repentance. Some testified they could sense the presence of the Lord. People did not leave the altar, although it was time for Sunday School.

Those who did not attend the early service had no idea what was happening. People sat in classrooms with no teachers. Finally, people left their classes to see what was going on in the sanctuary. When the doors were opened church members testified it was like being hit with hot rushing wind. The new attendees were soon caught up in God's presence as well.

They were not able to close the service in order to start the second service. Pastor Avant got up and gave a brief explanation about what had happened. The remainder of the service people wept as they repented of sins. This lasted well past 1:00 p.m. That night the scene repeated itself with a fresh visitation from the Lord.

In days, God moved the revival over to the campus of Howard Payne University where Henry Blackaby preached a scheduled college revival. God moved so mightily that professors suspended classes. Soon God used students at Howard Payne to go to other college campuses to testify about what God had done. God moved powerfully all over the nation.

I go back and think about that student who felt prompted by the Lord to get up and read some scripture at the close of the early service. How easily it would have been to talk himself out of doing that. I'm so glad he did not. That simple step of obedience, along with years of prayer by college students for revival in Brownwood and at Howard Payne, ushered in a great revival.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Are you willing to obey God's promptings no matter how great or small?
2. Are you willing to obey God's promptings promptly? You never know what spark God will use to ignite the flame of revival.
3. Ask the Lord for the faith and courage to obey Him regardless of what He asks of you.

Notes ...

Day Sixty-seven ... The Angelina College Revival - Lufkin, Texas

The revival was scheduled for three nights. It lasted for three weeks. There were fourteen people saved and dozens of students who came face to face with God during those weeks. Students wept openly during the invitation as they repented of sins. Students forsook sleep to pray and attend the services, which at times lasted three hours.

The worship was intense. The preaching was hard but filled with God's desire to restore His people and save the lost. The revival was extremely costly. It lasted through final examinations on the campus. Parents lost time with their children at night. The preacher canceled paying revivals to remain a part of God's movement at Angelina College.

One college student from Stephen F. Austin State University was driving home past Angelina College when she felt convicted and pulled off the highway and turned into the college where she attended the service. God touched her heart that night.

Formerly timid students became bold and vocal in their faith, sharing Christ out on the campus among the other students. They even went door to door in the dormitory looking for opportunities to witness for Christ and invite people to the revival.

The move of God spread to two other youth groups in neighboring towns. Many were saved and backslidden Christians were brought to repentance. Several of these students began attending the college revival services.

God used a young student named Jonathan Baldwin during those days of refreshing. Jonathan was the campus spiritual leader. He rallied the troops in prayer. He often forsook actually attending the revival services so he could be in the prayer room pleading for God to move. He spent hours in that room interceding for fellow students. He prayer-walked the campus continually.

It was a revival of holiness. Many lives were transformed during those three weeks. Prayer sustained the revival and the hunger to see God move. After three weeks, the focus shifted. It became a social outlet for college and high school students. As suddenly as it began, it ended. Many believed God desired to do much more, but when His revival movement was taken for granted, the Holy Spirit was grieved and the revival was quenched.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Read I Thess. 5:19. In what ways can the Spirit be quenched?
2. The word "quench" means to extinguish. Do you extinguish the Spirit during corporate worship? If so, how? Revival is a gift from God. How can you steward it when it comes and not quench it?

Notes ...

Day Sixty-eight ... The Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Revival

For over a year different pastors in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan met and prayed for a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit. They met weekly to pray together asking God to send revival. God answered their prayers.

Many of these pastors had heard about the revival God brought through Duncan Campbell on the Hebrides Islands. Duncan Campbell had a vision that a revival would start in Saskatoon and spread from there. It was believed that if God moved there He could also move in Saskatoon.

A Saskatoon pastor named Bill McCleod, scheduled a revival meeting. In preparation for the meeting, Christians were encouraged to reconcile broken relationship and remove anything that might hinder God from moving. As these Christians did so, God sent revival.

Revival came to the Ebenezer Baptist Church and quickly spread throughout the community. Soon the crowds overflowed the church. They moved to a different church, but that too soon proved to be too small a venue. Eventually the services were moved to the civic auditorium where crowds of 2,000 attended the revival. Those services stretched out for nearly two months.

The revival was started by prayer, and God's people began to get right with one another. Fractured relationships grieve the Holy Spirit. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit for the rest of the body.

Steps to Revival ...

1. Read Ephesians 3:30-31. According to these verses, what is one way we can grieve the Holy Spirit?
2. Is there anyone with whom you need to reconcile? If so, how will you go about this?
3. Is there anything else in your life that is grieving the Holy Spirit at this time?

Notes ... _____

Day Sixty-nine ... The Asbury College Revival - Wilmore, Kansas

Most people have never heard of Wilmore, Kansas. The town boasts of a population just over 4,000 people. Wilmore is located about sixteen miles from the larger town of Lexington. Wilmore is the home of Asbury College.

On a blustery morning back in 1970, students gathered for a typical chapel service, which they were required to attend three times a week. College Dean, Custer Reynolds, was scheduled to preach that morning but he did not have a peace about doing so. He sensed the Lord might want students to share testimonies about what God was doing in their lives.

The chapel service began at 10:00 a.m. At around 10:40 God invaded Hughes Auditorium and revival began. When college president Dennis Kinlaw was asked what happened, he answered, "You may not understand this, but the only way I know how to account for this is that last Tuesday morning, about twenty of eleven, the Lord Jesus walked into Hughes Auditorium, and He's been there ever since, and you've got the whole community paying tribute to His presence." [1]

Months before that chapel service, many students had been reminded of a revival God sent on that campus in 1905. They yearned to see God do it again and began praying fervently. The students lived in a state of expectancy during those days.

During that chapel testimony service a senior stood up to speak. He said, "I'm not believing that I'm standing here telling you what God has done for me. I've wasted my time in college up to now, but Christ has met me and I'm different. Last night the Holy Spirit flooded in and filled my life. Now, for the first time ever, I am excited about being a Christian! I wouldn't want to go back to the emptiness of yesterday for anything." [2]

Other students rose giving testimonies of the fresh work of God in their lives as well. One professor, realizing that time was getting away from them, rose and gave an altar call so students might settle any unresolved issues. A herd of students went forward in mass. Other students knelt at their seats making that their altar. That chapel service lasted for 185 straight hours. It was such a holy experience many thought of Moses' encounter with the Lord in Exodus 3:5, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

As students were invited to share their experience with other colleges and churches, God continued to move. Students went to the Meridian Street Church of God in Anderson, IN. God packed people in that church in revival. The revival lasted for fifty consecutive nights and eventually had to be moved to the High School gymnasium where 2,500 people gathered to be touched by God.

... continued on next page

Steps to Revival ...

1. Over and over again as we have been reading these revival accounts, we hear the testimony that they were started in prayer. Will you give yourself to pray for revival?
2. God is not limited in how He brings revival. It doesn't always come through a pastor or evangelist. He used students at Asbury College. Are you willing for Him to use you as an instrument of revival?
3. Express your heart to God concerning what you would like to see Him do.

[1] Elmer Towns, *The Ten Greatest Revivals*, 2000, Vine Books, p. 165. M

[2] *Ibid*, p. 167

Notes ...

Day Seventy ... Showers of Blessings

One night, while working on this book, I was distracted by flashes of lightening. It was not long after that I began hearing the distant echoes of thunder. At first I continued my work hoping to complete this book before returning home.

The lightning flashes became more frequent, illuminating the black sky. Soon the thunder began to rattle the windows and the wind picked up. Earlier in the day my host told me how dry it had been. He contemplated selling some of his cows because there was not enough grass. He commented on how they sure could use a gentle rain to revive the pastures.

That is exactly what God sent that night. The storm was severe enough I shut down my computer and unplugged it, so it would not be damaged with a power surge. The storm lasted for a long time. The next day, as I looked out the window, I saw the ground saturated with showers of blessing. I don't know how much rain fell that night, but I do know the ground and grass were revived.

In the same way, I see the spiritually parched conditions of our churches and cities. We need God to send showers of blessing on us as well. I hope these seventy days of devotions have been like mercy drops of rain falling, preparing us for the heavy down pour. For a long time I have equated rain with revival. I see many similarities. Rain revives, refreshes, and renews. So does revival. God controls when and where it rains, just as He controls when and where He sends revival.

I hope your appetite is whetted. I hope these days of preparation have brought you closer to God. I have prayed as I have written. The bulk of this book was written in two and a half days in my little prayer cabin.

Those were good days for me. Today my heart is soaring, as I anticipate His great move in your lives and our church. Let me conclude our journey together with a prayer.

"Lord, thank You for meeting with me in that cabin. They were high and holy days. I am blessed to serve a church that understands my need to get away from time to time to seek You. I ask You to bless this little book. It was birthed in Your heart first. I want to thank You for those who have sustained me in prayer over these days. Only You could have done this.

I lift up my brothers and sisters and ask You to revive them. I know they have sought You earnestly and I ask You to bless them with new life. I also ask You to move in communities and churches and do what You did in the days of old. I ask You to bring revival that will lead to spiritual awakenings. I ask You to bring glory to Yourself through this book and Your revival movement all over the world. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Matt Edwards