

Steps to Revival

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2 Chronicles 7:14 says, “if My people, who are called by My Name, humble themselves, and pray and seek (crave, require as a necessity) My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear [them] from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land.” (AMP)

This verse has been quoted and preached in just about every sermon on revival I have heard, or even preached myself! That is because it outlines the steps for a people who desire to see revival in our churches, our homes, and our land. Quoting it and talking about it are not enough, though; we need to do what it says.

This verse was given to Solomon at the time of the dedication of the temple, and is addressed to the people who knew Him. God had already outlined the consequences of disobedience. This verse outlines the steps to healing the land.

The first step is humility. The dictionary defines *humility* as a modest opinion of oneself – in other words, no pride. Humbling ourselves before God means acknowledging His Lordship and that we can do nothing in our own strength. James 4:6 says, “God is opposed to the proud and haughty, but [continually] gives [the gift of] grace to the humble [who turn away from self-righteousness].” (AMP)

Revival does not come by having louder music or more passionate sermons, but by a people acknowledging that God is Lord, and coming under that Lordship in true humility. Humility is a choice we make. It is better to fall on the rock than to let it fall on us!

The second step is prayer. James 5:16 tells us that the fervent prayer of a righteous man has great results. Prayers from the heart come with tears and groans when we have the heart of God for our nation. Revival prayer is a rending of our hearts, not of our garments.

The role of the Holy Spirit is described in John 14:16, “And I will ask the Father, and He



will give you another ¹⁴Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), to be with you forever—“ (AMP). In every recorded revival, we can see that it was birthed in fervent prayer by a people who would be satisfied with nothing less than the manifestation of His presence. The Holy Spirit is our helper in prayer, who leads us into all truth about our condition and what we need to do.

The third step is seeking. This means craving Him more than any material possession or pleasure of this world – making Him our top priority. We have lost that passion for Him in our busyness and the seeking of wealth and position, but Jesus tells us to seek first His kingdom, then all the things we need will be given to us (Matthew 6:33). We can restore our passion by consuming His word and spending time with Him. We get an appetite for the things that we fill ourselves with.

The fourth step is repentance, “turning from our wicked ways.” Our part in this is to examine ourselves against the plumb line of God’s word and, when we see something that does not please God, turning from it and changing our ways.

1 John 1:8-10 reminds us that, “if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.” (NIV) There is no forgiveness without confession: “He would not have listened if I had not confessed my sins.” (Psalm 66:18 TLB)

Psalm 24:3-4 says, “Who may climb the mountain of the Lord and enter where he lives? Who may stand before the Lord? Only those with pure hands and hearts, who do not practice dishonesty and lying.” (TLB) “We” – individually and corporately – have a call to purity and holiness. We need to have clean hands and a pure heart in this season where darkness is getting darker, so that we can be that light in the world.

I remember hearing an audio recording of Duncan Campbell, who was instrumental in the Hebrides revival, telling how it began. They were praying Psalm 24 and repenting of their sins. They asked the question: “Lord, are our hands clean and our hearts pure?” and then Duncan Campbell said, “And God stepped down.” That is my heart’s cry: that God steps down into our lives, and into our churches, to bring about the changes in people’s lives that true revival brings.

The promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14 is true. God will hear us, He will forgive us, and He will heal our land. The question we need to ask ourselves, then, is this: are we willing to humble ourselves, seek His face and repent of our sins? Are we willing to not just quote 2 Chronicles 7:14, but to put it into action?

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