

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

Igniting Prayer for Revival in our City • 5 Minutes to Read • 5 Minutes in Prayer

FOR THE WEEK OF Feb 13 - Feb 19, 2022 - **Volume 92**

THEME VERSE:

*Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
But desire fulfilled is a tree of life*

Proverbs 13:12

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

Exploring the Types of Revivals (Pt 2)

Revival is all about taking a situation that is infused with spiritual drowsiness, desensitization, or coldness and exposing it to the God who restores life. Let's talk more in detail about the kinds of revival: Personal, corporate, and historic.

Personal revival can be viewed as what happens when a believer who is struggling in spiritual darkness is ignited by the Spirit to renewed life and power in Christ. What does this darkness look like? This darkness can take the form of doubts or fears or apathy or despair. It can originate in the murkiness of our hearts or there can be demonic influences at work. Traumatic circumstances can contribute to it. Disappointments can feed into it. It leaves us marked with heavy weariness, or faith paralysis, or bouts of crushing sadness and hopelessness. But there is hope. God sees us, and He longs to revive us.

Why bother talking about darkness? Because revival is all about going from darkness to light and from death to life. If a person doesn't even see or sense the wounds or emptiness or sins within themselves, how will one recognize when God revives their heart? If we think we are already pretty good Christians, sufficiently holy and wise and powerful, why do we really need God to set our hearts afire with His Spirit? Darkness is not an absolute requirement for revival to occur, but great darkness often precedes it because it presses us to a keen awareness, to see our own inadequacy and utter dependence on the Holy Spirit. A little humility goes a long way in the Kingdom of God. And this humility is the needed baseline from which God ignites all revivals.

So, how do we better prepare ourselves for a personal revival? This is what it takes: 1) an openness to God's speaking to us, 2) confrontation with one's personal sins, and 3) full surrender to the Spirit's leading. There needs to be a genuine openness to hear from the Lord, words of encouragement as well as needed correction. John 10:2-3 reminds us that "the sheep listen to the Shepherd's voice." Also we need to live a lifestyle of repentance where we grieve over our own sins and confess them and turn them over to the Lord. Acts 3:19 tells us, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins might be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."

Finally, we have to get rid of the stubborn insistence of doing things our way. We have to let the Spirit fill us. We have to fully surrender to His leading. James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." We need to submit to God, surrender to His Spirit, and stop resisting what He wants to do. We trust Him and start to obey. All these things position us in a place where God moves to personally revive us.

God's work of revival is certainly not limited to personal revival. There are much bigger scopes of revival such as historic revival. Yet personal revival is the most accessible one to any Christian who continues to hunger and thirst after a greater touch from God today. God eagerly wants to heal you and restore you and bring fresh life to you again!

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

Praise God for more and more pastors who are getting involved with and taking a stand to protect the lives of the unborn in our city. Thank God for various ministries, like Love Life and also the Help Pregnancy Center, that help the Church to care for the new babies as well as their new moms and dads. This past weekend, a long-time pastor in the city preached his first message addressing abortion. It was his first time, and he plans to continue speaking up for the things on God's heart.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE CITY:

- **RENTAL INFLATION.** In the past year the cost of renting a place to live in Charlotte has increased by 19.6%. Even though other parts of the country have seen this cost surge to a 25% increase in one year, still the 19.6% jump is hurting a lot of people as they try to make ends meet. Please pray for inflation to come under control. Pray for opportunities to open up for those looking to find a home for their family. Pray for God's provision even as family budgets are strained.
- **MENTAL HEALTH.** The mental health of many people have taken a hit during the lockdowns of the pandemic, especially the younger generation. Researchers, for example, note that suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among Black young people aged 15-24. Please pray that churches would continue to minister to and reach out to these vulnerable needy populations. Pray that many teens would have encounters with God that inspire hope and give new strength.

FOR THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- **BIBLES IN MOROCCO.** Pray for the expanded distribution of Bibles through SD cards and by internet access on phones in Morocco. This is a crucial need since there is ongoing persecution of Christian believers and a very limited supply of printed Bibles (Voice of the Martyrs).
- **ROHINGYA CHRISTIANS.** Pray for the Rohingya Christians who are living in Bangladesh refugee camps after fleeing genocide in Myanmar. They were severely persecuted in Myanmar, and they still experience persecution today in the refugee camps from Muslim Rohingyas. Pray for physical aid to be provided and spiritual encouragement among their group.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH.** Pray that God will stir our local churches, across denominations and ethnic lines, to persistent, united prayer. "That at all times they ought to pray and not lose heart..." Luke 18:1. Pray also that the Lord will invigorate fresh seasons of prayer among the Christian families and in their homes.
- **FOR REVIVAL.** O Lord, renew our hearts to obey You, doing the Great Commandment by loving You and loving our neighbors. We ask that many would be surprised and encouraged by the love of their Christ-following neighbors and that the Holy Spirit will empower each believer to love people abundantly and supernaturally. Lord, revive each of us personally even as we trust and surrender to You fully today.

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