

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Feb 6 - Feb 12, 2022 - **Volume 91**

THEME VERSE:

*Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.
Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.
Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.*

Psalm 80:17-19

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

Exploring the Types of Revivals (Pt 1)

The mention of the word "Revival" evokes a lot of different images and ideas in people's minds. To those who are not Christian believers, it might conjure up notions of extreme religious fervor and excitement. To those with more of a historical bent, they might recall the key periods in American history often called "The 1st Great Awakening" and "The 2nd Great Awakening". To those who know Jesus Christ and have grown up in a particular denomination, the word can trigger an even wider spectrum of mental imagery: extravagant tent meetings, intense vigils of prayer, and erratic physical behaviors. But, to some believers, revival is nothing short of a fresh thunderous outpouring of the Spirit and the powerful awakening of the Church from a deep slumber.

The challenge is that people often mix and blend together all kinds of revival elements and carelessly slap the label "revival" on it. These elements include the often-unsung endeavors that precede revival, the disorderly effects during its expansion, as well as the long-term impacts on a city and society. Things get mashed together, and all sense of priority is quickly forgotten. For example, it is no secret that prayer always figures prominently before, during, and after a revival, yet it cannot be overstated how crucial a role it plays in setting the scene for a Holy Spirit outpouring. In our rush to embrace and hype revival, we start talking about how much society will be forever changed without first having done the gritty work of costly gut-wrenching prayer.

In addition, people fail to make a distinction between the various types of revival that can take place. I am not going to pretend that the Bible makes a hard distinction between the words like "revival" or "awakening" or "renewal". The Bible honestly does not make any such technical distinctions. But we can take note of narratives in the Bible and in history that reveal varying scopes of revival. One could loosely categorize it into one of 3 scopes: 1) Personal, 2) Corporate, and 3) Historic.

Personal revival is generally seen as what happens when the Holy Spirit starts a fresh fire anew in the weary heart of a son or daughter of the King. We see this happen in Luke 24, where 2 of the disciples, sick at heart over Jesus' crucifixion and death, encountered a veiled Jesus on the road to Emmaus. As Jesus rekindled their hope in the promises of God from Scripture, their hearts burned within them. Their hope and hearts were revived and set on fire again for Christ!

Corporate revival can be thought of as one that takes hold in a group or church or small community. Revelation 2 talks about how a church had forgotten its first love, despite all the good deeds they had done in Jesus' name. That church needed to be re-ignited again with a fresh touch of God on their hearts.

Historic revival is the largest scope, impacting cities or nations or even in regions across the world. There is clearly a supernatural and divine act of God at work in these revivals. It may have begun in a tiny prayer meeting or local parish, but there are distinct and forceful lines of impact upon cities and nations that can be traced back to a God-event at its humble beginnings. It is the stuff that even non-believers and the world pay heed to.

Let's look more at these types of revivals in the weeks ahead...

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

Thank God for the easing of COVID-19 mandates around the country and in various nations around the world. Praise God that the situation is improving as far as overall numbers for this illness. Please pray for those who are still sick, for God's comfort and healing. Continue to pray for the eventual end to the pandemic and all the excessive fear and division in its midst.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE CITY:

- **TEACHER RESIGNATIONS.** The staffing for the school districts in Charlotte are at crisis levels. The wave of teacher resignations, coupled with numerous absences due to illness, are straining the system's ability to care for and teach all its students. Pray that the source of widespread resignations would be addressed and fixed as soon as possible. Pray for teachers who were unfairly forced to resign to have a chance to return. Pray for remaining staff to work calmly and effectively. Pray for negatively impacted students to be able to learn and grow at this time.

FOR JOBS AND THE ECONOMY:

- **JOBS.** Pray that massive job shortages would be addressed. Pray that restaurants and other businesses would be able to find good competent workers to help serve their customers. Pray that businesses would be able to motivate and encourage people to stay in the workforce. Pray for great job opportunities for every person looking to work and advance their career.
- **INFLATION.** Pray that rising gas prices and overall inflation would be curbed soon. Pray that contributing factors like reckless governmental spending and broken supply chains would be handled properly and quickly. Pray for families hit hard by inflation, that is making it much harder to buy food and other necessities in our nation.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **FOR LOVE LIFE MINISTRY.** Thank God for Love Life, which ministers to mothers of unplanned pregnancies and help unite churches to pray for an end to the evil practices in abortion clinics. Pray that the moms who have chosen to not abort their babies this week to find the support and care they need from partnering churches in our city. Pray that God will meet with them and reassure them that He is with them through their difficulties.
- **FOR REVIVAL.** O Lord, bring us a greater understanding of what You are doing through revival today. For those of us who are struggling spiritually, ignite a fresh fire and quicken our spirit by Your very presence. Set the churches in our city on fire for Christ again, and bring to us once more an amazing outpouring of Your Spirit upon the earth. Make history again, God, and revive us in Your name!

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