

SeekingHim

Experiencing the Joy
of Personal Revival

A 12-Week Study for Individual and Group Use

"You who seek God, let your hearts revive."

PSALM 69:32b

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Lesson

Revival:

Who Needs It?

The revival we will be talking about in this study is for God's people—those who by faith in Jesus Christ have received salvation and belong to Him. (People who do not belong to God cannot be “revived”; they first must be regenerated!) Since the days of Adam and Eve, God's people have often chosen to resist His will and rebel. Because of His great love, God keeps calling them back to intimate fellowship with Him. God's grace—the desire and power He gives us to return to Him—always accompanies His call to revival.

MEMORY VERSE

“Break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, til He comes and rains righteousness on you.”
(Hosea 10:12, NKJV)

Going Deeper in the **Word**

2 Kings 22:8–13, 18–20
Ezra 10:1–12
Jeremiah 3:19–4:4
James 4:4–10



Day 5: Making It Personal

“As long as we
are content to
live without
revival, we will.”

—Leonard Ravenhill

Revival is the sovereign work of God. He chooses when and to whom He sends it. It is also true, however, that there are things we can do to prepare for revival in our lives. Being prepared for what God has determined to do is a pattern we see throughout Scripture. For example, on the eve of their passage into the Promised Land, Joshua charged the children of Israel, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you” (Joshua 3:5). In the same way, we can prepare our hearts for spiritual renewal.

The following questions are designed to reveal specific areas of which to be aware as you prepare for personal (as well as corporate) revival. They are not meant to be guilt-producers, just a helpful tool. Answer each question as honestly as possible—not as it once was in your life or as others think of you, but based on what God reveals to be the current condition of your heart.

Read the Bible passages if time allows. Agree with God about each need He reveals. Confess each sin that He exposes. Praise Him for His awesome love and power to forgive. Don’t be in a hurry; give God time to speak and give yourself time to respond.

+ Tip

Before you begin working through the checklist, pray the prayer of Psalm 139:23–24: “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”

Preparing My Heart for Revival

1. Genuine Salvation (2 Corinthians 5:17)

- Was there a time in my life when I genuinely repented of (was aware of and turned away from) my sin?
- Was there a time in my life when I placed all my trust in Jesus Christ alone to save me?
- Was there ever a time in my life when I completely surrendered to Jesus Christ as the Master and Lord of my life?

2. God’s Word (Psalm 119:97, 140)

- Do I love to read and meditate on the Word of God?
- Are my personal devotions consistent and meaningful?
- Do I apply God’s Word to my everyday life?

Day 5

3. Humility (Isaiah 57:15)

- a. Am I quick to recognize and agree with God in confession when I have sinned?
- b. Am I quick to admit to others when I am wrong?
- c. Do I rejoice when others are praised and recognized and my accomplishments go unnoticed by people?

4. Obedience (1 Samuel 15:22; Hebrews 13:17)

- a. Do I consistently obey what I know God wants me to do?
- b. Do I consistently obey the human authorities God has placed over my life?

5. Pure Heart (1 John 1:9)

- a. Do I confess my sin by name?
- b. Do I keep "short sin accounts" with God (confess and forsake as He convicts)?
- c. Am I willing to give up all sin for God?

6. Clear Conscience (Acts 24:16)

- a. Do I consistently seek forgiveness from those I wrong or offend?
- b. Is my conscience clear with every person? (Can I honestly say, "There is no one I have ever wronged or offended in any way and not gone back to that person and sought his forgiveness and made it right"?)

7. Priorities (Matthew 6:33)

- a. Does my schedule reveal that God is first in my life?
- b. Does my checkbook reveal that God is first in my life?

"Revival awakens in our hearts an increased awareness of the presence of God, a new love for God, a new hatred for sin, and a hunger for His Word."

—Del Fehsenfeld Jr.

8. Values (Colossians 3:12)

- a. Do I love what God loves and hate what God hates?
- b. Do I value highly the things that please God (for example: giving, witnessing to lost souls, studying His Word, praying)?
- c. Are my affections and goals fixed on eternal values?

9. Sacrifice (Philippians 3:7–8)

- a. Am I willing to sacrifice whatever is necessary to see God move in my life and church (time, convenience, comfort, reputation, pleasure, and so on)?
- b. Is my life characterized by genuine sacrifice for the cause of Christ?

10. Spirit Control (Galatians 5:22–25; Ephesians 5:18–21)

- a. Am I allowing Jesus to be Lord of every area of my life?
- b. Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to “fill” (control) my life each day?
- c. Is there consistent evidence of the “fruit of the Spirit” being produced in my life?

11. “First Love” (Philippians 1:21, 23)

- a. Am I as much in love with Jesus as I have ever been?
- b. Am I devoted to Jesus, filled with His joy and peace, and making Him the continual object of my affection?

12. Motives (Matthew 10:28; Acts 5:29)

- a. Am I more concerned with what God thinks about my life than with what others think?
- b. Would I pray, read my Bible, give, and serve as much if nobody but God ever noticed?
- c. Am I more concerned about pleasing God than I am about being accepted and appreciated by others?

13. Moral Purity (Ephesians 5:3–4)

- a. Do I keep my mind free from books, magazines, or entertainment that could stimulate fantasizing or thoughts that are not morally pure?
- b. Are my conversation and behavior pure and above reproach?

14. Forgiveness (Colossians 3:12–13)

- a. Do I seek to resolve conflicts in relationships as soon as possible?
- b. Am I quick to forgive those who wrong or hurt me?

15. Evangelism (Luke 24:47–48; Romans 9:3)

- a. Do I have a burden for lost souls?
- b. Do I consistently witness for Christ?

16. Prayer (1 Timothy 2:1)

- a. Am I faithful in praying for the needs of others?
- b. Do I pray specifically, fervently, and faithfully for revival in my life, my church, and our nation?

“Revival is not some emotion or worked up excitement; it is rather an invasion from heaven which brings to man a conscious awareness of God.”

—Stephen Olford

¹ The Faith-Builder story in Lesson 1 is adapted from “Transformed by His Grace,” *Spirit of Revival*, vol. 25, no. 1, March 1995, pp. 15–16, published by Life Action Ministries.