



# Making It *Personal*

## *Begin in Me*

Revival begins when our focus changes from “Lord, revive *them*” to “Lord, change *me*.” We cultivate God’s reviving presence in our lives through humility, repentance, and seeking God’s face. As we draw near to God, He promises to draw near to us (James 4:7-10). The following exercise will help you develop a “seeking God” lifestyle that leads to personal revival.

### ***Pray for Vision***

Jesus asked the blind man, Bartimaeus, “What do you want me to do for you?” (Mark 10:51). The answer seems obvious. But for Bartimaeus to be healed, it was crucial that he identify and verbalize his desire for change. The same is true for us as we seek God for revival.

What do you want Jesus to do in your own life? \_\_\_\_\_

How would revival change your family? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you imagine that God’s reviving power would do in your church? In your community?

There would be less \_\_\_\_\_

There would be more \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Consider God’s Glory***

Revival is not first about us—it is about God revealing His glory and restoring His reign in every dimension of life. Look up the following verses and note what each text reveals about God’s glory.

Exodus 33:12-23; 34:29-30 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Chronicles 7:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 6:1-8 \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 17:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 3:7-18 \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation 5:6-14 \_\_\_\_\_

## **Admit Your Need**

The greatest temptation when contemplating revival is to consider only how much others need it. But we need to confess our own sins and humble ourselves in the light of His perfect holiness.

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- Do I quickly confess all known sin?
- Do I sense my deep spiritual poverty and need for God's grace?
- Do I regularly express to God how much I need Him?
- Do I ever weep before God over my sin?
- Do I confess my sins to another believer, seeking help and prayer?
- Do I read the Bible daily to receive spiritual nourishment?
- Do I ask others to forgive me when I sin against them or in front of them?
- Do I fully forgive people who have hurt me?
- Do I have a plan to grow in my faith and knowledge of God?

Sins of the heart can creep into our lives over time, requiring us to say to the Lord, "Search me!" Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any of these "revival killers" in your soul:

- Pride    Self-focus    Greed    Lust    Bitterness    Anger/Short temper    Idolatry
- Prayerlessness    Self-sufficiency    Dishonesty    Fear of man    Hatred/Prejudice
- Laziness    Boasting    Time wasting    Other \_\_\_\_\_

If the Lord prompts you to confess a sin or pattern of sin, do so immediately and completely. Then ask a fellow believer to help you stay accountable to avoid that sin in the future.

## **Radically Repent**

Repentance is core to revival. It is a thorough change of mind that brings about a radical change of lifestyle. The prophet Samuel gave three specific requirements for people serious about returning to the Lord in repentance (1 Samuel 7:2-6):

### ***Rid yourself of idols.***

What is God asking you to stop, throw away, or give up so that your heart can be fully His? \_\_\_\_\_

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### ***Serve God alone.***

What is God asking you to do, join, or begin so that you can be fully obedient to His commands? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Fast and pray.**

Who could you gather together to pray for the collective need of God's mercy and power? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Take Initiative**

In Psalm 51, David looks forward to the day when God would use his repentance to encourage others to seek the Lord. In the same way, as confession, brokenness, surrender, and repentance become your lifestyle, God wants to use you to call others to a spiritually revived life. If He is calling you to take action in any of the following ways, check the boxes that apply.

### **How to Begin (ideas for everyone)**

- Organize a home prayer meeting focused on revival.
- Lead a small group through a study on revival.
- Use online social networking to remind people to pray for revival.
- Begin praying for churches and ministries other than your own.
- Pray through your church directory or over maps of your city.
- Start a revival-focused book club.
- Memorize James 4:7-10 with a friend or family member.
- Utilize the Revival Worksheets from LifeAction.org in your devotional times.
- Use your creative talents (like writing, art, music) to cast vision for revival.

### **How to Begin (ideas for pastors)**

- Ask area church leaders to gather for a revival prayer time.
- Ask your church leadership team to read and discuss a book on revival.
- Organize a day of fasting for spiritual awakening.
- Preach a series of messages themed on revival truth or on biblical revivals.
- Host a revival event in your church.
- Call together a Solemn Assembly to seek God's face and repent (Joel 2).
- Do an in-depth personal study on biblical calls to repentance.
- Take your staff or key leaders on a prayer retreat.
- Reprint articles from this issues of *Revive* for your congregation.

What other creative ideas do you have to pray for revival, cast vision for what God can do, or call people in your church or community to repentance? \_\_\_\_\_

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