

**GOD'S
PRESCRIPTION
FOR
REVIVAL**



WRITTEN BY

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THE BIBLICAL KEY FOR TRUE
AUTHENTIC REVIVAL

If all the SLEEPING FOLKS would WAKE UP,
And all the LUKEWARM would FIRE UP,
And all the DISGRUNTLED would SWEETEN UP,
And all the DISCOURAGED would CHEER UP,
And all the DEPRESSED would LOOK UP,
And all the ESTRANGED would MAKE UP,
And all the GOSSIPERS would SHUT UP,

Then we might have revival
-Unknown

CHAPTER ONE:

THE PROBLEM

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

Leonard Ravenhill

Revival. It almost sounds like a thing of the past. Doesn't it? To some this word carries a sense of religious nostalgia while for others it sounds as outdated as an old wash board. A Pandora's box exists full of differing views on the subject. It is fair to say that in past decades misuse, abuse, and a lack of Biblical knowledge has tarnished the idea of revival for some. It is because of this, in a postmodern church culture the subject is often dismissed. My fear is that a generation of church leaders have grown content with buildings, budgets, and bodies instead of a hunger for the power and presence of God.

The church in America needs a revival, plain and simple. With the steady decline of main line denominations, congregants are leaving the polished cathedrals of the past in search of finding something more.

Throughout church history, mighty moves of revival have taken place. Men such as George Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards, and John Wesley were used by God to spark movements of revival and awakening. Much of what is labeled revival today is only a series of synchronized church services. Authentic revival is so much more.

At the turn of the century, a group of news reporters traveled to witness the marvelous happenings of the great Welsh revival. Upon their arrival in Wales one of them asked a policeman where the location of this revival was. Drawing himself to his full height he laid his hand over his heart and proudly proclaimed: “Gentlemen, The Welsh revival is inside this uniform!” So, what is revival? Revival is when a cold, calloused

heart sparks into a flame for God again. Authentic revival takes place when the hearts of God's people turn back to Him.

While evangelism is our means to win the lost, revival is the means by which God brings new life to His church. In other countries of the world there is a vast hunger for God. However, here in America we are more than satisfied. According to ABC News, 83 percent of Americans identify themselves as Christians. Ironically, according to Barna Research Group, only 20 percent of Americans regularly attend church. One would think that due to new church plants and revitalization efforts this statistic would be higher but sadly that is not the case. Through the years, I have heard the term "church hopping". I prefer the term "church swapping" instead. It would be fair to say, the same 20 percenters are swapping pastors and churches for amenity and convenience.

Recently, I heard a humorous story that describes many churches today. The pastor of a small rural church was preparing communion early one Sunday morning. As he was preparing the elements, a deacon noticed he was using prune juice instead of grape juice to fill the communion cups. After a few moments, the deacon asked his pastor, "Why are you using prune juice to fill the communion cups instead of grape juice?" The gray headed pastor thought for a moment and then exclaimed, "One thing I've learned in all my thirty years of ministry is this: If the Spirit doesn't move them, the prune juice will!"

Sadly, there are some in the Body of Christ who fit this category. They are not moved by Godly preaching nor are they moved by anointed worship. They epitomize the hymn sang in 19th Century church, "*I shall, I shall, I shall not be moved.*" In all fairness, while it is harmful to generalize a large group of people, a vast number of churches stand as mausoleums of the past. I have found a startling resemblance between churches

and cemeteries: While everyone in the cemetery is dead, most churches are as well.

If you have read this far, there is a good chance you want to be different. More than likely by now you have experienced a lull in your Christian walk. You love Jesus and desire to live for Him but feel dry and despondent. First, let me encourage you by saying every Christian has been where you are. You are not a bad person for feeling the way you do. What you need, the longing and refreshing you desire, is revival from God.

Much of what is labeled, “revival” is nothing more than a group of synchronized church services. God can use strategically planned church gatherings as a method of reviving His people but that in and of itself is not revival. Revival does not come from articulate, aristocratic preachers nor does it come from talented singers and musicians. A good orator can give a thought-provoking sermon. A good singer can move an audience with his or her song. Authentic revival occurs when the hearts of God’s people are awakened by His Spirit to do His service.

THE INVITATION TO REVIVAL

God in Heaven is offering us an invitation. In the book of Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, is crying out to God for his nation. In response, God gave him the promise of revival. *“Call unto me and I will answer thee and I will show thee great and mighty things that you know not of.” Jeremiah 33:3*

While this promise was given to the prophet Jeremiah to the people of Israel, I believe it has the same relevance for us today. The same God of Jeremiah, the same God of both the Old and New Testaments is offering us a heavenly invitation.

The point is this: *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8)*. I challenge you to start right now. Find a place of solitude with no time restraint and cry

out to Jesus. By seeking His heart, He will saturate you with His peace and power from His hand. I believe this is the very beginning of seeing true authentic revival. The foundation of this booklet is 2 Chronicles 7:14, *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land.”* Together we will dissect this verse and find God’s Prescription for Revival.

SELF DIAGNOSIS

What is biblical revival?

Why does the author think we need revival? Why do you think we need it?

What are some things we often mistake as revival?

CHAPTER TWO

THE PRESCRIPTION

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

*Gypsy Smith was once asked how to start a revival. He answered: “Go home, lock yourself in your room, kneel down in the middle of your floor. Draw a chalk mark all around yourself and ask God to start the revival inside that chalk mark. When He has answered your prayer, the revival will be on.”-
Missionary Worker*

The nation of Israel was in much need of revival. The end of David’s reign would resemble a modern HBO drama. Betrayal and bloodshed marked the final days of the cherished davidic monarch of Israel. It would be his son, Solomon, God would use to bring healing and stability to the nation. Here in this text, God is speaking to Solomon, the son of David. It would be Solomon who builds the temple for God’s presence to dwell. As he sought the heart of God for his people, God later spoke concerning national revival. In 2 Chronicles 7:14, God gives three attributes one must have to see true, lasting, biblical revival.

GOD’S PRESCRIPTION : **A HUMBLE HEART**

“If my people which are called by my name, shall **humble** themselves...”

The number one instrument, Satan has used to stifle revival in the human heart is pride. Pride is a nauseating stench in the nostrils of God.

“Pride never says, “Im sorry”

Pride never says, “I was wrong”

Pride never says, “I made a mistake”

Instead, pride always throws the blame under someone else’s door.”

Pride splits churches, destroys character, and rips apart the Christian home. Revival will never take place in the human heart until the sin of pride is dealt with. If you feel you and God are okay, if you are happy with church as usual, if you think these words are nothing more than useless ink spilled on paper then pride has subtly taken place in your heart.

Jesus has called us to reach the lost with the hope of the gospel. Pride however, is the road block that stands in opposition.

If you haven’t noticed already, Humility is important to God.

- *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” Romans 12:3*
- *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.” Philippians 2:5-7*
- *“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.” 1 Peter 5:6*
- *“...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” James 4:6*

- *“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”* Micah 6:8

Humility is so important to God Deuteronomy 8:2 says, *“And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to **humble** thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.”*

God desires to remove the stain of pride from the human heart and will do so at any cost.

- The Hebrew children wandered aimlessly for 40 years in the desert.
- Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of a fish.
- Peter was rebuked and grieved after denying Jesus three times.

God will purge His children through the refinery of chastisement and judgment if necessary. Sometimes God will allow public humiliation for us to see our true colors.

One of Charles Spurgeon’s students went into the pulpit with every expression of confidence and struggled every moment of his message. He came down distressed and broken hearted. Later he went to Spurgeon to receive help and encouragement. It is noted Spurgeon told him, *“If you had gone up as you came down, you would have come down as you went up.”* - Al Bryant

It’s time to lay the sin of our pride at the foot of the cross.

*“At the Cross, at the Cross, where I first saw the light,
and the burden of my heart rolled away.
It was there by faith, I received my sight,
and now I am happy all the day.”*

God desires a humble heart.

SELF DIAGNOSIS

1. What is pride? Why do you think the enemy will use it?
2. Why do you think humility is such a big deal?
3. What are some things you have seen the sin of pride do in a person, friend, or church?

GOD'S PRESCRIPTION: **A HUNGRY HEART**

*“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, **and pray, and seek my face..**”*

As a child I remember my grandmother telling a story of a young man who was sitting with his fiancée gazing at the stars. Just before their evening goodbyes he said to her, “My darling, I would climb the highest mountain, I would swim the deepest ocean, I would run the farthest distance for your love... and I will see you tomorrow if it is not raining.” The point of the story is this: The test of desire is in the pursuit.

On Sunday mornings all across America, congregations sing praise and adoration to the Risen King. While these parishioners boisterously sing “How Great Thou Art,” the devotion of many is only surface level. For revival to overtake the human heart, one must not only be humble *before* Him but hungry *for* Him.

WHAT ARE YOU HUNGRY FOR?

In our Bibles, we read several instances of men who were hungry for God and his presence.

In Exodus 33:15 Moses prayed, “...*If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.*” Later he then prayed, “*Lord show me your Glory.*”

In 2 Kings 2:9, Elisha asked for a double portion of God’s presence that was on his mentor, Elijah’s life.

In Psalm 34:8 David exclaimed, “*O Taste and See that the Lord is Good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.*” Later in Psalm 42:1 he prayed, “*As the hart panteth after the water, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God.*”

Jesus gave a promise to those who seek Him and His Kingdom. “*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*”
Mathew 6:33

Finally, we cannot forget His words in Mathew 7:7. “*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*” If you view prayer as some empty ritualistic work only performed by the old and pious, you are badly mistaken. Prayer is simply, talking to God.

Some years ago I attended a prayer conference near Dallas, Texas. I was both blessed and refreshed engaging with other believers on the subject of prayer. At the end of the conference however, something memorable for me took place. During a question and answer section, An elderly woman made the statement , “I am 72 years old and have been in church all my life, and I don’t know how to pray. Would you teach us how to pray?” The silence was deafening. Looking around, I saw others who where as astonished as I was. This 72 year old Christian did not know how to pray.

If you know how to talk and think with your brain, you know how to pray. Theological training and Seminary degrees are not needed in making meaningful conversation with God. Friend, if you can say, “Hallelujah,” you know how to pray. When we

pray, Heaven stands at attention. When we pray God's will, He hears us and will answer. *"And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desire of Him."*
1John 5:14-15.

God desires a hungry heart.

If you desire a fresh touch from God in your life, let's pray this together:

*Jesus, I need a fresh touch from you.
Forgive me for my pride in thinking I could make it on my own.
I have been driven by religion instead of relationship.
Come, fill my heart with a fresh realization of your presence.
In Jesus Name, Amen.*

SELF DIAGNOSIS

1. What are some things you have desired in life that you went to great lengths to attain?
2. What is prayer?
3. What are some hinderances that keep you from spending time with God?

GOD'S PRESCRIPTION: **A HOLY HEART**

*"If my people... shall **turn from their wicked ways** then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land."*

Holiness is not a haircut nor is it some misguided set of religious rules and regulations. Holiness is living for God; being separated unto Him in the midst of a depraved culture. To be

clear, there is a difference between separation and isolation. Some have made stringent vows isolating themselves from our world in the name of God. This makes no impact in winning the lost for the Kingdom. While we are in this world, we are not to be of it.

If we desire to see authentic revival we must lay down our ugly depraved nature at the foot of the cross. This means turning away from our lusts, our prejudices and warped philosophies of man.

To walk uprightly before Christ will reveal a clear distinction before others. When we do more than just say, "I'm sorry God" but instead draw a line in the sand, God will send revival.

How can God send revival when homosexuality is allowed in the pulpit?

How can God send revival when abortion is labeled a choice instead of murder?

How can God send revival when whites hate blacks and blacks hate whites?

He will not.

Our nation needs healing that can only come from Jesus. Jesus did not come to play politics with religious air heads. Jesus came to save the lost. Jesus said, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."* Luke 4:18-19

After Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding in Cana, we see a side of Him others might conveniently dismiss or ignore. Jesus busted in the temple like John Wayne in Big Jake

and kicked the entire corrupt system out on the streets. This is a picture of how and when God brings judgment.

“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” 1 Peter 4:17

Before God will judge the sinner, He will first deal with the saint.

- Pastors who are hooked on pornography
- Board members controlling the church with an iron fist
- Staff Members who secretly plot the demise of Pastoral leadership
- Secretaries stealing money from the church
- Sexual promiscuity and Homosexuality on the worship team
- Denominational favoritism and greedy politics in church organizations

This trash is just the tip of the garbage dump. If we want to see revival in our life and churches, we must repent. Repentance is more than saying “I’m sorry.” Repentance is when we confess our sins to God and turn from them. By placing our faith in Christ and His finished work we will walk in complete victory.

It’s time to take the garbage out. God desires a holy heart.

SELF DIAGNOSIS

1. What is Holiness? What is it not?
2. What is the difference between separation and isolation?
Why does it matter?
3. Why did Jesus cleanse the temple?
4. What is repentance?

CHAPTER THREE

THE POWER

*“I will **hear** from heaven, **forgive** their sin, and **heal** their land.”*

When we possess a heart towards God that is humble, hungry, and holy, God says, He will do three things.

HE WILL HEAR US

Some might think that God hears us every time we pray. This however, is not the case. In Psalm 66:18 David said, *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”* In Isaiah 59:2 the prophet says, *“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”* Later addressing New Testament believers, Peter says, *“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”* 1 Peter 3:7

Habitual sin hinders God from hearing us because He is Holy. It is not that God can't hear us when we sin, it is that He won't hear us until we repent. I wonder how many times we pray to God and He won't hear us because of our unforgiveness, hatred, or strife towards one another. We have this promise. If we come to God with a changed heart, He will hear us.

HE WILL FORGIVE US

Some have misunderstood the word forgiveness. They say you need to “forgive and forget.” Forgiveness however, is not forgetting. Ask one who has been the victim of a violent crime if they have forgotten their accuser. Forgiveness is not forgetting but rather dropping the charges. Isn't that what Jesus has done? He has dropped all the charges never to be brought up ever again. This doesn't mean He forgets our sin for He is incapable of forgetting. He knows the past and the

future. Rather, our sins, our faults, and all our mess ups, He chooses not to remember any more.

A special verse I have underlined in my Bible is 1John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

When we confess our sin, He drops the charges. Now, that is love!

HE WILL HEAL OUR LAND

Everything Satan has either stolen from us or we have deliberately handed over to him, God will make right. One of my favorite attributes of God is that He is a healer and restorer of things. I have seen God take families broken beyond repair and mend them back together. I have seen God take men who were hard and calloused and melt their hearts like that of a little child. More importantly, I have seen the affects of a nation that has been backslidden and far from God make its way back to its first love. Throughout our nation’s history, mighty moves of authentic revival have taken place.

-The First Great Awakening hit Europe and British America in 1730.

-The Second Great Awakening hit America in the 1740’s

-The Third Great Awakening started in 1850 and lasted well into the early 20th century.

While God has undeniably moved since these historical events took place, I believe He is calling us to seek Him not for another movement but for authentic revival.

SELF DIAGNOSIS

1. Does God hear every prayer? What are some reasons He might not hear our prayers?

2. What is forgiveness? How does the forgiveness Jesus extended towards us relate to how we should treat each other?
3. What is the promise for those that confess their sin and repent of it?

**All Scripture has been rendered from the KJV.*

A CHURCH ON LIFE SUPPORT

Each year more than 4,000 churches close their doors. With their funds dissolved and buildings sold to the highest bidder, another church bites the dust. America needs revival plain and simple.

In this booklet, we will explore God's Prescription for true authentic revival.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14



Ed and his wife Heather, travel throughout the United States and around the world as Missionary Evangelists. Through their ministry, thousands have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. To partner with HM or contact for meetings:

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