

NICK HARRISON

OUR CRY FOR REVIVAL



365 DEVOTIONS
AND PRAYERS
FOR AN OUTPOURING
OF GOD'S SPIRIT

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For all who pray for revival . . .

O God, have mercy upon thy poor church, and visit her, and revive her. She has but a little strength; she has desired to keep thy word; oh, refresh her; restore to her thy power, and give her yet to be great in this land.

CHARLES SPURGEON

*Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love,
O LORD, and grant us your salvation.*

PSALM 85:6-7

There is no subject which is of greater importance to the Christian church at the present time than that of revival. It should be the theme of our constant meditation, preaching, and prayers.

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

Lord, bring revival. And let it begin with me.

PRISCILLA SHIRER

Introduction

If you've picked up this book, I'm going to assume you're one of the tens of thousands of Christians praying for local, national, or even global revival (or you want to be, and you're looking for a guide to help you). If so, thank God he has enlisted you in this life-changing and world-changing endeavor.

I say that because revival comes *only* through prayer. We pray, God answers. No prayer, no revival. But *how* do we pray for revival? And why doesn't God quickly answer our pleas for revival?

First, we must realize that God wants to bring revival to his people even more than we want to experience it. In fact, God begins the revival timeline by laying prayer for revival on the hearts of his intercessors. We may think our hunger for revival is something we choose. But in reality, God has created that hunger so that he might fill it.

Before we begin, we should consider what revival is. In these devotions I've quoted from many Christian men and women who witnessed revival or were instrumental in the revivals of their day—as well as a few contemporary men and women known for their desire to see revival. Here's how some of those I quote in *Our Cry for Revival* define revival:

[Revival] is a visitation in which God is making man conscious of himself without any human agency.

G. CAMPBELL MORGAN

Revival is a time when God visits his people, and, by the power of his Spirit imparts new life to them, and through them imparts life to sinners dead in trespasses and sins.

R. A. TORREY

A revival is nothing else than a new
beginning of obedience to God.

CHARLES FINNEY

Revival, in its essence, is the outflow of the
Spirit of God through the human spirit.

JESSIE PENN-LEWIS

Best-selling author, Dr. Tony Evans writes:

Revival is the return of God's manifest presence to his people for the purpose of them renewing their relationship with him, with each other and for the good of the broader society.

Author and pastor John Piper writes:

In the history of the church, the term revival in its most biblical sense has meant a sovereign work of God in which the whole region of many churches, many Christians has been lifted out of spiritual indifference and worldliness into conviction of sin, earnest desires for more of Christ and his word, boldness in witness, purity of life, lots of conversions, joyful worship, renewed commitment to missions. You feel God has moved here.

Pastor Jim Cymbala is right when he says,

If you study any of the great revivals of the past, you will always find men and women who longed to see the status quo changed—in themselves and in their churches. They called on God with insistence, and prayer begets revival, which begets more prayer.

Author Robert Coleman, who chronicled the Asbury Revival of 1970 in Wilmore, Kentucky, in his book *One Divine Moment*, wrote, "Revival is that sovereign work of God in which He visits His own

people, restoring and releasing them into the fullness of His blessing.” Some readers will recall that Asbury University experienced another glorious revival in February 2023.

Perhaps my favorite description of revival comes from the late pastor Jack Hayford. Referring to Isaiah 64:3 (NIV), he wrote: “Awesome things for which we did not look, is a perfect description of genuine revival, because the unpredictable and unusual are the characteristics of great spiritual awakenings.”

We must also note the words of Dr. Michael Brown as to what revival is not.

Revival is not a series of special meetings at church.
Revival is not what a church does a few times a year to simply draw in new converts (although we celebrate true conversions when they take place).
Revival is not about the unusual, physical manifestations that tend to happen when people are “touched by the Holy Spirit.”

Another caution comes from author Arthur Wallis:

Revival is more than a big meeting. It is more than religious excitement. It is more than the quickening of the saints or their being filled with the Holy Spirit. It is more than a great ingathering of souls. One may have any of these without revival—and yet revival includes them all.

Wallis is right about mistaking revival as simply a big meeting. It’s a common mistake to assume all revivals are large and well-known among Christians. The Great Awakening, The Welsh Revival of 1904, Azusa Street, even the Jesus Movement are fairly well-known among believers. But how many of us are familiar with the Kilsyth revival of 1839; the 1860 revival in Tinevelly, South India; or the Moravian revival of 1727? There are dozens of (mostly regional) revivals that we never hear about. Some even count the day of Pentecost as an example of revival. Though Christians may disagree on the theological significance and limitations of Pentecost, we can all admire the fervency of

the great evangelist Dwight Moody in one of his last sermons in Boston (his spiritual birthplace) who said, “See how he came on the day of Pentecost! It is not carnal to pray that he may come again and that the place be shaken. I believe Pentecost was but a specimen day. I think the church has made this woeful mistake that Pentecost was a miracle never to be repeated. I have thought too that Pentecost was a miracle not to be repeated. I believe now if we looked on Pentecost as a specimen day and began to pray, we should have the old Pentecostal fire here in Boston.”

We could also ask about the sequence of revival, even as we admit God brings revival in his own, often unexpected, way. But generally, the sequence of revival goes something like this:

- God creates the hunger for revival in his people.
- We pray for the desired revival (often for years).
- God brings revival, which is characterized by a deep sense of his presence, which in turn brings conviction of sin.
- Earnest confession and repentance follow conviction.
- Forgiveness of confessed sins leads into profound worship and true appreciation for God’s amazing grace.
- Though this part of revival is for God’s people—his church—the usual result is that many previously unsaved people are also convicted of sin and are born again, entering the family of God.

This sequence of events is a short explanation—and subject to change as revival is unpredictable and often catches us off guard, even when it’s been the focus of our prayers.

The big question is: Will the God, who has answered the pleas of his people in the past for revival, bring yet another revival before Christ’s return?

Most intercessors are certain the answer is yes. Why else would he call so many to pray for revival unless he intends to answer those prayers? Why would he allow us to experience our own paltry efforts

at living righteously in an unrighteous world? Why would he show us how empty the amusements of this present age are when compared to the joys of his kingdom?

So, if God is the one who initiates revival, what's *our* part to play? There is only one thing we can do—pray boldly and persistently. We dare not do anything else. True revival has only God's fingerprints on it. When we try to manufacture revival, we only thwart God's ability to usher in true revival. We must simply pray and trust God for revival. Our own hands cannot touch the working of God.

Even though we may not create revival, we can prepare for it as we pray for it. Which is exactly what this book is for. For the next year, we'll spend time both praying for revival and preparing for revival. You'll find many of the devotions on the following pages focus on prayer for revival. It's not possible to overpray for a fresh move of God.

And remember, when revival comes, it may not be what we expected. How God answers our prayers is up to him. The kind of revival we witness is rarely what we expect.

The devotions on the following pages are offered as an encouragement for us to engage in bold prayer and belief in God for true revival.

Each devotion contains a **Scripture to ponder** along with a **brief word of encouragement** from those who can speak of revival from personal experience. You'll encounter many familiar names among the contributors—Charles Spurgeon, Oswald Chambers, A. W. Tozer, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Finney, and many others. You'll also be introduced to men and women of faith who you may not know. For instance, Octavius Winslow, J. C. Philpot, J. C. Ryle, Jonathan Goforth, Hannah Whitall Smith, Anne Dutton, Thomas Watson, and other great heroes of the faith.

Consider, for instance, James Smith. Pretty much unknown by Christians today, Smith preceded Charles Spurgeon as pastor at New Park Street Chapel in London. It is said that his early sermons rivaled Spurgeon's in popularity.

Reading these seasoned voices in the faith will bless you, I promise. I've also included a few more recent Christian leaders. The increased frequency of messages on revival is just one more indication that revival is on the prayer lists of tens of thousands of believers.

Finally, each day's reading concludes with a **prayer prompt** to help us focus on that day's specific devotion. My hope is that these concluding prayer prompts will act as a jump start to your further prayers for the day's topic.

So now please join me and thousands of others as we pray for the revival we so desperately need.

JANUARY 1

New Beginnings

*He who was seated on the throne said,
“Behold, I am making all things new.”*

REVELATION 21:5

Experiencing revival is getting a fresh start, similar to the beginning of a new year. From the moment revival touches us, all things, in a sense, become new. We see with new eyes. We feel with a fresh intensity. Our hope in God is renewed. But these blessings are not to be hoarded; they are to be shared. One sure sign of revival is a new boldness in sharing new life in Christ with others.

Consider the many people worldwide, and even in our own communities, who are still unreached for Christ. Consider how, if we do not see revival in our day, these souls will be lost. Then imagine what can happen if these same people are reached through revival. Praying for revival is not only prayer for personal change, but also praying for a fresh wave of evangelism, sparked by hearts renewed for Christ.

Revivals begin with God’s own people; the Holy Spirit touches their heart anew, and gives them new fervor and compassion, and zeal, new light and life, and when he has thus come to you, he next goes forth to the valley of dry bones. . . . Oh, what responsibility this lays on the Church of God! If you grieve him away from yourselves, or hinder his visit, then the poor perishing world suffers sorely!

ANDREW BONAR

PRAYER PROMPT: *Father, you know the need for a fresh wave of your Spirit in our land. Bring the kind of revival that spurs us to evangelism. May revival result in the salvation of many.*

JANUARY 2

Power from on High

“Behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

LUKE 24:49

The disciples were told to wait in the city until the promise of the Father, power from on high, was given them. Without this power they were men without a mission . . . yet. But when they were clothed with the Spirit, a new era began.

Likewise today, we can be entering new seasons of usefulness to God with each fresh revival. But unlike the disciples, we don't have to wait in the city for power from on high. That power has been made available to every believer. While it was the disciples who waited, now it is the Holy Spirit who waits.

Will we keep him waiting longer?

Verily the day of revivals is not past. The Holy Spirit is still waiting to fill believers with power from on high.

JOHN GREENFIELD

PRAYER PROMPT: *Lord, thank you for the filling of your Holy Spirit. Today may I walk confident of the power within me to affect change.*

JANUARY 3

The Creative Christian

He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze.

EXODUS 35:31–32

For many, a surprising fruit of revival is a surge of creativity among believers. Often new hymns are composed, poetry written, books authored, and an all-around rebirth in the church of artistic expression reflecting our Lord's own creativity.

Some may not see the importance of such endeavors, but we must remember that the Spirit of God gifts his people with skill, craftsmanship, and the intense desire to showcase the beauty that can be had when God's people, created in his image, use their talents to praise him.

It is a part of Christianity to convert
every natural talent to a holy use.

HANNAH MORE

PRAYER PROMPT: *Lord, thank you for the natural talents you give your people. Bring forth even greater creations as a result of revived artistic ability. Give fresh talents to those who ask for it. Allow your glory to be glimpsed through the gifts of your people.*

JANUARY 4

The Power of Personal Obedience

“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.”

1 SAMUEL 15:22

Though revival comes only through prayer, we must also personally prepare for God’s outpouring. Obedience is key. God shows us what to do, but we’re sometimes reluctant to obey.

What has God called you to do? Will you do it? If you don’t know how to proceed, ask God. He will not only show you what to do, but he will also do it through you. In the Christian life and especially in revival, we are vessels, as God pours his Spirit into us.

Ask, obey, and see the fruit of your labors.

Does it make sense to pray for guidance about the future if we are not obeying in the thing that lies before us today? How many momentous events in Scripture depended on one person’s seemingly small act of obedience!

Rest assured: Do what God tells you to do now, and, depend upon it, you will be shown what to do next.

ELISABETH ELLIOT

PRAYER PROMPT: *Lord, you require no burnt offerings from me. You ask for no unreasonable sacrifice. You only ask for my obedience. Show me what you would have me do. Empower me with your Spirit. Breathe into my being the personal revival that seeks your will. I ask this for all of us praying for revival. May our obedience bring forth lasting fruit—revival fruit.*

"Nick Harrison's insights will help us pray for a fresh spiritual awakening in such a way that heaven is moved."

—Anne Graham Lotz, *author and International Bible teacher*



WHAT CHRISTIAN ISN'T HUNGERING FOR ANOTHER REVIVAL?

Not just an emotional display of faith, but a God-given revival that inspires repentance, transforms lives, renews churches, and could even change history?

If this kind of revival could pour out over your life, community, and country this year, what is your part to play? It is first, last, and always prayer, because revivals have always started with God's people on their knees.

With daily Scripture readings, reflections, prayer prompts, and quotes from classic Christian voices, historic revivalists, and contemporary leaders, this 365-day devotional will guide you in your quest to experience both personal and widespread revival through persistent prayer.

Yes, revival is on its way. Will you be one of the prayer warriors to usher in the next great move of God?



NICK HARRISON is the author of more than a dozen books including *Magnificent Prayer*, *The One-Year Life Recovery Prayer Devotional*, and five books in the One-Minute® Prayer series, including *One-Minute Prayers® When You Need a Miracle*. His books have been endorsed by Anne Graham Lotz, Jim Cymbala, Tony Evans, Sheila Walsh, Chip Ingram, and Lee Strobel. Nick has a background in the book world both as a bookstore owner and as a senior editor at Harvest House Publishers. Nick and his wife, Beverly, are the parents of three grown daughters and grandparents to two boys and two girls.

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