

7 Day Devotional

*Seeking  
Revival*



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## Introduction:

“...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” – 2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV

Today there is darkness and confusion running rampant. Brokenness can be seen on every hand. Spiritual apathy is rocking us to sleep. We need a fresh move of God to sweep over this land. We need revival.

This verse has been considered a recipe for revival. While we can't cook up revival ourselves, we can seek it from God. This 7 day devotion walks through 2 Chronicles 7:14 one bite at a time, examining the ingredients that God calls for. Take it in, pray through it, and use it to help you seek God and the revival that only He can bring.

## Day 1

### “If my people who are called by my name...”

If you have trusted Christ and been born again, you belong to God! He is not only your Creator, but in Christ, He has adopted you and become your Father. He is Lord and Master over us. He is our Great King! All these titles reveal ownership. We are not our own any longer. We've been bought with a high and holy price, the precious blood of Jesus!

As our Lord, Master, and King, God has the authority to command us. As our Creator, we exist for His pleasure and purpose. When our hearts are made ready for revival, we recognize that we exist for Him and want God to have His way in every area of our lives. This is where we surrender to Him. Where we want Him to shape us according to His will and not our own. We begin to desire to be transformed more and more into the image of Jesus. Here, our prayer becomes, “Lord, make me what You would have me to be.”

But you not only exist for His purpose, you are also His possession! A treasured possession. One that He values so much that He would give Christ, the priceless jewel of heaven, to possess. He has desired to have you. You belong to Him! Rejoice in that! Take comfort in it. Let that truth wash over you. Say it, “I belong to God.” Say it to Him, “I belong to You, God.”

Belonging to the Father also speaks of our relationship. You belong to One who loves you! He wants you to know Him and walk with Him day in and day out. Experiencing revival will mean experiencing a deepening of your relationship with Him. It means focusing your heart on Him with a renewed passion.

Today, pray and confess Him as Master, Lord, and King. Surrender yourself to His purpose for your life, namely that of knowing Him and making Him known. Surrender in obedience to Him in anything specific in your life that you know He wants. Rejoice in Him in prayer. Tell Him how thankful you are to be His. Tell Him how great He is. Tell Him how you love Him.

## Day 2

### “...will humble themselves...”

To be humble is to have a low view of your own importance or ability according to the definition from a quick google search. This can be difficult for us. We live in a culture that encourages us to have a high view of our importance and abilities.

Pride, arrogance, apathy, and self-reliance all keep revival from coming. When we walk in these things we are operating in our sinful flesh, the natural man. This is who we are on our own before Christ saved us and we were born again. It is so easy for us to become self-reliant and prideful. I'm reminded of an old western where a family sat down to eat supper and the father blessed the food and prayed something like this... "God, we plowed this land. We planted it, tended it and harvested it. If we hadn't done it, there wouldn't be anything on this table now but we thank you for it just the same." We would never say that we don't need God, but we can develop that attitude deep down in our hearts, even unconsciously.

What is the answer then? 2 Chronicles 7:14 says that we are to humble ourselves. When we humble ourselves we recognize that we are lowly and in such great need. When we humble ourselves, rather than seeing our own importance we see our unworthiness and sinfulness. Instead of feeling like we have the ability to handle our business, whatever that may be, we gain a great sense of how small and helpless that we are and how much we desperately need God. In humility we truly see what the old song says, "Lord, I can't even walk without you holding my hand."

Humility drives us to our knees before God. But in humility we also approach God with great reverence and awe, not in complacency or apathy. Here, the fear of the Lord is found. Seeing our need for God alongside the greatness of God is a place where revival can take place.

Today, pray and humble yourself before the Lord. Confess and repent of any hardness of heart or apathy, as well as pride or self-reliance. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to how much we need Him and how great He is. Ask God to teach you the fear of the Lord. As you pray this for yourself, pray this for your church family as well.

## Day 3

### “...and pray and seek My face...”

One undeniable fact is that revival requires the presence of God. No matter what we do, God is the one who must produce it if it is to come. This reality makes the command to pray and seek God's face of the utmost importance if we want to experience revival.

Seeking God's face is seeking Him, seeking His presence. When we are in someone's presence, we are face to face with them. Are we hungry for the presence of God? Do we want it to the point that we will seek it, or are we content to go about our lives as usual? The recent revival at Asbury University began with a group of students who didn't want to leave at the end of a chapel service. Instead they stayed and prayed and confessed sin to each other and worshipped. They were hungry for the presence of God, they sought His face, and in His mercy, He was found by them!

Jesus said that if we ask it will be given to us, if we seek we will find, and if we knock the door will be opened to us! Let us seek the face of God in worship and prayer! Let us ask, and seek, and knock with an anticipation of God answering!

Prayer and the presence of God are linked. We are invited to turn to God in prayer and we have access to the presence of God in prayer because of Christ! Yet we are often so prayerless. Prayerlessness may be one of the greatest sins of our day. Then when we do pray, often our prayers focus on us and our physical needs. Praying for physical needs is in no way illegitimate, but this is prayer that is looking for nearness to God. It is seeking His presence in prayer. If we want revival don't seek revival, seek the presence of God. A lack of prayer and the presence of God keep revival from happening. Our God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29), and He can warm our prayer lives and set us ablaze in the fires of revival.

Today, pray and draw near to God. Simply worship Him in prayer. Ask Him to grow an atmosphere of fervent prayer in the body of Christ. Ask for more of His presence in your life and the lives of your brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray for the people of God, including yourself, to develop a hunger for Him.

## Day 4

### “...and turn from their wicked ways...”

A few years ago, a very close friend of mine was diagnosed with cancer. We were not only very close friends, but I was his pastor too. When he called me and told me he had cancer, my heart was broken. Praise God, he was able to have surgery and has now been in remission ever since.

Sin is a cancer that must be cut out. Make no mistake, sin is wicked; it is evil. Those without Christ are spiritually dead because of sin. Those who have passed from death to life in Christ, are made spiritually weak and sick when they choose to live in sin rather than turn from it. Sin hinders prayer (Ps 66:18) and causes a separation in our relationship with God. There is only one answer for it, repentance.

A hallmark of revival is repentance. Isaiah is a great example of this. Isaiah's life was forever changed when he came into the presence of God and the first thing that he said was, "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips. And dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips...". He saw his sin and was broken by it and turned from it.

Sin interferes with the blessing and presence of God. Think about Achan in Joshua 6. God gave a great victory to His people over Jericho. The giant walls crumbled into rubble at the power of God when His people obeyed Him. Then their next battle, at tiny little place called Ai, they were defeated. When Joshua cried out to God looking for an answer as to why, God told him there was sin in the camp and God would no longer be with them unless it was dealt with.

We deal with sin by repenting or turning from it. It is not simply feeling sorry for it. It is still more than even asking God to forgive it. When we repent, we change. It is a 180, we were going one way, now we are going in the opposite direction.

Today, pray and take any sin in your life to God. Confess it to Him and ask Him to forgive you because of what Jesus did on the cross for you. Ask God to help you repent of that sin, stop it and turn from it to Him. Pray that God would grant repentance not only to you but to your brothers and sisters in Christ as they turn from sin as well.

## Day 5

### “...then I will hear from heaven...”

Here is the first promise of God in 2 Chronicles 7:14. There are three promises and this first one is God’s promise to hear our prayers.

He promises to hear us praying from heaven. We have no ability to make our voices heard all the way up in heaven. Sometimes some of us pray as though that is what we’re trying to do (That’s me, I’m guilty!), but the volume of our voices don’t make us heard. In fact, the only way our prayers can be heard is by God choosing to hear them. We cannot make ourselves heard. And God doesn’t hear every prayer. Oh, He knows they are being prayed because He knows all things, but that doesn’t mean He is listening and going to answer them all. (See James 4:3)

But we have a promise from God concerning the prayer that He will hear in 2 Chronicles 7:14. It is a prayer from His people, those who belong to Him. It is a prayer from one who humbles themselves before Him. It is a prayer from such a person that is actually being prayed, as opposed to a thought, a hope, or a dream! It is a prayer from one who is seeking Him. And it is a prayer from one who is repentant. Take a second and read the verse again...

*“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven...”*

If that describes you, then be assured that God hears you! Thank God for the promise to hear you! Know that you have access to Him through Christ. You are invited to confidently come before the throne of grace!

Today, pray and thank God that He hears our prayers! Thank Him that He is attentive to us and chooses to listen to our prayers. Boldly pray in faith, trusting that He hears and will answer.



## Day 6

### “...and will forgive their sin...”

Our sin is not a surface problem, it runs deep. We desperately need God’s forgiveness. Without it, we stand before God guilty and deserving of hell.

Yet, despite our sin and guilt, God looks on us with love and desires to forgive us. He desires it so much that He would send His one and only Son to suffer and die so that we could have forgiveness.

God’s heart is set on forgiveness. He promises it to us in 1 John 1:9 if we will confess our sins to Him and He promises it here. If we want to experience revival, we need to confess our sin. Is there unconfessed sin in your life? Take that to Christ, confess it to Him and repent of it.

Confession and forgiveness is not only a personal matter for each Christian. It is also a corporate matter for the body of Christ as a whole. These words were originally spoken to Solomon and were regarding the entire nation of Israel. When Isaiah confessed his sinfulness, he also confessed the sinfulness of his people, but then his sin was cleansed. The same is possible for us today.

Don’t stop with your own sin. Do you sense sin amongst the church? Repent of that corporate sin as well. You are part of the church Pray for God to forgive us today.

Don’t stop there! We aren’t the only ones in need of forgiveness, so is our nation. Prayer for forgiveness for the sins of our country and even humanity worldwide. Ask God to forgive us and draw us to Himself in Christ, along with people from every kindred, tongue, and nation.

## Day 7

### “...and heal their land.”

In great moves of God throughout church history, there have been sensational accounts of the way people experienced and responded to the Spirit of God. For example, it was reported that when Jonathan Edwards preached his famous sermon “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” people shrieked in terror and tried to climb the support columns in the sanctuary for fear that the floor would fall out from beneath them and they would plunge headlong into hell.

Sensational expressions may accompany revival. Emotion and excitement may as well. We should be open to the working of the Spirit of God and let Him lead us and have His way in us. We should be sensitive and obedient.

This final promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14 is not for sensationalism though. It is for restoration. That is what healing is, being brought back to what should be. It is causing vitality to return so the one who is healed can thrive. When revival takes place, God moves in the hearts of people and restores them to spiritual health and vitality in Him. When we are healthy, we become productive, serving God as He desires.

Notice that in the text this is the work of God. He promises to do this healing of the land when those conditions He sets forth are met. Revival is the working of God. We cannot produce it, we must rely on Him and seek Him. Notice also that the promise is not made to those who seek healing, but who seek Him. Revival is not found in seeking revival, revival is found in seeking the One who is able to give revival. God alone is able to heal this land, let us seek Him!

Today, pray for us to be brought into the presence of God and to be hungry for it. Pray that as we seek Him, He would bring us nearer to Him and restore us to a spiritual vitality greater than we have known and work in us. But not in us alone, pray for God to work through us and bring others all over the community and beyond to spiritual health in Jesus. Pray for sins to be forgiven and chains to be broken. Pray for awakening. Pray for repentance. Pray for the lost to be saved. Pray for the church to be given new life. Pray for revival!!