

# ~ STEPS TO REVIVAL ~

by Pat Robertson  
(Part 3)

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV) 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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

[Brackets represent words that were added, and ellipses (...) represent words that were removed by WLJ to clarify the author's biblical interpretation.]

## 5. The fifth step to revival is *unity*.

Jesus told His disciples that *"if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven."* "For," he continued, *"where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."*

We also read that on the day of Pentecost, the disciples were together in one accord in one place.

The Bible tells us *"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing..."*

Although each of us needs to do the deep soul searching I am suggesting in a private place of quiet, every classic revival of which I am aware took place when the believers had gathered together in one accord in one place, whether that place was a church, a tabernacle, a barn, or a clearing in the woods.

Obviously, the leaders need to spend large amounts of time alone in earnest prayer and study. Evan Roberts, the leader of the Welsh revival, had a glorious encounter with the fire of the living God at 1:00 o'clock in the morning as he was praying in his bedroom. Charles Finney, America's foremost advocate of revival met the Holy Spirit while he was praying in his study. He reported the glorious experience as if "giant wings fanned his face." Then he was lifted into a new experience of the presence of God. John Hyde of India prayed alone for six or eight hours a day. It was said that James, the Lord's brother, had knees like a camel because of the hours that he spent alone in prayer.

Each of us can and must spend time alone with the Lord, but the visitation from God we are seeking will only come when believers are praying together.

To begin, there can be a small core of those whose hearts are knit together in their desire for personal holiness and their hunger for a visitation of God. It would be unwise to expect

everyone who professes to be a Christian to share your zeal. They will come later.

The goal is a group, small or large, gathered together in one accord. Petty differences among participants must be put aside along with disputes over fine points of doctrine. Whether someone's eschatology makes him premillennial, postmillennial, or amillennial is of absolutely no consequence if that individual is crying to God for a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit.

As prayer for revival begins, the time is right to ask forgiveness of those you have offended, and to openly forgive those who have offended you. Put aside the petty spite and jealousy that may have characterized your relations with other members of your church assembly. God is love. As you seek God, let His love work through you to tear down all the barriers that keep you from loving your brothers and sisters in Christ.

When the power of God falls, all those things that appear reasons for us to be separated from each other fade into insignificance in the light of God's glory.

Remember also God's solemn assessment of the human unity he observed at the tower of Babel. *"These people have one mind and they speak one language, now nothing that they propose to do will be impossible to them."* Just think of the incredible power of human endeavor when those involved were united even in rebellion against God. Then think of the awesome power that our unity can produce when energized by the power of the Holy Spirit in revival...

Is it any wonder that Satan, who knows full well what a unified church empowered by the Holy Spirit can accomplish, does everything in his power to cause rancor and division among Christians to break their unity while he entices them to commit sin so that the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives will be lifted? ...

## 6. The sixth step to revival is *perseverance*.

[Forty days] after Jesus had risen from the dead, [just before He ascended into Heaven,] He instructed His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high.

We learn that these men and women, whose very lives were in grave danger, gathered in an upper room to wait and pray for the promise of the Father. Day one passed and no miracle occurred. Then day two—nothing. Then day three—nothing. The same on days four, five, [and] six ... Imagine their impatience. Imagine their fear. Imagine that their faith was wavering. Imagine the restless boredom of sitting in one place day after day with nothing happening.

Was their hope merely an illusion? Jesus was not there in person. Had he deceived them? Was their prayer vigil merely a vain hope? Other doubts may have assailed them, but yet they waited and prayed as they had been instructed to do. They believed that the promise given by their Lord was valid and they clutched it tightly to their hearts.

Then [on that seventh day] when the day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day after the Passover, had finally come, the miracle happened. The Bible tells us that there was a sound like a rushing mighty wind that filled the room where they were sitting, and cloven tongues of fire separated and appeared over the heads of each one there. Then they were each filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak other languages as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The noise was so loud that a crowd gathered made up of people from all over the Roman Empire. They listened in amazement to simple, uneducated Galileans speaking in each of their native languages.

Some made fun of the believers, but most of the crowd were so overwhelmed with God's power, that they listened eagerly to Peter as he preached to them. Then they cried out, "*What should we do?*" That day a man who only a few weeks before had shown fear to a servant girl, preached with such authority and power that 3,000 were converted to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The same God who visited His people at Pentecost in Jerusalem wants to visit His church ... today... So press in. Follow the steps to revival set forth in this booklet, then prayerfully wait for God to do the part that He has promised.

*"Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what was promised."* (Hebrews 10:35-36)

-----

### **DISCUSSION AND PRAYER TIME**

1. What is the meaning of "one accord?" Why is it important that Christians be of one accord? What are some barriers to being in one accord?
2. In John 17, Jesus prayed that his followers might be one as He and His Father are one. And Paul in Ephesians 4 pleaded for believers to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit." In 1 Cor. 12, Paul says that the church has many parts but they are all part of the one body—the Body of Christ. And the early church in the book of Acts was described as being of one accord/one mind on numerous occasions. As Christians we share one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father. What do you think the purpose of our unity as Christians is?
3. Even though a Christian can worship God privately and God certainly answers the prayers of individual Christians, why are we encouraged to worship and pray together as a group?
4. What are the three possible answers to our prayers? Give specific examples from the Bible, or from your own life (if you're willing to share).
5. What does Scripture teach about persevering in prayer? Give specific examples from the Bible, or from your own life (if you're willing to share).

6. Read James 4:1-10 (NIV): 1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. 4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.
  - a. Examine these verses in regards to revival.
  - b. What keeps us from revival?
  - c. What part does prayer have in bringing revival?
  - d. How does our relationship with the world keep us from revival?
  - e. Who gets revived, the proud or the humble? Why?
  - f. What does submitting to God mean?
  - g. What does resisting the Devil mean?
  - h. What is required to have a close relationship with God? If God seems far off, who moved away?
  - i. Who must "wash" their hands, and why?
  - j. Who must "purify" their hearts and why?
  - k. Are we supposed to be sad in order to be revived?
  - l. Explain the positives and negatives of vs. 10.
7. Spend five minutes now in silent prayer as the Lord leads you.
8. Now take turns praying aloud (if you feel comfortable praying that way) as the Lord leads you. Don't take time to share prayer requests first; just pray aloud for those needs yourself. Include prayers for your own revival, for the revival of other Christians in our church and community, for our Revival speaker—John Chandler, for the Revival music leaders, for the salvation of the spiritually lost in our church and community, for the health of the sick, for our Pastor and others in our church who teach and lead, for us to fulfill God's vision for our church: "to glorify God by developing Kingdom-focused Disciples in our area who have an intimate loving relationship with God and one another, who are growing in their knowledge of Him, and who are actively serving Christ in our community and throughout the world," and any other needs that God brings to mind.
9. Invite someone this week to the upcoming Revival Meetings.