

Supernatural Breakthrough

Part 4 - Awakening

Jesus reminds us that we are to be the salt and light to our world by providing a strong spirit-empowered witness and lifestyle to our broken and fallen world. We cannot afford to be asleep at this critical time in history. There are many important things we must do but none more important than to pray. God is using this season to awaken His church to get on our knees and to pray for revival.

What is Revival?

The word *revival* is a composite word. *re*: to return and *vivos*: life.

Revival: to return or bring back life, consciousness, existence, vigour, and activity to those who previously possessed that life.

Revival starts with those who already believe but in whom God's fire may have grown cold for all manner of reasons. We join together in a desire that our hearts would increase in hunger for the Lord and for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

The outcome of revival is an open heaven where the blessings of God, the love, glory and power of God supernaturally flow from heaven, even catching others in the wake.

Revival happens as God awakens the sleeping believer, and the sleeping church, so that His blessing can pour out on this world (Ephesians 5:14).

God is calling believers to come back to Him to receive the power of a renewed spiritual life. He is drawing believers back into a fresh new and vital relationship with Him. Revival begins with a new experience of the Father's love and power. Why? Because, only when this happens can He reach a lost and spiritually dead world and its people with His consuming love and fire.

Revival Starts with Prayers of Repentance

Revival starts as we restore intimacy with God through repentance. Revival starts with repentance because it is only Jesus who can restore a right relationship with Father God and bring us into a place of intimacy where sin no longer impedes God doing His work in and through us (Romans 8:1; 1 John 1:9; 2:1-2).

We are encouraged to hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6; Hebrews 12:14; 2 Peter 1:5-11; Romans 5:1). Through confession and repentance, receive God's forgiveness, and then commit to a life of pursuing holiness and practising godliness. It is when we live in the power of the Holy Spirit rather than that of the sinful nature – God gives freedom and blessing (Galatians 5:19-26).

Prayer is a Powerful Weapon to Fight for the Reign of God in our Region

Jesus' disciples saw the intimacy that Jesus had with His Father when He prayed and the power that was unleashed when He prayed (Matthew 6:9-13).

One of the things that Jesus teaches us to pray is that prayer is a powerful weapon to fight for the reign of God in our region – “Your kingdom come, Your will be done here on earth as it is in heaven”.

A Fight in the Heavens (Daniel 10:20-21)

Our wrestle is not against flesh and blood. Our wrestle is against principalities and powers of darkness in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12).

In this age, there is a wrestle going on for the reign of God on earth. How we pray, impacts the reign of God in our region. How we pray, as a church in this nation, in this season, in our communities, impacts the reign of God in our region.

When You Pray, Heaven Hears and Responds to Your Prayer - There will be resistance when we pray, but our prayers are heard in heaven, and they impact the reign of God in your region!

Jesus Teaches Us that Prayer is a Personal Surrender to the Will of God

The wrestle of prayer is not just a wrestle against the spiritual darkness in the heavenly realms. It is also a wrestle of personal surrender to the will of God (Mark 14:32-36). Prayer is a powerful weapon to fight for the reign of God in our region and prayer is a personal surrender to the will of God.

God strengthens us as we pray and is in fact Jesus is interceding on our behalf (Luke 22:43-44; Romans 8:34). If you have stopped praying because God hasn't answered your prayer, you've actually got the wrong understanding of prayer. Prayer is not just a petition for God's help. Prayer is a process of surrendering our will, to the will of the Father.

Prayer is the Churches Protection Against the Enemy of God

Watch and pray so that you wont fall into temptation (Mark 14:37-38). I wonder if we have some spiritual alarms going off in our nation to wake us up from a spiritual slumber. I wonder if God has been sounding some alarms to wake us up to pray.

Jesus asked the question: Would you just pray with me for one hour? Our challenge in our time of 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting for Revival is set an alarm and pray every day for our families, our communities and our nation. Stay awake but not afraid! Yes, we wrestle against principalities and powers but in Jesus, we have nothing to be afraid of. This is our time to wake up and to pray.

Discussion Questions

1. Share a time in your life when you really felt close to God and had a deep desire to obey Him. What brought this about? What did this look like for you? Did anything special happen?
2. Read Ephesians 3:14-21. Paul is praying from prison. What do these verses tell us about Paul's passion and beliefs as he approaches God in this prayer for revival for the Ephesian church?
3. Have you seen God do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (3:20). Share a few stories. What do you think may happen if God works in revival in your life? What do you think may happen if God works in revival in our church?
4. What do you think might be preventing God working in greater power in your life and in our church?
5. How often do you think of the battle that is going on in the heavenly realms? How does this understanding affect the way you pray?

Prayer For Revival

- + Have someone pray Paul's prayer aloud over the group twice. If possible, use a translation that is easy to understand.
- + Together pray for God's powerful work in our church family.
- + Divide into pairs. Share your heart's desire of what you want to see as the culmination of our 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting and pray for one another.