
POWERFUL PRAYER

Revival Fires

In the Beginning

Today we celebrate Pentecost Sunday and launch 24/7 prayer week.

Pentecost is the time when we remember the first disciples praying together in the upper room and the Holy Spirit being poured out on all believers (Acts 2:1-41), giving power for them to share the gospel and fulfill the promise to take it to all the world (Acts 1:8).

God is still pouring out His Spirit on ordinary people to share the gospel and see communities transformed, one person at a time.

We are living in a significant moment in church history in our nation. There are several ways for the church to respond in this season.

- + We could shrink back and go into survival mode. We could water down the gospel and make it more palatable for our pluralistic world. We could stick our head in the sand and pretend nothing has changed.
- + Or we could seize this unique opportunity to shine a bright light on Jesus who is the certain and eternal way, truth and life in an uncertain and constantly changing world.

A Pivotal Moment in History

“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So, after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.” Acts 13:2-3 (NIV)

In these two verses that record one significant moment in church history, there is:

- + A reminder
- + A challenge
- + And an encouragement for us today

Reminder: The Power of Prayer and Fasting

When a local church fasted and prayed, they saw the greatest breakthrough for the gospel since Pentecost.

Doing better what we already do well, will not bring revival to Australia. God is calling His church to get on our knees and to cry out to Him in desperate and dependent prayer for revival in our nation, in our generation.

What are you hungry for? Powerful breakthrough comes from prayer and fasting.

One of our priorities as a church is to consistently gather together, to partner with God through presence-centred prayer and worship. We desire to see the Riverlife family understand and live out the necessity of engagement with God through presence-based prayer and worship, and to experience the power of God at work through faith filled prayer.

Jesus is calling His church to a humble dependence on Him. This moment in church history reminds us that ministry before the Lord comes before ministry for the Lord. God is not looking for strong leaders. God is not looking for superstars. God is looking for humble, hungry people to give His strength and understanding to as we get on our knees and pray (2 Chronicles 16:9).

Challenge: To be Set Apart and Empowered

Before every great move of God, He sets apart His people to serve His purposes in His power.

- + Joshua 3: God called His people to consecrate themselves as He moved them out of the wilderness and into the promised land by crossing the Jordan River.
- + Joshua 5: God called His people to be set apart from the surrounding nations by being circumcised. God made them weak before He moved in great power to defeat their enemy as they obeyed His word.
- + Pentecost: Jesus called His followers to wait for the Holy Spirit to come before they would be His witnesses.
- + Acts 13: As they prayed, God said to set apart Saul and Barnabas for the work they were called to, and the gospel began to move to the ends of the earth.

To be set apart is to be made holy, different, distinct in character and calling. Jesus is calling His church to holiness and before every great move of God He sets apart people to serve His purposes in His power.

How are you being set apart by God to serve His purposes in His power?

Encouragement: Revival is in the Air

When we say 'revival', we mean the personal renewal of faith and hunger for God, that leads to corporate revival across our church family, which then leads to community transformation. Revival is marked by a hunger for the things of God, a softness of heart towards the heart of God for our frontline, and faith to see signs and wonders that awaken people the reality of a supernatural God of supernatural love!

There comes a time when as God's people we are all sent into our frontlines to declare and demonstrate Christ's kingdom (Acts 13:3).

Reaching out to others may seem hard, but the gospel is the only hope for a dying world.

When the Church fasted and prayed, God spoke, and the people obeyed. The blessing of the gospel flowed into places where the people had never heard it before. The course of history changed as one local church fasted and prayed. It's happened before. It can happen again!

Discussion Questions

1. Take some time to consider what revival would look like in your field of influence both in your personal life, the church and community. Share this with one another.
2. What are you hungry for? What will you be pressing in for during this week of prayer and fasting?
3. How are you being set apart by God to serve His purposes in His power?
4. What are you fasting from during this week? What times will you commit to gathering at the church in prayer this week?

Prayer For Revival

- + Go to <https://riverlifechurch.org.au/event/24-7-prayer-week/> and check out both the resources as well as the schedule for prayer. Sign up if you haven't already for an hour in the prayer room.
- + 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 24/7 prayer and fasting and pray for one another.