

The Preparation for Revival

“While the churches cannot make revival they can prepare for it and make the most of it when it comes...the church that’s fully prepared for revival is already in it.”—Edward Last

“To prepare our hearts for revival is to prepare for heaven, so that in a true sense we can say that preparation for revival is revival.”—William Still

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

God gave the amazing promise found in 2 Chronicles 7:14 to His covenant people Israel. Since all Scripture is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16), there are undoubtedly valuable lessons we can learn from this text. This verse along with the entire Old Testament was given for our learning. It is impossible to manufacture that which only God can give, but we *can* and *must* prepare the way of the Lord.

“If my people”

“If” contains only two letters, but it is one of the biggest words in the Bible. Time after time we read about the implications of that two letter word: **“If** we walk in the light ... the

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“When the roots of our faith take hold of the soil of God’s Word, the foliage of our character will be bright and beautiful.” —E.F. Marsh



A new sister in Christ from LaFollette, TN

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blood ... cleanses" (1 Jn. 1:7), "**If** we confess our sins, he is faithful ... to forgive" (1 Jn. 1:9), "**If** ye abide in me ... you shall ask ... and it shall be done" (Jn. 15:7). Human actions provoke divine reactions. "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8). When a man moves toward God, it causes God to move toward him. Every move in the direction of heaven is reciprocated.

"If" means you have a part to play and a choice to pray. You can opt for a tender heart. Bill McCleod said, "Our heart should be so tender that if a leaf fell on it, it would leave an impression." Heart preparation is the first step in preparing for revival.

God's kingdom hinges on the prerogative of the King and the actions of His subjects. Notice it says, "*If my people*" (*emphasis added*). God pledged to deal with His people according to their choices. This promise was not directed to the idolaters and heathen, but to the people of God. Israel belonged to the old covenant, but we are part of the new covenant (a better covenant). Do not doubt that God works on earth in conjunction with His people.

"Humble themselves"

Humility has been called the royal insignia of the child of God. It is the foundation of all virtue and the key to grace and mercy. It is the modest mindset that God finds so attractive. God rewards the humble with *grace*, which is the desire and power to do right. When Naaman bent his stiff neck and obeyed the prophet, he was healed. Even the high-minded Nebuchadnezzar was restored to power after seven years of therapy in the fields grazing with animals! Humility blesses the heart of God, and He in turn blesses the humble.

You cannot find a person in the entire universe who is more humble than God. How could the "high and holy one who inhabits eternity" condescend to identify with a wicked and sinful race? A respected Christian doctor was married to an alcoholic wife. Year after year, she went to the bars and got drunk. Night after night this godly man would go out in the wee hours of the night to retrieve his drunken wife. People in the town were disgusted with this hopeless prodigal. Seeing her lying on the street, they would pass her by and leave her lying on the ground.

One evening this doctor went out searching for his wife. He found her lying in the street, soaked in her own vomit. Others

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Our Schedule

- November 13-16
Revival Summit
Ebenezer Baptist Church
Callaway, VA
- November 20
Sunday AM & PM
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Winchester, VA
- December 2-4
Iron Man Conference
Fairfax Baptist Temple
Fairfax, VA
- January 8-11, 2017
Baptist College of Ministry
Falls Baptist Church
Menomonee Falls, WI
- January 26-28, 2017
Men's Prayer Advance
Shenandoah Baptist Church
Roanoke, VA
- March 23-25, 2017
Ladies' Prayer Advance
Sheraton Hotel &
Conference Center
Roanoke, VA

A feeble, nominal
Christianity is the
greatest obstacle to the
conversion of the world.

— Henry Venn

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transform your personal
atmosphere into one of
contagious liberty and
freedom.

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Prayer Advance Testimonies

"The MPA's have become very precious to me, and I look forward to the last week in January all year. This year's MPA probably had more impact on me than any of them before. Maybe it was because of what the Lord was already working in me, but he used that time, to set me on a path to come back to a level of awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence and sensitivity of His leading that I had lost."

"What an amazing Prayer Advance! God was working all over this Advance and I think that far more positive results are to come."

"The prayer time at night is so sweet. We are really in His presence. I've never felt that kind of love before."

"I thoroughly enjoyed each service and God refreshed my soul. For several years I have thought of attending and now that I have I can't wait to come again."

"I thoroughly enjoyed each service and God refreshed my soul. For several years I have thought of attending and now that I have I can't wait to come again."

saw her and quickly passed by, but her husband picked her up, took her home, cleaned her up, and put her to bed. This man's willingness to relinquish his reputation, and stand by his wife opened her heart to the gospel. When she learned that the "high and lofty one" was willing to leave the glories of heaven, take on a human form, be born of a virgin, identify with sinners by dying in their place; her heart was melted. She had witnessed this type of love in her husband. After she was converted, she wrote the following chorus:

*He laid aside his reputation,
When He came and stood by me.
Willing to take the lowest station,
When He came and stood by me.
That's why I love Him!
That's why I love Him!
He laid aside His reputation,
When He came and stood by me.*

No wonder we are admonished in Philippians, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he *humbled himself* (emphasis added), and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name ..." (2:5-9).

Jesus *humbled himself* and was *highly exalted*. Here we see the divine pattern—the way up is down! Grace rushes to the rescue whenever we take the low road. Mercy always lifts us when we choose to kneel.

"Humility is having insight into our own insignificance," writes Andrew Murray. It is the recognition of God's greatness and our smallness. Self fades when we see God in His rightful place.

"And pray"

"When we depend upon organizations, we get what organizations can do; when we depend upon education, we get what education can do; when we depend upon man we get what man can do; but when we depend upon prayer, we get what God can do," said A.C. Dixon.

Prayer is not overcoming reluctance in God. There is no need

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to attempt strong-arming Deity (which is impossible) to do our bidding. We have a prayer-answering God who delights in responding to the prayers of His children. Jesus gave a parable in Luke chapter eighteen about an unjust judge. This man did not fear God and had no regard for mankind. Yet, he granted a widow her request just to get her to stop bothering him. The point of this parable contrasts our heavenly Father with this wicked judge. The judge was essentially badgered into assisting this woman, but God is quick to answer the prayers of his own elect. God is anxious to respond to the cries of those humble enough to recognize their need. You can ask God to quicken your heart. You can ask God to draw near in mercy. God delights in giving good gifts to His children.

The only things which lie outside the reach of prayer are the things which lie outside the will of God. God puts sanctified desires in the hearts of His people so they in turn utter them back to Him in prayer. Don't minimize or underestimate the value of this mighty asset.

“Seek my face”

The word “seek” means to *search out or strive after*. This verse instructs us to seek God's face while the New Testament tells us to seek *first the kingdom of God*. The main focus in revival is God. It is His person, presence, and pre-eminence which is central. It is not merely His gifts or favors—it is God's immediate presence which we seek.

You will get what you go after. God said, “Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (Jer. 29:13). You will find what you are looking for. Aren't you glad that God guarantees you will find Him when your search is wholehearted? In eternity we will behold Him. But like Absalom said, “What good is it to dwell in Jerusalem if we never see the face of the King?” (2 Sam. 14:28,32 author's summation). Should we not seek His face while we are on earth?

“Turn from their wicked ways”

The purpose of grace is not just to get God to overlook our sin, but to find empowerment to overcome it. Scripture teaches us to deny, not indulge, wicked ways. The *grace of God* that brings *salvation* teaches us to deny *ungodliness and worldly lusts* (Ti. 2:11-12). Grace does not grant a license to sin; rather it liberates us from its bondage.

One reason there is so little conviction of sin in the average church is because Christians tend to compare themselves with other flawed humans. Our sins don't seem so bad when put side by side with the “wicked ways” of the “really wicked” people!

But in the *inner sanctum* of God's immediate presence men begin to see their own hearts as they really are. The searchlight of God's Word, coupled with the laser of the Holy Spirit, reveals “wicked ways” which are un-discerned in low-light conditions. As the goodness of God leads us to repent, we are brought face-to-face with our own lack of holiness. When God's finger is pointed right at me, I am not drawing comparisons with others. My only concern is my own “wicked ways.”

When we as God's people humble ourselves we receive abundant grace to pray, seek His face, and find victory over besetting sins. This is the pattern in preparing for revival.

From **“Revival in Our Time: Outside the Box—Inside the Book!”** (Chapter 9) By Harold Vaughan - [CLICK HERE](#) to order from our web-site.

Prayer & Praise

- Health Issues
- Physical Strength
- God's moving in upcoming meetings.
- Prayer for the successful sale of our travel trailer
- Thankful for great meetings this fall

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Family News

Enjoying
the
Grand-
children



Looking Ahead -

- **Men's Prayer Advance 2017** — [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and to register for the Men's Prayer Advance at Shenandoah Baptist Church in Roanoke, VA on January 26-28. Register now. We are expecting a record attendance at this Advance.
- **Ladies' Prayer Advance 2017** — [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and to register for the Ladies' Prayer Advance at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Roanoke, VA on March 23-25. You won't want to miss this great Advance.
- **Student Prayer Advance 2017** — The Student Advance will be back at Appalachian Bible College in Beckley, WV next year. [CLICK HERE](#) to download the Advance Post Card. Our web site will be updated with details about this Advance soon. Check our web site often for more details.