

Mark A. Finley



Revive
US AGAIN



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A PERSONAL MESSAGE
FROM MARK FINLEY

As you begin your personal journey through the pages of *Revive Us Again*, let me assure you that you are poised on the verge of one of the most thrilling spiritual breakthroughs of your life. I am confident that the Holy Spirit will lead you to a closer walk with Jesus as you peruse these chapters.

My intent in writing this book is not to present some new, startling, sensational information on revival and the Holy Spirit. Although you will discover vital new truths as you read, my real goal is to lead you through God's Word and the writings of Ellen G. White to life-changing spiritual principles.

As you meditatively read each chapter, take time to prayerfully consider the practical implications of what you are reading. As you do, your mind will be open to the deep moving of the Holy Spirit. You will place yourself in an atmosphere of spiritual renewal.

These chapters are to be prayerfully experienced—not merely rapidly read to get through the material as quickly as possible. Each chapter concludes with an Application page. These Application pages are especially designed to lead you

into a prayer and devotional experience for spiritual revival. You will also be led to practical faith-sharing experiences and witness opportunities.

Two powerful statements from the writings of Ellen G. White have guided me in the writing process. I have kept them foremost in my mind.

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs” (*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 121).

“There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out his Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time” (*Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887).

There is nothing that the Seventh-day Adventist Church needs more than a genuine spiritual revival. There is nothing that Satan fears more than this promised revival. There is nothing more important for church administrators, pastors, and church members than seeking this revival together. There is no greater priority.

What possibly could be more critical for the people of God than the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Pentecostal power for the finishing of God’s work on earth? This must be at the top of every board-meeting agenda on all levels of church structure. But revival always begins with one man, one woman, one boy, or one girl on his or her knees, seeking God. You can be that one person who is used of God to bring spiritual revival to your home, your church, your school, or your conference.

God's promise is for you. "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). The Word of God is sure. His promises are certain.

Throughout history, God has sent revivals in response to the prayers of His people. In our day, the long awaited end-time revival will come. The Holy Spirit will be poured out. The work of God on earth will be finished. Jesus will return and we will soon go home.

As you read these pages, may the prayer of your heart be, "Lord, revive us again."



CHAPTER ONE

Prayer and Revival

The greatest revivals in the history of the world have been the result of earnest, heartfelt intercession. The sparks of revival are kindled on the altar of prayer. Revival and prayer are indissolubly linked. Without persevering, prevailing prayer, there is no corresponding power. Ellen White could not be clearer in stating this divine reality. “A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer” (*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 121).

The New Testament church was bathed in prayer. The believers heeded Jesus’ admonition to “wait” for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4). They believed as they sought God together that they would receive “power” when the Holy Spirit descended from heaven upon them (Acts 1:8).

The Acts narrative is plain. Speaking of those early disciples, it states, “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication” (Acts 1:14). In response to these faith-filled prayers, the Holy Spirit was poured out powerfully on Pentecost. Three thousand were baptized in a day. And the record states, “They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts

2:42). These early Christians united in world-changing prayer. And their prayers made a difference. “When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken” (Acts 4:31). “And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 4:33). The disciples gave themselves continually to prayer (Acts 6:4).

Through prayer, Peter was led to the home of Cornelius, a Gentile, and new vistas were open for the proclamation of the gospel (Acts 10:1–33). When the early church united in prayer, God sent an angel from heaven to deliver Peter from prison. Prayer was at the heart of the New Testament churches’ power.

Prayer and the early Advent movement

Prayer was also at the very heart of the early Advent movement. The pioneers of the Advent movement were great men and women of prayer, sometimes spending a good portion of the night in prayer. Describing her experience in these prayer sessions, Ellen White writes, “At our important meetings, these men [early Advent leaders] would meet together and search for truth as for hidden treasure. I met with them, and we studied and prayed earnestly; for we felt we must learn God’s truth. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light, and studying the word. As we fasted and prayed, great power came upon us” (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, p. 413).

Ellen White constantly urged these early Adventists to seek God in prayer. “The greatest victories gained for the cause of God are not the result of labored argument, ample

facilities, wide influence, or abundance of means; they are gained in the audience chamber with God, when with earnest, agonizing faith men lay hold upon the mighty arm of power” (*Gospel Workers*, p. 259).

Believing that the second coming of Christ was imminent, these early Adventists humbled their hearts, confessed their sins, and interceded for their families, friends, and communities.

In March of 1840, William Miller conducted a series of prophetic lectures in the Casco Christian Church in Portland, Maine. Hundreds crowded into the church. Some stayed from early morning until late at night. The Holy Spirit moved powerfully upon the congregation. In her book *Life Sketches*, Ellen White describes the impact of these meetings.

“Terrible conviction spread through the entire city. Prayer meetings were established, and there was a general awakening among the various denominations, for they all felt more or less the influence that proceeded from the teaching of the coming of Christ” (*Life Sketches*, p. 137). Speaking of this revival in Portland, Maine, F. D. Nichol adds, “Little prayer meetings have been set up in almost every part of the city” (*The Midnight Cry*, p. 29).

Here is a certainty regarding genuine revival. Prayer initiates revival. Prayer sustains revival. Prayer nurtures revival, and prayer follows revival.

Revivalist Leonard Ravenhill put it this way, “Without exception, all true revivals of the past began after years of agonizing, hell-robbing, earth-shaking, heaven-sent intercession. The secret to true revival in our own day is still the same.

But where, oh, where, are the intercessors?”

Welsh Revival

One of the greatest revivals in history was the Welsh Revival of 1904. Twenty-six-year-old Evan Roberts had been praying for thirteen years that his life would be totally controlled by the Holy Spirit. He pled with God for an undivided heart—a heart totally committed to the kingdom of God. Evan often prayed late into the night, interceding for the teens and the young adults in his church. He especially prayed regularly that God would visit Wales with revival power. The Welsh Revival began at a youth meeting in Evan Roberts’s own church, Moriah Loughor, when he shared his own experience with God. Evan urged his friends to seek the infilling of God’s Spirit in their own lives. The Holy Spirit touched hearts. Sixteen young people were converted. The sparks of revival begun in this humble village church would ignite the flames of revival throughout the country. It is estimated that within nine months, one hundred thousand people were converted in the tiny country of Wales. The crime rate dropped. Drunkards and prostitutes were transformed by God’s grace. Pubs reported losses. Lloyd George, once prime minister of England, wrote that on one Saturday night at the height of the Welsh Revival one tavern sold only nine cents’ worth of liquor. Many taverns were transformed into places of prayer.

Political meetings and soccer matches were delayed or even postponed because the churches were packed with praying people. Often these prayer services lasted six to eight hours at a time. Hardened, spiritually calloused Welsh coal

miners crowded into these spirit-filled services and returned to the mines changed men. Profanity disappeared from their lips and never returned. It was reported that the pit ponies in the mines failed to understand the commands of these born-again miners who now, without cursing, seemed to speak the language of heaven.

The revival weakened around 1906, but its impact on tens of thousands of lives continued. When one elderly lady was asked why the Welsh Revival seemed to fade away, she quickly responded, "It has never been extinguished. It is still burning in my heart." It had burned in this godly woman's heart for more than seventy years.

An entire nation was changed because a young man, Evan Roberts, and a group of his young friends took our Lord's example of passionate intercession seriously.

A nation changed by prayer

Alfred Lord Tennyson was certainly correct when he said, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." One of the most dramatic moments in recent memory is the fall of the Berlin Wall. Few realize the mighty, concentrated prayer movement that led up to the breathtaking events in East Berlin on November 9, 1989. In 1982, Christian Fühler, a young German pastor in Leipzig, opened the doors of his church each Monday evening for prayer and discussions on freedom. These prayer sessions grew until one Monday night in October of 1989, eight thousand people crowded into the church. Thousands more stood outside the Nikolai Church. A nationwide freedom movement was birthed in the

cradle of prayer. People by the tens of thousands in villages, towns, and cities across East Germany joined the Leipzig intercessors. On that Monday night in October, nearly one million people were praying for freedom. Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, commenting on the absolute necessity of earnest intercession, Pastor Christian Führer declared, “We realized that if we stopped praying, there would be no hope for change in Germany” (“Prayer and the Berlin Wall,” *Cimarronsong* (blog), February 12, 2009, <http://cimarronsong.wordpress.com/2009/02/12>).

One former communist government official who had worked with the Stasi, or East German secret police, gave this amazing testimony. “We were ready for anything, except for candles and prayer.” The Berlin Wall could not stand before the sound of the fervent prayers of God’s people united in seeking Him.

Ellen White states a similar truth about the power of prayer. “At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan’s whole host trembles” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 346). Prayer makes a difference. Intercessory prayer is powerful. Just as the Berlin Wall fell as God’s people prayed, so the walls that keep us from an intimate experience with Jesus fall as we plead with God. The walls that hold back the mighty revival that God longs to send to His church crumble at the sound of earnest intercession. Walls of pride, prejudice, anger, bitterness, lust, complacency, lukewarmness, and materialism all give way to the moving of the Holy Spirit through prayer.

Prayer is an absolute necessity if revival is going to take place. A. T. Pierson makes this insightful observation: “From

the Day of Pentecost, there has not been one spiritual awakening in any land that has not begun in a union of prayer. Though only among two or three; no such outward, upward movement has continued after such prayer meetings have declined” (quoted in Arthur Wallis, *In the Day of Thy Power*, p. 112).

In prayer we humble our hearts before God, acknowledging our total dependence upon Him. In prayer we unite with David pleading, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10). We confess with Daniel, “We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets” (Daniel 9:10). We cry out with Paul, “O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” And with the apostle in prayer, our faith grasps the promises of God and we joyfully exclaim, “I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 7:24, 25).

Prayer opens our lives to God’s cleansing power. During prayer, the Holy Spirit X-rays our souls. We see hidden sins and defects in our characters that keep us from being the powerful witnesses He longs for us to be. Prayer draws us into an intimate relationship with Jesus. In prayer, we open our minds to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We seek His wisdom, not our own.

Prayer and the great controversy

Prayer also enables God, in the context of the great controversy between good and evil, to work more powerfully than if we had not prayed. This conflict between Christ and Satan is a battle between the forces of hell and the forces of

righteousness. The struggle is real. Thousands upon thousands of good and evil angels are involved. The Bible's last book, Revelation, describes the battle this way: "Michael and His angels fought against the dragon and his angels" (Revelation 12:7). One-third of the angels in heaven rebelled against God (Revelation 12:4). These forces of evil bring disappointment, disease, disaster, and death to our world. The forces of righteousness bring joy, peace, health, and life.

Each one of us also participates in this conflict. Ours is a planet in rebellion against God. When our first parents, Adam and Eve, yielded to the temptations of the evil one, they forfeited their God-given dominion of this planet. Satan became the "ruler of this world" (John 12:31). The Bible also calls him "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2). In this great controversy, "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

Prayer is the weapon to defeat the powers of hell. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:4). Through prayer we give God permission to move mightily in our behalf. In this universal struggle, God voluntarily limits Himself. He does not violate our power of choice. God will never force anyone to serve Him.

He is doing everything He can, within the ground rules of the conflict between good and evil, to save all humanity. Whether I pray or not, He is reaching out to my family members. Whether they pray for me or not, He is working in my

life. Whether I pray or not, there is a measure of protection that God gives through angelic beings.

But when I pray and seek Him, I open up through prayer new channels that enable God, in the context of the conflict between good and evil, to do things that He would not do otherwise. God not only respects the power of choice of people who are not praying, He respects my power of choice as I pray. “It is a part of God’s plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 525).

As we pray, God pours out His spirit through us. Prayer enables the illimitable God to help those in need. A marvelous passage in the Bible, 1 John 5:14–17, describes what happens when we pray. Many passages in the Bible encourage us to pray. But this passage does more than admonish us to pray. It does more than urge us to pray. It does more than encourage us; it actually explains why prayer is so effective. In 1 John, chapter 5, verses 14–16, the apostle declares, “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him.” Our confidence is not in our prayers. Our confidence is not in our faith. Our confidence is in Him. The apostle continues, “If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know we have the petitions that we asked of Him.” We can have absolute confidence that as we come to God, He will hear our petitions.

The next verse reveals what happens when we intercede for someone else. “If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death.” The sin which leads to death is the unpardonable sin. It is the point at which people have hardened

their hearts against God. “He will ask.” Who is the *he* who is doing the asking? It is the intercessor. What happens? “He [God] will give him [the intercessor] life for those who commit sin not leading to death.” God pours out His life through us to touch the life of someone else. We are the channels through which God pours out His illimitable power. God honors our heartfelt intercession for someone else. It is intercessory prayer that makes a difference.

The prayer life of Jesus

Jesus is our great model in intercession. He regularly retreated to a quiet place to pray. He sought God for strength to meet the challenges of the day. He pleaded with His Father for strength to overcome Satan’s temptations. The Gospel of Mark records one of Jesus’ early morning prayer sessions in these words: “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed” (Mark 1:35). If Jesus, the Divine Son of God, understood that prayer is a necessity, don’t we need prayer much more in our own lives? Jesus recognized that inner spiritual strength comes through prayer. Luke’s Gospel records Jesus’ prayer habits. “He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed” (Luke 5:16). Prayer was not something Jesus did occasionally when a need or problem arose. Prayer was a vital part of Jesus’ life. It was the key to staying connected to the Father. It was the essence of vibrant spirituality. Jesus’ prayer life was a vital part of His life. Daily the Savior renewed His relationship with His Father through prayer. Jesus’ prayer life gave Him courage and strength to

face temptation. He came from these prayer sessions with a spiritual freshness and deepened commitment to do the Father's will. Describing one of these prayer times, Luke adds, "As He [Jesus] prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening" (Luke 9:29). Jesus radiated the strength that comes from moments in God's presence through prayer. If Jesus, the Divine Son of God, needed time in His Father's presence to overcome the fierce temptations of Satan, we certainly need time in God's presence much more.

Jesus was never too busy to pray. His schedule was never too packed to spend time with His Father in communion. He never had so much to do that He rushed in and out of His Father's presence. Jesus came from these intimate times with God spiritually revived. He was filled with power because He took time to pray.

R. A. Torrey laments the busyness of today's Christianity, which at times is so powerless. Torrey says, "We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little; many services but few conversions; much machinery but few results."

Ellen White makes the same point. "Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real communion with God. They are in too great haste. With hurried steps they press through the circle of Christ's loving presence, pausing perhaps a moment within the sacred precincts, but not waiting for counsel. They have no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work" (*Education*, p. 260).

One thing is for certain. We cannot face the devil in our own strength. Prayer is the answer. Through prayer God bathes us with His presence and power. Through prayer He touches the hearts of our loved ones. Armored with prayer, we can face the enemy at the end times. It is impossible to live godly lives in the end times with an inconsistent prayer life. When our connection with God is broken, our power from God is cut off. When there is little prayer, there is little power. Prayer is our humble acknowledgment that we cannot live the Christian life without His strength. It is the admission of our inability to cope with Satan's temptations alone. Through prayer we are more than able to handle Satan's temptations. The devil is no match for the praying, trusting child of God.

On our knees, pleading with God, we will experience miracles. We will see God's hand move in miraculous ways. As Jesus did, we will come from these seasons of prayer refreshed and invigorated. We will sense that God is working through our prayers to transform the lives of others around us as well.

Would you like to experience a spiritual revival in your own life? Do you desire a renewed spiritual experience? Are you tired of spiritual complacency? Do you long for a spiritual revival in your church?

Our Lord has promised to answer the earnest longings of His children. He will respond as we seek Him. His promises are ours. He has said, "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).

Jesus adds this promise: “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:13).

Four life-changing prayer principles

If you will incorporate the four basic prayer principles outlined below as a regular part of your devotional life, God will pour out His Spirit on you abundantly. Your spiritual life will be revived, and God will use you as a catalyst for revival in your home, your school, your workplace, your neighborhood, and your local church.

1. Set aside a specific time each day to be alone with God.

Place top priority on this uninterrupted quiet time alone in God’s presence. Many have found the ACTS model helpful as a guide to keep their minds focused during their devotional times. You, too, may find it helpful in keeping your thoughts from wandering in your prayer times.

A—Adoration

C—Confession

T—Thanksgiving

S—Supplication

A—Adoration

Begin your prayer time with a period of adoration and praise. Praise God for who He is and what He means to you. The psalmist declares that God inhabits the praises

of His people (Psalm 22:3). Another psalm states, “Whoever offers praise glorifies Me” (Psalm 50:23). Praise lifts our minds from who we are to who He is. It directs our attention to His greatness not our weakness, to His wisdom not our ignorance, and to His might not our feebleness.

C—Confession

Ask God to humble your heart and reveal anything in your life not in harmony with His will. Openly confess the attitudes, habits, and practices He convicts you of that are not Christlike. Confession clears the way for the Holy Spirit to work mightily in our lives. We are told that the disciples entered into this kind of deep soul searching just before Pentecost. “These days of preparation were days of deep heart searching. The disciples felt their spiritual need and cried to the Lord for the holy unction that was to fit them for the work of soul saving” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 37). The Holy Spirit was poured out on these seeking disciples who humbled their hearts in repentance and confession.

T—Thanksgiving

Think of very specific things God has done for you recently and thank Him. The apostle Paul instructs us to “be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of Jesus

Christ” (Ephesians 5:18–20). List the things you are thankful for. Do not take God’s blessings for granted. Thank Him for what He has done for you. You may not be a gifted singer, but let Him place a song of gratitude in your heart during your prayer times and break forth in songs of thanksgiving to the One who is so good to you.

S—Supplication

God is absolutely delighted when we come as little children dependent on our heavenly Father with our requests. Jesus assures us to “Ask, and it shall be given to you” (Matthew 7:7). James admonishes us to “ask in faith without doubting.” (James 1:6). Paul was confident that “my God shall supply all your need” (Philippians 4:19).

We can kneel before the throne of God with the absolute assurance that we will “obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). Bring to Him the desires of your heart. Ask Him to make your heart one with His so your desires are His desires.

The more time we spend with God, the more time we will long to spend in His presence. The Christian life is about knowing God. The more we know Him, the more we will love Him. The ACTS model of prayer will help us to know Him even better.

Our second principle of a revitalized devotional life is this:

2. Read the Bible prayerfully, allowing the Holy Spirit to impress your mind.

Let God’s Word become the subject matter for your prayers.

If prayer is the breath of revival, Bible study is its heart. Prayer and Bible study are the Siamese twins of revival. They are interconnected. The more you pray, the more you will hunger for God's Word. The more you study the Word, the more you desire to pray. Here are a few practical suggestions.

- a. Take one psalm at a time. Read a few verses. Ask what God is saying to you in these verses. Speak to Him in prayer about what the Holy Spirit impresses you. As you pray through the Psalms, you will hear God's voice speaking to your own heart as He spoke to the psalmists.
- b. You may also want to concentrate your devotional life on the last scenes of Christ's life. The Bible contains six chapters on the death of Christ—Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19. Take one chapter at a time. Read a few verses. Visualize the sufferings of Christ for you. Let the Holy Spirit impress you with His enormous sacrifice. You will find your heart broken over your sins that led Him to the cross. You will be strangely warmed by His love, drawn to Him by His grace, and overwhelmed by His sacrifice.

Study the great passages of the Bible prayerfully. It will make a significant difference in your devotional life. Let God speak to you through His Word. Pray with the psalmist, "Revive me according to Your word" (Psalm 119:154).

If we follow this counsel of God's last day messenger, we

will see marvelous results. “Take the Bible, and on your knees plead with God to enlighten your mind. If we would study the Bible diligently and prayerfully every day, we should every day see some beautiful truth in a new, clear, and forcible light” (*Review and Herald*, March 4, 1884).

We now come to our third principle of a revived prayer life.

3. Learn to pray aloud.

Secret prayer is not necessarily silent prayer. Often during our daily activities, it is appropriate to send up silent petitions. During our devotional times, praying aloud keeps the mind concentrated on God. Jesus prayed aloud.

The disciples were so impressed when they heard the Savior praying aloud that they asked Him to teach them to pray like He did (Luke 11:1). In Gethsemane, Jesus committed Himself to do the Father’s will at any cost. Matthew’s Gospel records that Jesus fell on His face three times saying, “Not My will but Thy will be done.” Obviously, Jesus was praying out loud (see Matthew 26:36–44).

The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus “offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death” (Hebrews 5:7).

Again Ellen White instructs us to “learn to pray aloud where only God can hear you” (*Our High Calling*, p. 130). We need not fear that somehow Satan is listening to our prayers, knows what we are praying, and is preparing some strategy to deceive us for we are assured that “at the sound of fervent prayer, Satan’s whole host trembles” and God answers our petitions by sending legions of angels, causing

Satan's host to fall back (*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 346).

Follow the example of Jesus by praying aloud during your devotional time. At first it may be a little difficult, but as you continue, the Holy Spirit will lead you into a rich experience with the Master.

This leads us to our fourth principle of prevailing prayer and spiritual revival.

4. Organize a small prayer group of three to five people and covenant to meet together at least once a week to pray.

The New Testament church united in praying for the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14; 4:31). Jesus instructed His disciples to pray together. "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:19, 20).

Commenting on this passage, Ellen White adds, "The promise is made on the condition that the united prayers of God's people are offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected a greater power than that which comes in answer to private prayer. The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love for God and for one another" (*The Central Advance*, February 25, 1903). This is an amazing statement full of encouragement for God's people today. There is special, unusual power in praying together. When we put aside our personal agendas, unite in prayer, and pour out our hearts to God, He answers far beyond our expectations.

The history of revival is the rich history of a praying people. It is the history of the church seeking God together. The church is revived when members establish multiple prayer bands and pour their hearts out to God.

Why not begin a prayer band in your home? Why not invite a few friends to join you in seeking God for a deeper spiritual experience? Why not intercede with a few close companions for your family, friends, and neighbors who may not know Jesus and His message for our time?

A praying father or mother can make an incredible difference in the lives of their children. A praying husband or wife can make an amazing difference in their marriage. Praying church members can make a huge difference in their church. Prayer groups make a difference in the community. Praying students can change the atmosphere in their school. The legacy of prayer giants such as Moses, Joseph, and Daniel demonstrates that praying people change the course of history.

Do you want to plant the seeds of revival? Bathe your life in prayer. Cover your family with prayer. Saturate your neighborhood with prayer. Intercede for your spouse, your work associates, your friends, and your neighbors. Lift up your petitions to the God who hears. Seek the One whose ear is always bent low, listening for the requests of His children. Open your heart to a Savior who is more interested in answering your prayers than you are in praying.

When you do, you will have discovered the all-essential key to revival for both your own life and God's end-time church.

MY PERSONAL APPLICATION

“Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from the spiritual death” (*Review and Herald*, February 25, 1902). Revival occurs not simply as we read about it, but as we put into practice the biblical elements of revival. The New Testament church maintained a vital experience with Jesus through prayer, Bible study, and witnessing.

This is the first of a series of practical applications of the spiritual principles we will discuss in each chapter. As you put these principles into practice in your own life, you will discover the key to personal spiritual revival. Your experience with Jesus will be deeper and more intimate than you ever thought possible.

Each application section will focus especially on the theme of the chapter that you have just read. Listed below is a devotional exercise for this coming week. You can use it as an outline for your prayer life.

In chapter 1, we have introduced the ACTS model of prayer. As you kneel before God:

1. Choose three specific things to praise Him for. Spend a few moments simply adoring Him.
2. Think of something specific in your life that is not in harmony with His will and confess that one thing to Him.

3. Choose three things to thank Him for.
 - a. Regarding some personal trait in your own life
 - b. Regarding your family
 - c. Regarding your church family

Present the greatest need in your life right now before God and claim the promise in Philippians 4:19, “My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

