

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025
52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 19 - GOD'S RECIPE FOR REVIVAL

2 Chronicles 7: 14

"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 I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Within the heart of each of us is a longing for something more, a season of new spiritual refreshing, a personal revival. God has His own recipe for revival in our hearts. He has written it down for all of us: "If My people will ... then I will hear from heaven" And when this recipe is followed precisely and put into practice, it will result in a new spirit reanimating us and enabling us to soar into spiritual regions some of us may have never known. Much talk of revival is from human's side, human viewpoint. Thus, it becomes human-centered. For a moment, let's seek to transport ourselves and view personal revival from the throne of God. That is from God's point of view.

GOD'S DESIRE "If My people ... then .."

God is waiting, willing, and longing to send a new spirit of revival to His people. However, He does not overrule our own will. Consequently, in a very real sense, while revival is always the sovereign work of God, it is also conditional. The Bible says, "**If My people**" If certain conditions are met, certain results will follow. God longs to send revival to us: "not wanting anyone to perish" (2 Peter 3:9). There is a very real sense in which personal revival is not a miracle. It is simply God's promised response to conditions met by His people.

GOD'S DESIGN "If My people"

God's problem today is not with the lost but with His own people. Many are pointing to the decay of our culture as being the result of the decline of our moral fabric and the influence of secular, and often downright godless factors around us. However, God reveals that the real issue is not with "them" but "us". Or, as Jesus once said, we should not try to get the speck out of someone else's eye until we first remove the plank from our own eye (Matthew 7:3-5). God's design for revival begins with His own people.

GOD'S DEMAND

"humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways"

God's demand begins with a call for His own people to "humble themselves," to recognise and confess their need to seek Him in all things. The Christian must be on constant vigil to avoid the temptation of spiritual pride and self-centredness. True humility involves a broken spirit before the Lord. Second, God calls His people to pray. Not some mere reciting of a given prayer but an earnest calling out to Him. Every true revival in history has been born and cradled in the place of prayer. (see Acts 4:31). Next God demands that we "seek (His) face". He said to Jeremiah, "You will seek Me and find me when you seek Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13). Much of our praying seems to be consumed with seeking something from His hand in the way of material or physical needs. Perhaps too little of our praying is consumed with simply seeking His face for personal revival. God's demand also includes turning from our "wicked ways." Sin that is unconfessed and therefore unforgiven is the greatest obstacle to revival.

GOD'S DELIGHT

"I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

God's delight is to forgive and cleanse us of our sin. Why? So that we might appropriate all that the cross of Christ involves, so that, as far as we might personally be concerned, His death would not be in vain. God delights more in healing our hearts and our homes than we do ourselves. He is willing, waiting, and longing to be faithful because of conditions we are called to meet. This great God, who sees a small sparrow when it falls to earth, cares much more for you (Matthew 6: 25-27, 10:29).

As you memorise this verse, meditate on the fact that personal revival, while it is God's work, is also conditional: "**If My people then I will hear from heaven,**" God has a recipe for personal revival. Our part is not that difficult. It simply calls for us to follow the directions.