

REVIVAL

Preparing for Revival

**A 14 Day Devotional
and Prayer Guide to
Unify the Church in
Preparing for Revival**

Preparing For Revival

Revival for his people is the longing and the craving of God's heart. Revival is an absolute necessity for the life and ministry of the church. We need a true spiritual awakening, a revival. The world needs for the church to come alive in the power and reality of Jesus Christ. We are living in the end-times, during which God has promised to pour out his spirit in unprecedented revival. All of this does not guarantee that revival will come just because we schedule a series of meetings with an evangelist. As a matter of fact, in order to experience true revival the church must prepare for revival. Preparation for revival is simple, yet requires our effort, energy, and commitment. Preparation for revival includes making physical arrangements so that you can attend the services, planning your giving ahead of time to make sure you budget your money allowing you to give as God directs, inviting family, friends, co-workers, etc., praying, (repenting, interceding, spiritual warfare, etc.) reading the Bible, fasting, refusing to be hindered or defeated by anything, and being 100% obedient to God. As we have said, preparing for revival is simple, but it also is not easy. Make the determination now to join with your church, and many other members of Eastern North Carolina as we together prepare for revival.

Prayer Requests during Revival

Prayer Reports from Revival

The word God spoke to my heart during revival

Revival begins today. Do a final check to make sure you are prepared:

- Made arrangements to attend each service.
- Heard from God about my revival giving & budgeted accordingly.
- Have invited several people (especially unchurched, unsaved, and needy people) to attend revival with me. I have made arrangements to pick them up, if needed.
- Am personally prayed-up, have sanctified myself, and ready for the move of God.
- Have cultivated a high level of expectancy for what God is going to do in my life, in the lives of those I bring to church with me, and in our church itself.
- Am ready to be totally obedient to anything and everything God tells me to do.
- Am already praising and worshipping God for who he is and what he is going to do.

If you have checked all seven off, you are ready for revival. If not, don't waste another second. Start getting ready right now.

Day One

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:1-27

Underline in your Bible every time you see the words "And God said" in Genesis chapter one. Now go back and read the verses that surround each time God said something. As you read back through this chapter, notice what happened every time God said something. What happened is that his word was exactly accomplished just as he had spoken it.

God, through his word, created this entire universe. What unimaginable power is resident in God's word. It contains creative power, saving power, delivering power, and healing power, power for any and everything you will ever need.

As we prepare for this revival, understand that God's word has not changed. Neither has the power of his word diminished. Find what the word says about the situation you are in or the problem you face. Trust God's power to accomplish it just as he has spoken it. If you trust his word, he will.

Day Two

Bible Reading: Jeremiah 1:11-12

The amplified bible translates verse 12, "Then said the Lord to me, you have seen well, for I am alert and active, watching over my word to perform it." The NIV translates it, "The Lord said to me, you have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled." The NASB translates it, "Then the Lord said to me, you have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

What all of this simply means is that God did not just speak his word and forget it. He is actively watching over the things he has said, anxiously anticipating the moment when someone will read, accept, believe, and act on what he has said. When a person exercises faith in this manner, God hastens to perform the promise he has made in his word. What do you need? Find God's word about it and exercise your faith. God is waiting for you.

Day Three

Bible Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

God made humanity a promise in Genesis 8:22 that as long as the earth remained, the cycles of seed time and harvest would continue. Part of the seed time and harvest cycle is the seasons of rain that water the earth. Rains come and provide the needed moisture for plants to grow. Without the rains no crops could grow.

We would agree that it would be absurd to say the rains come but do not accomplish the purpose of providing moisture. Rains, by nature provide moisture; it can be no other way. God's word operates on the same principle. It is impossible for God's word to go forth and not accomplish its intended purpose. As you read the word of God, yield to God's purpose in sending that word to you, and his word will be fulfilled in your life.

Day Four

Bible Reading: Romans 1:16-32

In speaking to the Sadducees (*Mark 12:24*) Jesus asked the following question: "*Are you not therefore mistaken or deceived, because you do not know the scriptures or the power of God?*" God's word has resident within it unimaginable power. Creative power, saving power, delivering power, healing power, power for any and everything you will ever need. In order to access this power, you must come to know the scriptures. You cannot walk in truth you do not know. Contrary to the popular saying, what you don't know can hurt you.

To emphasize the message of this devotional, allow me to again quote Jesus words (*John 8:32*), "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The truth you know, accept, believe, and act upon will, by the resident power within it, destroy all of the bondages that hold you captive. Find what the word says about your area of need. Accept it. Believe it. And act upon it. The power of God through his word will set you free.

Day Fourteen

Bible Reading: Psalm 100, Joel 2:23-29, & Acts 2:39

The psalmist said in Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." As we come together today for the first services of our revival, let's fulfill this passage. Let's come into the church building with thankful hearts for the privilege of free assembly and worship of God. Let's be mindful of his many blessings, and gratefully expectant of what God is going to do among us today. Let's make the determination that we are going to praise and worship our God in every way possible, (singing, clapping, lifting hands, giving, listening, etc). Then follow through with that choice by our actions. Also, let's be carefully obedient to all he may want us to do.

The Bible promises where as few as two or three come together in this manner, God will be there too. If God is present, there is no sin so sinful, no illness so ill, no problem so hard, and no need so great, that he can't take care of it. As a matter of fact, God specializes in what is beyond humanity. I believe he is going to perform the miraculous this week. I challenge you to believe it, expect it, and receive it.

☐ Day Thirteen

Bible Reading: John 2:1-11 (key verse 5)

God's Power + Your Obedience = Victory.

It's a formula that works. If we want to see the miraculous in our life and in our church, then we must recognize the absolute necessity of complete obedience. A quick glance into the life of a familiar man from the Bible will stir our minds.

Noah: he lived in an inland city away from any major body of water. Up to this point, rain had never fallen upon the earth. God speaks to Noah one day (normal, ordinary day) and instructs him to build a boat, a very large boat at that. God instructs him to begin preaching to everyone the warning of impending doom through a global flood.

Against all logic, in spite of circumstances that showed God's warning as practically impossible, or at least improbable, Noah starts working to build his big boat. For over one hundred years, he works on the boat and preaches God's warning. No one believes him; as a matter of fact, they mock him. But then God calls Noah, his family, and the animals onto the ark, shuts the doors, and then seven days later it starts raining.

For forty days and nights it rains. For almost a year, the ark floats on the flood waters until finally they recede enough for earth's highest mountain peak to dry off, and the ark strikes land.

God's power + Noah's obedience = the salvation of Noah, his family (the human race, because everyone else died), and the animal kingdom. If we want the miraculous in our lives and in our church, we must be obedient to God. (No matter what he says to do, do it.)

☐ Day Five

Bible Reading: Luke 17:5-10

In this well-worn passage we see the promise of faith's power. Faith in God, even as small an amount of faith that its size would be comparable to a mustard seed, when exercised will produce miraculous results.

Botanists tell us that a mulberry tree is one of the most difficult trees to uproot. Nevertheless, the smallest portion of faith, when it is exercised, can demand that a mulberry tree be uprooted, and planted in the sea. It has no choice but to obey. Just as a servant's job is to serve his employer, faith's job is to link us with the miraculous power of God. It's just what faith does. The measure of faith God has already given to you [see *Romans 12:3*] is more than enough. If exercised, it will produce the miraculous in and through your life. Exercise your faith in God.

☐ Day Six

Bible Reading: Romans 10:1-13

God's word is the word of faith. It is the word worthy of being trusted, believed, and acted upon. It is the word with inherent power to save, deliver, heal, provide, and take care of every need we will ever have as human beings.

Hebrews 4:2, however, warns us that it is possible to hear the word of faith and not believe it. If we fall into doubt, we will receive none (zero, zilch) of the benefits provided in and by God's word of faith. How should we then exercise faith in God's word of faith? When we have heard the word, we must mentally accept it as truth; believe in our hearts that its truth is for us; and speak with our mouths the needed application of God's truth, the word of faith. Then as we stand on the confession of the word of faith, we will eventually see the results and possess the promise of God.

We will always have a choice between accepting the word of the world (the word of doubt) and God's word of faith. We will also be wise to realize that the world's word of doubt will be brought to us repeatedly through our times of trial. We must continually reject the evil report of the world's word of doubt, and continually hold fast to our confession of God's word of faith. Revival is coming. Get your faith ready, and believe God for the miraculous.

□ Day Seven

Bible Reading: Isaiah 61:1-3 and Luke 4:16-21

Jubilee -- the time of setting free. All debts were canceled, families were reunited. There was the returning of the things that had been taken away. What a glorious time. What a wonderful year. The year of Jubilee. (see *Leviticus 25:8-55*) Unfortunately, for the ancient Israelite, Jubilee was a once every 50 years, or once in a lifetime experience.

Beginning with the Luke 4:16-21 passage, however, Jubilee became a lifestyle available to the believer in Christ Jesus. For far too long now, we have lived as if we were slaves, ruled over by debt and our creditors, sick, depressed, separated, and dejected. It is time we realize the truth of jubilee found in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has come to set us free and to proclaim our liberty. The Apostle Paul adds that since it was for freedom we have been set free, we should refuse to be held in bondage to anyone or anything. During this revival stand to your feet and proclaim your liberty and freedom in Christ. Demand that the devil return all of your treasure that he had been allowed to steal, and never let him have access to it again. Satan is defeated. Jesus is Lord, and you are in Christ victorious. It's your jubilee.

□ Day Twelve

Bible Reading: Numbers 3:4, Leviticus 10:1-3,
2 Samuel 6:1-15, & 1 Samuel 13:1-14

Just prior to the miraculous giving of the promised land to Israel, Joshua 3:5 records, *“And Joshua said to the people, ‘Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.’”* Preparing for revival (for the move of God) is very serious business. Throughout the Bible, God gave specific instructions on how his people were to prepare for his presence. If those detailed preparations were not followed, his presence brought judgment, death, plagues, a curse, etc. Allow me to remind you of a few instances recorded in the scriptures: **1)** Aaron's two sons, Nadab and Abihu {Numbers 3:4 & Leviticus 10:1-3} **2)** Uzzah's untimely death {2 Samuel 6:1-15} **3)** King Saul of Israel {1 Samuel 13:1-14}. Beyond these three examples, there is a very clear warning against behaving presumptuously and God's people coming before him unprepared.

It is found in Deuteronomy 17:12-13, *“Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the Lord your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away evil from Israel. And all the people shall hear and fear, and no longer act presumptuously.”*

As a church, we believe for a true, sovereign move of God in revival. Therefore we must take seriously our time of preparation. Examine your life. Repent as needed. Make arrangements to be in attendance each revival service. (Even if it is a sacrifice, it will be worth it. Don't take a chance on missing out on your blessing). Ask God to speak to you about your giving for this revival. Rearrange your budget according to what God says. Invite several people (especially the unchurched, unsaved, and needy) to come to Revival with you; and come with high expectations of what God will do!

Day Eleven

Bible Reading: Matthew 8:16 & Acts 5:16

Most of us have heard of the miraculous revivals of the “good old days”. We have often marveled at the stories of mighty miracles told to us by missionaries fresh from some far-away land. We read in the Bible how Jesus healed all who were sick and delivered all who were possessed by demons. Then we look at our lives and examine our church services, and even our revivals. We can’t help but notice that we do not seem to have happening what we used to have. We want what the missionaries in far-away lands have, or what Jesus had. Many of us cannot even remember the last time we witnessed a verifiable miracle.

Why? Why don’t we see the miraculous like we used to, like missionaries are seeing, like Jesus performed? Before we attempt to answer that question, let’s establish an important fact: God has not changed. He still can, and does perform miracles. Isaiah 30:18 (NIV) says, “*Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you, he rises to show you compassion.*” God craves the opportunity to perform the miraculous.

At least a part of the problem is revealed in Matthew 8:16 and Acts 5:16. In both of these verses we find a common denominator describing what made the miracles possible. It was the fact that the believers **brought** the sick, demon possessed, and needy to Jesus or to his church. If you want to begin to see the miraculous taking place in our church, find and start bringing those who need a miracle to church with you. Start this week during revival.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday
 Thursday Friday Saturday

As we prepare to enter this final week of preparation for revival, please pick at least one of the days above in which you will fast at least one meal, and spend at least 30 minutes in prayer on behalf of the revival. The combination of prayer, fasting, and time in God’s word will produce a readiness in your life for revival. We believe God for a setting free of his people during this revival.

Day Eight

Bible Reading: Acts 4:1-22

How would you respond if the publisher’s clearinghouse prize patrol van had just left your house having given you a ten million dollar check? Would you remain quite, tell no one about it, and continue to live as if nothing had happened? Of course not, you would have an ear-to-ear smile on your face. You would call or take a quick trip to your family’s house and excitedly share the joyous news of your winnings. You would probably quit your current job, buy some of the things you have always wanted, and of course pay your tithes. As a Christian, a believer in Jesus Christ, you actually have far greater news than publisher’s clearinghouse could ever bring. Your benefits are better and much longer lasting (eternal). Yet, many Christians never share the good news of Jesus with anyone.

During this revival, allow God to move in your life so that this will have to change. Let him touch you so that like Peter and John, you “*Cannot but speak the things which you have seen and heard.*” Don’t wait until the revival to start. Start telling someone today, and invite them to revival.

□ Day Nine

Bible Reading: I John 4:1-19

“I can’t do this”, “I just can’t handle this”, and “This is just too much”. It is amazing, isn’t it that we are all so quick to say things like the above, yet claim to be born again and even spirit-filled.

Many times when we face challenges, obstacles, or satanic assaults, our automatic reaction is to panic, to run, to doubt the outcome of the situation, and to be overcome by fear. But for the truly born again, spirit-filled man or woman, these all too common reactions are totally out of character.

Let’s quit candy-coating it. They are downright wrong. “Why?” you ask.

2 Corinthians 6:16 says, “...for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” The truth is God, the almighty God, lives within every born again, spirit-filled man and woman. Think about that for a moment. The God who is almighty, omnipotent, who possesses by his very being and nature, all potential to do any and everything he chooses, lives within you.

As a matter of fact, the truth of the scriptures goes even deeper when Galatians 2:20 says, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

That is why Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13.) God’s word says you can face, handle, and overcome every one of the challenges, obstacles, or satanic assaults that come against your life.

Watch your mouth. Stop making the doubt filled statements we so often have been guilty of making. Start speaking in agreement with God’s word.

□ Day Ten

Bible Reading: Romans 12:1-2

“Life transformation” “Change” to many of us these are frightening, even terrifying words. We often balk at or fight the very idea of change. Even if our present situation is undesirable, at least it is our situation. We know it, and dare I say, we are comfortable with it. We are comfortable with our discomfort, our pain, our disease, our circumstances, and our life. Many times the risk of facing the factor of the unknown is imagined to be worse than living with the unsatisfactory present.

“Well, pastor, that’s just human nature. That’s the way we are, and there is nothing we can do about it. It isn’t really hurting anybody.” That’s where you are wrong.

Listen to what God’s word says about the refusal to change. *Psalm 55:19* “*God will hear them, and afflict them, even he who abides from of old. Selah **because they do not change, therefore they do not fear God.***” The scripture commands us to be transformed by God’s word. To be transformed is to be changed. God’s plan is to change you to be like his son, Christ Jesus (see *Romans 8:26-30.*)

Revival is all about life transformation. It is about the sinner being transformed into a saint; the sick being made well; the bound getting set free; etc. *John 5:6* says “*When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, he said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’*” I echo the intent of this probing question of Jesus. Are you willing to let God transform, bless, empower, and lift you up? If you are willing, he is able.