

IT'S TIME TO LEAD!

The messages God had for the churches of Asia Minor were addressed to the angels/messengers of the churches. His expectation then and now is that the pastors will follow His instructions and lead in reviving the church and redeeming the culture.

Will our present level of concern for revival and awakening result in God sending revival? It may be that our first level of prayer concern would be for God to revive our hearts as pastors, and then use us as the means through whom He would revive our churches.

As Jonathan Edwards, the great leader of the First Great Awakening observed we need “**explicit agreement** and **visible union** among God’s people in **extraordinary prayer!**”

OUR CURRENT NEED ...is great. If we are to see the revival we long for we must move to a new level of agreement and united prayer. If we continue with the same level and intensity of prayer we can only expect the same results we are now seeing.

YOUR LEADERSHIP As pastors and spiritual leaders, God is calling us *now* to lead those around us into new experiences of desperate, sustained, fervent prayer for revival in the church and spiritual awakening among the lost.

PRAYER MEETINGS MUST BE LED! This booklet is designed to give you a simple, practical guide to leading your people into significant experiences in prayer. Prayer that moves heaven. Prayer that makes a difference. Prayer that precedes revival.

God has promised that the “effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man” can accomplish much. And, he is uniquely moved by the fervent prayer of His Bride, the church. It is irresistible to Him.

WHERE DO WE START?

There is a difference between a **SINGLE** prayer meeting for revival and awakening and a **SUSTAINED** movement of prayer in your church or city. Both are addressed in this booklet.

A SINGLE, SUNDAY MORNING OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND AWAKENING

Below is a **sample** of a flow for a Sunday morning prayer service. Remember, corporate prayer needs to be **led**. God will give you the grace and power to lead people into His throne room and cry out to Him! He is more interested in this than you are!

11:00 SONG ON REVIVAL, INVITING GOD’S PRESENCE

11:05 WELCOME AND EXPLANATION ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF THE DAY. Tell of the need for revival and the stories of what God is doing across the nation, uniting people in an urgent desire for awakening. Share about the movement in the Southern Baptist Convention recently and the whole night devoted to prayer. Share about the Pastor’s Prayer Gathering in Arkansas and that many churches are developing new ways to move to MORE prayer, extraordinary prayer for revival and awakening.

Read the following Scriptures, reminding people that every time all of God’s people **cry out** in prayer, God has committed Himself to answer: Exodus 2:23-24; Numbers 11:1-2; 20:16; 1 Samuel 12:8-10; 1 Chronicles 5:20; Psalm 22:4-5; 107:6,13,19,28; Lamentations 2:17-19; Joel 1:14-15

Tell the people we are going to move through several movements of prayer. Remind them they that if do not feel comfortable praying aloud, that’s okay. They can simply join in their heart with those around them. Take a moment, as the pastor, to pray over the people that God would descend in this prayer time and graciously **LEAD US ALL IN PRAYER!**

11:15 SONG: INVITING GOD’S PRESENCE

11:20 SEEKING GOD’S FORGIVENESS. Invite the people to begin by coming before the Lord with prayers of repentance. Ask them to stand and gather in groups of 3-4 or you could have 1-2 people pray over the church.

“Our nation is filled with sins...and we are filled with sin! Let’s think together about every area of disobedience that the Lord brings to mind...both in our own lives and our city, our nation...and pray prayers asking for God’s cleansing and forgiveness. LET’S PRAY!”

(Play music quietly. When you see that people seem to be finishing, move to a song. Don’t wait until it’s awkward and silent. Feel free to move to the next phase even if some are still praying.)

11:30 SONG: THANKING GOD FOR HIS BLOOD THAT CLEANSSES US

11:35 PRAYING FOR REVIVAL IN OUR CHURCH AND THE CHURCHES IN OUR CITY/TOWN. Revival is what God brings to the church. Spiritual awakening is the extraordinary movement of God to awaken those without Christ. For the next few minutes lead the people to pray for genuine revival in your church.

“What needs to be revived? Our children? Students? Families? Adults? Programs and ministries? What needs to be brought to life again? Let’s pray for great reviving in us and these areas! What we need is an invasion of the manifest presence of God in our church and the churches in our area! LET’S PRAY!”

Spend some time praying for areas of revival in your church. Then ask the people to pray for every church in town that God would send revival there. You might ask them to pray out loud at the same time, praying for every church in your region.

11:45 SONG: THAT GOD WOULD REVIVE HIS CHURCH

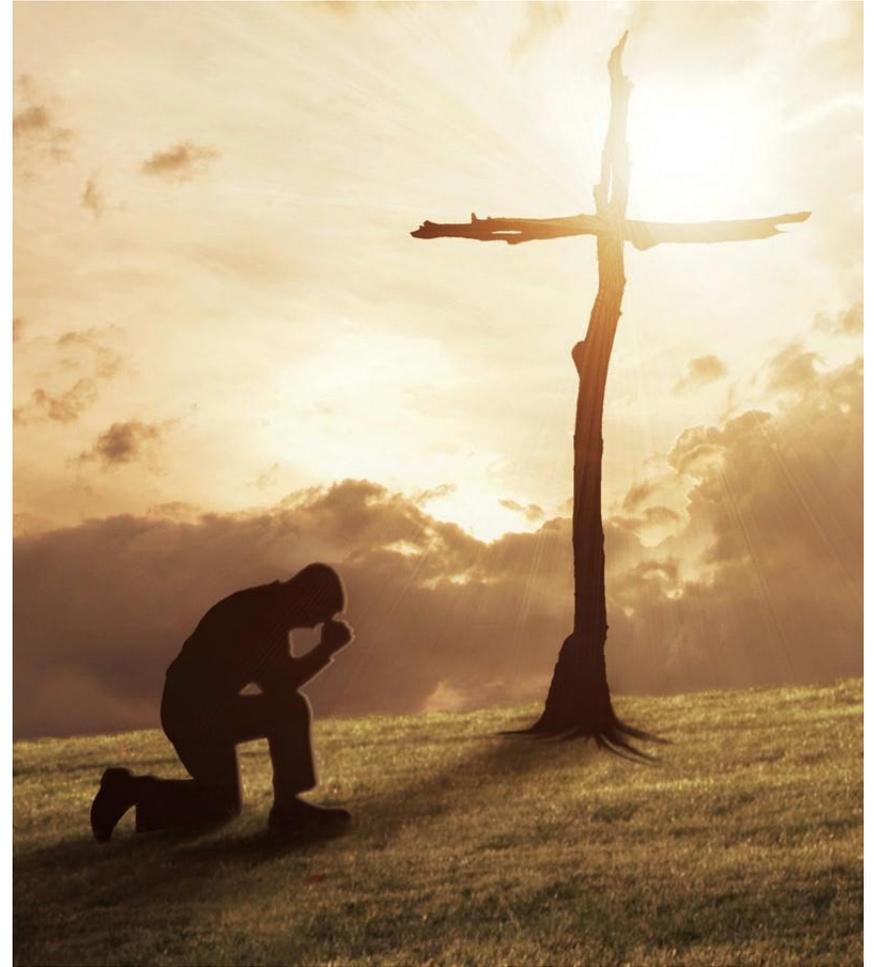
11:50 PRAYING FOR AWAKENING IN OUR NATION.

Talk for a moment about the desperate need in our nation. Remind them that God is speaking strongly to us, warning us and calling us to repentance. Read I Timothy 2:1-2.

“If your child was dying and you were called on to pray, how would you pray? Right now, let’s pray fervent prayers, desperate prayers for our nation that God would be merciful and that He would descend and save millions of people! Pray that God would bring His presence into different areas of our nation (government, education, families, etc.)—everything that God brings to mind. LET’S PRAY!”

12:00 SONG: THAT GOD WOULD HEAL OUR LAND

12:05 CLOSING, INVITATION, ETC. If you have decided to continue with some special regular prayer meetings, take time to explain why you are doing this and give the details.



SUSTAINED PRAYER *(Developing Persevering Prayer for Awakening)*

There are multiple ways to increase the brokenness, repentance, and persevering prayer for revival in your church. Remember, these prayer meetings are not just for random things, but specifically praying for revival and spiritual awakening. It would be vital in these dark days to preach a series on revival and spiritual awakening. These are just the kind of times that God has usually sent revival.

One of the helps you may want to consider is the “OneCry Church Experience.” It is a 40-day complete guide on this theme with sermons, small group materials, etc. *(You can find this and other resources at www.onecry.com)*

DEVELOP A RHYTHM OF PRAYER

The National Prayer Committee (and many other prayer groups around the nation) has adopted the **NATIONAL PRAYER ACCORD** as a way of organizing sustained prayer for spiritual awakening. It follows a clear, sustainable pattern. *(For more information see <http://www.prayerconnect.net/resources/prayer-accord>).* Invite your church to join with thousands of churches across the nation and pray...

1. **Once a week:** either as individuals or groups, praying specifically for revival and awakening.
2. **Once a month:** in a special church-wide meeting for prayer (perhaps the 1st Monday of each month). Remember, this is not just a normal prayer meeting, but specifically for revival and awakening.
3. **Once a quarter:** with one or more churches in the area. Join together for a night of worship and prayer for the church and nation, praying specifically for revival and awakening. This could be with one other church or with multiple churches. It could be a Baptist gathering or cross-denominational. This is the UNITED prayer that we need. You will find that many pastors are very open to this right now, understanding the need in our nation.
4. **Once a year:** with millions of believers across the nation on the National Day of Prayer (which is always the first Thursday in May). You could make this one of your quarterly prayer gatherings.

POTENTIAL TIMES FOR CONTINUED PRAYER FOR REVIVAL.

Every pastor and church must decide what works best for their schedule. Usually, to make room for prayer, something else must be deleted. In light of the urgency of the hour around us, make corporate prayer for revival a priority! You might schedule these times on...

- Occasional Sunday mornings
- First Mondays of every month
- Men/Women’s prayer groups (early morning men’s groups before work seem to work best for the men)
- Leaders prayer times
- Day of prayer
- Seasons of fasting and prayer: Preach on fasting and its role in revival. Call the church to a 10 day or 40 day fast—from food, media, etc., whatever God tells them—for the purpose of prayer
- Prayer summit/retreat: take a prayer retreat. Get someone who has done this to help lead this time. Retreat for a Friday night and Saturday morning just for the purpose of extraordinary prayer.
- If you already have a prayer meeting time, devote one of your normal meetings to pray for nothing but revival and spiritual awakening

ADDITIONAL CORPORATE PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

Here are some quick, additional suggestions on leading corporate prayer for revival and awakening.

1. **Prayer for Revival in specific areas:** Bring the school superintendent or principal or teachers, government officials, law enforcement officers, etc. in for a night. Invite them to share how you could pray for them. Spend a night of prayer that God would send awakening across the area and state and nation.
2. **Use Video Helps:** Take the first 30 minutes to listen together to Jim Cymbala’s message on “My House Shall be Called a House of Prayer” or J. Edwin Orr’s famous message on “The Role of Prayer in

Spiritual Awakening” (both of these can be found and downloaded on YouTube.) Afterward, move to a prayer time along these lines.

3. **Use Scripture.** Take Psalm 85, 2 Chronicles 7, or any other revival related passage of Scripture. Read a section and ask the people to “pray that in” on the theme that the writer has written about.
4. **Use Communion** at the end of a corporate prayer time, reminding the people that the Cross is what makes revival possible.
5. **Use the book “OneCry: A Nationwide Call for Spiritual Awakening,”** by Byron Paulus and Bill Elliff, and walk through the Six Revival Realities. Summarize 1 reality at the beginning of each prayer meeting and then pray along that theme throughout the prayer time.
6. **Ask God to raise up an army of intercessors!** He will answer this prayer. Pray for more intercessors for your church and the churches in your town. Don’t be discouraged by small numbers. Rejoice in those God brings and pray that their prayers will be mighty. And then ask God to increase the burden in the church so much that others will pay the price for prevailing prayer!

***For additional helps, go to www.onecry.com for free, downloadable videos and e-books such as...**

- *Developing a Culture of Revival in Your Church*
- *Inviting God’s Manifest Presence to Your City*
- *Preaching Toward Revival*
- *Praying for Revival*
- *Draw a Circle* (on personal revival)

Special thanks to the authors of this prayer guide: Manley Beasley, Jr., Bill Elliff, and Don Moore.



 **Arkansas**
BAPTISTS