

Prayer Guide Based on Isaiah 35 (NIV):

(Praying for the Hope of Revival)

Those who have experienced revival in the past, have often not been prepared for the way God chooses to manifest His presence in the midst of His people. God has no “formula” for how He comes to us. It is important to remember that we cannot expect God to conform to how or what we “think” revival should be like. Isaiah 35 gives us a glimpse of what can happen during a time when God shows up, but by not having specific expectations or biases, we can allow God to do what He wants to change His people forever.

As we pray through Isaiah’s account, ask God to give you a deep commitment to pray continually that He will show up in the midst of His people.

- **New Life**

One of the first signs of revival is new life, whether it is in an individual or a church. The word “revive” means to bring back to life. Isaiah draws a picture of a dry desert that appears to be lacking in life...but when it begins to rain, the buried seed bursts into the glorious colors of life:

“The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon...” (vs. 1-2)

Pray: Is there something that has been dormant or lifeless that you long to see and experience when God brings new life to it...to you? Take some time now to ask God for it!

- **The Presence of God**

New life is marked by and leads to a fresh vision of the “manifest presence” of God. The presence of God’s Spirit in the life of a believer is a biblical fact. Revival is when believers walk in actual awareness of what we know is true:

“...they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God” (vs. 2).

Pray: In times of revival, God’s people have sometimes been overwhelmed by the experience of His presence. Pray that you will be open to whatever God’s glory and splendor display themselves.

- **Strength**

The fresh awareness of Christ working within us through His Spirit for the sake of His Kingdom can lead to renewed strength for ministry and service. Revival sparks a renewed energy for what God desires to do in and through us:

“Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”

Pray: Ask God to bring forth new levels of energy and productivity in you, and in all believers, so that you are able to serve His Kingdom with renewed strength and enthusiasm.

- **Healing**

It was not unusual in past seasons of revival for physical healings to take place in response to the working of God's Spirit among His people. The deep work of God within the spirits of His people can spill over to touch the physical body as well. What will happen universally for the people of God in eternity happens in the Lord's timing and choosing in the midst of revival.

"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy."

Pray: Is there something in you or in someone you love that needs healing? Ask God for the faith to believe that He is able, through the power of His Holy Spirit, to bring this about for the glory and honor of His Name. Write these names, initials, or needs down and share them with one other person in the group...or, if you feel comfortable, with the whole group. Commit to praying this week for the physical healing of each person. Ask God to manifest His presence in your lives...in your church...so that God will be made famous when His presence brings healing...emotionally, spiritually and physically.

- **Outpouring of the Holy Spirit**

When we pray for revival, one of the clearest results will be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon believers. Life-giving, pure, renewing water flows from the lives of Christians, attracting others who find themselves strangely thirsty in the midst of this spiritual abundance.

During the account of the Feast of Tabernacles in John 7, Jesus poured out water and, according to the Apostle John, proclaims the coming Holy Spirit:

“On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.’ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified” (John 37:37-39).

Water has often been a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Jesus echoed the words of the prophet Isaiah:

“Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.”

Pray: Ask the Father to pour out His Spirit in fresh ways upon your life and into the life of your church. Seek the Living Water so that you will gush forth in your culture as one who leads the thirsty to streams in the desert. Ask Him to use you to give this Living Water to those who are lost so that they, too, might have life everlasting.

- **Lifestyles marked by holiness**

Revival always produces a change in lifestyle. If God’s Spirit is truly poured out, we will see a passion to live lives that please the Lord in every way:

“And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there.”

Pray: Ask God to pour out His Spirit in the midst of His people so that lives will change...so that YOUR life will change. Tell Him that you want to walk the Way of Holiness and be cleansed of all unrighteousness. Cry out to Him, asking for a passion for His presence so that you are able to please Him in every way.

- **Joy**

As you can imagine, overwhelming joy is a sign of revival, because God's presence has come to dwell in the midst of His people. Imagine how you would respond if Jesus showed up! As we begin to experience new life, God's presence, strength, healing, the outpouring of His Spirit and a lifestyle of holiness, what other response could there be but unspeakable joy? Immanuel – God With Us, the Hope of Glory!

"...and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away."

Pray: Let your heart(s) guide you as you imagine Jesus standing before you. Ask the Father to help you comprehend what revival could mean for you, your family, your church, community and nation! Ask Him to light a fire in your midst so that the lost will come to see what's burning! Rejoice in all that He is and has done for you. Give Him thanks for what He will do as you seek His presence from now on.