

REVIVE US *Again!*



Nine Steps to
Spiritual Renewal

DR. R. TIMOTHY JONES

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*Will You not revive us again,
That Your people may rejoice in You?*

PSALM 85:6 NKJV

*Listen to the long stillness:
New life is stirring
New dreams are on the wing
New hopes are being readied:
Humankind is fashioning a new heart
Humankind is forging a new mind
God is at work.
This is the season of promise.*

HOWARD THURMAN

*Lord,
I am willing
To receive what You give,
To lack what You withhold,
To relinquish what You take,
To suffer what You inflict,
To be what You require.*

JERRY BRIDGES

This book is dedicated to the
Seasoned Saints of the
Peaceful Rest Missionary Baptist Church—
The Family of Faith.

We are the products of your prayers.



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INTRODUCTION

*Will You not revive us again, That Your
people may rejoice in You?*

PSALM 85:6 NKJV

*Where is the blessedness I knew,
When first I saw the Lord?
Where is the soul refreshing view
Of Jesus, and His Word?*

WILLIAM COWPER

The law of entropy says things left to themselves will eventually degenerate and become useless. Entropy is the invisible force that brings disorder to the universe. Passion fades, stamina weakens, joy subsides, and we are easily drawn to other sources to find meaning and vitality. We buy things. We build idols. However, the trappings of the world promise more than they can deliver and distract us from all things spiritual. But nothing suffices for the joy of the Lord which is our strength. There is a place in the human heart that God created for Himself, where nothing else fits and nothing else completely satisfies!

Today's spiritual climate looks a lot like the indictment raised against the church at Ephesus: "You have left your first love" (Revelation 2:4 NKJV). When this happens, our faith becomes stagnant. Sin becomes normative and righteousness becomes relative. According to Isaiah 5:20, we call evil good and good evil. We chose darkness

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over light. Performance replaces presence. Ministry becomes mechanical and we no longer grieve for the lost. Matthew 24:12 (ESV) says, “(Because) lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”

The solution to this spiritual quandary is revival. The idea of revival is linked to the Hebrew term *chayah*, which means “to live” or “to bring back to life.” A. W. Tozer adds, “Revival is the rekindling of spiritual fire that has grown cold in the heart.” Revival is God’s response to His people humbling themselves and seeking His face in prayer and repentance.

*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.*

2 CHRONICLES 7:14 NIV

*The depth of our repentance will
determine the depth of our revival.*

FRANK BARTLEMAN

Revival confronts sin in the lives of God’s people. Henri Nouwen said, “I was forced to enter the basement of my soul and look directly at what was hidden there, and to choose, in the face of it all, not death but life.” *Revive Us Again!* was written to help believers explore the basements of our souls with grace and truth. This text cites nine steps to spiritual renewal found in James 4. These steps are informed by the following questions:

- *Where is God calling me to complete surrender and obedience?*
- *How do I resist temptation and Satan?*
- *How can I walk more intimately with God?*

- *What sin in my life requires repentance or deliverance?*
- *Is there something that I need to forgive myself for?*
- *Is there something that I need to grieve?*
- *Is there something that I need to forgive God for?*
- *Where am I broken and should find release through tears?*
- *How do I think more highly of myself than I ought?*

We believe struggling with these questions will pave the road to revival in our lives individually and collectively. Our hope is this journey creates a renewed sense of God's presence and yields the peace that comes with forgiveness. We further believe the definitive results of revival are joy and obedience—"Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and make me willing to obey You" (Psalm 51:12 NLT).

Revival is both personal and corporate. As we are revived individually, our churches are revived collectively. The church becomes itself: the Bride of Christ, a glorious church without spot or wrinkle, holy and without blemish (Ephesians 5:27). Revived Christians make Christ and His Church attractive. Believers living out their faith are proclaiming the gospel. Leonard Ravenhill said, "You never have to advertise a fire. Everyone comes running when there is a fire. Likewise, if your church is on fire, you will not have to advertise it. The community will already know it."

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

MATTHEW 5:16 NIV

Revive Us Again! was written as a resource for discipleship. It was designed to be both a study and a journey. While this book can be read individually, it is best used in small group settings over several weeks. There is an African proverb that says, "If you want to go fast,

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go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” God designed the body of Christ with a sense of interdependence. Ecclesiastes 4:9 says, “Two are better than one.” Thus, we believe spiritual growth happens best in community. Small groups offer several benefits, such as accountability, connection, and encouragement. We are truly better together.

The lessons aim at engaging the reader in an enlightening way. Prayer prompts are provided to guide our hearts in the pursuit of revival. Students should spend about fifteen minutes each day studying the daily verse(s), pondering each day’s voice, and praying for each day’s victory. The daily work is not long but is designed to be impactful. We pray that our lives are never the same as a result of this journey.

Let’s grow!

—*Dr. R. Timothy Jones*

LESSON ONE

SUBMIT



LESSON ONE

SUBMIT

Submit yourselves, then, to God.

JAMES 4:7 NIV

In a real sense faith is total surrender to God.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Love languages are ways that people are wired to initiate and interpret love. According to Gary Chapman, the five love languages are words of affirmation, quality time, gifts, physical touch, and acts of service. As with human beings, God has a love language, and it is obedience. 1 Samuel 15:22 says, “To obey is better than sacrifice.” Like every parent, God wants obedient children. Jesus Christ said in John 14:15 (NIV), “If you love me, keep my commands.”

Spiritual maturity is not reached by the passing of the years, but by obedience to the will of God.

OSWALD CHAMBERS

There are several callings on the lives of God’s people. The first call is to salvation. 2 Peter 3:9 confirms that it is not God’s will that any should perish. We are called to sanctification (holiness)—“Without holiness no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14 NIV). Believers are called to physical, emotional, and mental rest, the key to which is serenity. Every believer is called to serve and is gifted accordingly. We

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are called to sacrifice, which ultimately requires surrender. As God (in Christ) gave us the gift of Himself, God desires the gift of ourselves.

THE CALL TO SALVATION

We were created for eternity. According to Ecclesiastes 3:11, God has placed eternity in the human heart. Neither wealth nor time is a substitute for eternal life. H. A. Ironside said, “Nothing under the sun can satisfy a man made for eternity.” Eternal life is found in Jesus Christ and in Him alone.

*And this is the testimony: that God has given
us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.*

1 JOHN 5:11 NKJV

As a result of the sin of Adam in the Garden of Eden, mankind became sinful and subject to the wrath of God. However, Jesus Christ died at Calvary to save humanity from eternal death and damnation. John the Baptist called Jesus “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” Jesus died our death so that we could live His life. According to Romans 5:9, we have been justified by the blood of Jesus and saved from the wrath of God. As a result of the atoning work of Jesus Christ, believers can enjoy eternal life.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His
only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him
should not perish but have everlasting life.*

JOHN 3:16 NKJV

*For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to
receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:9 NIV

Jesus did not come into the world to make bad men good. He came into the world to make dead men live!

LEONARD RAVENHILL

THE CALL TO SANCTIFICATION

As a little boy was drawing one day, someone asked him what he was drawing. The little boy said, "I am drawing a picture of God." The person told the boy that no one knows what God looks like. The boy replied, "They will when I get finished."

According to Romans 8:29, every born-again believer is predestined to conform to the image of Jesus Christ. That lifelong journey is called sanctification, which means to set apart, to consecrate, or dedicate something (including ourselves) to God and His purposes. Sanctification and salvation are inseparable twins. As salvation is the work of Jesus Christ to get us out of sin, sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit to get sin out of us.

Sanctification is synonymous with holiness: the reflection of the character of God in the life of the believer. 1 Peter 1:16 quotes God, saying, "Be holy, because I am holy." Sanctification also refers to the spiritual growth and maturity of the believer. 2 Peter 3:18 (NKJV) commands us to grow in both practice and principle: "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

THE CALL TO SERENITY

As medicine is care for the body, serenity is care for the soul. Serenity is to be free of anger and anxiety. It is the harmony of one's heart, mind, and soul. It is to be emotionally, mentally, and spiritually at rest. Serenity is the joy of living one day at a time, enjoying one thing at a time. Serenity is a gift from God.

Unfortunately, we are living in an age of anxiety. Stress, worry, fatigue, anxiety, and exhaustion are enemies of the soul. We have succumbed to the self-violence of restless lives. Serenity appears to be a lost art. Our lives are cluttered and complicated. Many of us are

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in a hurry going nowhere while running on empty. In *Why We Are Restless: On the Modern Quest for Contentment*, Benjamin and Jenna Story said, “We live in an age of unprecedented prosperity, yet everywhere we see signs that our pursuit of happiness has proven fruitless.”

It may be that what people are really looking for is serenity. However, serenity cannot be found in a place or a practice. It is found in a person and that person is Jesus Christ, who said in Matthew 11:28 (NKJV), “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” The original language of that text literally means, “I will *rest* you.” Thus, serenity is not something we pursue, it is something we receive.

As we are called to serenity, rest is critical to revival. Rest renews the mind, boosts creativity, increases productivity, reduces stress, improves one’s mood, and strengthens relationships. Rest creates more balance and a fresh outlook. Rest promotes health and happiness. Adequate rest allows the body to recover and repair itself. The human body is wired for less, not more. Thus, less is more and there is no substitute for rest.

Rest is the most underused, chemical-free, safe, and effective alternative therapy available to us.

DR. SAUNDRA DALTON-SMITH

THE CALL TO SERVICE

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:10 NIV

At Calvary, Jesus exonerated us from sin, but He did not excuse us from service. Thus, every believer is called to serve and is gifted accordingly. While there is no one who has every gift, everyone has at least one gift. It has been said that it is not a shame having just one talent; the shame is not using it. Some gifts are in fact more visible than vocal, but all gifts are valuable.

If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as a Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, "Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well."

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Like most people in his day, Saint Francis of Assisi had a disdain in his heart for lepers until one day he met one up close and personal. Being moved with compassion, he embraced him and kissed him on the cheek. As he was leaving, St. Francis looked back and there was no one there. St. Francis said that leper was Jesus.

We serve God by serving others.

"Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to Me."

MATTHEW 25:40 NKJV

THE CALL TO SACRIFICE

As God presented Jesus Christ as a sacrifice of atonement (Romans 3:25), every born-again believer is called to make at least four sacrifices: the sacrifice of praise, the sacrifice of benevolence, the sacrifice of a broken and contrite spirit, and the ultimate sacrifice of ourselves.

The sacrifice of praise: "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name" (Hebrews 13:15 NIV). Epictetus, a first-century Stoic philosopher, said, "If I were a nightingale, I would do what is proper to a nightingale, and if I were a swan, what is proper to a swan. In fact, I am a 'rational being,' so I must praise God."

The sacrifice of benevolence (blessing others): "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is

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pleased” (Hebrews 13:16 NIV). Two facts of life: 1) Somebody needs you; and 2) At some point, you will need somebody! Thus, we should do good unto others BEFORE we need them to do good unto us.

The sacrifice of a broken and contrite spirit: “My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise” (Psalm 51:17 NIV). Though David was a man after God’s heart, he was guilty of adultery and murder. However, his moral compass produced conviction that led to contrition.

The sacrifice of ourselves: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1 NKJV). In the Old Testament, God’s people made sacrifices. In the New Testament, God’s people became sacrifices.

*Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?
Your heart does the Spirit control?
You can only be blest,
And have peace and sweet rest,
As you yield Him your body and soul.*

E. A. HOFFMAN, “IS YOUR ALL ON THE ALTAR?”

THE CALL TO SURRENDER

Revival and a new life begin with answering the call to surrender. Unlike war, in the faith the person who surrenders wins. Corrie ten Boom said, “A potter can only mold the clay when it lies completely in his hand. It requires complete surrender.” The life of Abraham is a powerful portrait of a surrendered life.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where

*he was going. ... For he waited for the city which
has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

HEBREWS 11:8 AND 10 NKJV

Abraham was comfortable and content when God called him to leave. Yet he trusted God without knowing the destination; God simply said, "I'll show you." God later told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac on an altar at Mount Moriah. His obedience was an act of worship.

The ministry of Jesus is the perfect picture of a surrendered life. The Garden of Gethsemane is perhaps the best portrait of Jesus Christ in his humanity. He said in Mark 14:34 (NKJV), "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death." However, verse 35 says, "He went a little further." Then He prayed:

*"Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me:
nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."*

LUKE 22:42 KJV

In Philippians 2:8 (KJV), Paul said that Jesus "humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Thank God that three days later, God raised Jesus Christ from the dead!

*You call Me master, and obey Me not;
You call Me light, and see Me not;
You call Me the way, and walk Me not;
You call Me life, and live Me not;
You call Me wise, and follow Me not;
You call Me fair, and love Me not;
You call Me rich, and ask Me not;
You call Me eternal, and seek Me not.
If I condemn thee, blame Me not.*

UNKNOWN

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THINK ABOUT IT

There are three persons living in each of us: the one we think we are, the one other people think we are, and the one God knows we are!

LEONARD RAVENHILL

READ AND RELATE

Psalm 37:5

Proverbs 3:5–6

Matthew 7:21–23

Luke 9:23

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think obedience is better than sacrifice?
2. Discuss your experience of salvation.
3. What is the correlation between salvation and sanctification?
4. What does it mean to “conform to the image of Christ”?
5. Define serenity. How is it achieved?
6. Elaborate on Martin Luther King Jr.’s “street sweeper” quote.

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7. Read Romans 12:1–2. What does it mean to be a living sacrifice?
8. What can we learn about surrender from the life of Abraham?
9. What might be the hardest for you to sacrifice of the four sacrifices listed? Explain why.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to live this day, quietly, easily. To lean upon Thy great strength, trustfully, restfully. To wait for the unfolding of Thy will, patiently, serenely. To meet others, peacefully, joyously. To face tomorrow, confidently, courageously.

FRANCIS OF ASSISI

[illegible]

THE NEXT STEP

[illegible]

WEEK ONE



MONDAY

TODAY'S VERSES

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

PSALM 139:23–24 NIV

TODAY'S VOICE

The greatest rewards come from the hardest obedience.

MALCOLM X

TODAY'S VICTORY

Ask God to search your heart.

TUESDAY

TODAY'S VERSE

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 NIV

TODAY'S VOICE

Without my Savior, I am nothing.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

TODAY'S VICTORY

Pray for a heart of repentance.

WEDNESDAY

TODAY'S VERSE

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they will be filled.*

MATTHEW 5:6

TODAY'S VOICE

*Civilization is always in danger when those who have
never learned to obey are given the right to command.*

FULTON SHEEN

TODAY'S VICTORY

Cry out for a deeper hunger for God.

THURSDAY

TODAY'S VERSE

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but
be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

ROMANS 12:2 NIV

TODAY'S VOICE

*Obedience is the burial of the will and
the resurrection of humility.*

JOHN CLIMACUS

TODAY'S VICTORY

Pray for the renewal of your mind.

FRIDAY

TODAY'S VERSE

*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to
debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*

EPHESIANS 5:18 NIV

TODAY'S VOICE

*Give your life to God; He can do
more with it than you can!*

D. L. MOODY

TODAY'S VICTORY

Ask for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit.

SATURDAY

TODAY'S VERSE

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 NIV

TODAY'S VOICE

The problem of disbelieving in God is not that a man ends up believing nothing. Alas, it is much worse. He ends up believing anything.

G. K. CHESTERTON

TODAY'S VICTORY

Seek God's guidance to overcome temptation.

O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams.

SAINT AUGUSTINE

I was forced to enter the basement of my soul and look directly at what was hidden there, and to choose, in the face of it all, not death but life.

HENRI J. M. NOUWEN

Jesus said, “Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12 NIV). The solution to this spiritual quandary is revival. *Revive Us Again!* provides nine steps to explore the depths of our souls with grace and truth and to inspire revival. As we are revived individually, our churches are revived collectively. The church then becomes itself: the Bride of Christ, a glorious church without spot or wrinkle, holy and without blemish (Ephesians 5:27).

Revived Christians reflect Christ and make the church attractive. Leonard Ravenhill said, “You never have to advertise a fire. Everyone comes running when there is a fire. Likewise, if your church is on fire, you will not have to advertise it. The community will already know it.”

*In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

MATTHEW 5:16 NIV

R. Timothy Jones is a proud husband, father, and grandfather. He earned a Doctor of Ministry from Virginia Union University and has served as pastor of the Peaceful Rest Baptist Church (The Family of Faith) in Shreveport, Louisiana, since November 1994.



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