

FALL QUARTER 2025 | SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • NOVEMBER

PRAYER & BIBLE BAND TOPICS CHRISTIAN CONCEPTS FOR GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT



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CHRISTIAN CONCEPTS FOR
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

PRAYER & BIBLE BAND TOPICS

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Church Of God In Christ, INC.
PRAYER & BIBLE BAND TOPICS

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Bishop J. Drew Sheard
Presiding Bishop

Bishop Uleses C. Henderson, Jr.
Chairman, Publishing Board

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Contributing Writer

Written by Supervisor Lee E. Van Zandt

THE GUIDE FOR WEEKLY BIBLE BAND MEETINGS

For weekly Bible Band meetings, the President should plan each meeting one week in advance.

- Secure a leader for devotion who will make preparations.
- Meetings should never last longer than two hours; however, let the Spirit of God lead.
- Appoint a different spiritually-minded individual for the leader of the devotional service.

ORDER OF SERVICE

- Call to Order (by the President)
- Singing
- Prayer

SCRIPTURE DEVOTIONAL READING

- A Five Minute Talk (on the devotion by the leader)
- President's Remarks
- President Presents the Teacher
- Announcements and Remarks
- Singing
- Benediction

LETTER from the PRESIDING BISHOP



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In this time of rapid change, it is vitally important for blood washed individuals to actively participate in our churches and communities to assure our voices are heard and God is glorified.

We must remain “steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”.

With that being said, I want you to know, we have “Unfinished Business” in upholding our Christian duties and engaging in constructive dialogue to address societal challenges and the continued advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Our historical topic curriculum is filled with scriptures that will encourage and motivate you to keep pressing your way in the things of the Lord.

I encourage you to share the Word of God on every occasion and live so God can use you, anywhere and anytime.

Sincerely,

J. Drew Sheard
Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

PREFACE



God bless you, my brothers and sisters. What a blessing to be able to greet you one more time. I'm so glad that our Father included me when He made His wake-up list for today. He has been extremely good to me, and I don't take it for granted.

I want to thank those of you who have been so supportive by buying and using our Church Of God In Christ literature and supporting our Publishing House.

Once again, I pray that you will enjoy studying our Bible Band lessons as much as I have enjoyed writing them. I'm so thankful that Jesus has instructed the leader to teach students to observe all things. These lessons are designed to help you to receive more spiritual knowledge and grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

Thanks to our Presiding Bishop, J. Drew Sheard, and the General Board, our General Supervisor, Dr. Barbara McCoo Lewis, and all those who pray for me for the opportunity to write for the church of my birth.

Because of The Sanctifying Power of Jesus,

Dr. Lee E. Van Zandt

Supervisor of Maryland Eastern Shore Department of Women
Chaplin of International Department of Women Executive Board
Elect-Lady of C.O.G.I.C. Global World Mission Department
Contributing Editor of *Bible Band Topics*

The Benefit of Revival



Background Reading

Psalm 51:10; Isaiah 55:6,
58:1-14; Hosea 6:1-2;
Mark 6:1-5; Acts 3:19-26

Devotional Reading

Ezekiel 1-9



Central Verse

**“Wilt thou not revive us again: that
thy people may rejoice in thee?”**

Psalm 85:6, KJV

**“Won’t you revive us again, so your
people can rejoice in you?”**

Psalm 85:6, NLT

Key Terms

Restore—To put or bring back into existence or use; to bring back to or put back into a former or original state.

Revive—To return to consciousness or life; to become active or flourishing again; spiritual renewal or restoration.

Resuscitate—To revive from apparent death or unconsciousness.

Introduction

Revival has always been a part of the agenda of a growing Pentecostal Church. It is a time when spiritual wisdom is provided for the congregation, for it is the time of restitution and restoration for the people in the Church. Revival is said to be the spiritual reawakening of spiritual vigor for people.

Revival brings the presence of God into the midst of God’s people. Every leader should understand that the Church belongs to God and, without His presence, it is just another organization. Moses understood the need for God’s presence. In Exodus 33:15, he said, “If your presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.” Believers cannot do church without God. They can organize and have all the meetings they desire, but without inviting God to be a part, it is all done in vain and filled with vanity.

Discussion

Revival is designed to help God's people have reverence, fear, and awe for God. The people must come to know God on a personal level, and a Holy Ghost-lead revival brings God's people to this awareness. A soul-stirring revival helps God's people to yield their hearts to His rule, and they learn to love Him the more. True revival should help the believer see more clearly his sinfulness and help him to have greater awareness of God's Holiness. Revival helps the believer deal with the sins in his life, for it helps to reveal his sins and transgressions. "Cry aloud and spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet, show my people their transgressions and the House of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1). This is a cry that God gave to the prophet as He called for revival.

After the believers are revived and restored, the Spirit of Revival should spread to the unchurched. When the unbelievers see their family members, their friends, and neighbors on fire for God, they want to come and see what is happening. That is when believers invite them to come to church with them. One song that says, "I went to a church one night and my heart wasn't right, but something got ahold of me," was birthed out of a person accepting an invitation to come to a revival. He did not know that the Holy Spirit was waiting to convict and convince him that he needed Jesus. That is what happens when the Spirit of Revival is in the Church. The sinner gets a yearning for something he doesn't understand. The revived believer begins to pray more fervently for his family, friends, and neighbors.

In the early days of the Church Of God In Christ, the evangelist would go and stay at a church for weeks, fasting and praying, and God would send revivals that impacted communities of people. I personally saw men come into church intoxicated with alcohol and leave sober after the saints finished praying with them. We saw the lives of people change. The pastors understood that the churches needed the ministry of the pastor, as well as the ministries of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, and teacher. They understood that the pastor's ministry could not perfect the Church alone, but instead, the five-fold ministry was needed (Ephesians 4:11). They were willing to make the sacrifice to bring an evangelist into the church and allow them to labor with the people.

Conclusion

The Church must not allow Revival to turn into a money campaign. The leaders must stay focused on why God brings Revival to the Church. God

asked the prophet in Isaiah 58 if the fast they were on was the fast that He had chosen. He wanted to know if they were doing what needed to be done. When a real revival comes to a church, chains are broken off the lives of people, and lives are changed for the better. The Spirit of Oppression must leave, burdens are unloaded, minds are healed and changed, and people are given a better outlook on life. Their expectations change, and they look to the future with hope. The Spirit of Helplessness leaves.

Revival must result from believers praying and seeking God's presence through the Holy Ghost. They know that only things that have been alive can be revived. So, they pray for church members who have grown cold and indifferent and have fallen away from their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. In Psalm 85:4-6, the psalmist cries out, saying, "Restore us...revive us again." The writer wanted God to know that the people needed to be spiritually resuscitated. They had once known the joys of salvation, but somehow and somehow had allowed the enemy to come in and steal their praise, joy, and lives.

God has the power, ability, and availability to restore the Church, bringing His people back to a steadfast relationship with Him. Every believer needs to cry unto God, asking Him to send Revival to our local churches, communities, cities, states, countries, and world. Our world is in trouble, and only the divine wisdom of God can break the hold that Satan has on this world. God is yet telling the church, "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their lands" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Questions

1. Why have a revival?
 2. Who needs Revival?
 3. What is involved in having a revival?
 4. What happens when a real revival comes to a church or a community?
-
-
-

Essential Thought

Prayer, fasting, and praise bring revival to a church.

Things That Need To Be Forgotten



Background Reading

Isaiah 43:18; Luke 9:62;
2 Corinthians 5:17;
Hebrews 6:10-11

Devotional Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:11-12



Central Verse

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind.”

Philippians 3:13, KJV

“No dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,”

Philippians 3:13, NLT

Key Terms

Forgetting—To lose the remembrance of; to be unable to think of or recall; failing to remember, hold in mind, or keep in one’s thoughts.

Past—Having existed or taken place in a period before the present; a former time or event.

Former—Coming before in time; having once been.

Introduction

There are many things that hinder a believer’s walk with God, and the main one is holding onto the past. The past is exactly that – the past. The past is something that is finished, completed, and no longer exists. It means something that existed before the present time or was used in an earlier time. “Past” refers to a time that has gone by recently. So, believers must understand that the past is over, and it needs to be forgotten most of the time.

Holding on to past events or happenings can cause believers to become trapped in past memories that put limitations on their lives. Then they cannot

move on to the future. Many of them are hurt, bitter, wounded, and saddened by things that they had to go through and endure in the past. The past can become a grave that holds and controls their lives in time, causing them to be trapped in a place of helplessness.

It is emotionally unhealthy for believers to hold onto some things from the past that have no value to their future lives. So, Paul tells the believer to forget some of the things that had happened in the past and press to build a healthy future. He knew he had to get ahold of himself and forget how the other disciples had treated him. He had to forget the educational achievements that he had accomplished, which were not recognized among the brethren, and remember the different situations he encountered.

Sometimes, believers find themselves in situations they cannot change, so they must completely cut their losses, forget about those situations, and move on.

Discussion

The believer is told not to remember the former things, because some of the things that they did as a sinner have no value to their future lives. For, when he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, he became a new creature, and the old things in his life had passed away. He now has a new life, so he must not consider the things of old. He has not yet reached the perfect place in God, so he must continue to forget things from the past that keep him bound. He doesn't want his flesh to feast on ungodly things of the past. Before salvation, believers did ungodly things that brought no glory to God and His kingdom, so some of those things need to be forgotten about. If he stole, let him steal no more (Ephesians 4:28). He should not discuss it or think about it, but instead, fill his mind and mouth with godly praises.

The believer must release the thought of pleasure and embrace the sense of joy that comes from God. He must not allow his flesh to dictate what he needs. Moses chose affliction with the people of God, rather than enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season with Pharaoh. The Book of Romans makes the believer aware that, in his flesh, there is nothing good (Romans 7:18). John tells the believer that "All that is in the world" is "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 John 2:16). It is vital in the life of the believer to make sure his flesh doesn't control his life.

Embracing change is part of the process of forgetting the things that are behind. The believer must learn to view his past experiences as a part of his

teaching process and learn from those experiences. It takes courage to release what is comfortable and familiar to embrace new and different things. God is faithful, and He will allow the believer the grace to do so.

The believer must learn to find peace in the present. As he lets the past go, he must renew his hope and expectation with peace now and in the future. As God prepared Abraham for a new life, there were some things that he had to let go of so he could receive the blessings that God had in store for him. It is not always easy to forget the past, but with Jesus on your side, you can do all things.

Conclusion

The believer must understand that forgetting the past is a process. Whether it's a mistake, a loss, or something else holding him back, the believer must remember to leave the past behind and focus on the future. It takes time, and if the believer allows Him, God will help him find the strength and motivation to embrace forgiveness and forget the past.

The wise man said, "There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after" (Ecclesiastes 1:11). So, the believer must understand that nothing is so important that it should keep him bound. He must forget some things so that he can be free.

Forgetting the past does not erase it; it just allows the believer to move beyond the past. God gives the believer a future and a hope only after he forgives, forgets, and embraces God's love, grace, and understanding. Embracing God's grace releases a sense of freedom within the mind and heart of the believer and allows him to move ahead without the burden of his past.

Questions

1. Why is it important to forget some things?
 2. How can a person know what to forget?
-
-

Essential Thought

To achieve freedom in some areas, some things must be forgotten.

The Presiding Bishop, Chairman of the Publishing Board, General Supervisor of the Department of Women, Contributing Writers, and the entire Prayer & Bible Band Topics Editorial Staff would like to thank you for your continued support.



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