

PERSONAL Revival

*Discovering how Jesus can awaken your soul
to give you the abundant life He promised,
from now until eternity.*



DO YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR NATION CHANGED?

IT STARTS RIGHT HERE.

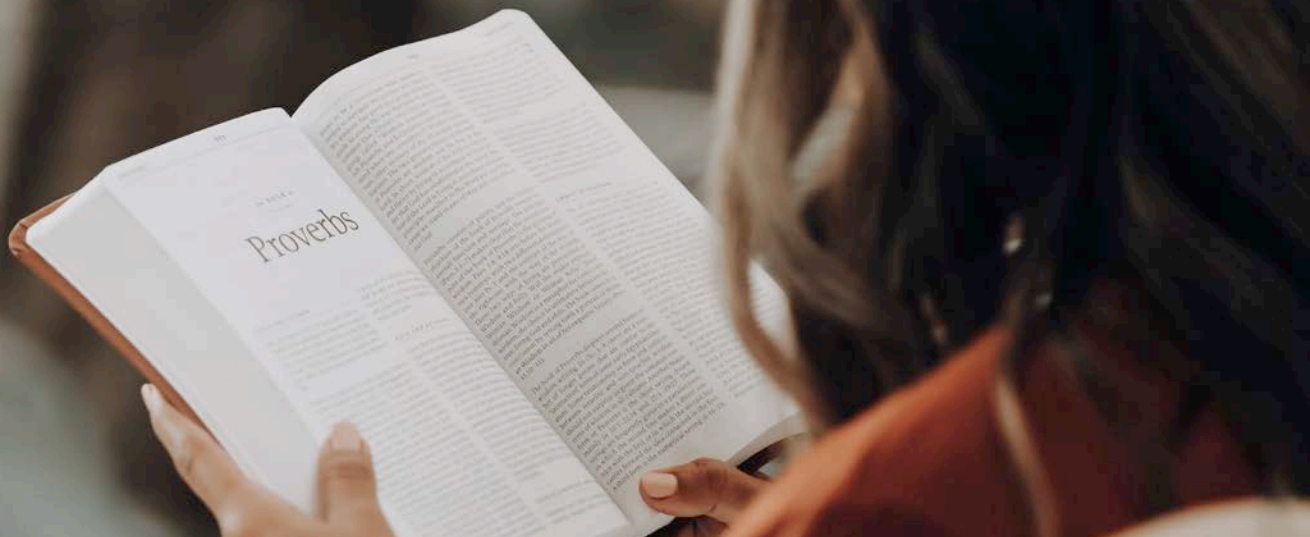
As we watch the steady decline of society, anyone who takes enough time to consider it would recognize that something needs to change. Some people blame corrupt government. Others look to the schools and faulty educational system. Still more may point fingers at the church for not standing as a “pillar and buttress of the truth.” There is truth to each accusation, but no single entity is responsible for all of society’s ills.

You see, society is made up of many members, and like a body, if the members are sick, then the whole is sick. So what is the problem with our world today? You and me. And if we call ourselves God’s people, His representatives on earth, then everything in this verse has to start right here. **You and I** must become humble, you and I must pray, you and I must seek God’s face, and you and I must turn from our wicked ways. **Then God will hear and save.**



“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 sin, and will heal their land.”

2 CHRONICLES 7:14



GOD'S PEOPLE

If you have chosen to follow Jesus by faith, then He has baptized you into Himself, and you are now part of His Body on earth. He left physically, and it's you and I that remain to represent Him together. Before He died, Jesus told His disciples, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23).

God's intention is to come and abide, or live, in every person who chooses to love and obey Him. This is how Jesus fulfills His promise to give you abundant life. Jesus is life, and **He wants to fill you with that life, to revive you**, but you have to pave the way to let Him move in. He will not force Himself on anyone. If you find yourself devoid of this abundant life, or lacking the amount you believe was promised, it's up to you to change it.

"Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually."

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27



CALLED TO CONNECT

A lack of personal revival is a connection problem. God doesn't leave us wondering how to be filled with new life. While Jesus was here on earth, He shared the secret. He calls us to **"abide in me."** To abide is to stay, to live, to rest in.

As a branch stays connected to the vine, letting the vine work within it, filling it with nutrients and water, producing fruit without the branch striving, so it is with us and Jesus. We are to **stay** connected. And like coming home to rest weary from the world and work, so we are to come home to rest—to abide—in Jesus.

Where do you go to rest? What do you stay connected to? Until the genuine answer to both is Jesus, every day, all day, then you should not expect abundant life to flow through you, and the fruit you bear will be as limited as you have come to experience.

However, Jesus goes on to explain some of this abiding. He doesn't just say to stay connected and to rest, He explains how we might do it. "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love" (John 15:10).

Part of staying connected to Jesus is doing what He says. Somehow, this keeps us close to feel His love.



"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing... These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

JOHN 15:5,11

HUMBLE YOURSELF

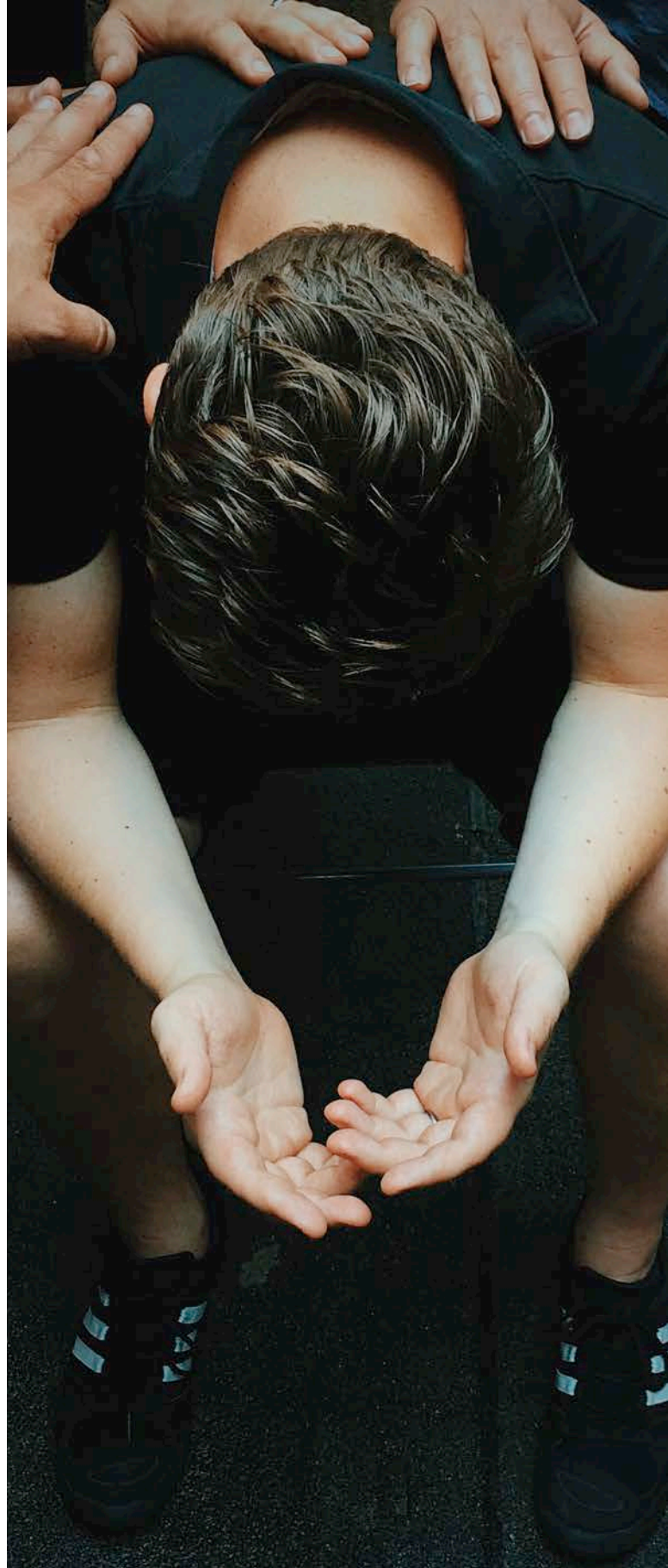
We hear a lot about humility in God's Word, but we have a hard time producing it. At the heart, humility is about lowering oneself to a proper place. God has a place of honor for you as an adopted son covered in the righteousness of Christ, but that place is set, and you can't have a higher place.

This is why we hear of God "laying low" the proud or lofty. Pride lifts up, and God has to bring us down, as He did with Satan. In this time, we all must face the reality of our proper place before God, and we must do it by looking nowhere but Him.

If we have been living as the functional lord of our lives, we must remove ourselves from that position and yield it to God. If we are making the plans and deciding what is good for our households, then humility is needed.

The question is, do you want God to do it, or do you want to humble yourself? Humble yourself before Him, and you will be lifted up in honor to a place you never could have deserved, seated with Christ in heavenly places.

Humility is one of the qualities that brings us closest to God, because it recognizes His glory.



“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

JAMES 4:10

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”

JEREMIAH 33:3

PRAY

This verse makes a promise that when we call out to God in faith, **He intends to answer us and amaze us with what He can do.** Prayer is connecting with God, and through the partnership of prayer, we can help change the world, but connection is key.

Through that connection, God will show us things about ourselves that we couldn't see, both our tremendous value in His eyes as well as our faults that He must change. He will show us things about the world around us and

its need, and He will ask us to join Him in interceding to see people and circumstances transformed.

Most of all, He will show us things about Himself and the fathomless riches of Christ **that we never could have found on our own.**

Through prayer, we can begin to experience the truth of 2 Corinthians 3:18: "...we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."



SEEK HIS FACE

We often turn to prayer to ask God to change our circumstances, to move and shape the many things in our lives that we cannot control. God can do this, but our motives are mixed at best and often completely selfish.

As James 4:3 says, “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.” If we want prayer to become a place of connection with God where we are filled with new life, this has to change. Rather than seeking His hands, we must seek His face.

As this verse promises, if we go after what He cares about, His rule and His character, we get the rest. But like Jesus

said, “whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it,” (Luke 17:33), and if we choose to go after lesser things, we lose the very thing we wished to grasp—true life.

It’s amazing how much we don’t understand the goodness of God. We run after pitiful things when God promises to be a fountain of Living Water that will fill the empty places of our souls, satisfying our thirst for more.

Jesus made it simple: “this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3).

**Pursue God as He has pursued you,
and your life will never be the same.**



*“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

MATTHEW 6:33

“Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand...Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together...”

MATTHEW 3:2, ISAIAH 40:3-5



TURN + REPENT

These verses make a promise, that when the way is made straight for our God, He will show up, and all the world will see and be amazed. Jesus intends His glory to be shared with and revealed through His Church.

But just as John the Baptist came to call people to repentance so that Jesus would have a straight path into their lives, so we must make the way straight for God to make His home in us and to see His Spirit fill us with power and fruitfulness. We must repent, turning away from life lived our own way in order to let God have His way in us.

So, the question remains: **Is the way straight into your life?** Can God get right in and make your life His home, moving out all of your stuff, rearranging things in the order He pleases, and decorating with elements that honor Him? Or is the way crooked, leaving Jesus hard-pressed to get in at all?

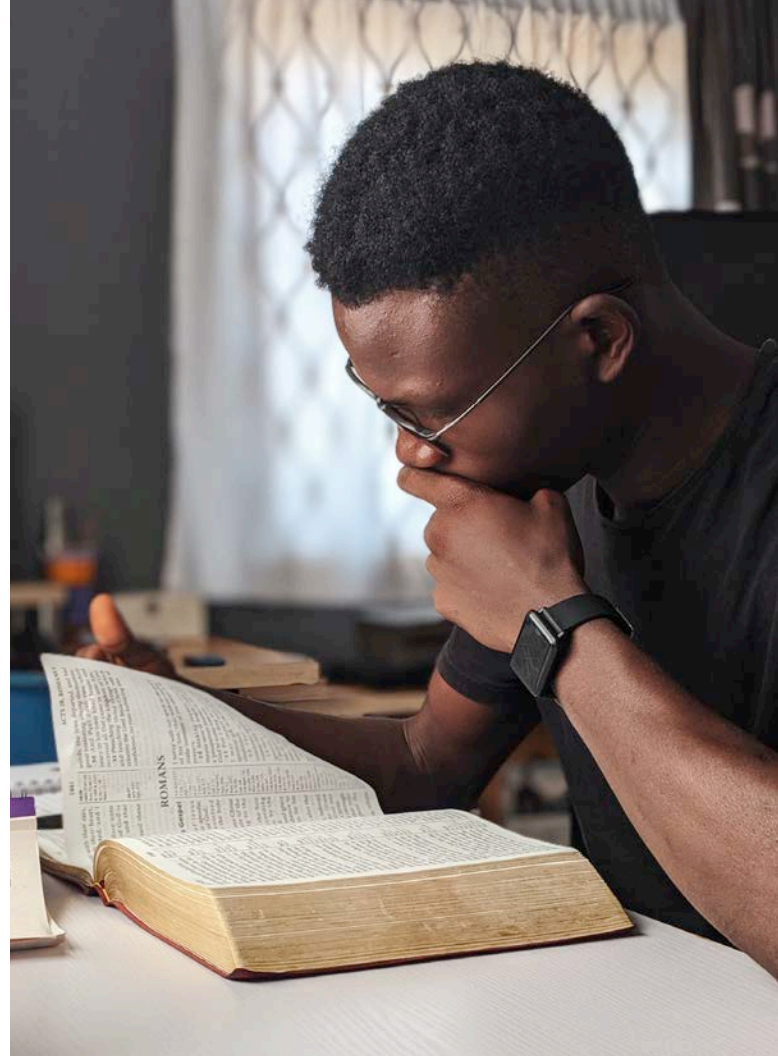
Are there valleys and all sorts of obstructions and rough places for Him to pass through to get where He wants to be, to the center of your life? **Be honest, and there is hope.**

MAKE THE WAY STRAIGHT

God wants a straight way to your soul. Don't make it hard for Him to find you and touch you with His truth and presence. Don't surround yourself with things that distract you and make it nearly impossible to reach you.

Draw near to God. Spend time waiting on Him, lots of time, **as though it were your priority.**

Get in His Word by listening to it and reading it as often as you can, and don't skip out on parts you don't like. Make it easy for Him to get to you with something He wants to say.



LAY THE MOUNTAINS LOW

When God calls us to Himself, He calls us to an exclusive relationship. Take honest stock of everything in your life, asking God what fills your vision.

What do you spend the most time and money on? What do you think about when you don't want to think about anything else? What is first on your heart and mind in the morning?

If it is not Jesus, then it must be put in its place, even if it is good. Jesus even called us to put spouses and children below Him. Only He deserves to be exalted.

FILL THE VALLEYS

Removing obstacles is important, but perhaps the most important thing for revival to begin is connecting to the well, to the Fountain of Living Water.

Our lives are often filled with valleys, places in our hearts and minds we do not allow God. You must go to God and lay everything bare in prayer, taking as much time and as many times as needed to let Him into every

thought, every desire, and every activity, and you must begin to make Him King of it.

More than this, you have to acknowledge and begin to live as though He alone is your source—that without Him, you are empty.

Get into His presence until you feel His fullness within you. **When that time comes, revival is here.**





EXPERIENCE REVIVAL

Ultimately, revival is not for you and me, it is for God. God deserves a revived people, a Body on earth filled with new life so that His Son gets the glory for transforming cold, dead people into vibrant, resurrected sons and daughters.

His Word is clear: **if we will pursue Him, He is going to come to us.** And the good news is, He will then hear from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal our land.

Can we commit together to pursuing our God who has spent Himself and His Son in pursuit of us?

If we do, we will experience the beautiful closeness that forgiveness brings as the blood of Christ covers the many ways we have failed to love Him and each other, and **we can begin to see lives healed and transformed around us by the life of Christ overflowing through us** to the people in our world—our friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family.

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”

JAMES 4:8

