

GOD'S RECIPE FOR REVIVAL (2 Chronicles 7:14)

I. Humility.

- A. The word humble carries the idea of being bowed down.
- B. Before there can be awakening of faith, there must be an awareness of our sinfulness - this is how revival begins.
 - 1. We need to realize just how much we need God.
 - 2. So many people who call themselves Christians walk around completely unaware of God and His will.
 - 3. It is as if we are oblivious to our sinfulness and our need for forgiveness and mercy from God.
- C. Humility is a requirement of conversion (Matthew 5:3).
- D. What we do when we humble ourselves before God is admit to Him our need for Him in our lives.
 - 1. Can you imagine life without God in your life?
 - 2. If you can, there is a great spiritual problem in your life and you are in desperate need of revival.
- E. James tells us to submit ourselves to God (James 4:7).
 - 1. This world "submit" means to subordinate oneself.
 - 2. He then tells us what this means in verse 10.
- F. If we don't humble ourselves now, there will come a day when God does humble us before Him (Romans 14:11).

II. Prayer.

- A. In a sense, prayer is humility in action - we are showing our reliance on God for that which we need.
- B. One writer said that the praying person sees his own inability and recognizes God's ability.
- C. The wonderful thing about prayer is that it yields far greater fruit than the effort it demands.
- D. "A preacher had grown accustomed to someone providing him with a rose boutonniere every Sunday. That routine took on dramatic new meaning when a young boy approached him after the service and politely asked if he could have the little rose.
 - 1. The preacher knew the flower was destined for the trash so he offered it to the boy and asked what he planned to do with the used rose.
 - 2. The little guy replied, "Sir, I'm going to give it to my granny. My parents got divorced last year. I was living with my mother, but when she got married again she wanted me to live with my father. I lived with him for a while, but he said I couldn't stay so he sent me to live with my grandmother.
 - 3. She is so good to me. She cooks for me and takes care of me. She has been so good to me that I want to give that pretty flower to her for loving me."
 - 4. The preacher said tears filled his eyes as he listened to the little

boy. He then told the compassionate boy, "You can't have this flower because it's not enough." He pointed to the large spray of fresh flowers at the altar and said, "Please take those flowers to your granny because she deserves the very best."

5. The little boy lit up with excitement and said, "What a wonderful day! I asked for one flower but got a beautiful bouquet." Our approach to God is not unlike what took place that day with this child and this preacher.
 6. We come in our pain seeking a small response to our situation, but God points to a greater answer and invites us to take that instead."
 7. The problem is that too many of us don't come to God in prayer.
- E. We need to pray for a revival in our lives, in this congregation, the church universal and in our nation.

III. Devotion.

- A. God told Solomon that His people must seek God, which carries the idea of desiring God.
1. God is to be first place in our hearts.
 2. There should be nothing of any more importance in our lives than God (Matthew 6:33).
- B. Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, a Roman emperor, said, "The true worth of a man is to be measured by the objects he pursues."
1. What are we pursuing today?
 2. What is first in our lives?
- C. A.W. Tozer said, "If we yearned after God even as much as a cow yearns for her calf, we would be the worshiping and effective believers God wants us to be. If we longed for God as a bride looks forward to the return of her husband, we would be a far greater force for God than we are now."
- D. One great problem in the Lord's church today is that we don't desire God in our lives, we just try to fit Him in.
- E. There must be a renewal of devotion to God in the lives of Christians so that there can be a revival in the church and nation.

IV. Repentance.

- A. God said that His people had to turn from their wicked ways.
- B. A great lack of humility is shown by failing to repent.
- C. Our prayers are voided when we fail to repent.
- D. There is no devotion to God while living in sin.
- E. God wants His people to get out of the sinning business.
- F. There needs to be changes in our lives.
1. These changes occur through self-examination.
 2. We see where our lives are not in line with God's will and word and we make the changes necessary to get in line with them.
 3. Without repentance there will be perishing (Luke 13:3).
- G. We don't generally like words like repentance because they imply something lacking on our part.
1. Before revival can come in a person's life, that person must be spiritually clean.

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2. We must admit we have sin, and then deal with that sin appropriately (1John 1:8-10).