

Revive Us

Individual Studies

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Adapted from:

Revive Us: A Heart Ready for Revival
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Personal Study 1 – Week 2

When God Seems Distant

Think about a time someone said or did something that hurt you. You can most likely also remember a time when you hurt someone else's feelings by either word or action. When our relationships become strained or broken, we know it – and feel it deeply.

Until someone makes a confession or gives forgiveness, the relationship is strained.

How might tensions in your earthly relationships affect your relationship with God?

Often, we don't make the connection that our relationships with others affect our relationship with God, but we should, because both relationships matter. We often grieve the Holy Spirit through the way we treat one another, without even being aware of it. Preparing ourselves for revival begins by taking an honest inventory of the sin in our lives. Unsure where to start? Begin with your relationships.

A Principle for Personal Revival

We limit God's power and presence in our lives when we mistreat others.

Read Habakkuk 1:13. Why does your sin grieve the Holy Spirit?

Your Sin and Neglect Grieves the Holy Spirit

If you are a Christian, God's Spirit dwells in you. However, God can't tolerate sin – it deeply saddens Him. When we continue to sin, we push away the Holy Spirit, lose our joy, limit God's power in our lives, and cease our usefulness in His kingdom.

Read Ephesians 4:29-32. Note the specific sins Paul mentions that grieve the Holy Spirit. For each of those relational sins, give one example.

Speech (v. 29)

Bitterness (v. 31)

Anger (v. 31)

Lack of Compassion (v. 32)

Unforgiveness (v. 32)

Paul's list is not exhaustive. What are some other sins in your life that grieve the Holy Spirit?

A Personal Principle for Revival

You can only grieve the Holy Spirit for so long before He shrinks back from working in your life.

What does Ephesians 4:30 teach you about personal revival?

Continue reading Ephesians 4:31-32. What do these verses teach you about corporate revival in the local church and the global body of Christ? How are our relationships related to grieving the Holy Spirit?

Personal revival begins with a renewed sense of the Spirit's work in your life, beginning at personal salvation and never ceasing. At the very same time, God's conscious presence can certainly become absent from us, and unconfessed sin always causes distance in your relationship with God.

Have you ever felt like God was distant? What caused that to happen?

How can you prepare yourself for a revival of intimacy with the Lord?

Confession is the Doorway to Restoration

Read Ephesians 1:5, 13. What is unconditional for all who trust in Jesus?

Read Galatians 5:1, 16, 22-25. According to these verses what might we miss out on if we quench the Holy Spirit?

At the very moment you were saved, you were made positionally right with God for eternity. Nothing you do will change your place in God's family. Your spot in the family of God wasn't even earned. Jesus paid the price for your place with His life on the cross of Calvary so that you could be called a son or daughter of the King. Yet while our salvation is unconditional and sealed, the work of the Holy Spirit can be quenched. Preparing our hearts for revival and receiving from God creates space in our lives for the Spirit to manifest His presence and power.

A Principle for Personal Revival

*When you are out of fellowship with the Father,
you must confess your sin to Him.*

It's a fruitless endeavor to try to be better or work harder. Restoration and revival do not happen when we try to be self-reliant. Instead, you must experience the Lord's love by accepting His forgiveness as only He can restore you to a right relationship with Him.

Read Luke 15:3-7. Who restored what was lost, the shepherd or the sheep?

Read Luke 15:8-10. Who restored what was lost, the woman or the coin?

Read Luke 15:11-24. Who ran to enact restoration?

In the three lost parables, the emphasis is on:

The shepherd finding the sheep,

The woman finding the coin,

The father running to the son.

How do you explain why the father would run to the son in this situation?

Though he wasn't acting like a son, when the prodigal son turned his back on and left the father and his family, he didn't lose his status as a son in the family. Should the son have died in the pig's trough, he would have still been the father's son. The relationship to the family is the same, but the intimacy is changed.

Has personal sin ever caused you to be out of fellowship with the Lord? Explain

What stays the same in your relationship with God during those times? What changes?

If we live in sin, we will still gain entrance into the Father's glory. However, we will suffer the loss of rewards in the future as well as unspeakable joy and power in the present.

What was the son's responsibility in the act of restoration?

What can we learn from this restoration about our restoration with God?

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

What are some reasons we might shy away from confessing our sins when we're alone with God? What about in the context of church life?

Some of us are too ashamed to confess the sin in our lives to the Lord or even too embarrassed to ask Him for help. Like the father of the prodigal son in Luke 15, God is waiting for you to return and confess your sin, so He can restore your fellowship and put you on a path to intimacy with Him. He is ready to restore; you just have to take the first step, admitting and confessing your sin.

**Why is confession of sin a necessary part of personal revival?
Why is it a necessary part of corporate revival?**

A Principle for Personal Revival

When you grieve the Holy Spirit, you move from God ministering through you to God ministering to you.

Some of us have grieved the Holy Spirit by things we've said or even how we've talked about people this past week. Some of us have grieved the Holy Spirit by what we've posted about, how we've spoken to people, or by what we've watched in private this past week.

If we're going to experience restoration, we all need to come before God in honest confession and repent of our grievous words, actions, attitudes, and conversations. He is waiting and ready to revive us.