

Revive Us

Individual Studies

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Adapted from:

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

When We've Fallen Asleep

1 John 1:9 teaches us that confession is the doorway and first step to restoration and revival.

However, if we fail to sit in silence and solitude, we might be tempted to think of confession only as something *others* need to do.

Corporate revival starts with you, the individual. God is trying to get your attention right now.

Personal renewal is the road map to corporate revival

Can revival take place in your life apart from spending time in silence and solitude before the Lord? Why or why not?

What is the relationship between silence and confession?

It is Better to Listen Than to Speak

Read Matthew 26:31-35. What message was Jesus wanting to get across to His disciples?

Did He get their attention with that message? How do you know?

Peter wanted to talk, but Jesus needed Peter to listen. Our prayer lives are often like that. We are so busy trying to tell Jesus what we want Him to do that we miss what He is trying to say to us.

What warning does Matthew 26:31-35 offer you? What does this passage teach you about yourself?

How would you describe your prayer life? Circle any words that fit:

shallow

two-sided

one-sided

selfish

rote

receptive

short

quiet

submissive

other: _____

Prayer is a dialogue with God, not a monologue

Have you ever prayed and thought, “I don’t even know what to pray for,” or “What should I pray in this situation?” If so, what did you do?

Read Romans 8:26. What does this teach you about prayer?

You don’t have to have the right words to say in prayer. God is not impressed with fancy words or catchy phrases. In fact, even if you have no idea what to say, the Spirit will pray *for* you. Some prayers contain no language, but simply cries out to the Lord. Even when we’re wordless, God hears our cries – and He answers them.

Peter’s issue was in not listening to what Jesus told him. Jesus then brought Peter and the other disciples to the garden of Gethsemane.

Our loving Father knows the language of His children’s cries.

It is Better to Pray Than to Sleep

Read Matthew 26:36-46. What did Jesus want the disciples to do? Why?

Contrast Jesus's attitude in the garden with the attitude of His disciples.

Jesus models for us what to do when difficult situations stare us in the face: drop to your knees and ask God to work. Every battle faced by us individually as believers, corporately as a church, our families, our country, and our world are won or lost in the garden. Acknowledging our desperate need for Him through prayer is how we prepare ourselves for revival.

What did the disciples do? Instead of hitting their knees, they hit their backs and fell asleep. They weren't desperate for God's help in this situation. They had not yet recognized how desperate their needs were for God's help. They were willing to pray, but they were weak in heart, mind, strength, and desire.

In this passage, who do you relate to more when you face a difficult situation: Jesus, who desperately wanted to seek the Father and do His will; or the disciples, who tried to sleep it off? Why?

God is looking to see who is serious in the garden.

Can you relate to Jesus's word, "The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (v. 41)? How so?

Read John 14:13-14 and James 4:2. Why might God's people not experience revival even when they desperately need it?

Maybe you've prayed and God didn't answer the way you wanted Him to. Sometimes when that happens, we find ourselves questioning if God really hears our prayers. John 14:13-14 and James 4:2 assures us He does! Don't let past prayers that weren't answered the way you wanted keep you from praying today.

Realize Jesus holds the editing rights to our prayers. Prayer is not convincing Jesus of our point of view; prayer is desiring to see God at work and His point of view. When we chase hard and humbly after God's character and point of view, like Jesus in the garden, He will hear and revive us.

It is Better to Confess than to Deny

Three times Jesus came back to find the disciples sleeping. Yes, three times. Peter woke up from a nap and realized Judas was coming with the guards to take Jesus away.

Read Matthew 26:47-56. How did Peter react when Jesus was arrested (see also John 18:10-11)?

What do verses 53-54 teach you that sleeping Peter had not yet learned?

Groggy, Peter reacted poorly: He cut off Malchus' ear, a servant to the high priest. Why did he do the wrong thing? He had been asleep instead of praying. If he had been praying, Peter would have been prepared to face the oncoming situation with better preparation to respond in faith.

Luke 22:51 tells us Jesus healed Malchus' ear. Prayerless Peter continued on the struggle bus. As Jesus was led away by the guards to the high priest's house, Peter followed behind at a "safe" distance.

Read Luke 22:54-62. Physically, Peter was now wide awake, but how do you know he was still sound asleep spiritually?

Peter's bold declaration, "I will never deny you . . ." recorded in Matthew 26:35 quickly fell apart when he fell asleep in the garden. Peter learned the hard way leaning into his own strength and strategies is never as effective as trusting Jesus. In fact, while Jesus was being beaten to the point of death, Peter was denying Him in the courtyard.

Peter failed in the courtyard because he slept in the garden

Read 1 John 1:8-10. What happens when we confess our sins? What happens when we don't?

Why does sin always compound apart from confession?

Peter's story illuminates ours – we're not serious about prayer because we're not sick of sin. Before the rooster crowed, Peter's prayerlessness kept him unaware of the depth of his spiritual need. After the rooster crowed, Peter awakened to his desperate need. Will you?

It is Better to Wake Up Than to Miss Revival

Read Acts 1:12-14. Jesus had died, resurrected, and ascended into heaven. So what are some reasons Peter and the other disciples were committed to pray *now*?

Read Acts 2:1-8, 37-41. How did God answer their prayers?

Life is not measured by degrees, awards, financial position, job title, church size, or ministry excellence and effectiveness. No man or woman is greater than his or her prayer life. Whether we fail or succeed comes down to whether we pray – confessing our sins and acknowledging our need for God to revive us.

Read Proverbs 3:5-6. What promise is there for us when we “wake up” in prayerful confession?

Revival starts by repenting for sleeping in the garden.

Revival isn't being seen in our lives, churches, towns, countries, and world because we're content to live without it. Are you tired of business as usual and going through the motions? Do you desire, above all else, to know God deeper and more intimately? Do you want to see Him revive your family and friends, city, church, and the world?