

# Revive Us

Individual Studies

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*Adapted from:*

*Revive Us: A Heart Ready for Revival*  
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## **Personal Study 2**

### *An Outpouring of Power*

We are taught to believe anything is possible with determination and positivity. A multitude of popular cultural maxims express that belief and seek to motivate us. *If you can dream it, you can achieve it. Work hard and make it happen. Believe in yourself.*

Those ideas carry some truth. We certainly should dream of new possibilities, work hard, and believe we can enact change. There is value in setting our minds to goals and working hard to achieve them. At the same time, though, immense danger comes when we ignore the greater truth: in and of ourselves, we are powerless.

**Read Ephesians 2:1-5. How can we know we are powerless to bring about spiritual change in our lives?**

We need to be realistic about our spiritual capacity. To truly understand revival, we need a reminder of Christ's greatness and our poverty, His power and our weakness, His ability and our ineptness.

**Name a situation where you work hard to strategize human solutions instead of inviting the Lord to enact his power.**

## *We Are Powerless to Bring about Revival*

**Read Mark 9:14-18,21-22. What does the length of time this family had suffered reveal about the power they had to overcome this affliction on their own?**

This was likely not the first time the father had sought help for his child. The fundamental problem here was that the child couldn't help himself; he could do nothing to rid himself of the evil spirit. His parents were similarly incapable. As disciples, they quickly learned they also lacked the power needed to change the boy's life.

**When have you faced a situation where you realized you were powerless to bring about change in your own strength? How did you respond?**

Belief in the dreams of a better life and the hard work and determination to make it happen would never be enough.

**What are some ways we might be tempted to seek revival through human strength instead of God's power?**

## *A Principle for Personal Revival*

*We will never experience any real power if we trust ourselves.*

# *We Must Rely Completely on Jesus to Experience Revival*

When these events in Mark 9 occurred, Jesus had just come off a true mountain top experience with three of his disciples. As Jesus was transfigured, God revealed the fullness of His power. Then they came down the mountain and walked into a dumpster fire. People were yelling and accusing the other disciples of being powerless. Jesus stepped in and took charge.

**Read Mark 9:19-20. What do these verses teach you about Christ's heart for people?**

**Why couldn't the disciples do anything to change the boy's situation? Jesus knew the disciples were powerless people, so why was He upset that they hadn't helped the boy receive new life?**

**Read Mark 9:28-29. What do Jesus's words, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer", teach you about how revival takes place?**

Jesus wasn't giving the disciples a formula, He was explaining how such unmistakable spiritual power came fourth, in complete and humble dependence on God, expressed through urgent and serious prayer.

## *A Principle for Personal Revival*

*Spiritual battles must be fought by spiritual means*

Instead of trusting in God's power, the disciples had shifted their faith to themselves. We will only experience the power and the love of Christ to bring revival if we rely on Him completely.

**What behaviors might show a person is desperately dependent on Jesus's power to enact change?**

Salvation is a gift of grace, not works—and so is every bit of our spiritual growth from that point forward. We have a choice about whether we will depend on the Lord to produce spiritual renewal in us, or shift our faith to our own abilities.

**Read Mark 6:7-13. How might this success have served as a hinderance to the disciples as they tried to heal the demon-possessed boy in Mark 9?**

## *A Principle for Personal Revival*

*Our past success can be a great hinderance  
to God's work in the present*

Jesus had given the disciples the power of God to pray over the most hopeless, helpless, and darkest situation and turn it around. But just a few chapters later, they could do nothing. Selfish pride and divine power cannot share the same stage.

**What are some successes in church life that might make believers become prideful? How have you seen this happen?**

## *A Principle for Personal Revival*

*The problem is never with God; it is always with us.  
The barrier to revival is you.*

## *Revival Is Possible for Those Who Believe*

The child couldn't heal himself, the disciples couldn't cast out the demon in their own strength, and the father and the crowd represent a third example of inadequacy. The father couldn't believe without Jesus helping his unbelief.

**Read Mark 9:22-27. What indicates the man's disbelief? How do we often respond to God similarly in prayer?**

When we pray, we ought to affirm and agree with God's prerogative to act according to His will. But we never have to doubt God's ability to answer our prayers.

**How did the man respond to Jesus's rebuke? How are we called to respond in similar situations?**

The father immediately recognized his deficiency and sought the Lord's help. His request stands as an example to the crowd and gives us an example as we read this account. Jesus is the only One who can truly transform our lives and our world to make us whole.

**Do you believe God can bring revival to you in this day and time? What doubt might keep you from believing that? Confess it to God and invite Him to enact revival in His power.**

**Do you believe God can bring revival in your local church? What doubt might keep you from believing that? Confess it to God and invite Him to enact revival in His power.**

**Do you believe God can bring revival in your community, country, and even around the world? What doubt might keep you from believing that? Confess it to God and invite Him to enact revival in His power.**

God doesn't call us to work harder and develop ingenious strategies so that we might change the world; He calls us to desperately trust Him to reveal His power in us, through us, and around us.

## *A Principle for Personal Revival*

*When you become a believer in Jesus,  
God doesn't add a burden  
He adds power to live.*