

The Four Components of Revival Prayer

“If it be asked why the fire of revival from God fell on Wales in 1904, the answer is simple. Fire falls where it is likely to catch and spread. As one person said, Wales provided the necessary tinder. In Wales at that time thousands of believers, unknown to each other, in small towns and villages or great cities, were crying out to God day after day for the fire of revival from God to fall.

*“This was not merely a “Little talk with Jesus” but **daily agonising intercession**. They had a holy jealousy for the name of their God and **wept sorely because of the fact that Satan was being glorified all around them.***

“They constantly reminded God of what He had done in the past and cried out for Him to do it again, even in this hurried, pleasure and luxury loving age.

“These Christians longed to see a renewed manifestation of God’s power.

“This was evident in the earnestness of weekly prayer meeting and in the conversation of God’s people when they met together.”

[*Invasion of Wales by the Spirit’ – James Stewart*]

When God lays a burden on the hearts of people to pray for revival, their prayer is **not** ordinary praying.

There is a **shift of focus** from just praying for personal needs **to praying for God’s greater purposes for His church, for their community and their nation.**

It is praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a manifestation of God’s presence in His church.

It is praying that has a new intensity, urgency and passion.

The four components of revival prayer

1 Passionate praying

God only answers prayers of desperate Christians; Christians who are desperate about their own spiritual condition, and that of their nation.

Psalms 55:1-11 [NIV] *“Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea; hear me and answer me. **My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught** at the voice of the enemy, at the stares of the wicked; for they bring down suffering upon me and revile me in their anger. **My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death assail me. Fear and trembling have beset me; horror has overwhelmed me.** I said, “Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest, I would flee far away and stay in the desert; Selah I would hurry to my place of shelter, far from the tempest and storm.” Confuse the wicked, O Lord, confound their speech, for I see violence and strife in the city. Day and night they prowl about on its walls; malice and abuse are within it. **Destructive forces are at work in the city; threats and lies never leave its streets.**”*

David in a passionate cry to God brings all the evil he sees all around him to God’s notice, longing for God to intervene. These are words that come from David’s inner desire.

This is revival praying **not** driven by a sense of duty but the desperate desire of the heart.

The fire of revival comes only after the preparation of prayer.

Just like a person starting a fire must gather together many small twigs and sticks before striking a match. So the passionate prayers of many believers whose hearts are seeking God “*provide the necessary tinder*” for God’s fire to catch alight.

2 Persistent praying

God does **not** always answer our prayers for revival straight away.

When I start on some new routine seeking to improve my life physically or spiritually, my wife asks at the beginning, “*is this going to be a nine day wonder?*”

God delays responding very often to see if what we are requesting in prayers, however passionate they may be, even if our prayers are in total harmony with His Will. He wants to know if they are just a “*nine day wonder*”.

Evan Roberts, a key person in the Welsh Revival of 1904, had carried the burden of prayer since 1893 before he saw revival come to his country.

It was said of Evan Roberts that when he was a boy “*he hardly ever saw anything through and would give up a task most easily.*”

But once the Holy Spirit had put a burden of prayer for revival in his heart, so his praying became passionate and persistent.

He said, “*there was never a day during those 10 years when I didn’t fling myself before God and cry out for Him to send the Holy Spirit to my native land.*”

Some Christians, somewhere in this country, must today begin to pray continually and persistently until the outpouring of the Holy Spirit does come and bring revival.

3 Persuasive praying

Persuasive praying simply means taking the promises of God and pray them back to Him.

Matthew 28:18-20 [NIV] “*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*”

When we are praying for revival we can claim the presence and authority [power] of Jesus Christ Himself.

Matthew 18:11-14 [King James] “*For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.*”

Matthew 9:35-38 [NIV] “*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”*”

Offer ourselves as workers in the harvest field, express our passion for the lost as Christ did here.

Matthew 14:14 [NIV] *“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, **he had compassion on them and healed their sick.**”*

This society is sick physically, mentally and spiritually and needs to experience the love and compassion of God.

Acts 2:17-18 [NIV] *“**In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.**”*

Ask for this outpouring of the Holy Spirit and that we may be vehicles in His hands to fulfil God’s mission for our nation in our time.

For these are the “*last days*” beginning with the coming of the Holy Spirit on that first day of Pentecost.

Ephesians 5:25-27 [NIV] *“Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.**”*

Ask for this cleansing to take place throughout the church, beginning with ourselves.

Prayers based on promises such as these will “*grab God’s attention*” and He will answer them, in His way, in His time.

4 Penitent prayers

Revival praying is a deep sorrow over sin.

Penitent speaks of a humble, contrite and repentant heart.

This sorrow over sin should be not only our own sin [though it will include that] **but also sorrow for the sins of the church and the nation.**

As we look at the prayers of godly people in the Old Testament times, we see that whenever they approached God with a plea for revival, they nearly always began by acknowledging their own sin and the sins of their people.

Nehemiah is a good example of this penitent approach to God in prayer.

Nehemiah 1:2-3 [NIV] *“Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”*

Nehemiah’s people were in deep trouble, even the few who had survived the exile.

Nehemiah 1:4 [NIV] *“**When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.**”*

This shows the great compassion that Nehemiah had for this leaderless, poor, dejected and defenceless group of people.

Matthew 23:37-39 [NIV] *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, **how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”***

Jesus Christ had the same compassion for the residents of Jerusalem in His day when similar conditions were about to happen to them.

Nehemiah 1:5-7 [NIV] *“Then I said: **“O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly towards you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.”***

Acknowledged his own sins and those of his nation.

Prayers of confession and repentance must be offered before God can move in power.

God is looking for and waiting for us to approach Him with this humble attitude of mind. With prayers that are passionate, persistent, persuasive and penitent.

God is waiting, are we willing?

Make a commitment now to start praying for revival and continue to do so until we see God’s power manifested in us and in this nation.