

Week 3:

Prayer That Brings Revival



Questions

1. Have someone in the group set a timer for 40 minutes. When the timer sounds, skip to #13 and begin your 20 minutes of group prayer aloud.
2. Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. Describe how this “lifestyle of ongoing repentance for relationship” has been going in your life. What has been working as you try to re-choose God as “first place” every day? What hasn’t been working?
3. Read Ephesians 6:12. Have you ever considered that part of your calling as a Christian is to “fight” or “wrestle” with demonic forces in the unseen realm? What are your thoughts on this verse above? Have you ever prayed for spiritual protection or deliverance from temptation for your kids, spouse, loved ones, close friends, or family?
4. We were challenged to begin regular times of group prayer in our families, households, or with close friends or coworkers. Share if you’ve been able to do this or share how you hope to. How could you be a help to each other in this?
5. On the below chart of the four types of prayer, which area do you most want to increase your prayers?

<p>Devotional Prayer when we adore and worship God, describing our love for God (“hallowed be your name”)</p>	<p>Requesting Prayer when we ask God for daily forgiveness and to meet earthly needs (“forgive us” & “our daily bread”)</p>
<p>Kingdom Prayer when we ask God for His eternal Kingdom to invade our world (“your kingdom come”)</p>	<p>Intercessory Prayer when we pray for other souls, asking God to work in the unseen realm to bring them to salvation or to protect and mature them (“us”)</p>

6. The sermon and devotional both described emotion in prayer. Revival prayers are passionate. What Bible story, passage, or illustration spoke to you about our passion in prayer?



7. This week we were challenged to spend less time “taking prayer requests” so that we can spend more time actually praying. The challenge was to speak your requests aloud in the time of group prayer. Then the others will hear and pray with you as you share. Discuss as a group if are you willing to try praying this way?
8. In the devotional you were challenged to identify three people who do not have a relationship with God through Jesus. Take a moment now to identify those three. Go around the circle one by one. When it is your turn simply pray aloud for your three. Anything that needs to be explained can be explained to God and don't hesitate to show emotion or passion. Everyone else will be joining you in praying for those three. If you've never prayed aloud in a group, know that everybody here is cheering you on as you take this step. So now take a few minutes to go around the circle praying for these salvations.
9. Read Mark 1:35. What would a “solitary place” look like in your life today? Could putting your phone in Airplane Mode or leaving it in a different room of the house be a modern expression of a “solitary place?”
10. Read Exodus 32:11-14. While Moses was ultimately submitted to God and viewed himself as God's servant, he was also belligerent in begging God to *not destroy* the nation of Israel. Moses declined to become the Abrahamic father of his own new nation. **Moses cared more for God's people and for God's glory than for his own gain.** What would it look like for you to care more about the good of the people in your nation—and for you to care more about God's glory—than you care about your own gain?
11. Read Matthew 26:38-40. This is one of the most emotional prayers of Jesus recorded in the Bible. Reflect on your life. What is the most emotional prayer you have prayed to God? What were the circumstances? How was the emotion visible in your body or your behavior? As we consider how emotional we get in sports events, share thoughts about how much room we have to grow in this area.
12. On pages 103 and 104 in your 40 Days devotional we compared Earthly Needs and Eternal Matters. While God certainly cares about our Earthly Needs, we learned that the Lord's Prayer focuses more on Eternal Matters. Did this challenge you? What are some Eternal Matters that you can get passionate about?

(Examples of Eternal Matters: for the spiritual growth of a believer, for protection from evil, insight to invest time or money into the Kingdom, for Jesus' church to expand, for our church to reach the lost, for our church to succeed in raising the next generation, for the next generation to lead revival, for us to model revival, freedom from sin for people you love, forgiveness, victory from sin in your own life, salvation for souls you know, godly friendships for your loved ones, praying against demonic lies in cities, schools, universities, governments, for God's Kingdom to advance, etc.)



13. **Group Activity: Praying Revival Prayers**

Step 1: Prepare to pray as a group for 20 minutes with a focus on Eternal Matters and souls. Set this target for the new time of prayer. As a group, you will pray aloud:

- for souls (pray by name),
- for salvations by name,
- for the Kingdom to advance in your group,
- for the spiritual needs in your families (not the earthly needs at this time).
- Wrestle for your church in the unseen realm.
- Intercede for your city and nation.
- Any other Eternal Matter listed above in #12.

Keep this time of prayer as free from Earthly Needs as possible, to focus on Eternal Matters.

Step 2: Have someone in the group set a timer for 20 minutes.

Step 3: Do not take prayer requests.

Step 4: Jump immediately into praying aloud together, one-at-a-time, specifically for souls (pray by name), for salvations, for the Kingdom to advance in your group, for spiritual needs in your families and church, for local schools.

Any soul or Eternal Matter is fair game to be prayed for.

Lift up the kids and spouses and relatives of others in your group. Intercede for your city and nation. You can also pray for spiritual growth in people God brings to mind. Pray that sin strongholds are broken. That thinking strongholds are broken. Pray for maturity, for open eyes, for growing faith.

Make a concerted effort to keep the prayers on Eternal Matters rather than Earthly.

Step 5: After the 20-minute timer sounds, discuss the following as a group. *Could this new and focused way of Kingdom and Revival praying be something you all do weekly? Do you think you could have gone 30 minutes in this way as a group?*



If you have extra time, reflect: You just experienced, perhaps for the first time, the kind of praying that ushered in America's past Great Awakenings. We are shifting from prayer times dominated by Earthly Needs to prayer times that acknowledge Earthly Needs and then focus emotion and energy on Eternal Matters.

If people in your group feel that Earthly Needs are being neglected. Then perhaps have a separate time of prayer for those needs. Because American Christians tend to focus only on Earthly Needs, we may need to push ourselves out of our comfort zones to begin praying Intercessory prayers for Eternal Matters. Let's be patient with each other and learn this together.

We may never pray at the level of Jesus when He was on earth. But it's a worthy goal to strive toward. God *can* grow you to pray at the level of Paul the Apostle and Peter. No Christian immediately prays at that level. But we can all be growing toward it.

Be encouraged. Learning to pray for more Eternal Matters is a lifelong process. The more you pray with others—who are also striving for this—the more natural it will become.

The goal is not perfection or to “arrive” at some level. Rather, the goal is that God would control more of our hearts and emotions every day, that you would become more like Him in your affections and thoughts.

As we fill our minds with Scripture and are led by His Spirit, we will increasingly love what God loves and long for His Kingdom to break into every situation we find ourselves in. Just as longtime spouses in a healthy marriage naturally breathe their thoughts to each other, prayer can become your daily ongoing conversation with God.

Takeaways

- Is glorious victory possible without pain?
- “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” – Jesus in Matthew 16:18
- Will we be found faithful – as a church?
- Will you be found faithful – as a Christian?
- “Effort is nonnegotiable; every day you either improve or you fall behind.” – Curt Cignetti, IU Head Coach



- “Commitment is the single thing that separates good teams from great ones.” – Curt Cignetti, IU Head Coach
- “Small habits, repeated with intention, create the extraordinary.” – Curt Cignetti, IU Head Coach
- “In every offseason of life, lay the foundation for your next breakthrough.” – Curt Cignetti, IU Head Coach
- **Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)**
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- **Exodus 17:8 (NIV)**
The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim.
- What can you do when forces bigger than you threaten your loved ones, your life, even your civilization?
- **Exodus 17:9-13 (NIV)**
Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.” So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.
- Prayer can deliver your nation from disaster.
- “There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.” – Arthur Tappan Pierson, Third Great Awakening
- **Exodus 17:15-16 (NIV)**
Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner. He said, “Because hands were lifted up against the throne of the Lord, the Lord will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation.”
- Revival prayer is passionate.
- Most of us are not currently praying the kinds of prayers that change nations or shake the gates of Hell.
- **James 5:16b (NIV)**
The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
- Who is “the righteous person?” The righteous person is simply the person who has:
 1. Believed in Christ’s death for the forgiveness of their sins, and
 2. Confessed any ongoing sin to be made right with God (*see James 5:16a*)
- **James 5:17-18 (NIV)**
Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.



- Believers just like you, whose prayers brought Revival or rescued their nation from peril:
 - Moses
 - Elijah
 - Esther
 - David
 - Nehemiah
 - John Wesley, Charles Finney
 - Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Revival prayer happens best in groups. Moses needed Aaron & Hur.
- **Luke 11:1b (NIV)**
“Lord, teach us to pray...”
- **Luke 11:2a (NKJV)**
So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.
- Revival prayer rises above earthly needs into eternal matters – souls, salvations, spiritual territory.
- **2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)**
if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.



REVIVAL PRACTICES

Week	Enemy of Revival	Revival Practice	How God Interacts with Us	Attribute of God
1	Distraction	Urgent & Dependent Posture	Helps and Defeats Opponents	Our Ever-Present Help, Provider
2	Sin & Shame	Repentance for Relationship	Restores, Forgives, Empowers, Gives Joy and Friendship	Forgiver, Redeemer, Empowerer, Unconditional Love
3	Self-Reliance	Prayer	Listens and Works - Opening Doors and Changing Hearts	He Hears, He Enters Our Emotions, He Delights in Our Dependence on Him
4	Fear	Evangelism - Broken-Hearted Boldness	Prepares Souls, Draws People, Partners with Us	Savior, Rescuer
5	Short Sightedness	Raising the Next Generation	Provides Esthers and Billy Grahams if We Will be Mordecais	Generational
6	Giving Up (Lack of Endurance)	Decades, Not Days	Works from Generation to Generation Far Bigger Than Our Lives or Lifetimes	Faithful

