

Prerequisites for Revival
2 Chronicles 7:14

Revival describes God's work of restoration and renewal among His people. Revival is what Christians experience.

Spiritual Awakening follows revival and touches the lives of people throughout a society. In a Spiritual Awakening, many will be saved. But even those who are not will see evidence of God's work of revival in His people.

if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

I. The People Who Can Experience Revival.

If my people who are called by my name . . .

Who are God's people who are called by God's name?

- In this verse, it refers to Jews living under King Solomon's reign.
- In the OT in general, Jews are the only people who *are called by the name of the Lord* (Deut.28:10).
- In the NT, only Christians are called *a people for his name*. (Acts 15:14).

II. The Prerequisites for Experiencing Revival.

A. We must humble ourselves.

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves

B. We must pray.

If my people who are called by my name . . . pray.

1. Prayers of confession

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. (Psalms 66:18)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

2. Prayers of intercession

“Mark it well: where intercession goes thin or ceases altogether, there the saints and the churches drift into spiritual lethargy, and the forces of evil have a field day in the culture.”

– Walter Kaiser

“True intercession takes the persons and places in the world where evil is assaulting the kingdom of God and pleads that the strong hand of God might defeat evil. It prays that the lost might see the glorious offer of grace given by our Lord Jesus and that they might come to trust him personally.”

- S.D. Gordon

C. We must seek God’s face.

If my people who are called by my name . . . seek my face

To seek God’s face means to seek His presence and approval, and to experience the joy and blessings that comes from that.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (James 4:8).

- Unclean hands refer to our sinful actions against other people.
- An impure heart describes our sinful motives and desires.

You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.
(Jeremiah 29:13)

D. We must turn from our wicked ways.

If my people who are called by my name . . . turn from their wicked ways,

The word that best describes turning from our wicked ways is *repent*.

“Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.”

- Wayne Grudem

III. The Promise of Revival

if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

A. We see two things that God promises to do when we meet His prerequisites for revival.

1. God will forgive our sin.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

2. God will heal our land.

“God wants us to be clean persons, channels through which his blessings, witness, and interventions in this sinful world can flow.”

- Walter Kaiser

“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” (John 13:17)