**BETTER TOGETHER** in 2022

March 27, 2022

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**Revive**

**Revive Us Oh God**



**Last week, I shared that personally, at times, it has been a real struggle**. I have felt spiritually attacked, physically tired, even emotionally overwhelmed. I have felt distracted, annoyed, and apathetic … **In a season of drawing near to God, I have felt distant and discouraged.** At times, I felt like I was running toward God in quicksand.

**But there is something that has become clear to me, something that I have been lacking** … it is found in this simple formula …

**Intentionality** + **Intensity** = **Intimacy**

**As we conclude this series …** seeking God, more of God, wanting to keep our love alive, wanting people far from God to be spiritually awakened; this is the way we should live … **not becoming complacent.**

I need revival and awakening. I need to live in a constant state of revival …

**Revival does not hurt; it heals.** It delivers us from self and selfishness. It renews, restores, refreshes, and revitalizes that which has become stale, old hat, and cold. **Someone has said that revival makes the ideal real in the church.** It is a sad necessity, but we must never assume it is an impossibility. **God wants to move among His people.** He wants His glory to fill this place.

**Charles Finney, born in 1792** is called the "**father of modern revivalism**"

… He was convinced, through many years of Revival ministry, **that God intended the church to live continually in a Revival state** - that this was the "normal" state of the church. And he was also convinced that if the church would just meet the basic conditions for Revival - **deep repentance** and heartfelt, **'agonizing' prayer** for the outpouring of God's Spirit - then Revival would ALWAYS result.

Revival begins and is sustained by deep **repentance** and **agonizing** prayer.

We cannot **organize** it, but we can **agonize** for it in prayer.

**Being in anguish** is to be extremely distressed about something.

*Shall I give you yet another reason why you should pray? I have preached my very heart out. I could not say any more than I have said. Will not your prayers accomplish that which my preaching fails to do? … Oh, dear friends!* ***Let us agonize in prayer****.*  C.H. Spurgeon

Paul was in anguish or extremely distressed for the churches …

*my little children, for* ***whom I am again in the anguish*** *of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!* Galatians 4:19

This life that Paul prayed for is a life of faith in the One who brought us to life in His death.

*I have been crucified with Christ.* ***It is no longer I who live****, but* ***Christ who lives in me****. And the life I now live in the flesh I* ***live by faith in the Son of God****, who loved me and gave himself for me.* Galatians 2:20

Lord teach us to pray.

*When God intends great mercy for His people, the first thing He does is set them a-praying.* Matthew Henry

*Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down.* John Wesley

Prayer is not as much a **position** as it is a **disposition**.

**Disposition** – a quality of character, a habit, a preparation, a state of readiness, or a tendency to act in a specified way.

*pray without ceasing …* 1 Thessalonians 5:17

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.* Matthew 7:7–8

**Agonizing Prayer**

**Agonizing prayer** is effectively a prayer that doesn’t take no for an answer.

Agonizing Prayer is “**pre-prayer-ing**” the ground for God to move.

*He was despised and rejected by men,* ***a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief****; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.* Isaiah 53:3

Agonizing Prayer begins with a **burden**.

*Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, “****My soul is very sorrowful****, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”* Matthew 26:36–38

*And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And* ***being in agony he prayed more earnestly****; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.* Luke 22:43–44

Agonizing Prayer seeks the **Father’s** will.

*And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “****My Father****, if it be possible,* ***let this cup pass*** *from me; nevertheless,* ***not as I will, but as you will****.”* Matthew 26:39

*saying, “Father, if you are willing,* ***remove this cup*** *from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”* Luke 22:42

**The cup**, that Jesus found so abhorrent to drink, was a cup filled with the wrath of God. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was staring intently into that cup — the one He would drink the very next day as He hung on the cross in excruciating agony.

*So Jesus drank the cup of the wrath of God in our place. He endured the unimaginable spiritual agony we deserve so that we would be saved by Him from the wrath of God. We will never appreciate Jesus’ agonizing prayer in Gethsemane; we will never appreciate His sweating, as it were, great drops of blood, until we grasp in the depths of our beings that Jesus was staring at the wrath of God we deserve.* Jerry Bridges

*Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it,* ***your will be done****.”* Matthew 26:42

*So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time,* ***saying the same words again****.* Matthew 26:44

Agonizing Prayer is **following** **Jesus** in prayer.

*And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and* ***pray*** *that you* ***may not enter into temptation****. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”* Matthew 26:40-41

And again, he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. vs.43

* Helps us see and **discern** God’s will.
* Helps us resist **temptation.**
* Helps us overcome the **flesh.**

Agonizing Prayer **strengthens** and **prepares** you for trials.

*Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.* ***Rise, let us be going****; see, my betrayer is at hand.”* Matthew 26:45–46

***How long, O Lord****? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have* ***sorrow in my heart all the day****? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?* Psalm 13:1–2

**What do you need to do?**

* Keep **agonizing** in prayer.
* Keep being **honest** in your prayers to God.
* Keep **believing** that God is at work when you pray.
* Keep praying for **revival** and **spiritual awakening** for you, your church, your community, your city and your country.
* Keep asking God to let it begin with **you**.

I am ready to see a heaven-sent revival. How about you?