

ROAD TO REVIVAL

What is “Revival” For The Gathering?

- For us, at The Gathering, we believe revival is:

A powerful move of God’s presence that restores us back to the Biblical standard of living like Jesus on the earth.

What is The End Result of Revival?

- The lasting fruit of revival is:

**Permanent and sustainable life-change by the power of God’s Word and God’s Spirit to live like Jesus on the earth today.
Sons and daughters of God, communing closely with God, being obedient to God on the earth.**

How Long Will Revival Last?

- The beauty of revival as we’ve just described it, is that Jesus intends for it to last until He returns to earth for His spotless and beloved bride - us!
- God absolutely wants to bring a powerful move of His presence that restores us back to Biblical Christ-likeness.
- If we are obedient to Him in this time of revival, then the impact and momentum of revival can be sustained until will we see Him face to face.

Increasing Intimacy With God - Mark 7:1-9, Matthew 7:21-23, Joel 2:12-14

Introduction

- God desires intimacy with us! God created us for relationship. He wants us, pursues us, and waits for us.
- We were separated from Him by our own choices because He is holy.
- God never gave up on us! He made a legal way for us to be close to Him again by Jesus’ blood.
- Now the rest is up to us...
- We are as close to God as we want to be.
- God will never force intimacy on us. This is revival. Choosing Him, pursuing Him, and rediscovering the close love relationship that we were created for.

- We will never find true love, fulfillment, and peace outside of intimacy with Him. Are we ready to get back to what we were created for?

Practical Ways to Increase Our Intimacy with God

Review

1. **It starts with a commitment** to receive the love and forgiveness of God; and committing to love Him, obey Him, and repent when we fall short. Have you intentionally began a love relationship with God through a covenant?
2. **Honest conversations with God** about your desire for intimacy or lack of it. He knows the deepest thoughts of our heart and He wants to hear about it. How long has it been since you've had a heart to heart with God?
3. **Obedience.** One of the simplest ways that we can increase our intimacy with God is to begin to consistently obey Him in the small things. What are some simple ways you can obey God today and this week?
4. **Praise Him in hardships.** Every difficulty is a test of our faith. Satan wants to destroy us with them, but God wants to draw us close. Choosing to praise God in the midst of difficult circumstances will draw us closer to Him than we thought possible.
5. **Read the Bible with The Spirit.** When we spend time in the Bible with the Spirit, we are spending time in God's presence; and He gives us life and closeness.
6. **Consistent Awareness of His Presence.** Though God is always with us, we often get caught up in busyness and fail to fellowship with Him. Create moments throughout the day to acknowledge and love Him.
7. **Thanksgiving and Praise.** When it feels like God is a million miles away; begin to simply thank Him for everything you can think of. This will draw your heart into praise and usher you into His loving presence.
8. **Getting on Our Face and Knees.** The people who had the closest relationships with God in the Bible were marked with humility. Humbling ourselves, getting low, and offering our hearts to God pleases Him and draws us close to Him.

9. Quick Repentance with the Right Heart

- Let's read Joel 2:12-19 together please.
- "Repent, then, and turn to God. so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." Acts 3:19

- The word “refreshing” comes from the Greek word that literally means, “a recovery of breath, and **revival!**” (Strong’s Concordance)
- Repentance out of shame, compulsion, or religious manipulation only produces sorrow, hopelessness, and discouragement.
- However, repentance out of desire to be close to God and to please Him produces refreshment, revival, and great intimacy in our hearts!
- Will you commit to the Lord to be a “soft-mouthed horse?” Will you choose to be quick to repent for the purpose of intimacy?

10. Special Times Set Aside with God

- “Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, ‘Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.’ So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.” Mark 6:31-32
- Jesus also took special times alone with God. (Matthew 17:1, Mark 1:35, 6:46, Luke 5:16, 6:12)
- Our relationship cannot survive on occasional special times alone with God; we must learn to commune with Him through everyday life.
- However, there are times when the Spirit whispers and God draws us to some intentional time alone with Him. These times are so special.
- When is the last time you intentionally got alone with God for a few hours or a few days? It will literally change your heart and your life!

11. Effective Service in Your Gifting

- “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’” Matthew 25:21
- God has invested physical and spiritual gifts into our lives. When we faithfully serve Him with these things, it brings Him great joy and He invites us to join Him in that joy and happiness.
- We know that service can never replace intimacy, that leads to spiritual dryness and lack of productivity. However, as we serve God out of love for Him, we draw even closer to Him through excellent stewardship.
- What has God invested in you? He expects and deserves a return on His investment. Don’t be the lazy servant. Seek God and find His purposes for your life. Faithfully serve and find great joy and intimacy.