

Walking in Revival : Practical Guide to Christlikeness Col. 3:1-17

What is “Revival” for The Gathering?

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

What is the End Result of Revival?

Permanent and sustainable life-change by the power of God’s Word and God’s Spirit to live like Jesus on the earth today.

How Long will Revival Last?

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.

What Does it Look Like to Be Walking in Personal Revival Today? Col. 3:1-17

Put to Death...Greed - Col. 3:5

How does the Bible define greed?

- The word “greed” is translated from a Greek word that literally means, “holding and desiring more, avarice, covetous.” (Strong’s Concordance)

- The word “avarice” means “a strong desire to have and get money.” The word “covetous” means, “a very strong desire for something that you do not have.” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)
- There is nothing evil about money or possessions. God owns them all and has no problem using them and sharing them as blessings for His glory.
- However, God loves us and created us for the opportunity to love Him with all our hearts. We can only have one first love. Greed is offering our heart and desire toward having money and stuff rather than pursuing God.
- “No one can serve two masters, for he will either hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” Matthew 6:24

Why put Greed to Death?

1. Greed is the Opposite of God’s Heart

- “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness’... So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.’” Genesis 1:26a,27-28a
- “For God so loved the world that He gave...” John 3:16
- From the beginning, God has been creating and blessing both the earth and mankind. He loves to give and bless because it is His heart - His nature.

- The world longs to see a true image of God; and a large part of that image is the love, goodness and generosity of our Father.
- We were created in His image. Sin tarnished His generous heart in us, but Christ died and was risen so that the image of God might be restored in us.
- Has the love of money camouflaged the image of God in your life today?

2. Greed robs us of Intimacy with God

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3. Greed is Idolatry

- “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.” Colossians 3:5
- The word “idolatry” is translated from a Greek word that literally means, “image-worship.” (Strong’s Concordance)
- Greed is robbing worship from our loving Creator and giving it to a created image that cannot give us what only God can - life, peace, joy and fulfillment.
- How foolish would it be to frame a \$100 bill on the wall and bow to it daily, praying to it and asking for peace, happiness and fulfillment in life?
- And yet many of us do it everyday, over and over again. Money and possessions will never give us what our hearts truly desire, but God will.
- May we become people that reserve our worship for the One who deserves it.

4. Greed robs us of God’s blessings

- The Parable of the Talents (Stewardship) - Matthew 25:14-30

- Because of the blood of Jesus, God's love is unconditional and constant toward all people at all times and not dependent on performance. However, the Bible teaches that His blessings or favor are based on stewardship.
- God is not stingy, He's very generous. And He's not afraid to lavishly bless His children when they have proven to be good stewards for His glory. (v.28-29)
- But God is not going to continue to give His children things that hurt them and draw them away from His love.
- Has the love and desire for money positioned you to miss out on God's blessings for your life? Will you repent today and come back to His heart?

How do we practically put greed to death?

1. Give God the First Fruits out of Honor

- "This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything." Hebrews 7:1-2
- Some believe that the "tithe" or "tenth" is part of the Mosaic law and that we are no longer bound to it in the New Testament. But the truth is that Abraham gave a tenth to Melchizedek out of honor and was not bound in anyway.
- One practical way that we can put greed to death in our lives is to be faithful to joyfully give God the first fruits of what He has given us. This puts His blessings in perspective and keeps our hearts from turning to money.

- Are we dishonoring the One who gives us all things by denying Him the first fruits that He requests to fund His kingdom and meet the needs of others?
- Will we repent today and commit to give Him the first fruits out of honor?

2. Live Open-Handed

- Let's read 1 John 3:16-18
- Jesus lived and died "open-handed" - literally. He was always giving of Himself and willing to sacrifice His own comforts out of His love for people. This was His Father's heart and we are to be like Him in the earth.
- Many of us struggle with greed because we perceive our money and possessions as belonging to us. But the reality is that everything we possess actually belongs to God and are tools for His purposes and His glory.
- When we hold money and possession with an open hand, we are continually saying to God, "This is yours, not mine, use it any way that You want to."
- Do you and your family need to sit down with God and choose to be open-handed with His stuff this week?

3. Budget for Generosity

- “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7
- The word “decided” is translated from two Greek root words that mean, “prior” and “choice.” (Strong’s Concordance)
- If we are waiting to have plenty of money left over in order to begin to give generously, then it most likely will never happen. God commands us to be faithful with little, then He will trust us with more. (Luke 16:10)
- After we have given God the first fruits, let’s sit down as a family, pray, and set aside an amount that we want to joyfully give.
- It can be a constant commitment to a person or cause; or it can be ready to give as the Spirit leads or as the need appears. This can be a lot of fun, but it will rarely happen by accident.