

## Revival: What Will It Take?

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*“Look how far you have fallen from your first love! Turn back to me again and work as you did at first...Anyone who is willing to hear should listen to the Spirit and understand what the Spirit is saying to the churches...”*

Revelation 2:5, 7 (NLT)

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**Prayer Focus:** As the Lord Jesus addressed the churches in the first century, so He speaks to us today. The church at Ephesus was not unlike many contemporary church situations. They were doctrinally sound and very active in ministry. They were even discerning about evil. But they had been seduced by the culture and drawn away from pure love and devotion to Jesus as their first love. So despite all their good intentions, they were warned to turn back to the Lord. If we are willing to listen, the Spirit is saying the same thing to the Church today. The pure love for the Lord Jesus Christ has been replaced by activity, busyness, and the managing of the “machinery” of ministry. What is the Spirit saying it will take for the revival of the Church today? We must acknowledge our fallen condition, earnestly repent, and turn back to a pure and focused love for Jesus. No amount of ministry effort can lead to revival. It is the turning of the heart back to Jesus in true repentance that brings the power of His presence in our midst.

**Day 1:** Worship the Lord for His love for you and His church.

**Day 2:** Thank the Lord for His Spirit that speaks and convicts.

**Day 3:** Ask the Lord to reveal if you have strayed from your first love for Jesus. Repent of losing your first love.

**Day 4:** Invite Jesus to bring you back to pure devotion to Him.

**Day 5:** Pray that your pastor and church leadership will recognize where they have been caught in managing the machinery of ministry instead of focusing on Jesus.

**Day 6:** Pray that churches in your community will be transformed by a return to their first love for Jesus.

**Day 7:** Pray that Christians will hunger for the pure presence of Jesus Christ to fill their churches and communities.

## TRANSFORMATION: JESUS IN OUR MIDST

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Our God is on the move today! The power of God in transformation is being felt in hundreds of communities around the world. The frequency and intensity of this movement of transformation continues to increase in those communities where the conditions of 2 Chronicles 7:14 are being sought after and met:

*“...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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”*

This growing desire for transformation is being echoed in churches – and among intercessors, leaders and ordinary people who long for God to make a difference in their communities. The tendency, however, is to allow the desire to be overtaken by the drive to “make something happen.” This subtle shift can result in lowering the standard of true transformation to match our human-set standards. If we lower the standard to an achievable level, we can then substitute programs for God’s power. We mistakenly believe that our best ministry efforts will usher in transformation. This misses the most critical truth of transformation: *that Jesus must be fully in our midst.*

### The Presence of Jesus

In communities where true transformation is happening, the common denominator is that believers become desperate for the *manifest presence* of Jesus Christ. They are willing to give up everything to seek Jesus with longing hearts. Only Jesus can truly restore broken families, heal the hurting and abused, and bring peace and safety to their communities. The presence of Christ changes *everything!*

How do we come to such a place of desperation? Only the Holy Spirit of God can birth and fan into flame that kind of passion and longing. Through the Holy Spirit we discover the truth of Jesus Christ Himself. As you pray through the prayer guide above, may you fall more deeply in love with the Lord Jesus Christ. May you long for Him with a greater fervency and desire than you have ever known. As you invite His presence through a repentant heart and a contrite spirit, you are welcoming Him into your church and community as well.

True revival and transformation will go beyond heart change into societal and community change. It will be a complete awakening to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and a celebration of His authority and life-giving power. When He comes in His manifest presence into your community, everyone will know that ***Jesus is in your midst!***

*Taken from the book “Come, Lord Jesus: transformation prayer guide”  
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