

Part Six

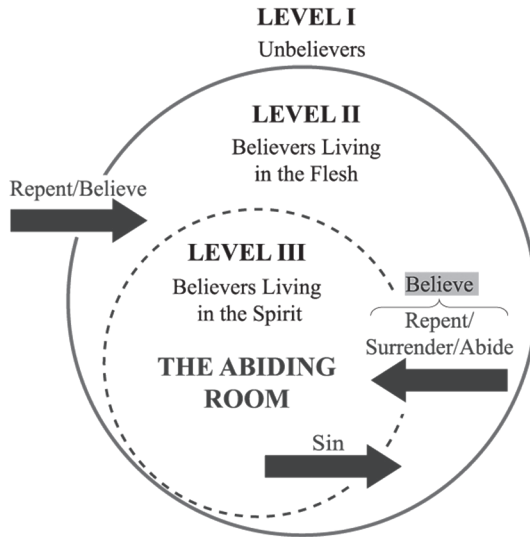
HOPE FOR THE WORLD





CHAPTER 16

Faith



He [Jesus] was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. (1 Peter 1:20–21 NIV)

Every aspect of the abiding, Spirit-filled life requires faith. This reality is depicted in the Abiding Room diagram above by placing a bracket beneath the shaded word “Believe” that covers the words “Repent/Surrender/Abide.” This indicates it takes faith to repent when you sin. It takes faith to surrender your will to God’s will. It takes faith to abide in Jesus.

Faith Defined

What is faith? The Bible describes faith this way: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). And the Merriam-Webster dictionary defines faith as “allegiance to duty or a person.”

Faith is our personal choice to believe something or someone is trustworthy. We might also simply say faith is trusting in and following your friend Jesus.

The Bible is the Word of God. It gives testimony to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It gives evidence to the historical work of God in the lives of others in the past, as well as God’s instructions and promises to us for today and the future. It takes faith to trust God’s Word and act obediently to its instructions for your life.

The Holy Spirit has been given to us to teach and guide us. It takes practice to recognize his promptings, and faith to trust and obey them.

Your Life with Christ Began by Faith

As a follower of Jesus, you started by faith: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8–9).

You received salvation by faith when you first repented of your sin and received Jesus as Savior. Did Jesus appear to you in bodily form and explain everything to you? No. But by faith you knew he lived, died for your sins, and rose from the dead so you could be forgiven. You didn’t understand everything about your sin and God’s forgiveness, but by faith, you began following Jesus. Since that time, you’ve been following Jesus by faith.

Faith Activates the Power of the Holy Spirit

Your faith is essential to experiencing the abiding, Spirit-filled life. The power of the indwelling Holy Spirit is always available to you. But as mentioned in chapter 5, that power must be activated by your faith. Faith is the exciting decision point of trusting God is directing your life and is ready to include you in his work. When you sense God directing you as

you read his Word or receive the Holy Spirit's prompting, your next step should be to obey by faith.

Faith is not a chore but an amazing privilege and blessing. You have a God who is great, almighty, sovereign, and infinite, yet so personal that he invites you to trust him and join him in the work he is doing here on earth.

Obedience *to* God means living by faith *in* God. In John 15:10, Jesus said, "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love." The way we abide and keep abiding is by obeying God. Faithful obedience continues the abiding, Spirit-filled life and its blessings.

By Faith We Trust God for the Results

We've laid out the benefits of the abiding, Spirit-filled life—love, joy, peace, and all the rest of the fruit of the Spirit. We've said that as we abide in Jesus, we are being filled with the Holy Spirit (The Great 2 for 1) and will bear much fruit. We've said God has even promised us eternal rewards if we take this less-traveled, Spirit-led path.

But how can you know for sure the cost of giving up these things will be worth the benefits you receive? For instance, how can you forgive when the results are unknown? How can you know for sure God will keep his end of the bargain?

Well, you can't know what will happen, but, *by faith*, you can take God at his Word and trust him to be faithful to his promises. Faith is the component that activates every aspect of the abiding, Spirit-filled life. You must trust God whenever you choose to repent, surrender, and abide—leaving the results to him.

If that sounds like a lot to ask—to give up what seems like a lot without knowing exactly what you'll get in return—well, you're right. It is a lot to ask. Nearly everyone feels that way when the time comes to make these life-changing choices to trust God.

Think of it as a heavenly exchange rate. You give up a few earthly pennies and God gives you buckets of heavenly treasure of the abiding, Spirit-filled life in exchange! The exchange rate isn't posted in definite terms. God simply says "Trust me. Trust me for who I am and what I will do."

If all the costs and blessings were known in advance, trusting God wouldn't require faith. You have to give up something with a somewhat unknown cost and trust God for the results (and the timing of those results), which are unknown. That is the essence of faith.

God requires faithful obedience to him, not only to bring about his intended result, but to shape you into the person he wants you to be. As you trust God and see him at work, you are getting to know him better. You are becoming more like Jesus in the process of faithful obedience to God's instructions.

Hopefully, the promises of the abiding, Spirit-filled life laid out in the previous chapters make it apparent that the faith required is well worth the blessing of fully experiencing God in your life.

Faith is a Challenge for Everyone

Faith is something everyone struggles with to some extent. It might help you to know even two of the heroes of the faith struggled with trusting God—Moses and Billy Graham.

Moses, whom God used to part the Red Sea and lead the Israelites out of Egypt, struggled with faith early in his life. When God gave him his first assignment, God told Moses to go to Pharaoh as his messenger and tell Pharaoh what he was going to do. But Moses was afraid and responded, "Oh, my LORD, please send someone else" (Exodus 4:13). Moses' first reaction was fearful reluctance. But when he obeyed, God used him in mighty ways.

A much more recent example is Billy Graham, whom God used to share the gospel of Jesus with people all around the world. Early in his ministry, Billy also struggled with his faith. Before he was a household name, he wrestled with knowing whether he could trust the teachings of the Bible. Here are his words from his autobiography: "I was trying to be on the level with God, but something remained unspoken. At last the Holy Spirit freed me to say it. 'Father, I am going to accept this as Thy Word—by *faith!* I'm going to allow faith to go beyond my intellectual questions and doubts, and I will believe this to be Your inspired Word.'"¹

As you consider some of the things you sense God is directing you to

do right now, it's likely you, too, are feeling fearful, incapable, or unworthy. Be encouraged these feelings are common to everyone—even Moses and Billy Graham.

Starting With One Step of Faith

You'll recall how crossing the Jordan River is symbolic of our crossing from living in the flesh to living in the Spirit. The smaller, innermost circle in the Abiding Room diagram represents the Jordan River. When the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, which was at flood stage, into the Holy Land, it began with a step of faith.

So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan. (Joshua 3:14–17)

God could have easily stopped the flow of the Jordan River without any action on the part of the Israelites. Why did he require them to first step into the water? Because God requires faith on the part of his followers.

It had to be frightening for the Israelites to step into the rushing waters of the Jordan River. It would have been much easier to stay in the desert where they were already comfortable with their surroundings.

God uses the story of the Israelites as they crossed over from the desert to the Holy Land to illustrate how he requires faith from us. We

must trust him as we take a step out of our comfort zones and enter into his abiding presence.

Only a Mustard Seed of Faith

Jesus says you need only a mustard seed of faith: “If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20).

In his mustard seed lesson, Jesus makes the point you need faith, but you don’t need *great* faith. A mustard seed is one to two millimeters (that’s less than half the size of a BB for a BB gun). If you have even a speck of faith, God can use that little granule of faith to do what is impossible for you to do in your own strength and strategies. God can use your speck of faith to move a mountain no one thinks can be moved.

As you’ve been reading about the abiding, Spirit-filled life, what do you find yourself desiring? More intimacy with God? Overcoming a bad habit or addiction? A restored relationship? Hope in the midst of circumstances that may never change?

As mentioned earlier, in the first few years of our marriage, I was harsh and critical toward Juli. I wouldn’t listen to anyone. When she shares her story, Juli describes those years of our marriage this way: “In our home, there were two ways of doing things—Kevin’s way and the wrong way.”

Juli would tell me how my actions were hurting her, but I didn’t care. She had tried patient, thoughtful reasoning in addition to our marriage counseling, but nothing changed—at least not for long. Throughout those years, Juli maintained the belief that God *could* change me, but she began wondering whether God *would* change me. God’s kindness is *meant* to lead each of us to repentance, but *would* I repent if God opened my eyes to my sin?

None of our friends or family knew what was going on in our marriage. That was because (1) I didn’t behave this way toward Juli or anyone else in public, and (2) Juli didn’t complain about me to anyone. Despite my antagonistic behavior toward her in private, I can’t recall Juli being

anything but respectful toward me in public. She was consistently obedient to Ephesians 5:33 which says, “Let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

How did she do it? By trusting God to do what she knew she could not. Juli is an abider. She was living by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was filling her with the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control she needed to not only cope with me but to respect me in spite of my fleshly actions.

And her faith gave her the hope described in Romans 5:

And we boast in the **hope** of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, **hope**. And **hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love** has been poured out into **our hearts through the Holy Spirit**, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:2–5 NIV)

While Juli continued to pray for me to change, her faith gave her the perseverance, character, and hope that sustained her. Though I showed no sign of changing, with her remaining mustard seed of faith she persisted in asking God to change me into a gentler husband. And in his timing, God chose to sovereignly move the mountain of my pride. By his grace and for his glory, he intervened, I repented, and he changed my defiant heart. To this day we can’t fully explain it, but we are immensely grateful for God’s faithfulness.

When I look back on what Juli did and how God blessed us through her faithful perseverance, I think of these words in Galatians, “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).

Faith Brings Hope

Let’s close this chapter by looking at a few encouraging reminders from the Bible, telling us who God is and what he promises.

God loves you with an infinite love. He cares about what you are experiencing.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7 NIV)

“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you. (Isaiah 54:10 NIV)

God is sovereign and able to do whatever he chooses.

“For nothing will be impossible with God.” (Luke 1:37)

God keeps his promises.

“Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.” (Deuteronomy 7:9 NIV)

God blesses you when you trust him.

Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust. (Psalm 40:4)

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. LORD Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you. (Psalm 84:11–12 NIV)

Delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4)

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

You can have hope in the plans God has for you.

... that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you. (Ephesians 1:18)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

Dear friend, persevere in your faith. Faith will activate the Holy Spirit’s power within you to both guide and sustain you. God is producing godly character and hope in you as you trust him, and he will do great things through your small acts of faithful obedience!



ABIDING TRUTH

To experience the fullest blessings of the Spirit-filled life,
have faith that Jesus can live his life in and through you.

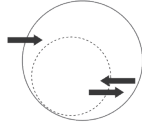
3. In this chapter we read, “Obedience *to* God means living by faith *in* God.” Think of a personal situation where you saw someone exhibit great faith. What did that look like? What are you facing today that requires you to have faith? Where might Jesus be asking you to abide more fully and step out in faith, trusting he will guide you?

SONG SUGGESTIONS

“What Faith Can Do” by Kutless

“Faith” by Jordan Feliz

“I Will Fear No More” by The Afters





CHAPTER 17

Church Unity and Revival

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.” (John 17:20–23)

This chapter consists of two parts—Church Unity and Revival. Church unity arises naturally within a body of believers when they are practicing Jesus’ presence and living the abiding, Spirit-filled life. Revival is a special and dramatic movement of God’s Spirit within God’s people that then flows outward to others.

CHURCH UNITY

The Spirit-Filled Church

On his last night before going to the cross, Jesus prayed for you! The overriding heart of his prayer was unity within the church. Why did Jesus use his last moments before being arrested to pray we would be one? For our own comfortable lives? No. As shown in the passage above, he prayed for unity, “so that **the world may know** that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

The four verses of Jesus' prayer in John 17 at the start of this chapter are essentially two sets of verses that repeat the same theme. Jesus prays two things would become reality: (1) we would be one, and (2) so the world may believe God the Father sent him. Jesus' prayer emphasizes his hope for the church to live in unity so we can show a lost but watching world that God loves them. What a magnificent blessing that God allows us to impact the world through our obedience to him!

When we're living Level III lives in the Abiding Room, we're living in harmony not only with God but with each other. Remember the chocolate milk video? When the world encounters Spirit-filled people, it's a sweet experience. The world notices when our chocolate milk is stirred up and we're living the loving and joyful lives God intends for us.

Up to this point, we have examined many challenging topics with respect to our personal lives. We've seen the many personal blessings that result from obedience. Now we'll see the blessing that arises from a similar obedience of a local church, as well as God's people collectively throughout the world.

The Harmonious Early Church

Jesus' prayer in John 17 for those who *would* believe came to fruition quickly. A little less than two months later, at Pentecost, for the first time, all God's children were indwelt and filled with God himself in the person of the Holy Spirit. The church was born and was immediately healthy, vibrant, and impactful!

Let's revisit how the Bible describes the new church in Acts:

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed **were together and had all things in common**. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, **attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes**, they received their food with glad

and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42–47)

Now the full number of those who believed **were of one heart and soul**, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but **they had everything in common**. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. **There was not a needy person among them**, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. (Acts 4: 32–35)

These were believers rejoicing in their salvation and praising God. Their love for God and each other was contagious in their communities. The early church illustrates for us today that, in a healthy church, we are to spend time together, enjoying each other's company (not in isolation) and impacting our communities as a result.

The World is Watching

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Perhaps one of the few things we can agree on today is there are a lot of disagreements in the world. And the church is not exempt from differences of opinion related to worldly issues, nor to our own unique disagreements. There will always be disagreements over many topics, but within the church these disagreements do not need to result in division.

In times of societal turmoil, must the church be caught up in the fray? Or is it possible that turbulent times create the greatest opportunity for the church to stand out as an oasis of love and peace? The biblical call

to the church and to the individual is the same—to be the united, Spirit-filled Body of Christ. This is what Jesus prayed for us to be.

The apostle Peter expressed it this way:

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. (1 Peter 3:8–9)

When we begin to access the power of the Holy Spirit, we unleash the dormant power of the church. The unlimited potential of changing the world is inside every follower of Jesus. The only question is whether it's being fully utilized. When you're letting the life of Jesus flow through you, your individual life is a ministry that bears much fruit to the people in your sphere. To an even greater extent, a community of Spirit-filled believers in a local church is a powerful weapon to pierce the darkness of a lost world and bring many to salvation:

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds **everything together in perfect harmony**. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed **you were called in one body**. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:12–15)

Think of the possibilities if we were to allow God to open our eyes fully to Spirit-empowered living. We would no longer look to institutions powered by the mere strength of men to resolve the problems of society; we would instead look to a Spirit-empowered church. The Great Provision of the Holy Spirit and Spirit-filled living can resolve not only many of the problems of today but carry out the Great Commission of Jesus to make disciples of all nations as well.

Local churches living Spirit-empowered lives are God's instruments for carrying out his plan for a lost world. What an amazing thing it will be to see churches overflowing with Spirit-filled people having everything in common and fulfilling our God-given assignments!

REVIVAL

Rediscovering the Holy Spirit

While I am by no means an expert on revival, the accounts of revival in the Bible and subsequent history give us vivid stories of what revival is and how it arises.

Revival refers to moments in time when God's Spirit moves within his people to bring them into full contact with him, his truth, and his power. There are points in time when God chooses to orchestrate a special movement and revive the hearts of the people within his church. The word "revival" applies whether the movement impacts a small region (such as a city or town) or spreads to a larger region (such as an entire country).

Revival takes place when God's Holy Spirit moves powerfully among believers, bringing deep conviction of sin and widespread confession and repentance. Fleshly believers who've been unattuned to the Holy Spirit suddenly encounter him and become Spirit-filled believers empowered by him. Many believers move from Level II to Level III living.

Many unbelievers who were far from God become new followers of Jesus. As we'll soon see, revival may result in joyful singing and praising God for hours, spontaneous worship continuing throughout the night for many days, stolen goods being returned to vendors, and underreported taxes being paid to the government.

In times of revival, discouragement, dissatisfaction, and desperation are replaced by a renewed hope for the future. Broken relationships are restored. Love between people is reestablished and made evident. Men and women's vertical relationships with God and horizontal relationships with each other are revitalized. In short, wrong things are made right.

Doesn't that sound like something we need today?

Biblical Revival

As we saw in Acts 2, the church was born through revival within the Israelites' community. Everyone who repented and put their faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins received the indwelling Holy Spirit. This revival created a noticeable difference that caused people to choose between accepting or rejecting Jesus. In subsequent days, many were added to the church, and many opposed the church.

Examples of Revivals in America

Trying to catalog the exact place and time revival starts, as well as the number of people saved when it occurs, is impossible. Nevertheless, there have been times in America and throughout the world when there was no debate that significant spiritual revival was sweeping through communities and even nations. There is no question our hope for revival lies in our reliance upon the person of the Holy Spirit, who is the source of all revivals.

Let's look at three revivals in American history to see how they impacted America.

The Great Awakening

The 1730s and 1740s are remembered as a time of great preaching by George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards. This revival changed American culture as hundreds of new churches were formed to accommodate the remarkable growth.

God called many young men into ministry as pastors. Colonies found greater unity through their shared faith, which helped prepare them for the American Revolution. Though it is often forgotten as being the source, the Great Awakening still has remnants of its impact on American society today.

Prayer Revival of 1857–1858

In 1857, Jeremiah Lanphier, a quiet businessman who had been appointed as a missionary in New York City, was a significant instrument of God in revival. Lanphier posted flyers around the city, inviting anyone to join him to pray once a week at noon at his church.

The first week, six men showed up. Within two weeks, forty were praying and decided to begin praying daily. Soon, many churches were filled with people praying, and many were being saved. Secular newspapers regularly reported on the prayer meetings. Eventually, there were noon prayer meetings in over 10,000 cities and towns in America. Ultimately, more than one million people gave their lives to Jesus.

Asbury Revival of 1970

On February 3, 1970, revival occurred at Asbury College (now Asbury University) in Kentucky when the Holy Spirit moved on campus. For more than a week, worship and praise continued at the chapel on campus throughout the day and night. Relationships within the student body and between students and faculty were healed. Many students went from lukewarm faith to a passionate zeal for God. The news accounts drew people from other states to come to the campus to see for themselves, and they, too, were impacted by the Holy Spirit.

But it didn't stop at the campus. Many Asbury students traveled to their hometowns as well as to churches around the country to share their stories. Frequently, those trips led to similar impact in towns and churches. The Holy Spirit used their stories to impact hearts, and many relationships were restored. Churches where worship had grown stale came alive with great joy as they encountered God.

One of the unique aspects of the Asbury revival is that the initial days of its occurrence were reported by local news reporters and can be viewed online today. I encourage you to look at the video titled "The Story of the 1970 Asbury Revival" on abidingroom.com. It includes views of the revival as it happened on campus. Imagine if something like that happened at your college campus, church, or community, and how those stories and pictures could spread even more rapidly today through online and social media accounts!

You Can Be a Part of the Coming 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. T. Pierson was a nineteenth-century pastor and advocate of missions who was determined to see the world evangelized in his generation. He is widely credited as saying, “There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.”

While there is a great deal of wonderful mystery about revivals, and it is impossible to predict when God will orchestrate such a movement, the Bible is instructive as to his conditions for revival. Prayer precedes revival, and revived people pray in the Spirit. Through prayer, our will becomes aligned with God’s will. Revival begins within *some* of us, which leads to prayer from *more* of us, which meets God’s conditions to send his Holy Spirit to move through *all* of us.

Revival is not a spectator sport. God calls you and me, as his people, to participate in ushering it in. The catalyst for such a mighty move of God is prayer. While spiritual movements are mysterious in their timing, magnitude, and length, there’s no denying that, when they are later analyzed, it’s discovered they began with prayer.

It is clear from 2 Chronicles 7:14 God has given us instructions as to what we are to do if we desire to see him bring revival: (1) humble ourselves, (2) pray for revival, (3) seek God’s face, and (4) turn from our wicked ways.

Doesn’t God’s prerequisites for revival on a larger scale sound quite a bit like his conditions for revival on a personal basis? Whether revival is personal or across a group of people, the biblical pattern for revival is the same—if we, God’s people, will be humble, pray, seek his face, and repent, he will heal us spiritually.

Spirit-filled people pray Spirit-led prayers that can touch the heart of God and set in motion movements beyond our greatest expectations. God made this conditional promise to “my people” (the church). This verse also tells us the healing of entire nations begins with God’s people getting into a right relationship with him.

Jesus says the right relationship is the abiding relationship, and the

abiding relationship leads to answered prayer: **“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you”** (John 15:7). Here are two more promises from Jesus for answered prayer regarding many things, including revival:

“Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” (Matthew 18:18–20)

“Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.” (John 14:13–14)

Did you notice each of the passages above includes the word “if”? *If* we abide and ask, God will answer. He will answer when and how he chooses—frequently not when or how we expect—but he nevertheless promises to answer.

Are we willing to pay the price in order to experience revival in our day? The need is apparent and enormous, and God is able and willing to move in mighty ways if we meet his conditional promise to pray.

All of this begs the questions: Are you ready to begin asking? Are you ready to ask God to bring a spiritual movement into your life? A spiritual movement in your church? A spiritual movement in your community? A spiritual movement in your nation? What an amazing privilege God has given you to be a part of bringing about something so significant and dramatic as revival!

Since 2003, a small group of friends and I have gathered together once a week in the early morning to pray for revival. We have sensed God is preparing his people for another mighty movement of his Spirit that will heal our land. We’re greatly encouraged as we continue to learn of many others who are praying for and believing the same thing. Many

are praying and believing God's love, mercy, and compassion are going to bring about another significant revival.

The news of the refining fire of revival in even one location could be easily communicated throughout the world through today's technology, so anyone in the world could be impacted.

Many are hoping for Jesus to return and remove them from the mess of this fallen world. But what will Jesus find if he returns today? What spiritual condition will he find us in? Will he find a church that is spiritually alive or one that is spiritually napping? How exciting it is to petition Jesus for revival, so, when he returns, he will find the church on fire for him!

As an abiding, Spirit-filled follower of Jesus, you have the potential to be an instrument God uses to bring change to a hurting world. God has promised he will move in mighty ways when he is asked. Will you take him up on his promise and be part of the coming revival?

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20–21 NIV)



ABIDING TRUTH

Local churches where people are living Spirit-empowered lives
are God's instruments for carrying out his plans
to reach a lost world.

SONG SUGGESTIONS

“God of Revival” by Bethel Music, featuring Brian and Jenn Johnson

“Build Your Kingdom Here” by Rend Collective

“God of This City” by Chris Tomlin

