



Network for Revival Prepare 28 May 2021

Prayer for Revival calls for individual and corporate obedience to the Lord

There are wonderful promises for prayer to be answered in the New Testament. But there are conditions, including praying in the name of Jesus, being united in prayer and persisting in prayer. But another condition is an obedient life. Jesus says “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you” (Jn 15:7). John writes “If our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him” (1 Jn 3:21-22). So, to be effective in prayer we need to:

- Abide in Christ (a relationship of holiness),
- Let his Word rule in us,
- Keep his commands

This applies to us as individuals and I have stressed the important duty of seeking personal holiness ([Prepare-11-June-2019.pdf \(networkforrevival.co.uk\)](#) and [Prepare-13-August-2019.pdf \(networkforrevival.co.uk\)](#)).

However, it also applies to the fellowships we belong to – the context of our united prayer. As I said in a previous edition of Prepare, God is calling us “to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (and ready for Revival, not least being prepared for new believers, including those coming to faith through Revival). I believe **our churches and fellowship groups need to be radically biblical in the power of the Spirit.**

How can you facilitate this? If you are a Minister or lay leader you are able to encourage your church to face this challenge. If you are simply a churchmember you can prayerfully influence your church leadership, if they are open (and you can pray they will be or become open). Or you can seek to face the challenge in a home group.

How can you tell if your church is radically biblical in the power of the Spirit?

The New Testament stresses that the church should be:

1. RUNNING ON PRAYER

Prayer was a major priority in Jesus’ life. If he needed to pray so much how much more do we? He urged us to pray, giving us the Lord’s Prayer as a pattern (Matt 6:9-13). Paul urged the church to “pray continually” (1Thess 5:17). Is your church really praying together - not just in the services but in-depth corporate prayer? Do you seek to make decisions through prayer and discerning God’s will?

Does your church run on prayer?

2. COMMITTED IN LOVE TO GOD AND OBEYING HIS WORD

Jesus said: “If you love me, keep my commands” (Jn 14:15). God chose us ... to be holy and blameless in his sight” (Eph 1:4), “to be obedient to Jesus” (1 Pet 1:2). Jesus also said: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matt 28:19-20). They weren’t just to teach them everything he had commanded them but to teach them **to obey** everything he had commanded them. Jesus told people to count the cost of discipleship before deciding to follow him. He used extreme language to confirm this: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters [*i.e. definitely put God before everyone else*] – yes, even their own life – such a person cannot be my disciple ... those of you who do not give up everything you have [*i.e. give up the ownership of everything to God for him to use or take away*] cannot be my disciples” (Lk 14:26-33). Yes, God chose us. But he chose us to be “holy and blameless in [his] sight” (Eph 1:4)

Is your church trying to obey everything the New Testament teaches and seeking holiness?

3. COMMITTED TO UNITY IN THE CHURCH

“A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (Jn 13:34-35). On the night he was betrayed Jesus prayed three times that the church would be as united as he is with his Father (Jn 17:11,22-23).

Is your church really united?

4. LOVINGLY CORRECTING ONE ANOTHER

Jesus said: “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that “every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as [out of fellowship]” (Matt 18:16-18).

Do your churchmembers lovingly correct anyone who has offended them or anyone for whom they have responsibility?

5. BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Jesus promised the disciples baptism with the Holy Spirit and said: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:5, 8). So the church should be spiritually powerful.

Is your church experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit?

6. ENCOURAGING EVERY MEMBER EVANGELISM

Every Christian receives the Holy Spirit and so is called to witness. So every member of the church should be involved in its evangelism. Every church is to be a missionary church.

Are all your churchmembers involved with evangelism or at least in prayer for evangelism?

7. DISCERNING GIFTS & DELEGATING

Paul says “We have different gifts” (Rom 12:6) and “to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good” (1 Cor 12:7). The idea that one Minister up-front or a small group has all the gifts is unbiblical. Paul says all the gifts are indispensable (1 Cor 12:21-25).

Does your church discern members’ gifts and delegate responsibility as necessary?

Remember you can read about the way God did this in my Essex church and you can find extensive resources (including audio teaching courses for leaders and for members) to help a church become radically biblical in the power of the Spirit on my Christian Teaching website [Christian Teaching Resources – Practical, user-friendly resources for clergy, ministers and lay folk](#) at [Church Development – Christian Teaching Resources](#)

I urge you to pray and work for individual Christians and churches (especially your own church/fellowship) to be radically biblical in the power of the Spirit in preparation for Revival.

God bless you,

Tony

APPENDIX

I tend to write quite a lot of articles about various subjects: biblical and devotional issues, church issues, eschatology, apologetics, interfaith issues, understanding world events, pastoral and evangelistic issues. My sole aim is to serve the Lord by blessing and helping his people through these articles. So I plan to circulate a list of articles with each Prepare mailing in an attached file. I don’t want the articles to be just sitting on my website, doing no good. Articles may not be relevant to you but they might be to people you know. Feel free to copy them to such folk. If you would add the website hyperlink, that would be helpful. On the other hand, please feel free to ignore the attached file. I don’t want to burden you with too much material.

In the attached file this time I include links to articles on the sin of gossip, the holiness of God, the greatness and sternness of Jesus, the corporate nature of Christianity, living in the light of the End, critiques of atheist writings, science and religion, the evidence of God in nature and the possibility of persecution coming to the West.

In Network for Revival God has called us to “make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” This includes:

- Encouraging people to seek holiness and true biblical discipleship.
- Encouraging people to major on prayer for Revival.
- Encouraging churches to be radically biblical in the power of the Spirit (see [Church Development](#) for information and resources).
- Encouraging people to “Watch!” for the return of Jesus (Mk 13:32-37 – see [Eschatology](#)).