

How the Gospel Must Come

a prayer guide for revival

Our gospel came to you not only in word,
but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

1 Thessalonians 1:5

What a lofty ideal for Christian workers! To be life-changing, the gospel must come in...

- *Words.* Words are important. From the beginning, words have brought reality into existence. "God said, 'Let there be'... and it was so..." Our words matter, too, as we pray his heavenly will into our earthly reality. In our witness, we must share the words of life. "For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21).
- *Power.* Words alone, however, cannot save. For our words to bring salvation, they must be empowered by God. Our words are weak and lifeless in themselves. In Acts 19, when the seven sons of Sceva spoke of Jesus without power, they themselves were overpowered!
- *The Holy Spirit.* That power comes from the Holy Spirit. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon you, for it is the Spirit who moves the hearts of men and women. No one enters the kingdom of God unless he or she is born of the Spirit (John 3:5-8).
- *Conviction.* When the Spirit comes, he will "convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment" (John 16:8). Though it is often seen as an antiquated concept, true conversion is impossible without conviction for without conviction there is no repentance and without repentance there is no forgiveness of sins.

From: Scott Wade, *The Climb: Stick with It*, p. 63

Use this guide to pray for yourself and your church to experience revival as the gospel comes in...

...word

Father, I pray for our upcoming revival - that the gospel would come in **word**...

- Speak to our Evangelist(s) about our church and their divinely appointed role for revival.
- May our evangelist(s) have insights, impressions, and impulses from your Spirit.
- Holy Spirit, make our evangelist(s) sensitive to the condition of our church. Give them your heart for our church.
- As they sense the heartbeat of God for our church, give them words to express your feelings and desires for us.
- Then give them scriptures and truths to share with us so that we will hear what you have to say to us at this moment.
- Give our evangelist(s) messages from your Word that will go to the heart of our needs.
- Grant that our evangelist(s) would have the ability to recall these Spirit-impressed needs and these Spirit-inspired words. Then give them courage, clarity, and confidence to proclaim the gospel.
- Prepare us, O Lord, to hear these gospel words that we may respond in faith, in obedience, and in hope.
- Bring us together - those who are in our church and those who are not in our church - at the appointed times to hear the words that you have for us.
- When we come to the services, remove all distractions from our minds and help us to focus on you and your word to us.
- And finally, Lord, grant us willing spirits to respond in obedience to these words you have for us.

...power

Father, I pray also that in our upcoming revival the gospel would come in **power...**

- We know that no matter how eloquent the words, how tight the logic, or how convincing the argument, without power the gospel message will fall flat, so grant that your servant's words may be delivered with power.
- May the evangelist(s) tarry in your presence until they are endued with power from on high.
- Give our evangelist(s) faith in what they proclaim.
- Grant your church faith to believe that what you say, you will do, that you, God, will accomplish it by your power!
- As we invite and witness, may your power rest upon us.
- When we gather, may the power of God settle upon us, move among us, and propel us forward.
- I pray that the service itself would be marked with power. May the welcome, the music, the prayers, the announcements - all aspects of the service - build in power and anticipation.
- As people drive by, may they feel your power. As they come onto this property, may your power overwhelm them. And as they pass through these doors may the power of the gospel seize their hearts.
- When our evangelist(s) rises to speak, may there be a palpable sense of your power released among us.
- May the power of God be manifested...
 - To save!
 - To sanctify!
 - To heal!
 - To strengthen!
 - To call!
 - To send!
- Grant that no one present would be untouched by this powerful gospel.

...holy spirit

And, Lord, grant that in our upcoming revival the gospel would come in the **Holy Spirit...**

- As the scripture declares, O Lord, it is "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).
- Baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Matthew 3:11).
- Teach us to depend upon, to desire, and to expect your Holy Spirit's presence.
- Grant that our evangelist(s) would be filled with the Spirit and power as he comes to proclaim the gospel.
- May they, along with us, be led by the Spirit. May all of our preparations be Spirit-infused.
- May the Spirit inspire our evangelist(s) with the gospel message we need to hear.
- Grant that our services, our prayers, our ministries, and our testimonies be blessed with your Spirit's anointing.
- May your Spirit convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8). Grant that believers and unbelievers alike would feel the weight of sin and come confessing their sins.
- As you did in the upper room on the day of Pentecost, pour out your Spirit upon us in the sanctuary on the day of revival. May we all be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- May there come a renewed sense of the need to go on into holiness during this revival. And may your Spirit sanctify us through and through.
- Grant that the worship of revival be Spirit-anointed and Spirit-led.

...conviction

Finally, Father, I pray that the gospel message in our upcoming revival, would come with **full conviction**...

- Grant that our evangelist may preach with deep conviction, believing the message is from God and for this season.
- May we your people take to heart the gospel message proclaimed during this revival, and may we respond with faith and obedience.
- Let there be an Acts 2:37-38 response to the gospel message: "Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"
- Once again, we pray that your Spirit would convict us concerning sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8).
- Guide our evangelist(s) to just the right type of response to this message.
- Help him and our worship leaders to select and sing the song of invitation that will stir the hearts of your people.
- As you lead, may there be an openness and willingness to respond around the altar.
- Grant that we would be so convicted of the truth and our need that we would surrender our all, in response to the gospel.
- All through each service, but especially at the end of each service, may you draw us to yourself. As Jesus has said, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him" (John 6:44).

...amen

In all these things we pray that the name of Jesus would be glorified and lifted up. "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Act 4:12).

Amen.

To prepare for revival, you also should...

- Search your own heart and make all things right with God.
- Pray about and commit to give financially to the revival effort.
- Adjust your schedule so that you can attend all service of revival and all services in preparation for revival.
- Invite others to join you in revival services.
- Arrive early to each service to pray and welcome others.

A timely reminder for preachers of the gospel:

Paul's thought in 1 Thessalonians 1:5 does not end with "Our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction." But continues:

"You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers. (vv. 6-7)

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