

If My People

Isaiah 40:31 But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Psalms 33:12 “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.”

2 Chronicles 7:11-14 Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king’s palace, and successfully completed all that he had planned on doing in the house of the Lord and in his palace. 12 Then the Lord appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. 13 “If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, 14 and 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, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

- 1 – God hates sin and still brings judgment on nations.
 - o Proverbs 6:16-19 There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.
- 2 – God loves people and offers us hope and restoration.
- 3 – God still wants us to pray for people and nations, and He works in response to our prayers.
- 4 – God still brings revival, and revival comes in response to God’s people getting right with Him.
- 5 – Revival of God’s people often leads to many coming to know Christ as Savior, which can alter the course of individuals, families, and nations.

1. **Spiritual Renewal begins in the hearts of believers.**

2 Chronicles 7:14 [If] My people who are called by My name...

- Henry Varley say, “The world has yet to see what God can do with and for and through and in a man who is fully and wholly consecrated to Him.”

2. **Spiritual Renewal requires humility before God.**

2 Chronicles 7:14 [If] My people who are called by My name will humble themselves...

- Proverbs 16:18 Pride *goes* before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.
- Andrew Murray: “Pride must die in you, or nothing of heaven can live in you.”
- James 4:10 God is opposed to the the proud but gives grace to the humble...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
- Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

3. **Spiritual Renewal grows out of prayer and seeking God.**

2 Chronicles 7:14 [If] My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face...

- Psalm 105:4 Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face continually.
- Psalm 27:8 *When You said*, “Seek My face,” my heart said to You, “Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.”

4. Spiritual Renewal flows out of personal and corporate repentance.

2 Chronicles 7:14 [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 I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

- Tom Eliff: “Is there anything God will accept in place of simple obedience to Him? No. Nothing at all.”
- Isaiah 55:6 “Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near.”

Further Thought and Action:

- Will you commit to extra time in prayer this week?
- Will you attend our extra times of focused prayer on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Wednesday night as we gather for a night of worship and prayer?
- Will you consider not only praying but fasting? It could mean fasting from food or technology (or both). You could skip a meal (or several) and in place of eating, pray.