



GOING DEEPER

Discussion Questions and more from Sunday's message, before we begin, here are the verses for this week's study! Open your bible to the book of 2nd Chronicles 7:14; James 4: 8-10.

How much time have you spent this past week reflecting on Jesus and the hope of the gospel? How has reflecting on Him been of help to you? Because that is how we grow in how we think about our relationship to God and how we bring Him Glory each day, in each conversation, interaction, our work, our family. **In everything.** The gospel and the love of Christ should indwell us, and we should be burdened to share that good news with others in these last days. ***Have you shared the good news with anyone this week? Have you showed the love of Jesus to anyone this week?***

If my people...

"Revival"

**God's greatest work of revival begins in His own people
and never from tradition or culture.**

1. God Calls His People to Repentance

2 Chronicles 7:14

14 '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.'

If you could reset one small habit or routine in your life this week to help you focus more on God, what would it be?

Scientific experiment... Billy talked about a Control group experiment
In any scientific experiment, the process starts with a control group.
Random solutions are not thrown at the problem.
The experiment starts at the most basic level in the simplest way possible

Humanity wants to solve problems by examining everyone else:
"Look at what is wrong with culture - politics - Next Generation "

God starts with the only group that bears His name... **Christian**

The "We" Before the "Worldly" Principle

Vs 14 *If my people* who are called by my name..."

Every movement of God throughout history has begun with God confronting His own people before confronting everyone else.

The phrase is not: "If the wicked people will turn..."
It is: "If My people..."

The first question of revival is not: "What happened to the world?"
The first question is: "What happened to the people who carry God's name?"

Practical Application for us this week:

The first step toward revival starts in the mirror.

"We are not here to develop a spiritual life of our own, or to enjoy a quiet spiritual retreat. We are here to have the full realization of Jesus Christ, for the purpose of building up His body." Oswald Chambers

2. God Calls His People to Return

The Posture of Revival

Note: ... "humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways"

Humble themselves??? Pray... sure! Seek His face... you bet! Turn from wicked ways...
OK!

A. Humble Themselves

Humility in Scripture is almost never about thinking less of yourself—it is about agreeing with God about yourself.

The first sin in Eden wasn't murder

It was humanity deciding "I'll determine what is good and evil."

Lack of humility reverses Eden.

Every revival in Scripture begins when people stop defending themselves and begin agreeing with God.

...God goes further

B. Pray and Seek My Face

Prayer and seeking God's face are not identical.

Prayer can seek God's **hand**.

Seeking His face seeks **God Himself**.

Many people pray because they want God to change their circumstances.

Seeking His face means,

"Even if nothing changes around me, I want You."

... and further!

C. Turn From Their Wicked Ways

Note: He says, "their wicked ways." PLURAL

Repentance isn't simply changing your mind.

It is leaving the road you've been walking.

It's **turning around** (repent)... and more... "their means Evangelism"

***"If we want to draw near to God, we must be freshly cleansed."* — Adrian Rogers**

This isn't a solo concept...

Parallel Scriptures... **James 4 : 8-10** (mirrors 2 Chronicles 7:14)

Notice the progression:

Humble yourselves - Draw near to God - Cleanse your hands - Purify your hearts.

He will lift you up.

James is describing exactly the same posture God required in Chronicles.

Summary of James 4:8-10: James calls believers to return to God with humble, repentant hearts. As we draw near to Him, He promises to draw near to us. This requires more than outward religious action; it calls for clean hands, pure hearts, honest sorrow over sin, and a willingness to humble ourselves before the Lord. The promise is that when we stop exalting ourselves and surrender before God, He is the One who lifts us up.

James 4:8-10 calls us to draw near, cleanse our hands, purify our hearts, grieve over sin, and humble ourselves before God. Which part of that progression is God asking you to take most seriously this week, and what would it look like to respond?

Practical Application for us this week:

God's greatest work happens when His presence becomes more valuable than His blessings.

Humble themselves - Our attitude changes

Pray and seek my face - Our affection changes

Turn from their wicked ways - Our actions change

Humble themselves -stop running

Pray -begin talking

Seek my face -prefer presence to gifts

Turn from their wicked ways -our direction turns toward... revival

If revival begins with God's people, what is one area of my life where I need to stop asking God to change everyone else and first let Him change me?

Revival starts in the mirror before it shows up in the world.

Psalms 51:10

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

LIVE IT OUT

Bible Study should ALWAYS lead to taking action with what you learned. Think of it as Vitamin A. "Application" into your day, week and interactions.

So how do we actually live this out?

If revival is not just something we attend, but something God does in surrendered hearts, then it should begin to show up in the ordinary places we live every day.

In Our Church Family

Choose hidden service: Do one unnoticed act of service this week without needing recognition.

Pray before you criticize: Before offering an opinion about church, ministry, music, leadership, or people, pray first: "Lord, start with me."

Encourage one person intentionally: Send a text, make a call, or speak a word to someone who may feel overlooked.

Move from consumer to contributor: Ask, "Where can I help?" instead of "What am I getting out of this?" Get involved in ministry!

Practice unity: Refuse gossip, assumptions, or division; speak life and pursue peace. Glorify God in all you do.

In Our Families

Apologize first: Let humility begin at home by admitting wrong without excuses.

Start a simple prayer rhythm: Pray together before school, work, meals, or bedtime—even if it is short.

Put the phone down: Give your family undistracted attention as an act of love and surrender.

Speak grace before correction: Let your tone reflect Christ, especially when you are tired or frustrated.

Ask a heart question: "How can I pray for you this week?" or "Where do you need encouragement?"

In Our Community

Notice one need: Ask God to open your eyes to someone you usually pass by.

Serve without strings attached: Help a neighbor, single parent, elderly person, or someone in need with no expectation of return.

Be present locally: Learn the names of neighbors, cashiers, servers, teachers, coaches, or first responders.

Bring peace into tension: Be a calming, gracious presence where others are anxious, angry, or divided.

Share Christ naturally: Look for one simple opportunity to speak of God's goodness in everyday conversation.

In Our Workplace

Work as worship: Do your work with excellence, honesty, and humility because you represent Christ. Be God's Ambassador in your workplace using Colossians 3:23 as your guide.

Refuse workplace gossip: Be the person who redirects conversations toward grace and truth.

Respond differently under pressure: Let patience and self-control show that Jesus is shaping your heart.

Honor people, not just productivity: Treat co-workers, customers, and leaders with dignity.

Be quietly faithful: Let your consistency, integrity, and kindness make people curious about your hope.

Pick one place this week — church, family, community, or workplace — and ask: "Lord, where do You want surrender to become visible in me?"

Revival becomes visible when surrendered people carry humility, prayer, repentance, and the love of Christ into ordinary places.

Remember:

"We are to run the race with endurance, not in our own strength, but by fixing our gaze on Jesus. He is not only the goal of our faith—He is the source and sustainer of it." R.C. Sproul

"The gospel is not only about changing WHERE you will live for eternity, it's also about changing HOW you will live today." Shane Pruitt
And that is a heart change. So that we glorify God in all we do.

Having Jesus as Savior will cost you nothing. Having Jesus as Savior will cost you everything. How so?

Who do you say God is? You cannot "come after" Jesus unless you come to Him.

Two roads stand before us in this world today. There is the way of the divine things of our Lord, which is the way of Christ. And there is the way of human things of the world. There is a way to save your life, and you will lose it there. And there is a way to lose your life for the sake of the Kingdom, and there you will find it.

How do we follow Jesus' ways? First of all, we turn from our sin and entrust our lives to Him as our Savior and Lord. Then, we seek His will in His Word each day and put it into practice by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. We learn to deny our selfish desires and give ourselves completely to following Jesus.

This choice we have — to seek first the kingdom of God — is the fundamental choice everyone makes when they first repent and turn to Jesus Christ. Yet every day after that, our Christian life will either reinforce that decision or deny it.

Remember the gospel is personal. Your changed life shows that to others around you based on what happened at the cross. You are at a crossroads if you have not accepted Christ. Which road are you traveling on right now? Are you on God's side?



Are you in a Growth Group at First Baptist? In this isolated world, Growth Groups help people connect in a healthy way. God has created us for a deep longing for community. We grow when we are living out our faith in a small group with others and we do this by loving, caring for, and encouraging each other. If you have any

questions about our Growth Groups, contact the Church Office for more information.