

If My People

by Curtis Hutson

The speaker emphasizes the need for revival in America, citing the church's inactivity and the country's spiritual decline, and calls for God's people to humble themselves and seek God's face.

Duration: 39:13

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 51:17, Matthew 6:33, John 15:5, 2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 13:8, James 4:6

Topics: "Revival"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher shares two stories to emphasize the importance of approaching the platform with confidence and faith. He encourages the congregation to start a fire in their hearts and unite in prayer to bring revival to their church and nation. The preacher emphasizes that God is still powerful and capable of working miracles today. He references 2 Chronicles 7:14, where God promises to hear and heal if His people humble themselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from their wicked ways. The preacher challenges the congregation to believe in the power of God's promises and take action to bring about revival.

Transcript

If you asked me the greatest need in America right now, I'd say revival. There's enough born-again believers in America to turn the world upside down for Christ, who had the right kind of Christians. But his son, he used to say, what the world needs is not more men, but a better brand.

He also said what the church needs is not a lot of new members so much as they need a lot of the old members made new. He's probably right about that. But if everybody in America that had trusted Jesus Christ as Savior was in church on Sunday morning with their Bible in their hand, and their tithing, and their tithing envelope, all the orphanages would be filled next week, and the churches would have more money than anything they knew what to do with.

And now the church building in America could hold the crowd. We had 8,000 members in our church in Atlanta, Georgia, and I built an auditorium to seat 2,563. You say, why did Bill want to seat 8,000? Because 5,000 of them never came.

Oh, they came occasionally, but the average crowd is about 3,300 on Sunday morning. Always 5,000 members absent every single Sunday. There's not a business in the state of Florida that would try to operate tomorrow morning if they had the same percentage of absentees that the best-attended church

had last Sunday morning.

There's not a school in the state of Florida that would carry on classes tomorrow if they had the same percentage of absentees that the best-attended church had last Sunday morning. And we wonder why we're not doing any better than what we do. I think we're doing pretty good for the participants we have in our activities.

Somebody said, the average church is like an ailing lung with only a few cells doing the breathing, and I think the absolute derivative of it. Revival. I read about great revivals in my day.

The revivals were not in my day, but I read them in my day. I read about the revival in Wales. Such a great revival in Wales, they said when the revival ended they had to re-educate the mules.

The miners that had driven the mules down the mine had cursed the mules so bad that they got saved and changed their language. The mules didn't understand what they were saying. When I read that, I laughed just like you just laughed, and I thought to myself, Lord, I sure would have liked to live back then.

I'd like to have been a part of that revival that not only swept the community, but swept an entire nation. The closer home than that was Revivals of Billy Sunday. I was snowed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania one day and could not get out.

In my briefcase I had a book entitled Billy Sunday, The Man and His Message. And I read it, the entire book I read in that airport. And I read in that book about a revival in Allegheny County in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

It started in January and went through March, three months, and the cold is part of the year. In a temporary building that they had built just for the revival meeting. And I read where 48,000 people were saved in that revival meeting.

And I read that after the revival was over, one church got 1,000 new members, and their building would only seat 250. And they had to build a brand new auditorium just to house the converts that came out of the Billy Sunday revival. I also read that during the three months Billy Sunday was in Allegheny County, that there were 600 less people in the jails of Allegheny County than there had been in the same three-month period before Billy Sunday came to town.

I read that and I thought, Jesus, was that a certain dispensation or something? The truth of the matter, it was not. God could do the same thing today. Malachi 3, 6 says, I am the Lord thy God, I change not, therefore your sons of Jacob are not consumed.

They're the same Bible now, same Holy Spirit now, same God now, same plan of salvation now, same everything now. Nothing's changed on God's side of the windows of heaven. Has there been any change yet done on our side of the windows of heaven? Coming even closer home in my town, Atlanta, Georgia, there lived a man called a Sears Roebuck evangelist.

He's still alive. He worked at Sears Roebuck. He even studied the Greek language so he could read the Greek New Testament and did his devotions by reading it.

What an evangelist he was. He had a revival in Athens, Georgia, and 2,500 people were saved during that revival meeting. And while they had a revival in Athens, Georgia, I am told that you could not walk into a

business place without hearing somebody praying, or somebody singing, or seeing somebody leading someone to Jesus Christ.

Back in those days they had the old streetcars instead of the buses. They said you go on a streetcar and go someplace in town and somebody would start singing a song, a gospel song, and others would join in. They didn't even know each other.

But in a moment the streetcar was filled with people who made up a small choir and everybody singing Amazing Grace or some gospel song. Revival was everywhere, in the hardware stores, everywhere. I told that story about that revival down in Athens, Georgia, and my secretary's father, Mr. Singleton, told me that he used to work for Harmel Meats.

He delivered meat down in Athens, Georgia. And he said, I know something about that revival. I was in that town during that time, he said, and my meat truck broke down.

And he said, I took it to several mechanics to get it fixed and nobody would work on it. They were all so involved in the revival they wouldn't take time to work on your automobile. He said, I had to stay in Athens two or three days to get out.

Maze Jackson told me, you've heard of Maze Jackson? He said, I was riding into Athens, Georgia. I heard this little squeaky voice on the radio. Rapid fire delivery, he said.

It so arrested my attention I pulled off the side of the highway and just listened to the man preach. I told the story of that revival and a man in my church came to me and said, I know that man. He said, I worked at Georgia Baptist Hospital.

I was a steam fitter. He said, one day I was on the machines working and my friends were working with me and he said, suddenly I sensed the presence of someone or something in that building. He said, I dropped my wrench.

He said, I looked and my buddies were dropping their wrenches and we were staring at each other as if to say, what's going on in here? And then the silence was broken when our supervisor said, man, I want you to come out on the machines. I want you to meet someone. And this deacon in my church told me they introduced me to the man and called the man's name to held a revival in Athens, Georgia.

I was out soul winning one night in Atlanta, Georgia, knocked on the door, talked to why I was a man and then asked this question. If you die today, do you know you'll go to heaven? Oh yes, I know that. I'm sure of that.

Asked him how he was sure. He told me how. Gave me a good answer.

Then I said, tell me how you got saved. He said, I went to a revival meeting and I heard, and he called this evangelist's name, said, I heard him preach on hell. He said, I declare I believe I could smell the sulfur burning.

I believe I could smell the smoke while the man preached on hell. I believe I could actually feel the fires enough that it frightened me so bad that I went home and couldn't sleep that night. He said, the second night I could not sleep.

Several nights I didn't sleep at all. And then I was sleeping an hour or two. He said, this went on not for a year, not for two years.

He said, for seven long years, I never slept one night all the way through without waking up and thinking about that sermon on hell for seven years. That sermon haunted me. Then one night he said, I said, I've had enough.

And I knelt by my bed and trusted Jesus Christ as my savior. I read that. I heard that man tell that story to me.

I cried. I said, Jesus, I'd give anything if I could preach like that. I'd give anything if I had such power in my preaching that a man would not get away from the sermon for seven years later, till he trusted Jesus Christ as his savior.

Today theologians tell us that revivals are past. You can't have revival now, but I contend that you can have revival now. May I say that revivals are not miracles? Not in the true sense of the word.

I mean by that God does not push aside certain laws and force revival on you. It's not a miracle in that sense. Like God overcomes certain laws and those things that men cannot explain.

It's not a miracle in that sense of the word. May I tell you revival is not an accident. I read about the great evangelical awakenings.

I'd find myself wishing I was back there. And then I'd say, Jesus, why couldn't I have been there when the showers fell? Why couldn't I have been present? I thought revivals were accidents, that you just had to be in the right place at the right time when the blessings fell. But revivals are not accidents.

May I say revival is not an explosion. We sometimes think we'll get together in the church and we'll pray and we'll pray and we'll pray until finally everybody jumps up and shouts at the same time and runs across the bed and throws chairs, and revival's on. No, revival's not an explosion.

A revival is a combustion. Like striking a match and a little fire starts. And then it begins to spread to someone else, and to someone else, and to someone else, and to someone else, and finally it's over the whole church.

After a while it got outside the church and got in the community, and in some cases swept the whole country. In Venice they had swept the whole northeast section of this country. I said revival's not a miracle in the true sense of the word.

No, revival is the result of the proper use of constituted means. And God does not leave us ignorant concerning those means. In my text tonight, God says, if you'll do four things, I'll do three.

It's the Word of God. 2 Chronicles 7, 14, Jesus said, Our God said, If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land. Does God mean that? Is God pulling our leg about that? Is God only kidding us and holding something out to us that's not real? Or does God mean what he says? Somebody says, That was written to the Jews.

That's in the Old Testament. Yeah, but all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and it's profitable, the Bible says. Somebody said, It's in the Old Testament.

I said, Yeah, they begin to breathe in the Old Testament too. You want to stop breathing because it's in the Old Testament? Hearts begin to beat in the Old Testament too, you know. They ate in the Old Testament, you know that too.

Don't you drink water? Why relegate it way back there as if you can't have revival now? Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever. That little verse was written on the desk of George Mueller, who paid over nine million dollars in his lifetime for orphanages. Look at that text again.

It's my people. Several years ago, somehow they're out if we could get born-again Christians elected to office. If we could get right-wing conservatives in every political office in the country, we'd correct everything in America, and I'm not mad.

I'm telling the truth. We had two presidents serve 12 years, both anti-abortion, and you had just as many abortions last year as you had the first year you elected the first president. You did not have one less.

You're still having a million and a half abortions every single year in this country. It did not cure it to have Republican conservative presidents in the office of 12 years. That was not the answer because the text does not say if you'll elect born-again believers to all the offices, including dog catcher, who's in office has nothing to do with revival.

Then we raised up a group that were anti-abortion, and we should be. The cruelest thing that ever happened in America, I think, is this merciless slaughter of a million and a half unborn babies every year. In my little town just near me, outside of Nashville, just out of Murfreesboro, in our paper, I read where a man went to abort a little baby, and he didn't succeed in doing it, but he succeeded in cutting the baby's arm off, and the woman went into labor.

She left the abortion clinic, and because the labor pains went to the doctor, gave birth to a little one-armed baby that's still alive right now without an arm. And the lady sued the abortionist, but if he had succeeded and got her head through the arm, she'd have been in a trash can, no lawsuit. Sad, sad.

It's strange to me that when the news media gets ready to turn your opinion against something in the country, they always show people up in Alaska clubbing little baby seals with a cloth in their hand, with a little spike, and they hit that little seal, and it runs in the blood, goes in the snow, and people watch and say, oh, that's awful, and there's an uprising against killing baby seals. How many times have you seen on television a real live coverage of an abortion, a suction abortion, where they suck the arm off the baby, and then the leg off, and then suck his little head off? But have you seen that on television? When have you seen the same insolution that actually burned the baby to death at his mother's womb? Have you seen that on television? And in Atlanta, Georgia, a politician ran against abortion and showed some live coverage of little babies being aborted, and they got an injunction and made him take it off TV. You didn't show seals being killed.

You didn't show somebody killing a bald eagle. You didn't show somebody killing a spotted owl or a snail daughter. But we want to turn our backs on a million and a half babies being killed every year in abortion countries across America.

And we're singing, God bless America, what a bunch of hypocrites we are. What do you call them, hound dogs? What else? You cuss them. I'll say amen.

Terrible, man, terrible. You could stop abortion tomorrow in America, if every night on the news report they'd get three minutes' coverage. Just show the little bodies in garbage cans that have been killed.

And if you could run a live camera and hear one of those babies cry that didn't die, but got out of his mother's womb. One doctor wrote a letter and said he decided not to do another abortion, because he heard the baby scream when he laid it aside. Now with the news out, I'm in the Lord.

Funny world, isn't it? But hold on a minute. The Bible does not say if you close down all the abortion clinics, you'll have revival. The truth of the matter is you can close down every abortion clinic in America and never have another, and you won't be one inch near revival than you are tonight.

That's not the way to revival. You may clean up that mess when revival comes, but that's not a prerequisite, that's a result. Don't get mad at me, old Benny Sunday.

Drive this country up, about prohibition. And you hear the politicians talk about appointing a drug czar. And we turn our soldiers loose down in Columbia and other places trying to keep cocaine and that stuff coming to this country, and we're ignoring the worst drug of all.

It's right over here in your town on the shelf in your liquor stores. Whiskey, liquor. Getting more people than all the wars put together.

Getting more people than cocaine and all the other drugs put together. Drunk and driver in a stupor, drives down a highway, runs into a busload of kids up in Kentucky. Twenty-something little kids burned to death, including several adults, and the guy gets off in a few years on probation because he was drunk.

I think God must look down sometime at a country like ours that collects billions and billions of dollars on taxes for selling booze and liquor that kills so many people and divorce their homes and wrecked homes. How many babies have been abused that did make it alive into the world? If you checked up, you'd find behind child abuse, a drunken father, a drunken mother. If you checked behind robberies, you'd find a drunk man that did the robbery.

If you check behind how many hours are lost from the employer and how much money is lost because they don't show up for work, you'd find out billions are lost because somebody got drunk, can't go to work. Somebody pays for that. And all the shoplifting and stealing done by people to get money to get another drink of booze.

Liquor's awful. Billy Sunday said, I'll fight that hellish liquor traffic as long as I've got breath. He said to Maul Sunday, he said, as long as I've got breath, I'll fight that hellish liquor traffic, and when I'm dead, he said, they'll all skin me and make drum covers out of my hides.

He said, march up and down the streets of America and beat those drums and tell them Billy Sunday hated the hellish liquor traffic. I wish we had about 10,000 Billy Sundays turned loose on America, but we just let it go. We just let it go.

You mad? Yeah. I'm upset about it. It troubles me.

I don't want to go on, but the Texas is not safe. You clean up all the abortion clinics. You close down all the liquor stores.

You don't sell any more booze. You have a revival. Put them out of there.

You can close down every liquor store tomorrow. Close every abortion clinic tomorrow, but they are not stopping revival from coming to our country. How many born again believers in this house? Raise your hand.

Born again believers. No, you're saved. Look around you.

Look around you. Hold your hand. Look around.

Look around. Look, look hard. Look at him.

Look at the choir. Look at me. Look at the platform.

Here's why we're not having revival right here. Me and you and you and you and that guy and that guy and that guy about in the corner is my people. That's what he said.

My people are why we're not having revival. Psalm 85, 6, the Bible said, well, thou shalt not revive us again, that thy people, us, thy people, is my people. We're the cause.

We're the cause there's abortion clinics operating because we have not created a moral climate in this country to make enough people think it's wrong. We're the cause of all the sin in this country because we have not created a moral climate in this country to make people think that it's wrong. If we preached against some of that stuff more, we would create a moral climate.

Do you want revival? It doesn't depend on who's in the White House or Congress. It doesn't depend on who's in the state house. It doesn't depend on whether or not you close the abortion clinics or the liquor houses.

It depends on what God's people did. And God plainly tells us it will do four things. Number one, if my people which are called by my name shall humble, we've got to get off our house.

I can't preach on humility, but I would think that humility is the opposite of proud because the Bible said God resisted the proud, but give it grace to the humble. The proud guys, I don't need God. I can preach without God.

I've been to college. I've memorized eight sermons. I've got eight sermons by memory, every word, and all the jokes.

I don't need God. I'm happy by myself. I don't need him.

Humility is, we need you, Jesus. We can't have a Bible conference without you, Jesus. I can't sing without you, Jesus.

I can't play this piano without you, Jesus. I can't win souls. Jesus, I need thee every hour.

Oh, I need thee every... Jesus said without me ye can't do. Humility is not some kind of a gushy verbiage that says, well, I'm giving God the glory and I'm not worthy. I don't mean that kind of gushy verbiage.

I mean a true heart condition where you sincerely feel how helpless you are without Jesus Christ. We've got too many cocky people. One preacher graduated from college and was very proud of himself.

He thought he was a good preacher. He was invited to preach at a church and walked up on the platform with his chest all swelled up, proud. When he faced the congregation, he forgot everything he wanted to say.

He stuttered, he stammered. In a few minutes, he stumbled off the platform, dejected with his head down. And a wise old lady said to him, young man, if you had walked up on that platform like you walked off that platform, you could have walked off that platform like you walked up on that platform.

And we better learn to walk up like this. I had an old crippled preacher. He didn't know much doctrine.

He raised chickens for a living, preached on the side, drug his old leg before he got up to preach. He'd start a song, an amen corner. We had an amen corner.

He'd start a song, brother, we have met the worship and the door, our Lord, our God. He'd cry, he'd say, son, will you pray with all your power while we try to preach his word and everybody's crying before he got through with it. He didn't know much, but he was a high-voltage preacher.

He had some power. If my people were to call by my name, show humble, number two, and pray. Dr. John R. Rice says all your failures are prayer failures.

You have not because you ask not. One of your greatest surprises in heaven will be to discover all the things you could have had that you never got because you didn't bother to ask for them. I wish I could tell you the possibilities of prayer.

It'll blow your mind. The possibilities of prayer exceed your ability to ask. Ephesians 2.20 says, under him that is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all you ask.

Did you hear that? That's in the Bible. It didn't come out of a funny book. Under him that's able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that you ask.

God can do more than you can ask. But the possibilities of prayer don't exceed your ability to ask. They exceed your ability to even think.

Because the same verse says, under him that's able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all we ask. Did that blow your mind? It's like God says, I can do more than you can ask me to do. I can do more than you think I can do.

And we pray little bitty piddling prayers. Lord, help us not to lose our congregation next year. Give us another dollar and a half in your offering.

Psalms 81, 10 said, open thy mouth wide and out of it. I was in east Kentucky in the mountains about three Sundays ago. Preaching in a little church.

The guy said, you can't find it. I'll come get you. You never will find it.

It's way out in the country. And he came and got me and took me around winding roads and found a little church way out in the country. Before he picked me up that morning, I had the TV on.

I was looking for somebody to be preaching. And I picked up a black preacher. Never heard him, never seen him.

And they can preach if they got the right message. And the story ain't no good if I don't kind of tell it the way he was telling it. When he told the story, he said he had a deacon in his church.

He said, me and deacon said, we went up to the mountains. The deacon's got a little cabin. He said for a couple of days rest and recreation.

Then the deacon got a little girl and said he's in the mountains. He wanted to take his little girl something back. He said he bought a beautiful little doll.

He said he took the dolly back. And after a few days, he said the little girl, he got to playing with the doll and tore his head off. Not only tore his head off, but he said he crumbled his head up so it couldn't be fixed.

And when a mother saw the doll all tore up, she said she knew the girl would be awfully upset, but her surprise, the little girl wasn't even crying. And she said, well, honey, you tore your doll up. He said, yes, ma'am.

And he said he broke his head all to pieces. He said, yes, ma'am. And you're not even upset about it? She said, no, daddy can fix it.

Well, she said, honey, daddy can't fix that doll. He said, you crumbled his head all to pieces. He said, daddy can't fix that doll.

He said, you tore his head up. She said he'd had a head on it when daddy brought it to him. The deacon came home that night and his wife told him the story.

She said, sister done tore a dolly up. She said, tore the head off of it. But she ain't crying.

She ain't upset at all. She said, daddy can fix it. She showed it to him.

She said, I told her you couldn't fix it. She done messed the head up too bad. And she said, but mama had a head on when daddy brought it to me.

And the deacon with a tear in his eyes called the preacher on the phone and said, Reverend, what you doing tomorrow? He said, we got to go back to the mountains. Said, I got to get another doll. My little girl believes in me.

Daddy can fix it. She wouldn't take no for an answer. Daddy can fix it.

Here's the deacon drives all the way back up the mountains, not to spend the two nights in a cabin, but miles back up in the woods in the mountains again for one reason, because the little girl believes it and has faith in her daddy. She said, daddy can fix it. And he brought a brand new doll just like the other doll.

And daddy fixed it. Your life messed up? Daddy can fix it. Is your marriage tore up? You say it's been tore up for years.

We tried to get it back together. We've been to 47 marriage counselors. Daddy can fix it.

You say my boy's life's messed up and I've tied everything under here. Yeah, but daddy can fix it. F.B. Meyer said he had an old dog that was set at the table.

And he said, I'd feed it meat from off the table. And he said, Mrs. Meyer would say to me, don't give that dog that good meat. You eat it and give that dog the scraps.

And F.B. Meyer said, while I was sat there trying to eat a steak, said that dog would lay his head upon my leg and just rub his head up down my leg. Said when Mrs. Meyer wasn't looking, I'd cut off a big hunk of that steak and stick it on the table to him. He said, such faith had to be rewarded.

And I got to finish with it. I chained on God's big leg and just rubbed it back and forth and said, Lord, we want a revival. Lord, we want a little taste of revival.

Lord, we want something like Billy Sunday had. Would you give us a little bit of that in Jacksonville? I got to feed it and God cut a big hunk off. And he'll say to the father, such faith's got to be rewarded.

They believe daddy can fix it. The devil said to me, you need not pray, you're gone. But daddy can fix it.

Ain't no cure for cancer. I know, but daddy can fix it. Yeah, but it's pretty bad.

I know, but daddy can fix it. You say I'm having a hard time. Yeah, but daddy can fix it.

If my people would just call by my name, she'll humble themselves and pray. When's the last time you had an old-fashioned session of prayer, calling on heaven until you got something from heaven? How many ever prayed for something in this building? You prayed for something and you didn't think it could possibly happen, but it happened anyway. Raise your hand.

See that? Look around. How many got more things you didn't think would happen, you didn't think would happen? Raise your hand. Yeah, because I didn't say if you think it'll happen, it'll happen.

He said, you ask, you'll receive. Don't you see that? Father God. Dr. Rice said I had tonsillitis years ago.

Said I had a doctor who told me to go ahead and have them taken out. He said that morning in my devotions, I read about a man in the Old Testament who had a problem with his foot and he sought for the physicians and not the Lord and he died. Dr. Rice said I called the doctor.

I'm canceling that operation. Said I want to pray about this. He died nearly 90.

He still had his tonsils in his throat when he died at 90 something years ago. He said you're crazy. I'm crazy.

I was a little bitty boy about this tall when they took me to Emory Hospital with my side hurting. And I must have been awfully pitiful. They didn't want to take my appendix out.

And when the doctor left the room, I begged my mother. I said, mother, I prayed about it. Mother, I've asked Jesus not to let, not to let them take it out.

I was just a little boy. I didn't know no better. I thought daddy could fix it.

I didn't know daddy couldn't fix it. Nobody ever told me. I said, mother, please don't let them do it.

I said, I'd rather die. And the doctor came in. My mother was crying.

She said, we're taking Curtis home. Well, he said, his appendix will burst and he'll die. I'm 58 years old.

They're still in there. Hadn't busted yet. I'm busted, but my appendix ain't busted.

Am I against doctors? No, but I'm saying, daddy can fix it. My boots are called by my name. She'll humble themselves and number two, they'll pray.

And the third thing and seek my face. I don't know what that means, but I got the cutest little granddaughter. You wouldn't think I'd say anything else, would you? My boy, I thought he'd never get married.

He's about 30 years old when he got married. I said, Tony, wait so long to get married that Medicaid's going to pay for your honeymoon. But he finally got married.

Married a cute little black-headed girl. And they had this pretty little baby with red hair and brown eyes, smooth audit complexion. And she called me papa.

I called her this week. She said, papa. I said, who do you love? Papa.

Whose baby are you? Papa. Now my boy wants to raise a right. He's about six foot four.

He's about 290 pounds. Got arms that look like somebody's legs. And that little thing's about that high.

They hadn't cut her hair since the day she was born. Long, curly red hair. Not sort of a light strawberry red.

If she does something wrong, then he'll make her behave. And her mother and I, his mother and I don't like it sometimes, you know. He gets on a cuff.

She'll do something wrong. He says, Tennille, come here. Now, look at me.

And she'll come over. He says, stand right here. He'll point to a spot.

She gets a foot from it, not there, here. Get over here. Get on the spot.

Stand here, right here. And I can't help but laugh at her. She'll stare at him.

He'll say, what was that you just did? She said, it's a no-no. You going to do it again? No, sir. But she's looking right in his eyes.

You know something? I never have Tennille do anything wrong when you look in his eyes. And when you look in him daddy's face, you don't do too much wrong. You seek his face early in the morning and noon and night.

You look in his face all day long. You won't be cussing and lying, getting drunk on liquor when you look in daddy's face. You won't be coming in there more right.

You look in daddy's face. My dad used to look at me. I knew what that meant.

Seek my face means spend some time alone with God. We're too busy. We don't have time for our quiet times.

If my people would just call by my name and show humble themselves and pray and seek my face. And one more thing he said, I want you to do and turn from your wicked ways. Isn't that easy stuff? If I've been cussing, I quit cussing.

If I've been getting drunk, I quit getting drunk. I've been beating, well I started beating my wife, but she's been beating me. She needs to get right about that.

The last time we had a fight, I didn't see her for three weeks. Then my left eye began to open up just a little bit. But the last time I got her, she came calling to me on her hands and knees.

Come out of that bed, you little rascal, you. And turn from their wicked ways. It wouldn't be too hard to do that.

D.L. Moody was trying to have revival. He said, you want to have revival? I'll show you how. He said, every Christian here, come forward and kneel on your knees and confess your sins to Christ and get them forgiven and tend to get right with God.

And one man said, Mr. Moody, I can't remember my sins. And Moody said, well just kneel and guess at them. And Moody said he guessed them the very first time.

And I got it out of him. If we didn't want revival, we could guess them the very first time. We know what they are.

We know those little secret hidden sins of the heart. We know what they are. There are two backsliders in Luke 15.

Both boys are backslidden. The prodigal son is backslidden because of the outward, obvious sins of the life. But the older brother at home is just as backslidden.

But here's the inward, secret sins of the heart. You see, the boy at home was the baddest younger brother that left. He had no burden for his return.

You'd never find him one time saying to Daddy, let's pray that my brother will come home. He was gone. You watch the guy that's bad when the other guy falls.

And he's about as bad as the guy that fell. The guy that never prays for the prodigal to come home is not as bad as the prodigal himself. His is just the inward, secret sins of the heart.

You can't see them. He was selfish. They was bread enough to spare in the house.

But you never hear this old boy saying to Daddy, we got more bread than we can eat. Why don't we share this with somebody? No, his philosophy was, make all you can. Can't all you make sit on the can and pause and rest.

I can't eat it all, but we don't give anybody else any of it. You ever read the Bible? That's in Luke 15, by the way. That's in the New Testament.

Tell you something else, even when his brother got right with God, he didn't rejoice. He stayed outside and pouted. His problem was he tried to be right with the father and wrong with the brother who got right with the father.

And let me shock you and tell you, you can't be right with the father and wrong with the brother who's right with the father. When a man comes to tune these pianos, he'll use a tuning fork. Looks like a pulley born out of a bionic chicken.

He'll hit that fork and it'll hum a little note. He'll tune his piano to that tuning fork. He can go over this campus and tune every piano on this campus to that same tuning fork, put them in one room.

They'll all be in complete harmony with each other because they're all in tune with the fork. But if he tunes this one and tries to tune another one with this one and another one with that one, after about three pianos, it'll be out of tune with this one. And when we get right with God and you get right with God, we have to be right with each other because we're tuned up to the same point.

We can't be out of tune. We can't be out of harmony on the day of Pentecost. We're all in one accord.

They wasn't riding in a Honda automobile. They'd all got tuned up with a tuning fork. They was all in tune with each other.

You don't get right with each other by trying to get right with each other. You get right with the other by only getting right with God. Don't you see that? And turn from their wicked ways.

Now watch it. If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my faith and turn from their wicked ways. What's the next word? Then.

Say it loud. Then. You know what then means? You know what it means? It means at that point in time.

Immediately following. Not 40 years later. It didn't say then sometime thereafter.

It didn't say that, does it? Then. When? When my people humble themselves and pray and seek my faith and turn from their wicked ways. Then at that moment, at that point in time.

Ah. Uh-oh. We're getting God in there, man.

What'd you do? Then I'll hear from heaven. Forgive their sin. Heal their land.

You say, doesn't God hear all the time anyway? Yeah, but this word here means to hear with the intention of doing something. You ever say to your kid, take the garbage out and 10 minutes later you're still sitting there watching TV? And you go to, you say, Tony, didn't you hear me? Well, you knew he heard you. What you're saying is don't you intend to do something about it? Because when you do those four things, I'll hear you with the attitude of the idea of doing something about what you're talking about now when you pray.

I'll hear from heaven. What else would you do? I'll forgive your sins. But then I'll heal your land.

Our land? Our land's America. Isn't it sad we're spending millions and millions and millions and millions of dollars trying to bring America together? 20 million to be spent on the inauguration of Bill Clinton. National news media's going to cut it seven days, seven days, like a crown of thorns.

He wanted to pull America together. You don't tune them up with each other. You get them all right with a tuning fork.

You've never seen such unity in your life as there was among people when they had revivals in places. God's not dead. He's not even sick.

He don't have a bad cholera headache. He's still able to do the day while he's ever done. Spend any time in his existence.

You want revival? It's up to you. Give me five people. Give me three people.

Give me one person. And if I'll do what the Bible says, and he'll do what the Bible says, we can have revival. And it'll spread.

You can start a vow to turn your back on the church. I'm talking about show no self now. You knew it? Don't wait for an explosion now.

Wait for the combustion. And the first thing you knew, others will be meeting with you for prayer over here. Let four or five preacher boys just sneak in here in the middle of the night and say, we're going to meet the conditions.

We've got two or three more years at Trinity. If it takes two or three years, we're going to meet the conditions. We're going to start the little fire in our hearts before you know it, others will be joining.

And churchmen will be joining before you knew it. Revival will be on. And you don't know what's about to happen here.

Rod Bell wrote me a letter and told me what's going to happen in his church. I can't describe it to you, but it started off awful slow. He says, now people are going in souls and bringing them in and the church is going by leaps and bounds, but they got burdened for revival, got to pray and seeking God.

Revival broke out. The sad thing is, I read about revival, but never been in one in a real sense of the word. But I think I've been in more revival than some of you have been in.

And the sad thing is a lot of you young preachers, I'm afraid may live and die and laugh at revivals and laugh at people like Billy Sundin, Mordecai Hammond, those guys who had revivals and never have one yourself. May God in heaven get ahold of us and shake us to our very core so we can sing. Revive us again.

May each heart with our love. May each soul be rekindled with fire. Hallelujah, thine the glory.

Hallelujah. Amen. Hallelujah, thine the glory.

Revive us again.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/3/SID3591.mp3>
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