

The words came so clearly that I immediately had to find a pen to write them down. I was praying and asking the Lord to guide me on the path toward revival. His voice was so clear and simple – and I have carried these words in my heart ever since:

*“Live your life according to 2 Chronicles 7:14 as if other lives depend on it.”*

As if other lives depend on it...*because they do!*

### **On Behalf of Others**

You have friends and family members who have not yet embraced the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. They need you to pray with humility and repentance on their behalf.

You know of families that have been devastated by sin and heartbreaking situations. How they need an intervention from God based on His promises to hear *your* prayers!

You have witnessed the spiritual apathy and even decline within the Church, and God is waiting for you to pray with greater belief in His covenant promise to respond to the humble and desperate prayers of His people. God prompts us, calls us, and even provides the prayers that He wants us to pray back to Him.

So many lives depend on our willingness to take God at His Word, believe His promises, and reprioritize our lives to seek Him with abandonment. God wants to send revival in response to our brokenness and persistence in travailing prayer. He wants us to live out 2 Chronicles 7:14 as if other lives depend on it. *Because they do!*

### **God’s Covenant Promise**

God has made a covenant promise with His people. If we walk in humility, repent of all sin, pray faithfully and seek Him, He promises to hear and respond to our prayers. God will pour out His mercy and grace upon us. He will “heal our land.”

*“...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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”*

This means that the glory of the manifest presence of Jesus Christ will revive believers into a vibrant and dynamic faith that will turn the world upside down. (Think of the disciples immediately following Pentecost; they were unleashed by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit into a lost and desperate world with amazing power for healing and speaking of truth.) In the midst of a “healed land,” the lost will come to faith in Jesus Christ as they are convicted of sin and profoundly drawn into a saving relationship with Him.

So why wouldn’t we give our lives to this? ***Isn’t a humble, broken, and repentant lifestyle worth the revival of the Church and the salvation of the lost?***

### **2 Chronicles 7:14 Lifestyle**

Other lives depend upon your willingness to step into your God-given role. God calls us to live this way. But what does it mean to live a repentant lifestyle according to God’s covenant promise?

**First of all, it means that you have not arrived.** Repentance is woven throughout Scripture, from Nehemiah fasting, mourning, and repenting for his sins and the sins of his people, to Jesus warning five of the churches in Revelation of their need to repent in spite of their attempts at good works. Repentance was the first message that Jesus preached, and it was the message that He commissioned His disciples to take to the ends of the earth (Mark 1:15, Luke 24:47).

Repentance is a gift from the Lord that leads to joy and refreshing (Acts 3:19-20). Without God's gift of repentance, we cannot know or live out a right relationship in Jesus Christ.

- *A person with a truly repentant lifestyle will examine all of his or her actions and thoughts in the light of the holiness of God.* The temptations to sin are surrendered moment by moment to the power of the Spirit. And when sin does occur (perhaps on a daily basis), confession is quick to follow. A truly repentant person knows that he or she has never "arrived," but with God's help is always walking in humility and brokenness before a holy God. (See Isaiah 6:5.)
- *A person living a repentant lifestyle will also embrace a godly sorrow on behalf of others.* Having experienced the mercy and grace of God's forgiveness, a repentant person desperately desires others to experience that same freedom from sin and release from shame. In 2 Corinthians 7:8-11, Paul writes of his desire for godly sorrow over sin to bring repentance, earnestness, and a new zeal for justice. Those who have experienced both the pain of sin and the joy of forgiveness will pray with passion for all to experience life-giving repentance through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Second, it means that you are surrendered to pursuing Christ-likeness.** There is no greater calling on your life. God gives His people specific assignments in the Body of Christ, but *our greatest calling is to become more like Christ.* As we seek the face of God, we are pursuing the reign of Christ in the depth of our souls and the core of our being. The passion for revival is the clear evidence of the glory of Christ active within us. Paul says it this way in 2 Corinthians 4:5-7 (NLT):

*We don't go around preaching about ourselves; we preach Christ Jesus, the Lord. All we say about ourselves is that we are your servants because of what Jesus has done for us. For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made us understand that this light is the brightness of the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. But this precious treasure – this light and power that now shine within us – is held in perishable containers, that is, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own.*

Are you willing to surrender your life in such a way that others will be blessed by the power and presence of Jesus Christ living and active in you? With God's help through the empowerment of His Holy Spirit, we can live out our God-given roles in helping to usher in His manifest presence in revival.

*"Dear Heavenly Father, we know we are weak and frail vessels, yet You choose to use us in Your Kingdom plans. Please fill us by the power of Your Spirit to live out 2 Chronicles 7:14 with humility, repentance, and the pursuit of Christ-likeness in our lives. We pray that the glory of Christ will brightly shine within us so that all can see Your glorious power and come to a saving and revived faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name, amen."*

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