

Mark A. Finley



Revive
US AGAIN

CONTENTS

A Personal Message From Mark Finley	4
1. Prayer and Revival	7
2. The Holy Spirit and Revival	28
3. The Urgency of Revival	46
4. True and False Revivals	65
5. The Promised Revival	81
6. Evangelism and Revival	98
7. Revival and a Finished Work	113



A PERSONAL MESSAGE
FROM MARK FINLEY

As you begin your personal journey through the pages of *Revive Us Again*, let me assure you that you are poised on the verge of one of the most thrilling spiritual breakthroughs of your life. I am confident that the Holy Spirit will lead you to a closer walk with Jesus as you peruse these chapters.

My intent in writing this book is not to present some new, startling, sensational information on revival and the Holy Spirit. Although you will discover vital new truths as you read, my real goal is to lead you through God's Word and the writings of Ellen G. White to life-changing spiritual principles.

As you meditatively read each chapter, take time to prayerfully consider the practical implications of what you are reading. As you do, your mind will be open to the deep moving of the Holy Spirit. You will place yourself in an atmosphere of spiritual renewal.

These chapters are to be prayerfully experienced—not merely rapidly read to get through the material as quickly as possible. Each chapter concludes with an Application page. These Application pages are especially designed to lead you

into a prayer and devotional experience for spiritual revival. You will also be led to practical faith-sharing experiences and witness opportunities.

Two powerful statements from the writings of Ellen G. White have guided me in the writing process. I have kept them foremost in my mind.

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs” (*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 121).

“There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out his Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time” (*Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887).

There is nothing that the Seventh-day Adventist Church needs more than a genuine spiritual revival. There is nothing that Satan fears more than this promised revival. There is nothing more important for church administrators, pastors, and church members than seeking this revival together. There is no greater priority.

What possibly could be more critical for the people of God than the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Pentecostal power for the finishing of God’s work on earth? This must be at the top of every board-meeting agenda on all levels of church structure. But revival always begins with one man, one woman, one boy, or one girl on his or her knees, seeking God. You can be that one person who is used of God to bring spiritual revival to your home, your church, your school, or your conference.

Revive Us Again

God's promise is for you. "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, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). The Word of God is sure. His promises are certain.

Throughout history, God has sent revivals in response to the prayers of His people. In our day, the long awaited end-time revival will come. The Holy Spirit will be poured out. The work of God on earth will be finished. Jesus will return and we will soon go home.

As you read these pages, may the prayer of your heart be, "Lord, revive us again."



CHAPTER ONE

Prayer and Revival

The greatest revivals in the history of the world have been the result of earnest, heartfelt intercession. The sparks of revival are kindled on the altar of prayer. Revival and prayer are indissolubly linked. Without persevering, prevailing prayer, there is no corresponding power. Ellen White could not be clearer in stating this divine reality. “A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer” (*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 121).

The New Testament church was bathed in prayer. The believers heeded Jesus’ admonition to “wait” for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4). They believed as they sought God together that they would receive “power” when the Holy Spirit descended from heaven upon them (Acts 1:8).

The Acts narrative is plain. Speaking of those early disciples, it states, “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication” (Acts 1:14). In response to these faith-filled prayers, the Holy Spirit was poured out powerfully on Pentecost. Three thousand were baptized in a day. And the record states, “They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts

2:42). These early Christians united in world-changing prayer. And their prayers made a difference. “When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken” (Acts 4:31). “And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 4:33). The disciples gave themselves continually to prayer (Acts 6:4).

Through prayer, Peter was led to the home of Cornelius, a Gentile, and new vistas were open for the proclamation of the gospel (Acts 10:1–33). When the early church united in prayer, God sent an angel from heaven to deliver Peter from prison. Prayer was at the heart of the New Testament churches’ power.

Prayer and the early Advent movement

Prayer was also at the very heart of the early Advent movement. The pioneers of the Advent movement were great men and women of prayer, sometimes spending a good portion of the night in prayer. Describing her experience in these prayer sessions, Ellen White writes, “At our important meetings, these men [early Advent leaders] would meet together and search for truth as for hidden treasure. I met with them, and we studied and prayed earnestly; for we felt we must learn God’s truth. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light, and studying the word. As we fasted and prayed, great power came upon us” (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, p. 413).

Ellen White constantly urged these early Adventists to seek God in prayer. “The greatest victories gained for the cause of God are not the result of labored argument, ample

facilities, wide influence, or abundance of means; they are gained in the audience chamber with God, when with earnest, agonizing faith men lay hold upon the mighty arm of power” (*Gospel Workers*, p. 259).

Believing that the second coming of Christ was imminent, these early Adventists humbled their hearts, confessed their sins, and interceded for their families, friends, and communities.

In March of 1840, William Miller conducted a series of prophetic lectures in the Casco Christian Church in Portland, Maine. Hundreds crowded into the church. Some stayed from early morning until late at night. The Holy Spirit moved powerfully upon the congregation. In her book *Life Sketches*, Ellen White describes the impact of these meetings.

“Terrible conviction spread through the entire city. Prayer meetings were established, and there was a general awakening among the various denominations, for they all felt more or less the influence that proceeded from the teaching of the coming of Christ” (*Life Sketches*, p. 137). Speaking of this revival in Portland, Maine, F. D. Nichol adds, “Little prayer meetings have been set up in almost every part of the city” (*The Midnight Cry*, p. 29).

Here is a certainty regarding genuine revival. Prayer initiates revival. Prayer sustains revival. Prayer nurtures revival, and prayer follows revival.

Revivalist Leonard Ravenhill put it this way, “Without exception, all true revivals of the past began after years of agonizing, hell-robbing, earth-shaking, heaven-sent intercession. The secret to true revival in our own day is still the same.

But where, oh, where, are the intercessors?"

Welsh Revival

One of the greatest revivals in history was the Welsh Revival of 1904. Twenty-six-year-old Evan Roberts had been praying for thirteen years that his life would be totally controlled by the Holy Spirit. He pled with God for an undivided heart—a heart totally committed to the kingdom of God. Evan often prayed late into the night, interceding for the teens and the young adults in his church. He especially prayed regularly that God would visit Wales with revival power. The Welsh Revival began at a youth meeting in Evan Roberts's own church, Moriah Loughor, when he shared his own experience with God. Evan urged his friends to seek the infilling of God's Spirit in their own lives. The Holy Spirit touched hearts. Sixteen young people were converted. The sparks of revival begun in this humble village church would ignite the flames of revival throughout the country. It is estimated that within nine months, one hundred thousand people were converted in the tiny country of Wales. The crime rate dropped. Drunkards and prostitutes were transformed by God's grace. Pubs reported losses. Lloyd George, once prime minister of England, wrote that on one Saturday night at the height of the Welsh Revival one tavern sold only nine cents' worth of liquor. Many taverns were transformed into places of prayer.

Political meetings and soccer matches were delayed or even postponed because the churches were packed with praying people. Often these prayer services lasted six to eight hours at a time. Hardened, spiritually calloused Welsh coal

miners crowded into these spirit-filled services and returned to the mines changed men. Profanity disappeared from their lips and never returned. It was reported that the pit ponies in the mines failed to understand the commands of these born-again miners who now, without cursing, seemed to speak the language of heaven.

The revival weakened around 1906, but its impact on tens of thousands of lives continued. When one elderly lady was asked why the Welsh Revival seemed to fade away, she quickly responded, "It has never been extinguished. It is still burning in my heart." It had burned in this godly woman's heart for more than seventy years.

An entire nation was changed because a young man, Evan Roberts, and a group of his young friends took our Lord's example of passionate intercession seriously.

A nation changed by prayer

Alfred Lord Tennyson was certainly correct when he said, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." One of the most dramatic moments in recent memory is the fall of the Berlin Wall. Few realize the mighty, concentrated prayer movement that led up to the breathtaking events in East Berlin on November 9, 1989. In 1982, Christian Führer, a young German pastor in Leipzig, opened the doors of his church each Monday evening for prayer and discussions on freedom. These prayer sessions grew until one Monday night in October of 1989, eight thousand people crowded into the church. Thousands more stood outside the Nikolai Church. A nationwide freedom movement was birthed in the

cradle of prayer. People by the tens of thousands in villages, towns, and cities across East Germany joined the Leipzig intercessors. On that Monday night in October, nearly one million people were praying for freedom. Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, commenting on the absolute necessity of earnest intercession, Pastor Christian Führer declared, “We realized that if we stopped praying, there would be no hope for change in Germany” (“Prayer and the Berlin Wall,” *Cimarronsong* (blog), February 12, 2009, <http://cimarronsong.wordpress.com/2009/02/12>).

One former communist government official who had worked with the Stasi, or East German secret police, gave this amazing testimony. “We were ready for anything, except for candles and prayer.” The Berlin Wall could not stand before the sound of the fervent prayers of God’s people united in seeking Him.

Ellen White states a similar truth about the power of prayer. “At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan’s whole host trembles” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 346). Prayer makes a difference. Intercessory prayer is powerful. Just as the Berlin Wall fell as God’s people prayed, so the walls that keep us from an intimate experience with Jesus fall as we plead with God. The walls that hold back the mighty revival that God longs to send to His church crumble at the sound of earnest intercession. Walls of pride, prejudice, anger, bitterness, lust, complacency, lukewarmness, and materialism all give way to the moving of the Holy Spirit through prayer.

Prayer is an absolute necessity if revival is going to take place. A. T. Pierson makes this insightful observation: “From

the Day of Pentecost, there has not been one spiritual awakening in any land that has not begun in a union of prayer. Though only among two or three; no such outward, upward movement has continued after such prayer meetings have declined” (quoted in Arthur Wallis, *In the Day of Thy Power*, p. 112).

In prayer we humble our hearts before God, acknowledging our total dependence upon Him. In prayer we unite with David pleading, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10). We confess with Daniel, “We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets” (Daniel 9:10). We cry out with Paul, “O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” And with the apostle in prayer, our faith grasps the promises of God and we joyfully exclaim, “I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 7:24, 25).

Prayer opens our lives to God’s cleansing power. During prayer, the Holy Spirit X-rays our souls. We see hidden sins and defects in our characters that keep us from being the powerful witnesses He longs for us to be. Prayer draws us into an intimate relationship with Jesus. In prayer, we open our minds to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We seek His wisdom, not our own.

Prayer and the great controversy

Prayer also enables God, in the context of the great controversy between good and evil, to work more powerfully than if we had not prayed. This conflict between Christ and Satan is a battle between the forces of hell and the forces of

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs” (*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 121).

There is nothing that the Seventh-day Adventist Church needs more than a genuine spiritual revival. There is nothing that Satan fears more than this promised revival. There is nothing more important for church administrators, pastors, and church members than seeking this revival together. There is no greater priority.

In *Revive Us Again*, Pastor Mark Finley invites you to prayerfully open your heart and mind. Revival always begins with one man, one woman, one boy, or one girl on his or her knees, seeking God. You can be that one person who is used of God to bring the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on your home, your church, and your world.

As you read these pages, may the prayer of your heart be, “Lord, revive us again.”

Pastor Mark Finley and his wife, Ernestine, have been involved in Christian ministry for more than 40 years—preaching, teaching, offering spiritual growth workshops, and presenting healthful lifestyle lectures. Pastor Finley served as *It Is Written*'s speaker/director from 1991–2004. He travels the world as an international evangelist, speaking to tens of thousands of people in large-scale public evangelistic meetings. Currently, he serves as an assistant to the president of the General Conference.

Christian Life/Spiritual Growth

ISBN 13: 978-0-8163-2450-7

ISBN 10: 0-8163-2450-6

