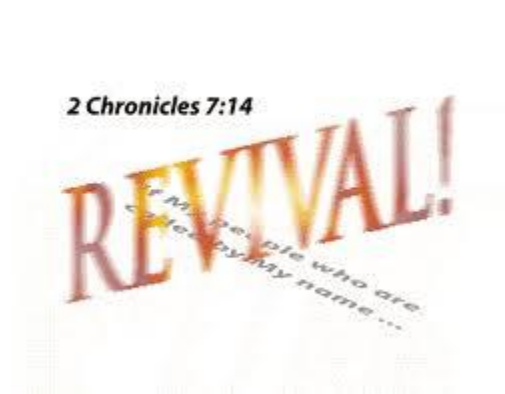


## How To Receive God's Blessing? (A Study on Revival)

2 Chronicles 7:14



A professor from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas was preaching in Nevada. The normally reserved professor put his whole heart into the sermon and called for people in the congregation to repent and get their hearts right with God.

At the end of his message, he declared: "You need to repent and turn from your sin! So, buster, if you are here and your heart is not right...come down to this altar right now!"

The invitation was given and the professor joined the pastor of the church at the altar. Before the invitation ended, a young boy came down to the altar and looked directly at the professor and said, "MY NAME IS BUSTER...and I want to get my heart right!"

This is a true story! In this study, we want to remember that God has set a certain pattern for us to follow if we want His true and rich blessing upon our life. We must push the right buttons if we want to receive God's blessing upon our lives. As a Christian we should know the way of God's blessing. We must understand God's law for blessing if we want to succeed in life.

2 Chronicles 7:14

"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 sin, and will heal their land."

This verse as a time-worn verse. This text is about God's plan for God's people. It is God's general law for blessing. Its principle has not changed from one dispensation to the next. I suppose no other passage in the Bible has been used more often to preach about revival than this verse. That is because it is a revival verse.

The background of this promise is given in answer to Solomon's prayer (2 Chronicles 6:26-31). At the dedication of Solomon's temple, the Lord appeared to Solomon and spoke the Word that he needed to hear. It was a reassuring Word that He would bless the nation.

2 Chronicles 7:12-14

"And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; 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 sin, and will heal their land."

God promised that if His judgment would come upon the nation of Israel by drought, locusts, or a plague, because of their sins, they could turn to the Lord in earnest humility and repentance, and they would find forgiveness and restoration of their land from God's judgment. We learn an important principle from this text of Scripture. God can bless our lives and church ministry, as He sees fit, when we meet His conditions for blessing. I'm so thankful when the Lord does this. After failure, we can be restored to a place of blessing. Even after a flop there can still be a future. God is in the blessing business! The Lord often reassures us that we can have His restored blessing if we follow His rules for blessings. The blessing is ours, if we want it!

This specific passage with its promise of national land healing ("heal their land") is specifically addressed to Israel and not the Church. We must be careful that we don't claim a promise that was given to Israel and make it ours today. This is a matter of correct Bible interpretation. For instance, God chose to heal Israel's physical land of drought and give them increase of crops if they follow His rules.

Some people have used this verse as God's promise to heal America of her spiritual departures if we pray, as God's people, and do what God says. However, this is not addressed to American Christians nor is it a promise given to the United States. It's addressed to Israel and is Israel's promise. Now, God may choose to bless America, once again, in response to Christians praying and getting right with Him, but we can't base this upon a promise that is given to Israel.

Nevertheless, there are some important timeless lessons we can learn from this text and apply to our personal lives and local church ministry today. From this verse, we can draw the important principle that God wants to bless our lives and church when we follow His laws. We must remember that the Old Testament was written for our learning.

Romans 15:4

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”

All Scripture is not directed “to” us but it is “for” us. Here is what we can apply to our lives today. We must understand God’s laws if we want to succeed in life and be blessed by God. Nothing can be greater and better than to receive God’s true blessing! We should want the true blessing of God upon our life and this church! I don’t want to miss God’s best for my life and everything that He can do for a church ministry when people meet His requirement for blessing. So, I need to discover how to receive God’s blessing. Ignorance is not bliss. We must know how to receive God’s blessing. I’m glad God shows us in His Word.

In this study we are going to discover that:

- The blessing of God must be sought.
- The blessing of God must be earned.

God has rules to follow if we want His true blessing upon our life. What is the one thing God is telling us in 2 Chronicles 7:14? I think the message is clear. God wants to bless our personal life and church ministry.

A three-fold blueprint is given to receive God’s blessing.

### **1. We must accept the challenge – “if”**

God challenges us today to see whether or not we truly want His blessing. It’s a challenge to see whether or not we are going to really be serious about change and do what God says. Everything boils down to this – “If.” This one little word (“if”) provides us with the challenge. Are we willing to change? Do we really want to do this? Do we really want revival? It’s a matter of choice. We don’t have to change, if

we don't want to. The choice is yours. God is saying, "If you will do this, you will have My blessing, if you don't do this, you will miss my blessing."

The ball is in your court. What are you going to do with it? The true blessing of God revolves around one word; it is the word "if." This is something we can and must do if we want God's blessing. But do we really want God's special blessing upon our lives? How much do we long for God's rich blessing? Do we really want to see growth and change in our own personal lives and do we really want to see our church ministry blessed by God in new and wonderful ways? How close do we want to be to God and how much blessing do we want from the Lord? We must accept God's challenge, as presented in 2 Chronicles 7:14, if we want to experience His true blessing in our personal lives and church.

Note two details about this challenge:

a. It's given to God's people - "my people"

Only God's people can receive His true blessing. Unbelievers miss out on the great spiritual blessing of God. The blessing is reserved for God's children. I know that God sends the rain on the just and unjust (Matt. 5:45), but God's true spiritual blessing falls upon His people, who are following His will for their lives, and who are living close to Him. It is not our duty to persuade God to send revival; we must permit Him to do so by following His rule for revival and blessing. And it begins at the house of God - "If my people...."

b. It's guaranteed by God's salvation - "which are called by my name"

Only God's redeemed people, those who are saved, can experience the blessing promised in 2 Chronicles 7:14. Israel was called by God to be His own personal people. He saved them and brought them into the place of favor and blessing.

Isaiah 45:4

"For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me."

By the way, Israel is still guaranteed God's future blessing. God is not finished with Israel.

Romans 11:26 states:

“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”

God has never made a covenant with any other nation but Israel, but since Christian believers today are God’s people, they also are called by His name to the place of salvation and blessing. For this reason, all Christians living today can claim the basic principle and promise presented in this Bible verse. The promise is this: when we sin, we can be restored to God and blessed by God, if we follow His rules for blessing, which are to humble ourselves, pray, seek God’s face, and turn away from our sins.

Today, God has also called the church (a different group of people) to salvation.

1 Corinthians 1:2

“Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.”

1 Peter 1:15

“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.”

We too, who are called by God, must follow God’s rules for spiritual blessing. If we want God’s true blessing, we must follow God’s rules! We can’t get around what God is saying. We can’t wiggle out of it! If we want to be truly blessed by God, we must accept His challenge. We must be willing to follow God’s unchanging and unbending rules for blessing. God is challenging us to do what He says and discover the blessing that He wants to bring into our lives.

Back in my college days, I accepted a challenge to not drink soda for one whole summer. I don’t know what we were trying to prove by not drinking soda pop, but for one entire summer, my best friend and I agreed to not drink any soda. I guess we were trying to out-due one another and see which one would cave in and confess to drinking a soda. This was a silly challenge. But the challenge that God brings before us in 2 Chronicles 7:14 is not silly. It is the most important challenge that we should embrace for our lives.

We must be willing to change if we want to receive God's true blessing upon our life. Our problem is that we keep going down the wrong path and really don't want to change! We want to still have our fling with sin or not really become serious about getting rid of sin in our life and receiving the blessing of God.

Many Christians simply don't want to change. They are died in the wool! They are set in their ways. Their mind is not only mixed up; it is set in concrete! Then too, many Christians only want to go halfway! They are not really concerned with God's holy path, renewed purpose for their lives, and God's blessing. They want to live out their own personal goals and ambitions in life, without really being concerned about God's way for their personal lives. This is a sad commentary that is strikingly true for many modern-day Christians.

- Have you been seeking God's true blessing?
- Are you ready to take this challenge?
- Does your personal life, family, and church need a special blessing?

## **2. We should follow God's call.**

If we want God's true blessing – we must follow God's call for revival. God summons us to follow His way of blessing and revival. We find in this verse that there are laws for revival.

There is a fourfold call to follow.

### **a. The call to PREPARATION – “shall humble themselves”**

We must prepare ourselves to receive God's blessing by learning to practice humility.

James 4:6 declares:

"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble."

We might be too proud to confess our sins, really repent before God and want to change. We may be too proud of our accomplishments to get down our knees and rely on God for His true blessing.

Someone wrote:

"Humility says, 'Lord, I am empty without Your fulness; I am broken without Your wholeness; I am helpless without Your strength; I am clueless without Your wisdom. Apart from You I am nothing. I need you...'"

Without genuine humility before God, there can be no true blessing from God. We must humble ourselves before God as a sinner in need of cleansing, as a saint in need of restoration, as a servant in need of God's power and blessing.

Humility is the pathway to God's blessing upon our lives.

James 4:10

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

1 Peter 5:6

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."

E. M. Bounds wrote,

"Humility is just feeling little because we are little. Humility is realizing our unworthiness because we are unworthy, the feeling and declaring ourselves sinners because we are sinners."

This is what humility means. We must humble ourselves by seeing ourselves as a sinner who needs to make changes in his or her life. We must totally and unreservedly bow before God in humility and realize that without him our life can never change and we can never experience the full blessing that He has for our life. We must humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God to receive His power, victory, and blessing in our lives.

It is humbling for any saint to acknowledge to God that he has been wrong. In so doing our pride is subdued. Humility precedes God's true blessing. We must turn away from a life that is self-centered and humble ourselves before God. No revival of history and no personal revival, which has brought the rich blessing of God, has ever come without humility before God. We must see ourselves as unworthy sinners saved by grace and fall before His feet in humility and utter dependence

upon God for His blessing. We can miss God's direction and blessing when we fail to swallow our pride!

Dwight Moody said:

"A man can counterfeit love, he can counterfeit faith, he can counterfeit hope and all the other graces, but it is very difficult to counterfeit humility."

Without God we are nothing. We are hopeless, hell-bound, and helpless. Let us fall before Him with great humility and brokenness, so we might receive from God's bountiful hand His rich blessing upon our life. We are called upon to stop living lives that are proud and filled with self-centeredness. We must realize we have sinned against God Almighty and swallow our pride! We must humble ourselves before God and cry out to Him for pardon and blessing. We must humble ourselves before God by realizing that without Him and His blessing, we are living a life that is worthless, senseless, and aimless.

John Bunyan said:  
He that is down needs fear no fall,  
He that is low, no pride;  
He that is humble ever shall  
Have God to be his guide.

#### b. The call to PRAYER - "and pray"

What do we pray about in order to receive God's blessing? For one thing, we pray CONFESSING all our known sins. Stop trying to hide the dirt under the carpet. This will never bring God's true blessing into your life! This is a sincere acknowledgment of sin and a plea for mercy like David in Psalm 51:1-3. It's not a "wishy-washy" "half-baked" prayer, but a prayer of great sincerity and earnestness.

Proverbs 28:13 reminds us:

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

We must also pray for God's movement and blessing in our personal lives and church. This means we must pray for God to use us, pray for souls to be saved, and pray for the saints live to be changed. A prayerless life is a powerless life! A



prayerless church is a powerless church. We can expect God to bless our lives in many wonderful ways, if we pray for His movement and blessing, since He is a big God. Many times our prayers are too small and way too tame.

Prayer opens the floodgates of God's blessing. Prayer heightens God's work. A lack of prayer robs us of God's greatest blessing. We must pray believingly, wholeheartedly, consistently, meaningfully, and repeatedly!

Two pastors' wives sat mending their husbands' pants. One of them said to the other, "My poor John, he is so discouraged in his church work. He said just the other day he was considering resigning. It seems nothing goes right for him." The other replied, "Why, my husband was saying just the opposite. He is so enthused; it seems like the Lord is closer to him than ever before." A hushed silence fell as they continued to mend the trousers; one patching the seat of the pants and the other the knees because of the amount of prayer that one husband was bringing up to God.

My friend, prayer makes the difference. This is why prayer meeting is still needed in God's House. The church that stops praying dies! I'm calling upon more of God's people to become faithful to our own prayer meeting right here at this church. There was a day and time when prayer meeting was much more full than it is today.

We need personal prayer, corporate prayer, and persistent prayer to reap God's harvest of blessing! Our problem today is that we care more about our plans than prayer. We care more about our problems than prayer. We care more about our personal goals than prayer. We are in love with ourselves instead of with God and what is most important in life – praying to God. I'm calling upon the men to dedicate themselves and families to church prayer meetings once again. We don't want to become a prayerless and powerless church!

Prayer is the most important ingredient in our lives. If we become spiritually barren and parched in life, it's because of our lack of prayer. When this happens, we will become nothing but a nominal Christian. Be a praying Christian! Let the fire of prayer burn in your soul once again! Our problem is that we become cold and insensitive to the things of the Lord over time. The fire of prayer and the burning desire to see God work and save souls through prayer is lacking.

Friend, the blessing does not come without some old-fashioned prayer meeting – meeting with God in prayer - when God’s people mean business with God! We have forgotten the power that is behind the united prayers of God’s people.

Acts 2:42 reminds us:

“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

The early church really did unite together for prayer! They were not lazy in their prayer ministry. They were dedicated to their prayer meetings! Where is your commitment to prayer - both personally and corporately as a church? Where is our commitment to those things that are eternal? We preachers often say to one another, “The prayer meeting is dying off.” Why? Sometimes, it’s because God’s people are dying!! They are becoming stale and stagnate and no longer believe in the power of a praying church and the blessing that comes when God’s saints pray together.

Acts 4:31

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”

The early church believed in God’s power and blessing working through prayer. And dear friend, if you are looking for personal revival in your life then start praying and you will get it, and others will see it, and be affected by it. Satan wants to keep us from the blessing that comes through prayer. Satan does not want us to become a MAN of prayer, or a CHURCH of prayer, who believes that God will work wonders in our lives, the lives of others, and the church ministry, when we get down on our knees and pray. Prayer moves the hand that moves the world!

Can we really say to God, “God, I’m sorry but my schedule does not fit in to a prayer schedule?” If that is the case, then guess whose schedule must change. Let’s stop giving excuses to God and start praying to Him with a new fervency and readiness to receive His blessing in our lives.

Someone said:

“Everything in God’s store is on the bottom shelf. We have to get on our knees to get it!”

Jeremiah 33:3

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”

### c. The call to PASSION – “seek my face”

The “face” of God does not signify the literal face of God. This is because Scripture often reminds us that no one can see God’s face and still live (Exod. 33:20). The concept of seeking God’s face means that we possess a longing or desire to know God personally, worship God prayerfully, and be obedient to God consistently, so that we might have His approval. When we seek God’s face we are listening to God, we are longing for God’s fellowship, and we are committed to living a life that is pleasing to God.

What is in a face? If you pay close attention to someone's face you can see a lot of things. In their eyes you can see if they are at peace. In their countenance you can see if they are happy, sad, mad, scared, or indifferent. You can tell what they think about you. In order to seek God’s face, we must reject our own personal self-seeking, self-reliance, and self-indulgent type of living. When you are seeking God's face you are really longing to know Him better. Seeking God’s face means I long to know God intimately, personally, and I am listening to Him speak to me through His Word. In seeking God’s face, I am surrendering my life to God and wanting to know Him better and follow His way for my life.

Charles Spurgeon said:

“If you are not seeking the Lord, the devil is seeking you.”

1 Chronicles 16:11

“Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.”

Psalms 105:4

“Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore.”

Psalm 27:8

“When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.”

Someone wrote:

“One of the problems with the modern church is that we have ceased to desire God. Often we have many pursuits in life and are so fragmented in our devotions that we have no place for a first place in our lives. May that attitude die the death it has long deserved! May the people of God once again fall in love with God to the point that He becomes the focus and the driving force of all of life!”

God said in Exodus 3:5:

“Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground.”

We are to live with our shoes off! When we seek God’s face, we will have a profound sense of His holiness, and humble our lives before Him, wanting to please and honor God with our lives. We will want to live in the presence of God and follow His way and will for our lives, reverencing and respecting God, and also relishing His presence.

Ralph Cushman wrote this about seeking the Lord:

“I met God in the morning, When my day was at its best,  
And His presence came like sunrise, Like a glory in my breast.  
All day long the presence lingered; All day long He stayed with me;

And we sailed in perfect calmness, O'er a very troubled sea.  
Other ships were blown and battered, Other ships were sore distressed,  
But the winds that seemed to drive them, Brought to us a peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings, With a keen remorse of mind,  
When I too had loosed the moorings, With the Presence left behind.  
So I think I know the secret, Learned from many a troubled way;  
You must seek Him in the morning, If you want Him through the day.”

What are you seeking these days? There are many things that can captivate us but they will not fulfill us! Only when we seek God's face will we find satisfaction and receive God's rich and true blessing upon our lives.

Vance Havner once again states:

"We claim we want to have a revival and save our face, when the first thing we must do is to lose our face, and seek His."

Jesus taught something similar in Matthew 6:33:

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Only when we seek God's face and way for our life, can we expect to receive God's blessing in our life. We must remember that the true worth of a man is to be measured by the objects he pursues!

Howard Hendricks a professor at Dallas Theological Seminary. Boarded a plane and shortly thereafter he heard the announcement about the flight being delayed. The man in front of him went up to the stewardess, and really complained, and finally got off the plane. Dr. Hendricks got up and went to the stewardess and told her you are a fine representative of American Airlines. She said I don't represent American Airlines. Dr. Hendricks look puzzled and then the stewardess said "Oh I work for American Airlines, but I represent the Lord Jesus Christ. I think this stewardess had been seeking the face of the Lord! She wanted to know God, be obedient to God, and please Him with her life.

Here is a prayer we can pray:

"Lord, I want to seek Your face and see as You see.

Lord, I want to seek Your face and hear as You hear.

Lord, I want to seek Your face and know Your mind."

#### d. The call to PURITY - "turn from their wicked ways"

The word "turn" is one of the main synonyms for "repentance" When we repent of our sins, we are willing to turn away from our sinful lives of rebellion and wickedness. We are ready to abandon our lives of sin, selfishness, and all of our

sinister ways and follow God. The ROOT of repentance is a willingness to abandon sin. The FRUIT of repentance then follows, which is the actual abandonment of sin!

Isaiah 55:7 commands:

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

Repentance is taking sides with God! It involves going against ourselves. When repenting you change your mind and heart about all your sinful living, as the prophet Isaiah did, when he cried out before God: “Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts” (Isaiah 6:5).

Gordon MacDonald offers the following thoughts on repentance:

"Repentance is not basically a religious word. It comes from a culture where people were essentially nomadic and lived in a world with no maps or street signs. It's easy to get lost walking through the desert. You become aware that the country side is strange. You finally say to yourself, I'm going in the wrong direction. That's the first act of repentance. The second act of repentance is to go in an alternate direction. It implies that you not only do this but you admit it to your companions."

Ezekiel 14:6 says,

“Repent, and turn *yourselves* from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations”

Ezekiel 18:30 adds,

“Repent, and turn *yourselves* from all your transgressions.”

James 4:8

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.”

If we want God’s true blessing, we must abandon our sinful, lustful, and prideful ways. What do you need to repent about? What is holding back God’s blessing upon your life?

Vance Havner once said:

“It takes a radical break to turn a man from earth’s trash to heaven’s treasure.”

“Tis not enough to say  
I’m sorry, and repent,  
And then go on from day to day  
Just as I always went.  
Repentance is to leave  
The sins we loved before,  
And show that we in earnest grieve  
By doing them no more.”

There are no shortcuts to God’s blessing! It takes repentance and turning away from sin. Sin keeps us from God’s great blessing. Sin robs us of God’s blessing which He wants to bestow upon our lives. God wants to bless our personal life and church ministry. He really does! God wants to great and wonderful things with each one of us and our church ministry. But we need to follow His prescription for blessing. We now come to the good part!

### 3. We can cherish the blessing.

When we meet God’s condition for blessing, then the blessing will come! This is God’s promise! If we will meet the requirements of 2 Chronicles 7:14, then we create an atmosphere in which we can experience some tremendous spiritual rewards from the hand of the Lord.

How does God bless our lives again?

#### a. He promises to hear us.

The Bible declares, “then (after we have followed the conditions to receive God’s blessing) will I (God) hear from heaven.” In other words, God only hears our prayers when we meet the conditions of this verse – humility, prayer, seeking His face, and turning away from sin.

Sin hinders our prayers from being effective and answered by God.

Psalm 66:18

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*.”

This statement in 2 Chronicles 7:14 suggests that God does not always hear our prayers. There are some prayers that don't get past the roof! These are prayers that we make while we have known sin in our hearts and lives. God will not hear our prayers when we have sin and rebellion in our hearts! As a result, we will not have God's true blessing upon our personal lives.

So, the first prayer we need to make is the prayer of confession to God. Confession opens the ears of God! Confession means that we get right before God and start living for God, and it's then the promised blessing of God flows into our life! We can be sure that God will hear our prayers when we ask for His forgiveness, revival, and renewal. The Bible says, “then will I hear from heaven.” God's ears are open to confessing saints and those saints that mean business with God. If we do business with God, then God will do business with us!

Adrian Rodgers once said:

“The God that sent revival to England in the 16th Century, the God who sent revival on Mount Carmel, the God who sent revival to Nineveh, the God who sent revival to Jerusalem, that God is alive and well. And I'm telling you that God will hear from heaven because He rules in the heavens.”

In general, one of the blessings that we get when we follow God's blueprint for blessing, is that God hears our prayers and begins to bless our lives afresh and anew. This is talking about the blessings that come into our lives through answered prayer! The first blessing is forgiveness, but as we continue to pray, God will hear us, answer our prayers in many ways, and bless our lives.

We must meet the conditions and follow God's rules, if we want our prayers to be heard and answered!

God says that He will hear our prayers only when we get low before Him (humble themselves), get praying before Him, get searching after Him (seek His face) and get right before Him (turn from their wicked ways). Only when we meet these conditions, will God hear our prayers, answer them, and start blessing our lives and church.



b. He promises to forgive us.

This is connected to God hearing us. God goes on to say, “and will forgive their sin.” This means that when we have sin in our lives, God is always ready to forgive us, when we confess our sins before Him openly and in humility.

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Yes, God is longing to respond to those prayers from His children, who are seeking His personal forgiveness and restored blessing. He will hear our cries of confession and answer them. He will forgive us our sins which we have committed against Him and put us back on the pathway of blessing. Psalm 51:17 says, “a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” God hears and then answers our prayers, and the blessing of God begins to fall upon our lives, when we pray to God with a broken heart and a heart that is seeking forgiveness and revival.

c. He promises to restore us.

God promises: “and will heal their land.” The blessing of healing comes when we follow God’s rules for blessing. Of course, for the Jewish people in this day, it was healing their land of drought and restoring their crops. For us today, the healing takes on many forms. This is where God’s real blessing is truly felt and fully experienced. The Lord heals our personal lives, our families, our church – when we follow His prescription of blessing. He brings spiritual healing and vitality back into our personal life, marriage, and church ministry. When we follow God’s prescription for blessing (humility, prayer, seeking His face, forsaking sin), He will heal our marriages, our families, our relationships, our church, and our own personal lives from the debilitating and deadening effects of sin.

What we need is the healing touch of God upon our lives! We need God’s healing and restoring touch which will get us back on the road marked right. “He restoreth my soul” (Ps. 23:3).

“Shackled by a heavy burden,  
'Neath a load of guilt and shame.

Then the hand of Jesus touched me,  
And now I am no longer the same.  
He touched me, Oh He touched me,  
And oh the joy that floods my soul!  
Something happened and now I know,  
He touched me and made me whole.”

Folks, God can heal our fractured hearts and lives. He can make us whole again. But He also makes our family whole, our church ministry whole, and makes life worth the living again.

Psalm 147:3

He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

Yes, only the Lord can heal our broken lives and make us whole!

“Life was shattered and hope was gone, crushing the load that I bore;  
Then out of the depths I cried, “O God, give me something worth living for!”  
Something more than my yesterdays, more than I had before;  
Something more than wealth or fame,  
He gave me something worth living for!”

Do you need your heart and life healed today? God specializes in healing or fixing broken things, if we follow His plan and rules for blessing. God is still the great God of wonders and He heals our broken hearts and battered lives from the ravishes of sin. The healing touch of God is what we need today.

The point and principle of this verse cannot be missed. If we want God to work in our hearts and lives and churches, then we must follow His blueprint for blessing. If we really want God’s blessing, His special touch upon our lives and church, then we must follow His laws. The blessing of God does not come upon our personal lives, family, or church ministry without humility, prayer, seeking His face, and forsaking sin!

2 Chronicles 7:14 is God’s way for blessing: “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 sin, and will heal their land.”

We must fall before God in humility, call upon God in prayer, desire and follow God by seeking His face, and repent before God. And when we do, God’s healing touch and wonderful blessing will come upon our lives and church ministry. God particularly pours out His blessings upon those who know how much they need Him. One thing is certain, only when we follow God’s pattern for blessing, can we expect Heaven’s floodgates to open up. We can be ready for God’s true blessing when we prepare for it. We need to get our life in order and only then can God begin to bless our personal lives and ministry in wonderful ways.

Psalm 84:11

“For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”

Do we really want revival? Do we really want God’s blessing upon our life and family? God has told us how to have it. He gave us the conditions that we must meet. God is ready and willing to shower His blessing upon us and our church. “If my people” means that the ball is in your court. What are you going to do with it? Do you really want God’s best and blessing upon your life, family, and church? Again, there are no shortcuts to God’s blessing! We might try and manipulate it and manufacture it on our own but it will never be God’s true blessing.

God has unchanging laws. When we follow God’s laws, we are truly blessed, when we forget them or ignore them, we lose His blessing. We need to remember this for our own personal lives and for the future of our local church ministry. Where we are going in life boils down to this. Are we following God’s spiritual laws for blessing? If we do it God’s way, we will have His blessing. If we do it our way, we will miss God’s harvest of blessings that He intends to send upon our personal lives, church, and family. Let’s do it God’s way and we will get God’s results! We will get the true blessing of God upon our lives and church.

God has called us to humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, forsake our sins, turn from the life that is centered upon self, and yield to God’s word and will. Then, and only then, will Heaven send revival, restore us to a place of usefulness, and

we will receive the Lord's true spiritual blessing upon our lives and church. This should be our prayer:

"I'm only one, but I am one.  
I can't do everything, but I can do something.  
And what I can do and ought to do, that, by the grace of God, I will do."