


Uniting in The WORD

A Prelude to Prayer & Revival



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- It all starts with The WORD of God
 - *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1)*
 - *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1).*
 - *Then God said, "..."* (Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26)
- God's WORD brought everything that we see into existence.

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- It is through *hearing* God's Word that we receive the following:
 1. Faith in God's Power: *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17)*
 2. Forgiveness: *"...forgive one another...even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do" (Col. 3:13)*
 3. Healing: *"(God) sent His word and healed them" (Psalms 107:20)*

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- God will look on us favorably when the following happens *after hearing His Word*:
 1. We **tremble** at His Word: *"But on this one will I (God) look: on him who trembles at My word" (Isaiah 66:2)*
 2. We become **poor in spirit**: *"But on this one will I (God) look: on him who is poor" (Isaiah 66:2; Matthew 5:3)*
 3. We develop a **contrite heart/spirit**: *"But on this one will I (God) look: on him who is of a contrite spirit" (Isaiah 66:2; Psalms 51:17)*

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- **King Hezekiah's Revival** (2 Chron. 29:26-29; 30:13-27)
 - Worship was at the **lowest point** when Hezekiah became king at the age of 25 (29:1)
 - **First**, Hezekiah **cleansed** the temple (29:3-19)
 - **Then**, he **restored the worship** in the way God had commanded through King **David** (1 Chron. 25), Prophet **Gad** (1 Sam 22:5) and Prophet **Nathan** (II Sam 12:1)
 - Hezekiah's formula for revival (3 S's): **Sanctification**, **Sacrifice** and **Song**.
 - **SANCTIFY** our bodies, God's temples (2 Cor. 6:16) through Christ's blood (1 John 1:9) the Lamb of God (John 1:29).

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- **King Hezekiah's Revival: continued...**
 - Offer **SACRIFICES** of praise that is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name (Heb. 13:15).
 - This will be done when we **SING & PRAISE GOD** with joy and gladness (Psalms 100:1-2).
 - We should **follow Hezekiah's example** as he **started** with the **priests/Levites** (the worship leaders), which transcended to the **people** (the worshippers).
 - **Genuine worship** becomes a cause for **great joy** (30:26)
 - The people experienced **great joy** and **blessings** as a result of the **restoration** and **revival** they experienced that day.

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- **Nehemiah's Revival:** see Neh. 9:1-3
 - This incident happened during the **Feast of Tabernacles**, a time of great joy
 - The Israelites took an extra day to **hear God's Word**
 - God's Word **revealed their sins**
 - They became acutely **aware** of their failings as a covenant nation
 - They started **confessing** their sins and worshipping God
 - God's forgiveness **motivated** them to **praise God** as a corporate body

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- **Nehemiah's Revival:** continued...
 - God has gifted us His Word as our **guide** for living.
 - When we **obey** His Word, this is a cause for **joy**.
 - **Admission** of our **failure** is the 1st step to getting right with God!
 - God's Word calls for at least **two responses: confession and worship**.
 - There is **close connection** between the hearing of God's Word, confession of sins, and worship.
 - **Hearing of God's Word → Confession of Personal Sins → Receive Personal & Corporate Forgiveness → Corporate Worship → Revival**

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- **God's Plan for Restoration:**
 - "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 Chron. 7:14)
 - God extends a **three-fold condition** with **three-fold results**. **Three-fold condition:**
 1. **Humble Yourself** (James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6)
 2. **Turn away from your sins** (Proverbs 28:13)
 3. **Seek God's face through prayer** (Psalms 27:8; James 4:8)

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- **God's Plan for Restoration:**
 - **Three-fold result:**
 1. God will **hear** our prayers (Psalms 66:18-20)
 2. God will **forgive** our sins (Isaiah 1:18)
 3. God will **heal & restore** us (Isaiah 53:5; 58:8)
 - God actualizes His sovereign purposes in tandem with the prayers of His children (Phil. 1:9; James 5:16).
 - God's blessing would flow upon His children only when they would seek His face in **true repentance** (turn from their wicked ways).

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- **God's Plan for Restoration:**
 - Only when we **repent** will God **remove** our guilt and **restore** us to usefulness.
 - This promise is applicable to all who will call on the Lord in **repentance** and **faith**.
 - Our corporate sins must be dealt **together** → believe that God is **faithful** to **forgive** our sins
 - We should meet with God through **corporate fasting prayer** → this is essential to **Revival**.
 - Let's meet with God to get **forgiveness, healing, deliverance** and **restoration**.

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- **Eight steps to meet with God:**
 1. Allow for the public, corporate confession of sin (Rom. 3:10-18).
 2. Plan a date/time to assemble together (Heb. 10:25)
 3. Prepare to abstain from food/life activities (Matt. 6:16-18)
 4. Separate from anything that is unholy in our lives (2 Cor. 6:17)
 5. Allow God to reveal our sins in the light of His Word (Isaiah 64:6).
 6. Confess our own personal/corporate sins (Rom. 10:9-10).
 7. Accept God's forgiveness & cleansing (1 John 1:9)
 8. Worship God without restraint after being restored (Heb. 13:15)

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- **Understand the PATH of TRUE REVIVAL:**
 - When God **restores**, He first brings His people to **repentance**, and then He **forgives** their sins.
 - **"Restore us, O God of our salvation... will You not revive us again that Your people may rejoice in You?" (Psalms 85:4-6)**
 - **Revival results in joy being restored in the hearts of the people of God.**
 - When **revival** happens, we are brought from the brink of apathy to a place where we are **deeply sensitive** about God's workings in our lives.
 - Revival starts from **repentance** (v.2) to **restoration** (v.4) that results in **renewal** and **revival** (v.6); and culminates in **rejoicing** over what God is doing in and through us (v.6).

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- **God's call to REVIVAL through His WORD:**
 - *"Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live" (Isa. 55:2-3)*
 - This is a **call to revival** to all who have wandered from God.
 - **God's Word** is the **bread of life** that is offered to us **freely**.
 - We get **true joy, real lasting satisfaction, and great delight** by partaking from the richness of God's Word.
 - In Ezekiel 37:1-10, the dry bones came to life and became a mighty army of God through **God's Word** and the **Holy Spirit**.
 - Let **God's Word** first **revive** us after which the Holy Spirit will **regenerate** us. Let's **UNITE** around **God's Word** today!

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