

DAY 21

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 19

"If you're feeling weak or not like a good prayer, remember the power of prayer is not in the person praying but in the one hearing it." —Max Lucado

"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" Psalm 85:6

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

As a child I attempted to gain the praise of my friends by having my dad buy me a pair of white and brown Gucci Air Force 1's. Once I walked into school all eyes were on me, but not for the reasons I hoped. From a distance my shoes looked amazing but when kids got up close to them, they noticed that they were not real, they were fake! You would think that paying about \$100 from a highly suspect website for "Gucci" shoes would've been a huge red flag to me, but when you are trying to impress your friends, you don't think about things like that. From afar the shoes looked like the authentic but upon further review it proved to be nothing more than a counterfeit.

Throughout history, the church has experienced the power of God in such a remarkable way that it resulted in an authentic revival, leaving God's people hungry for more of Him. But we've also experienced what it's like to manufacture revival, from a distance it looks authentic but when you get up close, it's nothing more than a counterfeit. The psalmist in Psalm 85:6 knows what it's like for God to inflame the hearts of his people in such a way that all they want is more of him because he doesn't ask God to bring revival, he asks God to bring revival "again". When God's people experience revival, we respond like a child being joyfully tossed in the air by their father, we yell "do it again daddy, do it again!"

The psalmist understands that he can't manipulate God to do what he wants, all he can do is beg God to move. So, he cried out to Him. God must perform a miracle. This was not the cry of an individual who prayed God "revive me" it's a communal cry for God to "revive us". Since He must perform the miracle, we are left completely dependent on him as we humbly approach his throne of grace together in prayer. And when God is the one who brings revival, he is the one who gets the credit and we are the ones filled with joy.

ESPN analyst Scott Van Pelt once asked this question to University of Alabama head coach Nick Saban. He asked, how do you stay hungry when you are so well fed? If you know anything about coach Saban then you know he would answer that question the way he answers most questions, by talking about his team's commitment to the process, every practice, every game, and every season. We are people who have been well fed by our savior, our sins have been cancelled and death no longer has power over us. So how do we stay hungry for God when we've already been given so much? We commit to the process, day after day, crying out to him in prayer in hopes he will do yet another miracle in our lives, our churches, and our city. And we are careful to give him the credit so that everyone knows it wasn't a counterfeit, it was the real thing.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, revive us again so that we may rejoice in you.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Father, would you revive the hearts of those far from you so that they too may rejoice in you.

REVIVAL



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