

🕒 35 min

Revival & Justice

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Revival is “a season of breakthroughs in word, deed, and power that ushers in a new normal of kingdom experience and fruitfulness.”¹ A renewed passion for Scripture (word), miraculous demonstrations of the Holy Spirit (power), and the pursuit and fruit of justice (deed) come together in love, awakening us to the presence and activity of God.

Racial injustice and violence are pressing issues in our country. Social stratification is so deeply embedded in our culture that at times we operate with subconscious beliefs around inferiority and superiority. We can internalize lies about ourselves, our communities, and others which distort the truth of God’s good design for all creation.

We need the Holy Spirit to bring awareness and healing to these broken places. We need God to heal our vision so that we may see ourselves and others as people who are valuable because we reflect the image of God. We need Jesus to heal the deep divisions in our country caused by generations of injustice, exploitation, and pain.

Revival in the area of deed is **an outpouring of God’s Spirit that empowers us to love others as God loved us**. This love is not a fluffy love, but a love demonstrated through action and justice. This is a kind of love that is willing to sacrifice comfort, resources, and even our own lives for the sake of the other—even our enemies. It might be hard to imagine “enemies” in a modern sense, but what about those whom you judge or avoid or distance yourself from? Imagine a generation committed to loving across differences—whether racial, socio-economic, gender, or political differences. Imagine a generation committed to uprooting white supremacy on personal, communal, and systemic levels so all of creation can flourish. This is the stuff of revival.

As you pray, let the Holy Spirit expand your collective imagination and stir a longing for revival that overflows in God’s justice and shalom for our campuses, cities, families, and communities.

¹James Choung and Ryan Pfeiffer, *Longing for Revival: From Holy Discontent to Breakthrough Faith* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2020), 17.

EMBODIMENT EXERCISE | 3 min

Begin with two minutes of silence, allowing everyone to settle in. Invite everyone to practice a breath prayer, saying the first line in the minds as they breathe in, and the second line as they breathe out.

[as you inhale] *Let justice flow.*

[as you exhale] *Let mercy reign.*

OPENING PRAYER (RESPONSIVE) | 1 min

- One Creator God who gives breath to all creation,
Many **In you we live, and move, and have our being.**
- One Jesus who knows betrayal, wrongfully murdered though innocent,
Many **Heal and forgive us for generations of injustice.**
- One Christ to whom alone belongs the supremacy,
Many **We renounce the allure of power and privilege.**
- All **God who has gone through death to resurrection life, revive us Spirit, we pray!**

SCRIPTURE READING | 3 min

Ezekiel 37:1-10

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION | 5 min

Imagine your campus and the various communities in it. Where does God take you and ask: "Can these bones live?"

What is your response? Talk to God about this and consider how you might be part of ushering in revival.

COMMUNITY PRAYER | 15 min

Let everyone know you will keep track of time and close the community prayer by reading the written prayer below.

Take turns praying aloud for the Spirit to pour out over the area of campus or community you prayed over individually. What would signs of revival look like over any experiences of brokenness and injustice? As you pray, ask God in faith for those signs to come to pass.

A PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND JUSTICE | 2 min

One person prays aloud.

God of justice, love, and mercy,
Give us courage to confront the ways we have upheld injustice by how we rewrite the past, harbor anger and hatred, mock and judge others, remain silent, and center ourselves and our own comfort.

Uproot all forms of oppression and injustice that have made a home in our community and society. We rebuke every sinful expression of nationalism, exploitation, and supremacy. Guard us against the temptation to build new structures of power and exclusion. Wake us up from blind participation in injustice that leads to numbness. Call us back to life, Jesus!

Breathe life over every area of hurt, pain, and betrayal. Breathe life over our weariness and apathy. Remind us that we are people who have already moved from death to life, who know what it means to lay bare our sin and shame and receive the gift of your grace and love.

Form us into a people that love in the face of hatred, pursue peace in the face of violence, and give ourselves to the slow work of justice. Send revival Jesus, and start with us!

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray aloud together.

**God who is resurrection life,
You put to death the power of sin and
injustice in your broken body. Uproot the
racism deeply entrenched in our society.
Through your Spirit, revive us so we may
seek shalom.
Amen.**