

How to Pray Strategically for Revival

Hopefully, you already realize that God's people are spiritually dull and in great need of revival. If so, you undoubtedly pray daily asking God to send revival. As Christians, we know that without the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, there will be no revival. In other words, Christians cannot bring about revival independent of the moving of God's Spirit. Therefore, we plead with God to pour out His Spirit and revive His people. But besides this general prayer, there are specific, strategic petitions we can make. To pray more effectively, we need to understand the means that God uses to revive His people. We must also be aware of the strategies that Satan has been using to lull God's people to sleep. The more we understand these things, the more strategically and therefore, more effectively we will be able to pray. To accomplish this, let us consider some of the strategies that Satan is using to lull God's people to sleep and God's means to counteract Satan's strategies.

Satan distracts God's people so they do not pay attention to the reading and doing of God's Word.

We know that if Satan could have his way, every human being would die and go to hell. Because he desires this so much, he is always working to distract the attention of God's people away from God's Word. Clearly, Satan is enjoying great success these days by implementing this strategy. Many Christians have never read their Bible through from cover to cover. Countless others do not habitually read their Bible though each year. Many Christians assume that if they read a short devotional like "Our Daily Bread," they are consuming a sufficient dose of God's Word each day. Some Christians spend more time studying commentaries and theology books rather than the Bible itself.

Most people claiming to be Christian do not know their Bibles sufficiently. The truth is not entering their minds, let alone the meditations of their hearts. Is it any wonder why God's people are so spiritually dull? This may be the most effective strategy that Satan uses because to the degree a Christian is ignorant of God's truth, the more susceptible he is to believing specific lies that produce spiritual dullness and sleepiness. Some of the most common lies are discussed below.

Being aware of the Satan's effectiveness to distract God's people away from God's Word, we can and should **pray that God restrains Satan's efforts and causes His people to read and do God's Word as if their eternal life depends on it.** To the degree that our prayers are answered about this, revival will happen.

Satan lulls Christians to sleep using the cares of this world and deceitfulness of riches.

In His interpretation of His parable of the sower, Jesus said, "*Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.*" For those living in the United States, these words should put us on high alert. Are we falling asleep? Have we already fallen asleep (but are just unaware of it)? The New Testament warns about a great falling away that will take place. We know that Satan uses the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches to lull Christians into spiritual sleep. We should assume that the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches are already negatively affecting our spiritual alertness. **Let us pray that God does whatever is necessary to awaken us to the dangers of these things so that we become increasingly detached from the comforts and riches of this world.**

Satan has convinced Christians that they need not be concerned about their sinful addictions.

The New Testament clearly warns that those who practice such things as adultery, fornication, drunkenness and drug use will not inherit the kingdom of God. (See Galatians 5:19-21.) People who are addicted to things like pornography, drugs, heavy alcohol use should not have any assurance whatsoever that they will be in heaven. Yet, there are millions of people claiming to be Christian who practice such things but have no concern about where they will spend eternity. Obviously, Satan has successfully deceived these people and has constructed strongholds that

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bind them. **Pray that God causes the Word of God to be properly taught so that these people are warned and come to repentance before it is too late. Pray that God loosens their bonds and raises them back up to a vibrant walk with Jesus.** To read more about this, click [“Do you Want Deliverance from Habitual Sin?”](#)

Satan has duped many “Christians” into thinking that Jesus wants them to be rich and comfortable.

Jesus said, “Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and **difficult is the way which leads to life**, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14). “Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?” (James 2:5). Though the New Testament says that only those who suffer with Jesus will be in heaven (Rom 8:17), false teachers have convinced many people that Jesus wants them to be rich and comfortable in this life. Such teaching is straight from the devil. Jesus warned that riches are deceitful and tend to choke out righteous fruit that can only be produced when God brings trials into our lives to test our faith. That is when it is difficult to trust God and wait patiently for His help and provision. When life is easy, there is little need to trust God because everything is going easy. Under those circumstances, people tend to fall asleep spiritually and drift toward a Christ-less eternity. **Pray that God removes the wealthy, greedy wolves that are teaching this false doctrine and replaces them with godly men who will teach Christians the way of righteousness.** To read more about this, click [“Are you Feeling the Breeze?”](#)

Satan has duped many Christians into believing that they are “all set” (thus producing drowsiness).

Due to their lack of serious study and preferring to believe deductions of men, many Christians falsely assume that their future resurrection is already a done deal, even though the Apostle Paul made no such assumption. (See Philippians 3:10 – 14.) Though over 8% of the New Testament warns and exhorts Christians to keep on high alert so that they do not fall away and perish, many Christians seem content to relax because they falsely assume their resurrection is a done deal. This thinking tends to produce spiritual drowsiness and less urgency in the lives of Christians.

Knowing Satan’s desire to produce less urgency and spiritual drowsiness in Christians, we can and should **pray that God opens the eyes of all those who have been duped by Satan into thinking they are “all set.”** To the degree that our prayers are answered about this, these Christians will be less prone to spiritual drowsiness and more inclined to urgency, thus producing revival. To read more about this, click [“We are Not Saved Yet!”](#) Or, read my book called, [“Finish.”](#)

Satan has duped many people into thinking that God does not orchestrate the “bad things” that happen to them.

The Bible teaches that God is sovereign over all things including the “bad things” that happen to them. It teaches that while Satan may be working in the “bad things” for evil purposes, God has purposely orchestrated these events for our good in order that our faith is tested and proven to be real. A false teaching has spread throughout the world to disassociate God from anything “bad” that happens to His people. Thus, trials are not viewed as purposely brought by God in order to sanctify His people. So, when a trial comes, a person does not have to keep trusting that God has orchestrated this event on purpose for his good. As a result, his faith (trust in God) does not have to be exercised. Under this teaching, a person does not live by faith at all. Living by faith requires submission to God in every single circumstance while trusting that He is good and knows exactly what He is doing even though it does not feel pleasant

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going through the circumstance. The teaching that disassociates God from anything bad that happens is a direct attack on His character. Satan is using this teaching to take faith out of living. Since only those who live by faith will be in heaven, we can see how this teaching is right from the pit and is being used to send millions of people to hell. If people simply read their Bible, they would most likely not fall for such teaching. **Pray that God causes people to read their Bibles through each year so that they are able to recognize that God is indeed sovereign over all things and is orchestrating even the bad things to purposely test our faith and produce fruits of righteousness.** [To read more about this, click What Does it Mean to Live by Faith?](#)

Satan has convinced many people that God is not concerned about actual righteous living provided they hold to orthodox Christian beliefs.

Many people think that as long as they hold to “sound Christian beliefs,” they are bound for heaven even if they are not living a holy life. On the contrary, the New Testament tells us the real reason that Christ came here in the first place. *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” (Titus 2:11-14).* Those who live unrighteous lives will hear Jesus say at the judgment, *“Depart from me, I never knew you.”* Such people do not merely need revival, they need to be regenerated so that they begin living for Jesus instead of themselves. **Pray that God has mercy and opens the eyes of all those who have been so terribly deceived so that they see their plight and repent before it is too late.** To read more about this, click [“God’s Intended Product of the Gospel.”](#) You can also watch my video, [“Let us be Preachers of Righteousness.”](#)

Satan has convinced many Christians that they need not worry if they are not growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.

Many people can think back to an emotional conversion experience and recall how excited they were when they first became a Christian. But over time, much of that excitement wore off and now they don’t detect much progress in their spiritual growth. But because so many other people share a similar lifestyle, they don’t give it much thought. But the New Testament warns that if you are not growing in Christ, there is reason to be concerned about where you will spend eternity. *“For this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and are increasing, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, **be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**” (II Peter 1:5-11).* Satan has convinced many people that they have nothing to worry about even though they have not been growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. As a result, they are essentially spiritually asleep and if they don’t repent, they will spend eternity away from Christ, forever! **Pray that God causes these people to realize that they are in a dangerous position so that they wake up before it is too late.** For more about this, listen to my 40 minute sermon about this by clicking, [“Are you Growing?”](#)

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Satan has duped millions of Christians into thinking that most of the Bible no longer applies to us.

The largest evangelical mission organization teaches that ever since Pentecost, the words of Jesus no longer apply. They falsely teach that in this age, a person need not embrace Jesus as Lord over his life in order to be saved. They say, "This is the age of grace." They say that if you teach that a person must embrace Jesus as Lord, you are teaching that salvation is by works. (They evidently do not understand that biblical believing always produces works as per Ephesians 2:10, etc.) This evil teaching pits the New Testament against the Old Testament and Paul's writings against Jesus' teachings as if they are not in perfect harmony with each other. When a person lacks assurance of his salvation, the false teacher reminds him that since he prayed to receive Jesus, he is saved no matter what...even if he remains in bondage to habitual sin. Using this false system of thought, Satan is essentially whispering to those in bondage to sin that they have nothing to be concerned about. "Nothing to see here. Just keep living as you are living and you will go to heaven." **Pray that God removes these false teachers who are spreading Satan's lies and that He rescues those who have believed these false teachings before it is too late.**

Satan has convinced many Christians that God has not preserved every single word of the N.T.

Many decades ago, a few "so called" scholars began thinking that a few renegade, error-filled New Testament manuscripts were more likely closer to the original writings than the multitude of manuscripts that do agree with each other. These few "scholars" assumed that the original wording of the Greek New Testament could never be known for certain since the inferior manuscripts they were depending on were full of many obvious discrepancies. They had concluded that God did not preserve each and every word of the New Testament so it was up to the "scholars" to figure out the original wording. At first, many rejected their theory but unfortunately, after several decades, more and more so-called scholars accepted their theory instead of believing that God has indeed preserved every single word. Now, their destructive work has filtered down into most (not all) of the modern English Bibles. As a result, young Christians stumble upon notes in their Bibles that raise serious doubt about God's ability to preserve His Word. Usually, these young believers are not told that God has indeed preserved each and every word of the Greek New Testament. They only hear the side of the story that suggests God has only preserved His Word "for the most part" and they are instructed to just settle for that. While the gospel still comes through in the modern English Bibles that utilize the corrupted Greek Text, the faith of those who use these Bibles is somewhat undercut. After all, does God care about His Word or not? Was He not able to protect it? Satan is doing everything he can to undercut the faith of Christians and he has certainly been successful by undercutting the faith of many who have been taught that God has not fully preserved His Word. (When in reality, He has!). **Pray that God allows more and more Christians to hear the truth about these matters so they can have complete confidence that God has indeed preserved every single word of the Greek New Testament.** (And they can have an English translation of it if they wish.) To read more about this, click ["Stop Believing the Consensus."](#)

There are probably other false teachings that Satan is using to lull people into deep spiritual sleep. But we can pray that God awakens His people so that they see the truth and repent. If you don't pray about every single one discussed here, perhaps you can pray about the ones that trouble you the most. If you are troubled, you can pray fervently knowing that God is also troubled about these things. He has appointed us to intercede as priests. The more we do so, the more we will see revival begin to spread throughout the world.

Thomas Bear, June 14, 2020

Οὐαὶ μοί ἐστιν ἂν μὴ εὐαγγελίζωμαι (Προς Κορινθίους Α 9:16)