

RETURN TO ME: THE BEGINNING OF REVIVAL

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 will I hear from heaven
and will forgive their sin and
will heal their land.

- 2 Chronicles 7:14 -



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2 Chronicles 7:14-16

¹⁴ if my people who are called by my name 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. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. ¹⁶ For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

God's Conditions

1. Humble ourselves
2. Pray
3. Seek God's face
4. Turn from wicked ways

1. Humble ourselves

Based on world's definition, to be humble means having a modest view of one's own importance and not being proud or arrogant.

Some meanings:

1. Modest: Not thinking you are better or more important than other people.
2. Low rank or status: Coming from a simple, poor, or ordinary background (e.g., "humble origins").
3. Unpretentious: Simple and not grand, fancy, or expensive (e.g., a "humble home").

Based on biblical perspective, to be humble means

1. To place God at the centre of our lives rather than our own selves.
2. To recognise our own limitations and to depend completely on God.
3. To shift the focus from loving ourselves and instead to love and serve others.

Philippians 2:3-8

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,^[a] ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,^[b] ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,^[c] being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2. Pray

1. As we pray, we seek the Father's will, not our will.
2. As we pray, the Holy Spirit provides comfort, peace and strength to resist temptation
3. As we pray, we need to allow the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts and aligning our personal interests with God's perfect wisdom and character.

AgapeMC prayer events

Prayer and Praise Night

Bi-Monthly Saturday Prayer Meetings

Prayer Walk around The Agape

Day of His Power

3. Seek God's face

Seeking God's "face" focuses on knowing His character, love, and holiness. This is different from seeking God's "hand" or "help" where the main focus is asking God to provide things, solve problems, or change life circumstances.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for face is (Panim) which represents a person's immediate presence, attention, and entire self.

It shifts the focus from "what God can do" to "who God is," treating companionship with God as the ultimate reward.

Psalm 27:4

One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.

What happens when we seek God's face?

1. Inner change:

As we spend time in God's presence, the Holy Spirit works to soften our pride, heal bitterness, and expose unconfessed sin.

2. Becoming like Jesus:

Steady, personal transformation happens over time, making us more patient, humble, and compassionate.

3. Purified heart:

Seeking God helps clear away feelings of unworthiness, shame, and false assumptions about His character.

4. Turn from wicked ways

What does this mean?

It means for us to make a deliberate, intentional choice to stop sinning, reject harmful or disobedient actions and instead turning back to God with heart of true repentance.

How can we turn from our wicked ways?

1. Recognize sin: Stop hiding or blaming others for your mistakes.
2. Change direction: The Hebrew word for repentance (Shuv) means to turn around and walk the other way.
3. Rely on the Spirit: True change happens with the help of the Holy Spirit, not just human effort.

Psalm 51 (King David's prayer of repentance)

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. from me.

Psalm 51 (King David's prayer of repentance)

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

1. The Request for Mercy:

King David starts by appealing entirely to God's character, not his own worthiness.

2. Total Ownership of Sin:

King David makes no excuses, no justifications, and no blame-shifting.

3. The Need for Inner Transformation:

King David realizes he cannot fix his own heart; he needs a supernatural act of God.

God's Response

1. Hear from heaven:

God promises to listen when His people approach Him with sincere hearts.

2. Forgive sin:

God offers pardon and removes the barrier between Himself and His people.

3. Heal the land:

God restores community and brings holistic renewal to the affected environment or nation.

God's Commitment

1. Chosen and consecrated the temple:

It is a divine choice that God has made where He sovereignly chose and set apart the temple which He will stay.

2. Eyes and heart will be there perpetually:

God's intimate watchfulness, care, and loving presence are actively attentive to His people.

To be renewed in Christ,

1. We need to humble ourselves, pray and seek God's face.

2. Recognise our sins and turning back to God with true repentance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Are we placing God at the centre of our lives?
- When we pray, do we seek the Father's will instead of ours?
- Do we seek God's hand more than we seek His face?
- Is it our desire to recognise and acknowledge our sins and come to God with true repentance?