

# LETTERS TO THE CHURCH

## A 90 MINUTE REVIVAL PRAYER GUIDE 2020

### FIRST TEN MINUTES

**READ:** Revelation 2:1-7

**QUESTION:** "I know your hard work, all your good deeds, but I have this against you, you have left your first love," Jesus said to the church at Ephesus. They were good at hard work, but not heart work. They persevered in doing good, but had little passion for God. So is Christ my first love? What/who do I love more than Christ?

**PONDER REVIVAL QUOTE:** *I believe that tonight the world is going to hell fire because the church has lost Holy Ghost fire, it's as simple as that. Tell me how much time you spend alone with God and I will tell you how spiritual you are. Not how many meetings you go to. Not how many gifts you have. Not how many sermons you preach. Not how (much success you've had). Tell me what time you spend alone with God... and I'll tell you how spiritual you are.* Leonard Ravenhill

**PRAY:** This is where it all starts. Has my heart been touched by the love of God, such that I cannot but help love Him back? Remember and repent. Ask the Spirit to bring to mind anything placed above Christ in your heart. Confess it and ask God to change your heart. Corporate revival begins with personal revival.

**SING OR MEDITATE:** *Amazing Grace* by John Newton, Chris Tomlin

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found was blind, but now I see  
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed  
My chains are gone I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy reigns unending love, amazing grace*

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### SECOND TEN MINUTES

**READ:** Revelation 2:8-11

**QUESTION:** What do I fear? Am I afraid of the spiritual battle? Do I fear losing comfort or control? Is Christ's promise of life, enough to give me the courage to be faithful no matter what?

**SING OR MEDITATE:** *The Same Power* by Jeremy Camp

*I can walk down this dark and painful road. I can face every fear of the unknown.  
I can hear all God's children singing out. We will not be overtaken. We will not be overcome.  
The same power that rose Jesus from the grave,  
The same power that commands the dead to wake lives in us, lives in us.  
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks  
The same power that can calm a raging sea lives in us, lives in us.*

**PONDER REVIVAL QUOTE:** *The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayer-less studies, prayer-less work, and prayer-less religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.* Samuel Chadwick

**PRAY:** Ask God to give us courage for the spiritual battle! Acknowledge what you fear and ask the Spirit of God to give you the courage to be faithful in every circumstance. Pray that love for Christ would so compel us that we would willingly give up all for Him and the life He gives.

## THIRD TEN MINUTES

**READ:** Revelation 2:12-17

**QUESTION:** The issue for the church at Pergamum was an issue of truth. The sharp-two-edged sword represents the Word of God. The teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans were false teaching. Do I love the Word of God? Do I spend time listening, learning and leaning into the Word? Or do I give my ears to others?

**SING OR MEDITATE:** *Speak O Lord* by Keith Getty

*Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word. Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and fashion us in Your likeness, that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.*

*Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory. Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility. Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity. Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority. Words of power that can never fail. Let their truth prevail over unbelief.*

*Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us; truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity. And by grace we'll stand on Your promises, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.*

*Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.*

**PONDER REVIVAL QUOTE:** *If we want revival, we must revive our reverence for the Word of God.* C.H. Spurgeon.

**PRAY:** Ask God to renew our love for His Word. Ask the Spirit to show us what gets our ears instead of God's voice. Spend time pondering and praying through your "write it on a rock" words from the Job message.

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## FOURTH TEN MINUTES

**READ:** Revelation 2:18-29

**QUESTION:** Thyatira was a church that was making progress. They were doing better now than they were doing at first, especially in four important areas, love and faith, service and perseverance (which is really hope). Which of these four areas need the most prayer in your life? In our church?

**PONDER REVIVAL QUOTES:** *The gospel is not an old, old story freshly told. It's a fire in the Spirit, fed by the flame of Immortal Love, and woe unto us, if, through our negligence to stir up the Gift of God that is within us, that fire burns low.* Leonard Ravenhill

*Someone has said that at Pentecost, God set the Church at Jerusalem on fire and the whole city came out to see it burn. I tell you if that happened in any church today, within hours the whole town would be out to see the burning, and they would be caught in the flames. It is fire we want. The best advertising campaign that any church or any mission can put up is fire in the pulpit and a blaze in the pew. Let us be honest. We say "God, send revival," but are we prepared for the fire?"* Duncan Campbell

**PRAY:** Revelation 2:18 describes Jesus as the one with eyes that blaze like fire. He sees to the very depths of our soul. But as he sees, He purifies. And as He purifies, He empowers, and our hearts gain that fire. Ask God to set our hearts on fire; on fire with a passion for Him and for others. Burn away the junk. Jesus like those on the Emmaus Road, when you walked with them for a time, we want our hearts to burn within us.

## FIFTH TEN MINUTES

**READ:** Revelation 3:1-6

**QUESTION:** Sardis was a church that had a reputation for being alive but Jesus proclaimed they were dead, or at least mostly dead. There was a remnant. For everyone else it was time to wake up. Strengthen what remains. So here is the question, setting aside what others think, ears open to Jesus alone, which group am I in? Mostly dead and in need of a wake-up call? Or the remnant of those who are faithful?

**SING OR MEDITATE:** *Dry Bones* by Lauren Daigle

*Through the eyes of men it seems there's so much we have lost  
As we look down the road where all the prodigals have walked  
One by one the enemy has whispered lies, and led them off as slaves  
But we know that you are God yours is the victory.  
We know there is more to come that we may not yet see  
So with the faith you've given us, we'll step into the valley unafraid, yeah  
As we call out to dry bones come alive, come alive. We call out to dead hearts come alive.  
Up out of the ashes let us see an army rise. We call out to dry bones, come alive.  
God of endless mercy god of unrelenting love,  
Rescue every daughter bring us back the wayward son,  
And by your spirit breathe upon them show the world that you alone can save.  
We call out to dry bones, come alive. We call out to dead hearts come alive.*

**PONDER & PRAY:** Ask God to show you the dry bones in your life. Ask Him to put the names of those in your FYM who need to be revived. Call out to the Spirit of God to breathe new life into those dry bones.

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## SIXTH TEN MINUTES

**READ:** Revelation 3:7-13

**QUESTION:** This is one of my favorite letters—the church of Philadelphia. With only a little bit of power surrounded by the forces of darkness in the midst of a great spiritual battle. Their story had defeat written as the headline. But Jesus gave them an open door, He opened a door that no one could shut, because they kept his Word and did not deny His name. If Jesus were to give you/us an open door, for what would we ask Him?

**PONDER REVIVAL QUOTE:** *Moses spent the first forty years of his life thinking he was somebody. He spent the next forty finding out he was a nobody. He spent the last forty years finding out what God can do with a nobody.* D.L. Moody

**PRAY:** Of all we have requested, God is not only able to do that, He is able to do more than you can imagine. He dares you to out-dream Him. Ask Him for more. Ask Him to fill the whole world with the knowledge of the Glory of Christ. Ask Him for an open door for ministry in your neighborhood, with your front yard mission. Ask Him to show you what He can do in and through you as you desperately depend upon Him. Ask Him to pour our racial justice and reconciliation. Ask Him to revive the next generation. Ask Him for revival in Central PA.

**SING OR MEDITATE:** *The King Is in This Place* by Elevation Worship

*All our fathers saw in the days of old, would you do it again? Do it again.  
All the stories told, all the miracles, would you do it again? Do it again.  
You said "Consecrate yourselves to me and you will see amazing things"  
We need Your revival, Holy Spirit fire, burning ever brighter in our souls.  
Kings and kingdoms falling, hear your people calling. King of Kings, we need a miracle.  
The King is among us and His glory surrounds us, and His fire is falling as we sing.  
The Savior is for us and His love is victorious, and revival is rising in His name.*

## SEVENTH 10 MINUTES (bonus)

**READ:** Revelation 3:14-22

**QUESTION:** In some ways this letter (and the letter to Ephesus) are two of the most convicting for the American church. We think we are amazing, rich, prosperous and in need of nothing. But Christ says that we are poor, wretched, blind and naked. Which are we? Amazing or wretched? Lukewarm or On fire? I think the question is answered by the vitality of our prayer life.

**REVIVAL QUOTE:** *Poverty-stricken as the Church is today in many things, she is most stricken here, in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors... Failing here, we fail everywhere.* Leonard Ravenhill

**PRAY:** Ask God to raise up people who will travail in prayer. Ask God for more pray-ers. Ask God for a prayer-movement in the next generation. Ask Him to deepen our desire and our expectancy.

## EIGHTH 10 MINUTES (bonus #2)

**READ:** Revelation 1:1-3, 2 Peter 3:8-9

**PONDER REVIVAL QUOTES:** *Revival begins with a vision, and the vision begins with a new sense of Jesus Christ. Revival does not begin in a theology but in a theophany. It begins in a revelation of Jesus Christ himself and a sense of (his) nearness...* Douglas Brown

*Often our idea of revival is extremely self-serving, and thus, unbiblical. A revival that fails to bring the lost to Jesus is a self-serving revival, centered on man's needs and wants, and not on God's glory. Many times our cry for revival has the implicit hope that if revival comes, our pews will fill up, finances will abound, counseling will no longer be so demanding and the ministry in general will be more enjoyable. We tend to confine the "healing of the land" promised in 2 Chronicles 7:14 to the healing of the Church. But the healing of the land requires primarily the healing of the lost...The greater number of them who come to Christ and live the Christian life in all godliness and dignity, the greater the scope of the healing of the land. The ultimate expression of revival is the conversion of the unsaved.* Ed Silvoso

**PRAY:** Revelation 1:1-3 says that the return of Jesus is "soon." But 2 Peter 3:8-9 says that "soon" is being stretched out because of God's heart for people. He wants everyone to come to know Him. Take time to pray for all those on your FYM list, or any others who need to know Jesus and become Christ-followers.

## NINTH 10 MINUTES (bonus #3)

**READ:** Revelation 2:7, Revelation 2:11, Revelation 2:17, Revelation 2:26-29, Revelation 3:5-6, 3:10-13, 3:20-22

**QUESTION:** Which of the gifts/blessings promised to the seven churches give you the most hope?

**PRAY:** Close your time, telling Jesus thank you for His love for and future blessings poured out upon us and His church.

## **SING or MEDITATE**

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do) Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)  
But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? (We do)  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)  
Is all creation groaning? (It is) Is a new creation coming? (It is)  
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is) Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)  
Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave, He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory. Is He worthy of this? He is.  
Does the Father truly love us? (He does) Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)  
And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves? (He does)  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does) Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave.  
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave,  
From every people and tribe, Every nation and tongue,  
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son.  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory Is He worthy? He is.

## **A LETTER TO A CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS**

**Written by Pastor Dan**

I can hear these words coming from Christ, the one who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or could even imagine; the one who seeks after prodigal sons and daughters; the one who tears down walls that no one can rebuild. I know your heart. You are not easily offended and you are quick to forgive. Some among you have walked through difficult times with great grace. Sometimes it's felt like grace has been sucked from the very marrow of your bones, but you have been willing to be drained dry on my behalf.

I know the ways you care for the marginalized. Children as far away as Myanmar and as close as your neighborhood have hope because you have sponsored, fostered, adopted and loved them. You are showing kids that they are not fatherless. I love that you love the next generation from kids to students. They are not my church of the future. They are my church now.

I see the open hands that go with your open hearts. I see that you are willing to disadvantage yourself for the sake of my Kingdom. I see that your heart is growing for justice. I know you can do more, but you have not been afraid to start. I know that you gather with others to study my Word and you have sought to increase your capacity to love. You release people to use their gifts and you seek to lead others to me.

But I have this against you. You do not yet know how much you need me. And you do not yet trust how much I'm willing to give myself to you. You seek comfort and control and are distracted by your own abilities. So I give you two warnings:

First, stay humble. It's not about you. In the land of pride, go against the grain. Seek meek. Honor others above yourself. Don't despise small beginnings. Look for me in the obscure opportunities for simple kindness. Remember being my friend is your highest calling.

Secondly, never stop dreaming big dreams. I love it when you risk for others, with me. Never forget that I am willing to do more in you and through you than you will ever ask me to do. Your neighbors are waiting to meet the one is able to do more than you can even imagine to ask me to do.

Stay humble and dream large and I will use you to transform neighborhoods, nations and the next generation. To those who have ears to hear, let them hear whatever it is that the Spirit would say to us, to our church...dear Calvary.