

Many churches today are empty, dry, and void of spiritual life because they have lost touch with the dynamic presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit played an important role in the life and ministry of the early church. It is impossible to appreciate the explosive growth of the early church without understanding the importance of the Holy Spirit in the church.

God has given us the third Person of the Trinitarian God, the Holy Spirit. Yet, the third Person of the Trinity has been overlooked and under-appreciated. The Holy Spirit plays an important role in personal salvation, church formation, and the proclamation of the gospel. Without the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for the church to experience revival. As we scan through church history, the Holy Spirit has always been responsible for church revival.

What is revival? Revival is not something we do, but what God does in and through us. Revival is the sovereign work of God in which He visits His people, restoring and releasing them into the fullness of His blessing for the season.

There are two types of revival in the church: **Personal Revival** happens when the Holy Spirit renews the hearts and minds of individuals. The Spirit renews and revives us when we pray and seek His face. **Corporate Revival** is when the Holy Spirit brings renewal to the life of a church.

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Bishop J.C. Ryle, the former Bishop of Liverpool, teaches us how to pray and to have the right understanding towards revival through the Holy Spirit:

Pray daily for a great outpouring of the Spirit on the Church and on the world. This is the grand need of the day—it is the thing that we need far more than money, machinery, and men. The “company of preachers” in Christendom is far greater than it was in the days of Paul; but the actual spiritual work done in the earth, in proportion to the means used, is undoubtedly far less.

We need more of the presence of the Holy Spirit— more in the pulpit, and more in the congregation—more in the pastoral visit, and more in the school. Where He is, there will be life, health, growth, and fruitfulness. Where He is not—all will be dead, tame, formal, sleepy, and cold.

Then let everyone who desires to see an increase of pure and undefiled religion, pray daily for more of the presence of the Holy Spirit in every branch of the visible Church of Christ.

