

DRAW A CIRCLE

a guide for seeking
personal revival

Draw a Circle by Dan Jarvis

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Spiritual Awakening

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Draw a Circle

It's a challenge OneCry is issuing to men, women, teens, and even children. It's a simple expression of a heart prepared for God's work—and it illustrates something critical about the revival we are praying and pleading for God to send. *It involves a simple piece of chalk.*

This piece of chalk represents a turning point, a moment of surrender, a change of heart. It marks the difference between those who would pray, “Lord, change *them*,” and those with the humility to plead, “Lord, change *me*.”

With this piece of chalk, we kneel to draw a circle around ourselves and then look to heaven expectantly, praying, “Lord God, send revival, and begin it right here in this circle!”

This practice (traced back to the English revivalist Gypsy Smith) puts into action something we all know in our hearts: For any revival to sweep through our churches, or for any great spiritual awakening to blaze through our communities, the work of the Spirit must begin in individual hearts. It must begin in us (see 1 Peter 4:17). The old spiritual got it right: “Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.”

The stories of revival history, along with countless current-day testimonies of God's work, give powerful evidence that revival isn't a result of human ingenuity; it isn't dependent on superstars. Instead, it often starts in the hearts of average people whom God prompts to pray, repent, obey, take risks, and make sacrifices.

Revival spreads through unlikely people and unheard-of prayer warriors—through housewives who counsel and businessmen who pray; through dads who get serious about God and through children who seek Christ’s kingdom with simple faith. It begins when someone gives their heart fully to the Lord . . . when someone falls in love with Jesus all over again.

It begins when the circle is drawn, and like at the altars of ancient times, a repentant believer stands in that sacred place and offers himself to God afresh as a living sacrifice. “Lord, send revival to this circle! I confess my need for You. I confess my sins to You. Please, God, begin Your work in me today!”

Certainly none of us would pray, “Finally, Lord, You have completed all Your work in me. Now I am fully equipped to share this message with others.” On the contrary! The more we learn about revival, the more we cry out like the tax collector, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner” (Luke 18:13 NIV).

There is no “arriving” at revival. Revival is the soul’s craving for a touch of heaven on earth, seeing our Lord honored in glory and power. This cry isn’t a methodology or a pat formula for spiritual success. Instead, God blesses an attitude of heart that retraces the circle, steps inside, and cries out, “Please, Jesus, come! You are our only hope. We know that Your Word offers great and precious promises. Begin Your reviving work here, for Your glory! Jesus, start revival in this circle!”

From that position, on our knees, we will witness God at work in restoring broken lives, healing distressed families, freeing addicted captives, and breaking through the most hardened of hearts. From there we’re almost certain to see “little ‘r’ revival”—the revival that is personal. And this whets our appetite and intensifies our passion to see “big ‘R’ Revival”—the kind that transforms cities and nations and cultures.

God has done it before. And like the psalmist, we cry out, “Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?” (Psalm 85:6).

Could it be that God is ready to answer this prayer again today, blessing us with a new Great Awakening, raining down His grace and power?

There was a time in Israel when things had grown so dark that all seemed lost. The ark of the covenant had been captured, the priests were corrupt, and the army was defeated. A hopeless mother named her newborn son Ichabod, meaning “no glory” (1 Samuel 4:21). And yet, when the people cried out to God, threw away their idols, and devoted themselves afresh to serving God alone, revival came from heaven! The glory was restored!

Or think of Nineveh, a city so lost and so wicked that God decreed for them the same fate as the flooded ancient world and the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Yet the prophet Jonah lifted up his voice in that evil place, and everything changed. The entire city repented and turned to God!

With all of our hearts, let us pray for revival in the church (the restoration of God’s glory among His people) and for spiritual awakening among the lost (the rapid expansion of His kingdom). Could it be that you have a part to play in setting the stage for such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Could it be that God wants to use your life, your obedience, and your prayers? Are you willing?

How to Draw Your Circle

The following worksheet can be completed at your own pace; however, we recommend taking it one section at a time and reading and praying carefully through the listed verses and exercises.

Find this and other resources mentioned throughout this booklet by visiting www.OneCry.com/DrawACircle.

Begin with Humility

Revival never comes to proud hearts, or to those who refuse God's help. Admitting our need for Him and our desperate hopelessness apart from Him is part of what the Bible calls having a "broken spirit" (Psalm 51:17). This attitude of brokenness before the Lord is absolutely a prerequisite for His work to begin. Forsake self-sufficiency, and renew your absolute surrender to and reliance on God.

Pray through James 4:6-10 and Revelation 3:14-21.

Application Questions

Evidences of pride I see in my life today:

- I neglect regular prayer, assuming I can get along fine without it.
- I tend to value my own opinions more than the input of others.
- I find it difficult or uncomfortable to admit my spiritual needs to others.
- I can't remember the last time I wept over my sins.
- I seek out recognition and gratitude for things I'm doing "for God."

- I intentionally run myself down before others so that I can appear humble or holy.
- I frequently complain about what others should be doing differently.
- I don't have a deep sense of spiritual poverty—I think I am doing fine.
- I rarely serve people; most of the time I feel I should be served.
- I have not fully surrendered every area of my life to Christ's lordship.

I am willing to embrace the humility required for revival by:

Submitting to Christ as the Lord, Commander, and Boss of my lifestyle. **Yes** or **No**

Seeking opportunities to be taught by God's Word and my spiritual leaders. **Yes** or **No**

Freely confessing to God the sins and needs in my life. **Yes** or **No**

Honestly admitting to my spouse, friends, or pastor the sins and needs in my life. **Yes** or **No**

Building into my life specific time for prayer. **Yes** or **No**

Listening to advice and even criticism without getting defensive. **Yes** or **No**

Looking for opportunities to joyfully serve others, starting with my family. **Yes** or **No**

2 // HONESTY

Get Honest About Your Sin

God cannot bless with His presence those who are holding onto their sin. Open your heart to the probing of the Holy Spirit; let Him reveal what aspects of your life need to change and what sins need to be confessed. Renounce all of your sins; hold none of them back. Let God's cleansing power forgive, restore, and transform you.

Pray through Isaiah 59:2; Psalm 51; and 1 John 1:9.

Application Questions

Checkmark the areas of sin that have been a part of your life in the past three months:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pride | <input type="checkbox"/> Lust |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anger | <input type="checkbox"/> Gossip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Envy | <input type="checkbox"/> Impurity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selfishness | <input type="checkbox"/> Hypocrisy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dishonoring parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayerlessness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unkindness | <input type="checkbox"/> Complaining |

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Over-indulgence | <input type="checkbox"/> Laziness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unforgiveness | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of witness for Christ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neglect of God's Word | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastefulness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of generosity | <input type="checkbox"/> Using God's name carelessly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greed | <input type="checkbox"/> Gluttony |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lying | <input type="checkbox"/> Others: |

Do I need revival?

- If I don't love God the way I did at first, I need revival.
- If my spiritual life is defined by activity rather than by intimacy, I need revival.
- If I don't sense my desperate need for God's help, I need revival.

3 // REPENTANCE

Repent

Repentance means turning from everything I know to be sin today and anything God may show me to be sinful in the future. In other words, repentance is a thorough and complete change of mind about the sin in my life. It also involves full surrender to Jesus Christ as the Lord of my decisions, thoughts, behaviors, and priorities. Repentance requires that I make a clean break with sin; that I rid my life of sinful influence and instead pursue absolute, uncompromised purity in the power of the Holy Spirit. Begin by confessing the sins He revealed in the previous section.

Pray through Ezekiel 18:30-32; Psalm 139:23-24; and Acts 26:20.

Application Questions

Turning away from sin has as much to do with desire as it does with behavior. Will you make the choice to stop pursuing sin and to start pursuing Christ?

Yes or No

Three sinful or doubtful habits I must surrender to Christ:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The purpose of examining our choices honestly and bringing sin out into the open is so God's power can change us. Write out the following Scriptures and commit them to memory to begin confronting evil in your heart:

Psalm 119:11 _____

1 Corinthians 10:13 _____

Romans 6:6 _____

2 Corinthians 7:1 _____

Embrace and Extend Forgiveness

When we have dealt with our sin, fully repenting and turning back to God, He assures us that He hears our prayers and fully forgives, placing our sins out of reach behind His back (Isaiah 38:17) and hurling them into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19). We can rejoice that He will never remember them against us again (Isaiah 43:25) and that fellowship with Him has been restored (1 John 1:5-7).

But revival involves more than dealing with our sin before God; we must also clear our accounts on earth. It is now time to clear your own conscience by seeking forgiveness from everyone you have offended, and making restitution wherever possible.

Then extend free forgiveness to anyone who has wronged you, as difficult as that may be. As Jesus has freely forgiven us, He commands that we forgive! When we do, we will see His freedom and power released in our lives.

Pray through Acts 24:16; Matthew 6:14-15; and Ephesians 4:31-32.

Application Questions

Is my conscience clear? Has all wrongdoing from my past been properly confessed to those involved?

Yes or No

Write the initials of the people, businesses, or groups from whom you need to seek forgiveness; then pray about how to confess and make restitution for the sin you committed against them (Luke 17:1-10).

Have I fully forgiven all those who have wronged, offended, hurt, or sinned against me?

Yes or No

I have forgiven in the same way Christ forgives me. This is evidenced by the following:

- I have given up thoughts of revenge and am trusting the situation to God.
- I am free from anger and hate in my heart.
- I choose not to bring up the offenses any more.
- I am willing to pray for God's best in the life of the person who hurt me.
- I would rejoice if that person were especially blessed by God.

For a more in-depth study of forgiveness, download our "Freedom Through Forgiveness" worksheet.

Align Your Life with God's Word

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Colossians 3:16)—immerse yourself in the Scriptures. Study the character of God—seek His face. Consider carefully the commands of Christ—follow in His steps. Heed the warnings the Bible issues. Submit to God as your King, and love Him as your Father. His law is perfect and will revive your soul.

Pray through Psalm 119.

Application Questions

I read and study the Bible consistently, both personally and with others.

Yes or No

I have studied the commands of Jesus so that I understand who I must be and what I must do as His follower.

Yes or No

I have an intentional plan for growing in my knowledge of and application of the Bible.

Yes or No

Two things I could do to increase my intake of God's Word:

1. _____

2. _____

Summarize the attitudes and commitments believers should have regarding the Bible, based on these verses from Psalm 119:

v. 10 _____

v. 16 _____

v. 34 _____

v. 72 _____

v. 97 _____

v. 112 _____

v. 133 _____

v. 169 _____

Pray Fervently for Revival

Demonstrate your desperation and desire for revival to come—plead, fast, grieve, seek, pray! Pray for your church, your city, your nation; pray alone and with others. Let your heart be broken for the things that break God’s heart. Pray for repentance, forgiveness, restoration, truth, and a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit!

Pray through Isaiah 64 and Joel 2:12-32.

Application Questions

Prayer is having a conversation with God, sometimes personally and sometimes involving other people. On a scale from 1–5, rate your own prayer life in the following categories:

- ___ Consistent, daily times of talking with God
- ___ Praising God for His character and glory
- ___ Thanking God for His blessings in my life
- ___ Calling out to God for personal revival
- ___ Praying for my family and my church
- ___ Confessing my sins and praying for help to overcome them

- ___ Praying for the souls of my lost friends and family
- ___ Asking God for spiritual awakening in my community and nation
- ___ Making space in my life to pray with others, beyond mealtime prayers
- ___ Interceding (praying for the needs of other people)
- ___ Setting aside occasional times for concentrated prayer or fasting

Overall, do I believe God is pleased with the intensity and consistency of my communication with Him?

Yes or No

“Father, I want to grow in the area of prayer, and the next step I plan to take, with Your help, is: _____.”

Prayer is a lifetime pursuit, not something a person ever “finishes.” Because we love God, we should always look for ways to grow deeper in prayer. At OneCry.com, a variety of “how to” resources are available for free download. These can assist you in prayer, give you ideas to pray about, and equip you to pray with friends, family, and church. If you have no one to pray with or you aren’t sure how to start, OneCry can help you connect with others in your region who share a passion for revival.

Conclusion

However far from God you have strayed, however much sin and bitterness have accumulated in your heart, we believe that revival is just as possible as the sun rising tomorrow morning, as long as God is on His throne. We encourage you to take your own piece of chalk and draw a circle on the ground; step into it, and pray with passion, “Lord, send revival, and let it begin in me!”

TURN//PRAY//UNITE

OneCry is a call for spiritual awakening based on these three key words that summarize our passion for revival. You can learn more about these words and discover tools to help you put them into practice by visiting our web page and signing the Declaration of Spiritual Emergency. From there, you will have access to video, audio, print, and web resources all designed to help you **turn from sin** to pursue a fresh life with God, **pray fervently** for the Holy Spirit to work, and **unite with others** in sharing the hope of revival everywhere.

To learn more about OneCry and to join the movement, visit

www.ONECRY.com