

Seeking Revival

DAY 6—GOD'S ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEM

“If anyone wants to follow me, he must say ‘no’ to the things he wants. Every day he must be willing even to die on a cross, and he must follow me. Whoever wants to save his life will lose it. And whoever gives his life for me will save it.” LUKE 9:23, 24

Two Secrets for Lasting (never-changing) Revival

Jesus offers an answer for carnal (fleshly, sinful) Christians who want to become spiritual Christians. He says, “Stay joined to me, the same as I also stay joined to you” (John 15:4). In other words, “Abide in Me (stay with me).” But how?

Ellen White says that abiding (living) in Christ means—

1. “a constant (continued) **receiving of His Spirit**” and
2. “a life of **open surrender** (give your life to Jesus) to His service” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 676)

This is God’s two-part solution that leads us to a new and happy Christian life. Why? Jesus said, “I have told you this so that you will have the same joy (blessed and happy) that I have. I also want your joy to be full (rich)” (John 15:11). By taking these two steps, we experience “Christ in you,” or Jesus’ presence in our everyday lives, and that means we share the hope of His glory (Colossians 1:27).

The important point: We daily ask for and receive the Holy Spirit by faith, and we daily give everything we have and are to God. He gives us the joy!

On Day 1 we talked about how important it is to ask for the Holy Spirit, and on Day 3 we studied our need for surrender (to give your life to Jesus). Today we will look again at these two steps—with a special focus on (look at) our need to ask and surrender *every day*.

Why Should We Ask Daily for the Holy Spirit?

Years ago I read the story of a gangster (gang member) who gave his life to Jesus. He honestly confessed (admitted) his lies, theft, and other crimes (doing bad things), and as a result he experienced a wonderful divine intervention (God getting involved in his life). God completely (all) changed his life.

This impressed (inspired) me. I said to myself, *I am doing fine in most ways, but I do not have experiences like that.* So I prayed, “Lord, I also want to confess all my known sins and the sins You have not shown me yet. Also, I will get up an hour earlier each day to pray and read the Bible. I want to see if You will also change my life.”

Praise God, He did change my life! Not because I earned some reward by getting up early, but because every day I opened my heart so the Holy Spirit could come in. If Jesus needed to be renewed with the Holy Spirit every day, how much more do we need this power? Paul writes about the inward man “being renewed day by day,” and he prays that God’s people would be “strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man” (2 Corinthians 4:16 and Ephesians 3:16). Ellen White gives us this hope: “The Lord is more willing (gladly

given) to give the Holy Spirit to people who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. Every worker should ask God daily for the Holy Spirit" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 50). Our "inward person" needs daily care.

Why Should We Surrender Daily to Jesus?

Jesus tried to help His disciples understand the sacrificial (offer to God) nature of discipleship. Jesus told them, "Whoever wants to follow me must say no to themselves. They must pick up their cross every day and follow me" (Luke 9:23). To say no to self means giving Jesus control over our lives each day. Paul explains it like this: "I die daily (every day)" (1 Corinthians 15:31).

As humans we do not want to surrender (give ourselves to Jesus) because we forget that "when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10). We receive physical life at birth, but we still eat every day to stay healthy and grow. We receive spiritual life when we are born again (new life), but we still need daily "spiritual food" or we will die. The same as we cannot eat our meals ahead of time, neither can we surrender to Christ for tomorrow. Ellen White writes, "However complete (all) our dedication (faithfulness) was when we first gave our life to Jesus, it will not help unless (if) we do it again everyday" (*Our Father Cares*, p. 144).

How to Get Started

The best way—and only way—to daily (everyday) receive the Holy Spirit and surrender to Jesus is by having daily personal worship. Unless (if) we choose to follow God each day, our promises and good intentions (goal, plan) are like "ropes of sand (weak, not strong)" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 47). Will you promise today to share the best part of your day with Jesus? "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you" (Matthew 6:33).

Praying God's Word

Stay in the best relationship there is.

"Stay joined to me, the same as I also stay joined to you. No branch can bear fruit by itself. It must stay joined to the vine (Jesus). In the same way, you cannot bear fruit unless you stay joined to me.... If you stay joined to me and my words remain (stay) in you, ask for anything you wish. And it will be done for you" (John 15:4, 7).
Lord, thank You for growing our trust when we daily surrender to You. Help us to know the Holy Spirit better. Let Your desires be our desires.

Live in the best relationship every day.

"Whoever wants to follow me must say no to themselves. They must pick up their cross every day and follow Me" (Luke 9:23).

"Seek first (look for) God's kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well" (Matthew 6:33).

Dear Lord, teach us to put You first in everything. Show us how to begin each day with You.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific (exact) blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession (admit your sins/wrongs) and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to give wisdom for current challenges (now) and decisions.

Our Church: Ask God to bless the work of our local, regional, and world church.

Local Requests: Pray for the needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond (answer): Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: I Need Thee Every Hour (#483); Day by Day (#532); Abide With Me (#50); Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (#290); Moment by Moment (#507). Other Songs: Open Our Eyes, Lord; Seek Ye First.