

# LET GOD ARISE!

Revival  
Prayer Guide #2  
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis



## Revival in the Heart: Revival under Jacob

Genesis 35.1-15

One single act performed with true self-denial, in renunciation of the world, is infinitely more of a revival and more of Christianity than 1,000 or 10,000 or 100,000 or 1,000,000 persons, so long as they keep it ambiguous.

~ Soren Kierkegaard

Gen. 35.1-15 - God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.” [2] So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. [3] Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.” [4] So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem.

[5] And as they journeyed, a terror from God fell upon the cities that were around them, so that they did not pursue the sons of Jacob. [6] And Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, [7] and there he built an altar and called the place El-bethel, because there God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother. [8] And Deborah, Rebekah’s nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel. So he called its name Allon-bacuth.

[9] God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. [10] And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” So he called his name Israel. [11] And God said to him, “I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. [12] The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after



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noted, all Scriptures  
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you.” [13] Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him. [14] And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. [15] So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.

Gen. 12.7 - Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

Gen. 13.14-17 - The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, [15] for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. [16] I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. [17] Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.”

Gen. 28.3-4 - God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. [4] May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!

Gen. 28.10-17 - Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. [11] And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. [12] And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! [13] And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. [14] Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and



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you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. [15] Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” [16] Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” [17] And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

Gen. 32.24-32 - And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. [25] When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. [26] Then he said, “Let me go, for the day has broken.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” [27] And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” [28] Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” [29] Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. [30] So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.” [31] The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. [32] Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.

Gen. 48.4 - and said to me, “Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.”

Exod. 3.8 - and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a



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land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Eccles. 5.1 - Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil.

Mal. 3.5 - Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Matt. 3.9-10 - And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father," for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. [10] Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

1 Tim. 3.15 - If I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth.

1 Pet. 4.17 For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ■



## Change My Heart, O God

Eddie Espinosa

Change my heart, O God  
Make it ever true  
Change my heart, O God  
May I be like You.

You are the Potter  
I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me  
This is what I pray.

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Virtually everyone is agreed that the cities of the world could be transformed if the Lord were to provide sustained, intense, and transforming revival to his people. A spiritual awakening among the people of God could lead to a radical holiness in the Church and draw thousands of lost souls to our risen King.

What truly is revival, and spiritual awakening, and where does it need to start? What is the source of authentic spiritual transformation, the kind that spreads like fire and prepares a people for God to dwell in? The answer is quite simple, illustrated in the story of Jacob the supplanter in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Genuine spiritual power and spiritual awakening always begins the same way. Revival begins with a single changed heart.



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In one sense, wholesale revival is merely the Spirit of God transforming and enriching the heart and minds of multitudes of people, one changed heart at a time. Revival is not sentimental emotionalism or long unbroken meetings with much crying and tears. Similar outward reactions are often experienced at today's sports stadiums among many multitudes who unfortunately have neither an inkling nor even a dribble of consciousness of the will and Word of God.

Rather, revival is spiritual renewal, spiritual transformation, spiritual awakening. When God sends revival people are changed—they have new perspectives, new passions, and new principles to live and order their lives by. Jacob is a person who experienced the revival of God in this way. From rogue deceiver to godly patriarch, the presence of God in his life, from visions to wrestlings and disciplines, all shaped together to reforge in him a new man, a person of vision and hope, a true grandson of Abraham.

Even a cursory read of the Scriptures above reveals that revival takes place after much change, honing, burning, and judgment. It goes without saying that God must burn away dross in our lives in order for his pure purposes to shine forth. The Lord must discipline us in order that we can learn to repudiate our propensity for selfishness, immorality, and distraction. And, the Lord must reveal to us the deceptions and selfish preoccupations that dominant us in order for the truth of Christ and his kingdom to become supreme. Simply put, without his intervening savage grace, there can be no overcoming spiritual change.

Jacob's experience reveals in bold outline this kind of shaping, drilling, chipping, and honing that is at the heart of genuine spiritual awakening in the hearts of those whom he chooses. Jacob's habits and inclination made him one to cut corners, to deceive others, to take the easy road, and to be conniving and cunning. This kind of style worked for some time, until threatened by his brother Esau for his deception in robbing him of his



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birthright, and the long night of wrestling with the angel which resulted in his limp for the rest of his life. Jacob learned through a number of situations that working out things on his own time, strength, and will left him nowhere but high and dry. He paid a price for his own selfish scheming.

Jacob, however, also learned through the Lord's own discipline and leading that only through submission to the will of God can real and lasting change be brought about. Jacob was transformed; through the visitations and rough presence of God he learned his own vulnerability, and was able to allow God to do in and through him the very thing God willed. Only after the wrestling, after the humbling, and after the experience of God's disciplining and shaping mercies did Jacob come to see God as his very source, his life.

God is faithful to us, even when we are stubbornly refusing to allow his Spirit to work deeply within us. If this emphasis on revival means anything this month, it means that if we are to allow God to use us, we must surrender all efforts to work things out in our own way and time, and truly yield to his wrestling. Only then can our hearts be changed. Only then will we receive a new name. Only then can we be molded into the persons that God desires us to be.

If we are unwilling to be wrestled into submission, we will not receive a new name.

If we cling to our own selfish rights and habits of self-assertion, we never have his promise renewed in our lives.

If we refuse his savage grace, we will also miss his empowering grace, that which can enable us to become the kind of men, women, boys, and girls God desires and demands us to be.



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Let us this month echo the prayer in Eddie Espinosa's little chorus, and ask God to change our hearts, to make us ever new in order that we might become more like him. Indeed, he is the Potter, we the clay, and only in his molding can we become whole, well, and useful to the Kingdom's advance.

What is revival, and where does it begin? It begins, quite simply, with your single changed heart—today, right here and now, where you are. Open yourself up to his Spirit, and allow him to trigger a movement of power today, right now in your own heart.

As mentioned in last month's issue, *revival is the manifestation of God in an extraordinary way, the divine visitation of the living God to heal, deliver, cleanse, and empower*. Let this be true today, in your life and heart, in a new and living way in the here-and-now. ■

### Example of God Transforming a Heart for His Glory: Jacob

*Gen. 32.28 - Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."*

### Biblical Principle of the Month

Revival begins in the solitude of a human heart, in a soul whose submission and openness to the Lord allows God to be God in their lives. Revival is not to be associated with outward emotion alone, or vast numbers of affected persons. Like a spark, it begins quietly in the life of one whose heart is open to the discipline, leading, and cleansing of God. When such a soul humbles itself before the Lord in brokenness and surrender, the Lord can transform it in an extraordinary way. And, when this transformation occurs in one, it can awaken the same in others, as God himself leads, awakens, and reveals.



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All dramatic revival begins with the Lord's own transformation himself in the heart of the surrendered disciple—the Lord alone transforms the heart.

*Ps. 51.10-12 - 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.*

*Ps. 73.1 - Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.*

*Ezek. 11.19 - And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,*

*Ezek. 18.31 - Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?*

*Matt. 5.8 - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

