

## Chapter 18

### Fulfilling the Conditions for Revival

#### A closer look at 2 Chronicles 7:14

This well known verse is conditional!

**IF** my people will.....

Humble themselves

Pray

Seek my face and

Turn from their wicked ways (Repent) ...

**THEN** - I will.....

Hear from heaven

Forgive their sins and

Heal their land

The verse tells us there are **four** things we have to do.....and.....**three** things that God will do

**God will do what only He can do, when we do what He knows we should - and - can do!**

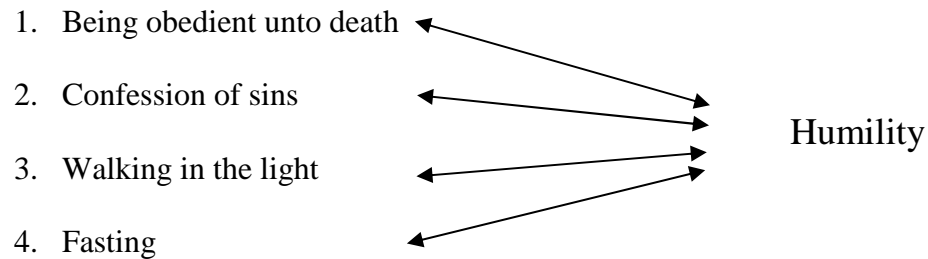
So this verse needs to be taken seriously.

We shall look at each of **our four responsibilities**;

*First* - “If my people..... will **HUMBLE THEMSELVES**”

Since ‘humbling oneself’ is the first thing we are exhorted to do in this verse it must be very important. This is a perfect example of the ‘Law of First Reference’ indicating the pre-eminence of humbling oneself above the other three things to do in the list. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 18:3-4, “Verily I say unto you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means **enter the Kingdom of Heaven**. Therefore, whoever **humbles himself** as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of God.” Is there – I wonder - a connection between humbling ourselves and entering the Kingdom of Heaven!? If so, humbling ourselves is very important.

I suggest here **four** ways that the Bible speaks of humility.



To Humble  
*‘Tapeinoo’* (Greek)  
To make low

‘God resists the proud, but  
gives grace to the humble.’  
*James 4:6*

Let me explain....

**1) Being ‘obedient unto death’**

This of course, is what Jesus did as spoken in Philippians 2:8

“....and being found in the appearance of a man, **He humbled Himself** and became obedient unto death”.

Please note that in verse 5 we are told to “have the same mind”.

If Jesus humbled Himself in dying - surely we must follow His example and ‘be obedient unto death’. Death - not on a cross, but of our wills, desires etc. Please read Chapter 17 again where I emphasize this subject of ‘losing our lives’ and ‘taking up the cross’, etc. This whole aspect of **Humility** is of utmost importance. **God hates Pride** - the very opposite of humility. If we, the individual members of the Body of Christ, would get off our pedestals, yield and ‘crucify’ our lives to Him realizing that we can do nothing, and LET God Almighty himself work and LIVE HIS LIFE THROUGH US - then, we may see our land healed and revived! Dear God, let it be !

## 2) Confession of Sins (James 5:16a and 1 John 1:9)

Paget Wilkes says "If I had to state in the simplest form the condition for receiving heart cleansing from the hand of the risen Christ, I should say 1) humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, and 2) only believe". Unlike many of the sanctified saints of old, Wilkes puts humility above consecration/surrender saying that the latter follows out of a grateful heart AFTER sanctification. He continues, "What a joy it has been to proclaim the way of faith and show that the Lord is asking for a humble, lowly **confession of sin** - the unbelief, the unwillingness, rebellion and every evil thing within, confessed it all to Him, and then triumphantly stood upon the promise, that, if they have done their part, He has done His!"

So - where do we start in confessing our sins?

**ASK** the Holy Spirit for **conviction** - to show you your evil heart compared to the holiness of God, as Isaiah saw (See Isaiah 6:1-8). This should bring the fear of the Lord to us which is so lacking in today's church. Then, **OBEY** James 5:16a - "**Confess your sins** one to another and pray for one another....."

Acknowledging and confessing sins - both actions and attitudes, are surely what James is referring to in Chapter 4:8. "Cleanse your hands (actions) and purify your hearts (inward attitudes and thoughts)". And, as the Spirit of conviction reveals the depravity of your soul, verse 9 would be applicable too. You would "be afflicted, mourn and weep - your laughter turned to mourning and your joy to heaviness" as the conviction of sin weighs heavily upon you.

1 John 1:9 also speaks of confession:

"If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

We are familiar with applying confessing sins to God for forgiveness - but what about believing and claiming the **cleansing** from all unrighteousness, the sin-virus and thus be sanctified?!

It is interesting that the outcome of confession is healing! "Confess your sins to one another....." Why? ".....that you may be **healed**" (*James 5:16a*)

And, note too, what 2 Chronicles 7:14 says,

"If my people ....then I will ..... **heal** their land!" This could be referring to the physical land, or, as we are considering Entire Sanctification, we could interpret this 'land' as the land of our soul which is 'sick' with the sin-virus and needs **healing**! (Please note there are several scriptures indicating that our soul is as a garden, land, earth, ground. See Psalm 41:4, Psalm 23:3 and Jeremiah 3:12.)

**Conclusion - CONFESSION** —————> **HEALING of the soul**

Back now to examine James 5:16a – “Confess your sins/faults **one to another**.....”

Oh, how our pride, reputation and fear of man rises up and screams “No, No!” at even the thought of doing this!

Do we fear man above the fearing of God? Does fear of fellow-Christians and their reaction to us of maybe criticism, judgement, rejection and sadly, so often gossip, keep us from obeying this commandment? To our shame, the answer is too often - yes.

I have said at the beginning of this book that, since something IS wrong in today’s church, we must get back to being honest, real and bold! I call to, and plead with, the leaders to have the courage and guts to set the example! Some of the flock would not cope with this and leave, but the sincere and genuine disciples of the Lord would follow.

Let us recall and do as the Early Methodists did in their weekly Class Meetings set up by John Wesley. Here the people met in groups for fellowship where both positive and negative things were confessed one to another. (Discretion and wisdom is called for - especially in the area of sexual sins.)

Norman Grubb in his book "Continuous Revival " discovered the secret as to why the East African Revival continued for 16 years. It was the norm to confess sins one to another and therefore 'walk in the light', thus having 'fellowship one with another' (1 John 1:7 ) He writes , "We just have to face the fact that we are very human, and our human relationships are usually more vivid to us than our fellowship with God. Thus we have a more vivid sense of shame about a sin when we tell our brethren, than when we just tell God. It is a simple fact that this openness before men does something in us. It sharpens us up concerning daily sin as never before. It is part of the secret of daily revival. It is amazing how, when walking in the light with our brethren as well with God, we begin to come alive to attitudes, or actions, of sin in our lives which we just never noticed to be sin before.

There is also the effect on others of this openly testifying. Testimony among God's people brings joy and praise when we hear what the Lord has done for another; it does something in our hearts, quickening a desire for the same experience. It does yet more. It convicts. Our hearts are fashioned alike. The way the devil tempts you is almost certainly the way he tempts me. When I hear of the Lord's dealings with you over an area of sin, it surely reaches me on some spot where I need the same light and deliverance. That is exactly how great revivals break out and spread. Sin is suddenly seen to be sin.. Someone breaks down (brokenness) and doesn't mind who is present; he can only see himself as a sinner needing renewed cleansing. So out he comes, maybe with tears; public reconciliations are made; the conviction spreads till dozens are doing the same thing.”<sup>1</sup>

Confessing sins one to another leads us on to, and is almost the same as, the **third** thing we can do to “humble ourselves”:

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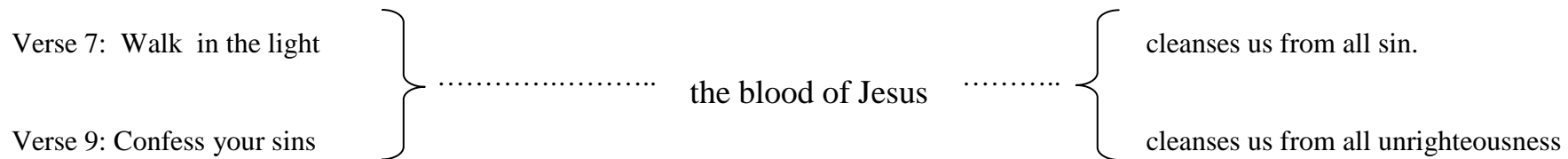
<sup>1</sup> Continuous Revival by Norman Grubb. Christian Literature Crusade, Fort Washington, Penn. USA. Page 29/30)

### 3) Walking in the Light

“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanses us from all sin.”  
*1 John 1:7*



This verse is similar to verse 9 isn't it? “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”  
 The outcome, if we do our part, God will do his - i.e. He will cleanse us!



Surely the cleansing by the blood of **all** sin and unrighteousness would include the sin-virus and must be what is needed to receive the clean and sanctified heart! We want ‘our land’ healed, and we want to be sanctified so that God can move through us in revival power, but, **WE MUST DO OUR PART** - confess sins and walk in the light with one another! This is not easy since it entails taking off the masks and revealing to one another what we are really like! But the outcome of this **combined act of humility** would be to draw the grace of God upon us and allow God’s light and love to flow from one another and the Holy Spirit be released through us!

‘He gives grace to the lowly.’  
*Proverbs 3:34*

Somewhere, someone - or a group, must be courageous enough (wise and trustworthy) to be vulnerable and do this! Norman Grubb speaks of Christians “having the roof off” to God - yet still “having the walls up” between each other! This will not allow “the light” - and love, of Jesus that **is in us** to flow out to one another! Thus we quench the Spirit and restrict His moving amongst us.

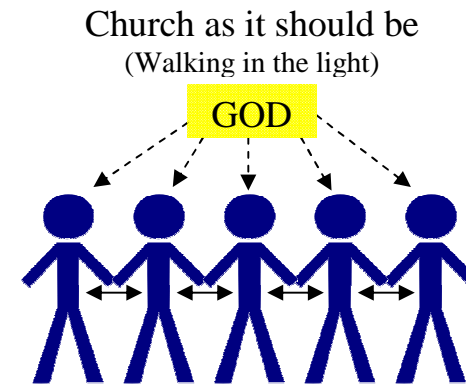
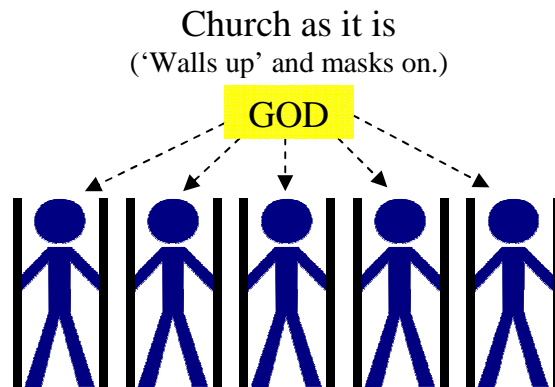
No **move** of God - No Revival

“Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He who has not **lifted up his soul unto vanity.**”  
*Psalm 24:3,4*

“Revival is not so much a vertical outpouring from Heaven, for the Reviver is already here in His temple – the bodies of the redeemed; it is more a horizontal outpouring of the Reviver **through** these temples into the world. It is a horizontal, rather than a vertical movement.” *Norman Grubb – Continuous Revival*



A non-Christian  
'Roof on' to God  
and 'walls up' to others.  
(Or maybe 'walls down'?)



“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another” *1 John 1:7*

**Let’s remember - ROOF OFF, WALLS DOWN and MASKS OFF!**

Just a brief mention now of the **fourth** aspect of how we can “humble ourselves” (and there could be more) and that is,

## 4) Fasting

“I humbled my soul with fasting.” *Psalm 35:13*

Suffice to say here that, any fasting, be it food, pleasure, TV, etc is a form of self-denial and therefore, crucifixion of the flesh.

Apart from the benefits of fasting - not being discussed here, surely fasting has a big part to play in denying oneself and desires, ‘mortifying the flesh’ and not doing what one wants to do! “Not my will, but thine O Lord.” In other words, “humbling oneself unto death” - death to what YOU/I want. And mighty Biblical characters and men and women God has been able to use throughout history all undertook to - **pray and fast** regularly!

Read how Guy Bevington prayed, fasted and ‘died out’ in the book “Remarkable Miracles”! (Recommended Reading page 123)

“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” *James 1:22.*     **Let’s do it!**

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.”  
*1 Peter 5:6*

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### *Second* - “If my people..... **will** humble themselves and **PRAY**”

This is the **second** thing God exhorts and calls his people to do in 2 Chronicles 7:14. Throughout the word of God we are encouraged to pray, so this is nothing new to us. Because it is so fundamental and necessary, the devil does every thing he can to keep Christians from praying. That in itself should be enough to tell us how important is prayer!

Jeremiah 29:12 gives us good instructions - and promises:

“Then you shall call upon me and ye shall go and PRAY unto me , and I will hearken unto you.” and verse 13 says , “And you shall seek me, and find me when you shall search for me with all your heart.”

How desperate are we really to ‘find God’? And are we searching for Him “with ALL our heart” - or just some of our heart? Maybe our situations need to get worse so that we shall grow more and more desperate, and then seek for Him as a parent would their child that was missing! What is it that will wake the slumbering Church up and out of its apathy, worldliness, and luke-warmness? Dear God, have mercy on us and cause us to wake up and obey 2 Chronicles 7:14!

### *Third* - “If my people ..... **will** humble themselves and pray and **SEEK MY FACE...**”

In Song of Songs 2:14 we hear the cry of the Lord’s bride-to-be saying, “Let me see thy countenance (face), let me hear thy voice, for thy voice is sweet and thy face is comely (lovely).” Is that your heart’s cry – is it mine?

And King David in Psalm 27:8 set his mind and will to seek God’s face - “When thou saidst ‘Seek ye my face’, my heart said unto thee, Thy face Lord I will seek.”

David’s assurance and faith in his praying and seeking God’s face gives him the confidence to proclaim in Psalm 17:15: “As for me, I WILL behold thy face in righteousness.” Will we do the same? Seek, and then find? Let’s ask the Lord to help us be determined like King David.

#### **How do we seek His face ?**

Depending on how much you want to find the thing searched for , you would

- a) be constantly thinking of, yearning and watching out for it, and
- b) you would be looking in the places most likely where it could be. (Though sometimes things are found in unexpected places, aren’t they?)

Surely the place most likely to find Jesus must be in the Bible! The beginning of John’s gospel clearly states how Jesus is the Word, and that “the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (*John 1:1 & 14*) as well as Revelation 19:13 confirming that “His name is called the Word of God”. Therefore, expectantly reading the Word of God, meditating and asking the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to us must be a priority in our daily lives.

**“Seek , and you shall find.”** *Matthew 7:7*

In Psalm 24:6 - the Psalm that talks about ‘standing in the holy place and ascending the hill of the Lord’ - David asks, will we be

“the generation of them that seek Him, that seek thy face” – I hope so!

And I’m sure ‘waiting on God’ and worshipping Him would need to be included as we seek His face.

Let us be like David - diligently seeking Him and His face and being rewarded by seeing His lovely face! (Hebrews 11:6) We are told in Exodus 33:20 that no man shall see God’s face and live. But what about the face of Jesus? And surely seeking His face must be seeking His very presence!

“Draw near to God (my part) and He will draw near to you (God’s part).”

*James 4:8*

We come finally to the **fourth** thing we have to do according to 2 Chronicles 7:14

*Fourth* - “If my people ..... **will** humble themselves and pray and seek my face and **TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS**”

In other words - **REPENT !**

Repentance was the message of John the Baptist **prior to Jesus’ coming**. If that was the cry and instruction then - to “make straight the paths in the wilderness and to prepare the way of the Lord”, surely if we are wanting Jesus to **come into our hearts** so we can experience Full Salvation, then Repentance is not an option! We must “turn from our wicked ways” thus preparing the way in our hearts so that the King of Glory can come in! (*Psalm 24:9*). Most Christians today think that to confess a sin is repentance. No - confession alone is not enough; it is only the pre-cursor and must be continued to the action of turning away - or from - the “wicked way” and **stop doing it!!** That is real repentance.

I do not need to say much on this subject here as I have already in Chapter 16, “Why Revival Tarries?” So please read Page 70 again with these thoughts in mind.

But, four final points concerning Repentance:

- ✦ This is perhaps the most crucial and hardest of the four things to do.
- ✦ We need, and must have the conviction of the Holy Spirit to touch and help us.
- ✦ We need the correct motivation to spur us on – i.e. loving God **enough** that we don’t want our acts of sin to cause him displeasure, pain or grief. Therefore we must ask God to reveal His love personally to us, so that our hard, independent hearts will respond and melt in remorse and truly have ‘godly sorrow’ which leads to repentance (*2 Corinthians 7:10*)
- ✦ Humbling ourselves (No. 1), praying (No. 2), and seeking His face (No. 3), will aid and prepare us to come to real repentance (No. 4).

“He that covers his sins shall not prosper; but he who confesses and **forsakes them** shall have mercy.

*Psalm 28:13*

“Bring forth therefore **fruit of repentance.**”

*Matthew 3:8*

“The depth of revival will be determined exactly by the depth of the Spirit of repentance.”

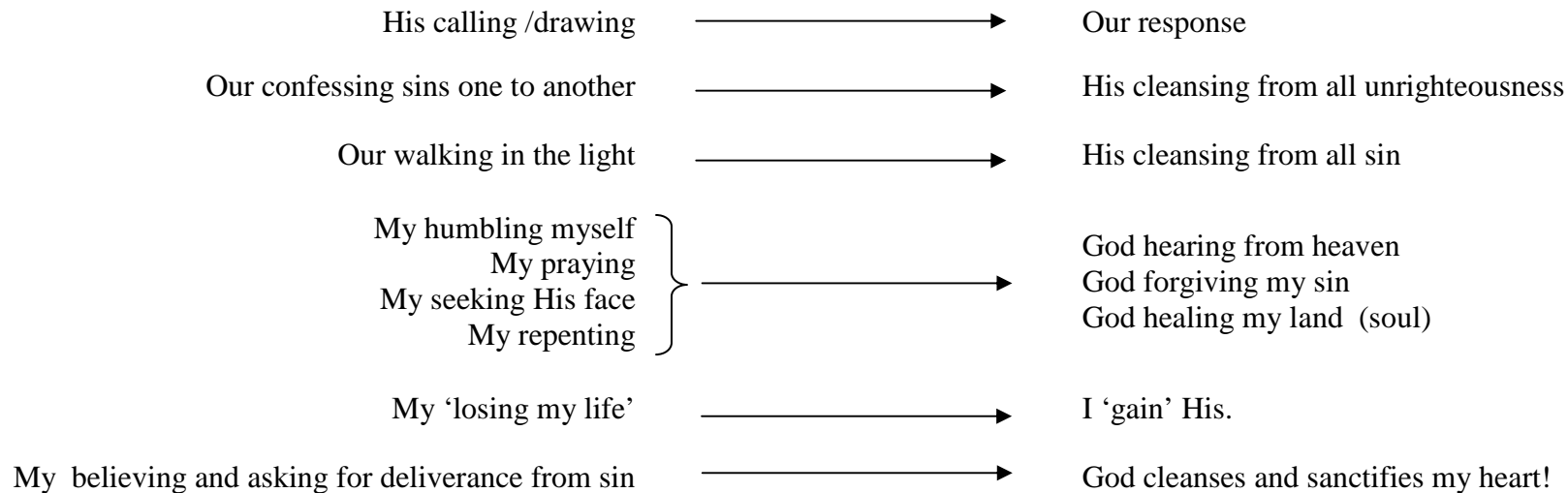
*Frank Bartleman, ‘Azusa Street’, Whitaker House, New Kensington, PA, USA. © 1982, page 19*

One **PARTING THOUGHT** as we move on from 2 Chronicles 7:14 and endeavour to fulfil the conditions for Revival.

We refer to our journey with Jesus as our “Christian **WALK**”. Walking involves two feet and legs moving alternatively 1 - 2, 1 - 2, 1 - 2 .....! It is not a ‘Christian HOP’, where God does everything (or vice-versa, us doing everything by our good works - religion!). No, throughout the Bible we are challenged and exhorted to **respond** to God’s initial moves and instructions to us. 2 Chronicles 7:14 is a perfect example of this.

Then, when we obey and do OUR PART, then God responds and does HIS PART! If.....Then....

Here are a few examples:



Let us **walk** with Jesus along the Highway of Holiness.

“Can two **walk** together except they be agreed?”

*Amos 3:3*

**The challenge of 2 Chronicles 7:14 IS..... COSTLY!**

**It requires HONESTY, COURAGE and DISCIPLINE!**

Will we respond?