

Now is the Time: For a Revived Church

The disciples were intent on staying loyal to Jesus. They left everything to follow Him. Day after day, Jesus taught them personally and they were eyewitnesses to the most amazing miracles known to man.

They were all in!

Yet, Peter, James, and John could not fight sleep in Jesus' hour of great need in the Garden of Gethsemane. As He prayed, they slept. Jesus' time was at hand, but they snoozed through His request that they "watch and pray" (Matthew 26:41).

In the same way, Paul again exhorted followers of Christ to "wake up from your slumber": "And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:11-12).

As the Church, can you see that the hour again has come? Do you grasp how a lost world desperately needs us to be fully alive and engaged? Ask God to wake us up! Implore Him to revive and empower His Church to stand strong in this day of salvation.

Now is the time!

1 On this first day of the new year, praise God for His faithfulness that "continues through all generations." Reflect on His goodness and His "love that endures forever." Invite Him to fill you with hope that "now is the time" for His Church to be revived in the power of the Spirit (Psalm 100:5).

2 Invite God to do a new and fresh work in your family this year. Pray that He will "crown the year with [His] bounty" and that your lives will "overflow with abundance" of His grace (Psalm 65:11).

3 Praise God that His mercies "are new every morning" and we can rejoice because "great is [His] faithfulness." As you pray toward the new year, express your desire for a fresh move of God even as you "wait for him" and His perfect timing (Lamentations 3:23-24).

4 In this new year, reflect on God's blessings and faithfulness to you. Recommit to "put on the new self" with gratitude because you are "created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Pray that you will reflect the hope of Christ to your family and loved ones (Ephesians 4:24).

5 Ask the Lord to increase your sense of urgency that "the hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber." Ask God to reinvigorate your prayer life as you seek Him for spiritual awakening in your church and our nation (Romans 13:11a).

6 Pray that God will awaken His Church to fully embrace that "our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" and that now is the time to point the lost toward the hope of Jesus Christ (Romans 13:11b).

7 Pray for fellow believers in your church to "put aside deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." Pray for true repentance and renewed surrender to Christ that brings light into a spiritually dark world (Romans 13:12).

8 Jesus declared in His first public message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Pray that this message of urgent repentance is embraced by believers in your church and then shared as truth to our lost world (Matthew 4:17).

9 Pray that believers will embrace renewed desire to "clothe [themselves] with the Lord Jesus Christ" so that they can proclaim the gospel to those who also need to be transformed and renewed in truth (Romans 13:14).

10 Jesus warned His disciples of His impending death: "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come." Pray that the Church awakens from any sleep with urgency to point a lost world to Jesus (Matthew 26:45).

11 As Jesus prayed, the disciples slept. He then declared "Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer." Pray that followers of Jesus will arise, recognize the power of darkness at work, and stand boldly with Christ (Matthew 26:46).

12 Jesus declared that "a time is coming and has now come when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth." Pray for your church to be revived to true and powerful worship that pushes back the darkness and reveals the glory of the Father (John 4:23).

13 Now is the time for the Church to embrace that “the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.” Pray for boldness to not fear a hostile culture, but instead share the gospel with power and love (2 Timothy 1:7).

14 Just as “there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens,” pray that now is the time for a revived Church to bring in a great harvest of souls (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

15 Even now, the Holy Spirit speaks to the Church: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts....” Pray for the Church to awaken to the voice of the Spirit, allow repentance to soften hearts, and be the catalyst for revival in our day (Hebrews 3:7-8).

16 Those who are wise are ready with their lamps filled with oil, eagerly awaiting the moment we hear, “Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!” Pray for the Church to actively believe that now is the time to prepare for the return of Christ (Matthew 25:6).

17 We do not know when Jesus will come again, but we are warned, “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” Pray that believers will live with urgency and mission, knowing that now is the time to prepare others for Jesus’ return (Matthew 25:13).

18 Pray for your own heart—and for the Church—to “repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.” Now is the time for “refreshing that may come from the Lord.” Pray that as the Church is refreshed, the power of the gospel will go forth (Acts 3:19).

19 Ask God to revive your prayer life with belief and confidence that God has “turned his ear to [you]” and therefore you “will call on him as long as [you] live.” Pray that He aligns your heart with His and that the Spirit inspires you to pray strategic prayers for our time—including our desperate need for revival (Psalm 116:2).

20 Pray for increased urgency for prayer in your life. Stand in the gap for others as you cry out “have mercy on me, Lord, for I call to you all day long.” Embrace that now is the time to call upon God for His restoration of your family, the Church, and our nation (Psalm 86:3).

21 Pray for renewed hope for your loved ones to come to Christ. “Continually ask God to fill [them] with the knowledge of his will through all wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.” Plead with God that now is the time for them to surrender (Colossians 1:9).

22 Pray that you and your family will live fully in the promise that “he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.” Pray that your loved ones will “hear his voice” and follow Jesus as the true Shepherd (Psalm 95:7-8).

23 Pray for the Church to be revived with passionate prayer, believing that “in the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you.” Ask the Spirit to inspire believers to pray with urgency, believing now is the time of God’s favor (Isaiah 49:8).

24 Ask God to renew urgency in your church for intercession so that believers will “pray in the Spirit on all occasions and with all kinds of prayers and requests.” Pray with hope for long-held requests to be answered and for Christ to be glorified (Ephesians 6:18a).

25 Thank God for the Holy Spirit who leads His people to “be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Pray with faith and boldness that many will experience His healing now—and that your church will be known for God’s restoring power (Ephesians 6:18b).

26 Pray for each believer in your church to “live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.” Ask God to revive hearts and unleash His people to take the gospel throughout your community (Colossians 1:10).

27 As opposition in our culture arises toward followers of Christ, pray that believers will be “strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that [they] may have great endurance and patience.” Now is the time for the light of Christ to overcome the darkness! (Colossians 1:11).

28 Pray that now is the time for God to rescue the lost “from the domain of darkness,” bringing them “into the kingdom of the Son he loves.” Pray that we will see a revived Church with power to reach the lost in our day (Colossians 1:13).

29 Pray that it is time for the Lord to do a “new thing” in churches across this nation. Ask God for movements of the Spirit to spring up and for the gospel to go forth across our nation like “streams in the wasteland” (Isaiah 43:19).

30 Ask God to stir a new movement of His Spirit in the Church so that believers will revere His name and “the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays.” May now be the time for revival to awaken the Church with hope in Christ and passion for the lost (Malachi 4:2).

31 Pray that now is the time for God to respond to the urgent prayers of His people with the assurance that “I am making everything new!” Pray that this year we will see the greatest outpouring of His Spirit in our day (Revelation 21:5).