



First Friday Fast 2020 August Prayer Guide

When SCBO president Ryan Strother announced the First Friday Fast 2020 initiative at our annual meeting last November, COVID-19 was not in our vocabulary. When I thought of face masks, it was about football. George Floyd died under the knee of a police officer, the cry for liberty and justice for all again challenges our nation. We anticipated 2020 to be a divisive year because of the election, still an issue, but now just one of many.

Friday, August 7, marks our eighth day of prayer and fasting in 2020. We continue to pray for the five prompts of the initiative; the prayer for awakening seems urgent. Will the current physical, social, political, economic, and cultural circumstances cause us to cry out for revival? It must.

Give me one divine moment when God acts, and I say that moment is far superior to all the human efforts of man throughout the centuries.

—Dennis F. Kinlaw President, Asbury College 1968-1981, 1986-1991

Recently I read the account of the Asbury revival in 1970. ([One Divine Moment: The Account of the Asbury Revival of 1970](#)) Robert Coleman wrote in the forward:

One of these divine moments came on February 3, 1970. The visitation occurred in Wilmore, Kentucky, a small town near Lexington. While many students across America were burning down buildings and rioting in the streets, students in this college community were strangely drawn to their knees to pray. (p. 10)

Harold Spann, Assistant to the President, Asbury College writes in a chapter titled “Crisis and Opportunity:”

Our day is one of confusion and disillusionment. The optimism of the early part of the twentieth century has been destroyed by the harsh realities of a warring world. The question in the theological circles now is whether there is any basis for hope. The theologians search. The secular world wonders. The institutions which have been the heart of our society and our glory are now under brutal attack. The foundations tremble. Old norms are challenged. Many want to determine their own laws. The darkness has deepened, and man has lost his way. Worse—he has lost his nerve. (p. 82)

"Anytime you see revival, you can always point back to some praying figures," says Tim Beougher, Billy Graham professor of evangelism and church growth at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Beougher also notes the revival came during a time of intense unrest in America, particularly among students. Demonstrations were taking place at universities nationwide. In May of 1970, several unarmed students were shot and killed at Kent State University. Multiple universities canceled their spring commencement exercises for fear of violence.

<http://www.bpnews.net/54265/southern-baptists-remember-50th-anniversary-of-historic-asbury-revival>

Donald Whitney writes:

Perhaps no year in modern history so parallels the turmoil of 2020 than 1968. The assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert F. Kennedy, the widespread riots, the major cities aflame (literally and socially) with racial tensions, the political turmoil of an election year epitomized by the violence surrounding the Democratic National Convention, the marches and demonstrations against the unpopular Vietnam War—all these were embroiling and dividing America in 1968.

There was even a global pandemic: the Hong Kong flu killed more than a million people worldwide. Sound familiar?

...But in retrospect, it's encouraging to realize that rumbling beneath it all, the [Jesus Movement](#) was gathering momentum as a work of God's power that would flourish across the country in the years immediately following.

...While I wouldn't consider it comparable to the First Great Awakening (ca. 1730s and 1740s), the Second Great Awakening (ca. 1800-1830), or the Prayer Revival of 1859, it was almost certainly the closest thing to a movement of God in scale and influence we have seen since.

...Unprecedented numbers of young people in churches, colleges, and seminaries mobilized for prayer, Bible studies, and evangelism. Countless lives were changed, and the effects of the Jesus Movement continue to this day.

Christians have prayed that the world would see that the solutions of man are ultimately hopeless in terms of changing hearts and societies in the deepest ways. ...Could it be that the Lord would bring out of the chaos of 2020 something like He did out of 1968, but in even more dramatic and global ways? We know that He can do this, for Christians affirm with Job, "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted" (Job 42:2).

But let it not be that we do not see a powerful, Christ-exalting, Gospel-centered, Bible-based, world-changing, congregation-revitalizing, church-planting, missionary-sending, pandemic-stopping, injustice-smashing moving of the Holy Spirit in our time because we do not ask for it (James 4:2). ...let us pray in faith, "Lord, do it again; greater, broader, and deeper than ever before."

<http://biblicalspirituality.org/the-jesus-movement-followed-1968-what-will-follow-2020/>

Daniel Henderson writes in *How to Pray in a Crisis: A 4-Step Guide to Renewal*:

“We learn to pray with renewed dependence, even desperation, in a season of crisis. ... I believe that most people, at a deep level, want to be a vital part of a divine moment when supernatural things happen and life as we know it permanently changes for the sake of the gospel. ... Our instinctive reactions to a crisis often pull back the covers on our concealed insecurities, doubts, and vulnerable places in our faith. ... Christ often strips away the superficial, the tangential, the unreliable—and drives us to the things that matter most. ... [E]xtraordinary prayer as taught and modeled in the New Testament... has been historically linked to seasons of spiritual awakening, especially in times of crisis.” (p. 12-15)

The revival historian J. Edwin Orr writes about the days before the awakening of 1857-1858 (*The Event of the Century: The 1857-1858 Awakening*). He quotes Bishop Warren Candler:

“In the midst of all its plenty and pride, the nation woke one morning to find that the glory was all a dream ... a repetition of the old, old story of a people grown great by godliness, gradually departing from the true God in the worship of Mammon, futilely prostrated by its idolatry.

So whether such a panic had been caused by God, apart from the laws of trade, or whether it had been produced by God, working through those laws, it was treated by many contemporaries as the call of God to all His people to repentance, and God’s call to the whole nation to amend its backslidden and apostate ways.” (p. 19)

Businessman Jeremiah Lamphier, burdened about the sinfulness of New York City, called for a noon-hour prayer meeting. Six people came to the first prayer meeting, September 23, 1857. Within six months, ten thousand businessmen gathered daily for prayer.

Revival swept the city, and the whole nation paid attention. By 1858 people were gathered every night in cities and small towns all over America for prayer. In two years, *one million* new believers were added to churches in America, out of a population of thirty million. (J. Edwin Orr, *The Light of the Nations*, 103-105) A revival of the same proportion today could mean *ten million* new believers added to His church, in America alone! Imagine what that could mean if it also fueled our passion for taking the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Two years later, the civil war began; over 620,000 American soldiers died on the battlefield, many were converted during the *Prayer Revival*. The nation had been prepared for the crisis to come.

Orr points out it was not the bank panic of October 1857 that ushered in the revival. He writes, *“Not the failure of the banks, but rather the success of intercessory prayer services... four months of prayer and repentance before the great gatherings and crowded assemblies”* (p. 20-21)

It is not just American. Avery Willis writes about the revival in the late 1960s among the Javanese in Indonesia, “the largest group of people to ever become Christians out of a Muslim background.” The revival followed “a ruthless communist coup d’état on September 30, 1965, plunged Indonesia into a bloodbath ...that brought death to approximately half a million people.” (p. 12)

“I believe God prepares people and countries for response to the gospel. The glove of circumstances is worn by a purposeful God who desires to save the world. Inscribed on each finger of the glove are the words: culture, politics, society, economics, and religion. ...the hand of God moves in all the activities of men to produce a responsiveness to the gospel throughout the world” (p. 4)

“The failures of other religions to meet the spiritual needs of the Javanese plowed furrows where the message of the gospel was planted and now thrives.” (p. 14) —Avery Willis Indonesian Revival: Why Two Million Came to Christ

I return to the words of Harold Spann in *One Divine Moment*:

Man has tried his best devices. They have failed. Perhaps the despair of finding any human way of deliverance, coupled with the threat of impending catastrophe, will bring men to face reality. It has happened before. In fact, the greatest national revivals of the past have come during the darkest periods of church history. In such hours of hopelessness, men have looked up in the night and found the stars still shining. Sometimes these awakenings have saved the nation from disaster. In other times they have prepared the church to face judgments to come.

What it will be in our generation, no one now can say, but the Almighty has come to stand in the midst of the clamor and turmoil of the world to repeat His invitation. “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14 RSV).

Now is the hour of decision. Man must bring himself to participate in a divine moment of redeeming grace. No one can afford to gamble on when this opportunity may end or what the future holds. Finally, the future holds nothing but God. (p. 82-83)

Remembering what God did in the midst of one divisive period in American history should motivate us to pray for it again. Crisis does not guarantee revival, many thought 9/11 would be followed by revival. Claude King asks: “Could this plague (COVID-19) be from God? (2 Chronicles 7:13 “...send pestilence among my people.”) If so, what does He want to accomplish? Is God seeking to restore righteousness through His judgments? (See **Isaiah 26:9-10**) If so, are we cooperating with God, or are we opposing His work? If we fail to respond to His discipline, he will intensify the discipline.” (**Leviticus 26**) (See *Fresh Encounter: Experiencing God's Power for Spiritual Awakening* by Henry & Richard Blackaby and Claude King)

PRAYER GUIDE

2 Chronicles 7:14 *“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*

We understand these words were to Solomon, King of Israel, the “land” was Israel. We are not Israel, and God is not American. We are not a covenant nation. That is why the church’s spiritual state is the key to the nation knowing the blessing of God. If we are not following Jesus, there is no hope for the nation. *“A revived church is the only hope for a dying world.”* — Andrew Murray

1 Peter 2:9-10 *...now the people of God...*

Galatians 3:29

1 Corinthians 10:11

Prayer Prompts:

Followers of Jesus are the *“My people who are called by My name.”*

John 1:12-14

Ephesians 2:12-22 Be reminded of the unity we have in Jesus.

God’s people need to respond in unity; don’t expect the world to respond to Him, we must lead the way in response from hearts unified by the gospel. Jesus taught us to pray using plural pronouns – **Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1; Ephesians 6:18**

Praise Him with the Names that remind us of who He is, and who we are in Him:

“My name” — The Name by which we have been called
“Lord, you are _____”

“My people” — Identity in Christ *“Lord I am _____ in You”*

(*Humility—Hunger—Holiness* outline from Steve Gaines:

<http://www.bpnews.net/49163/an-appeal-to-rightly-apply-2-chronicles-714>)

Humility — *“will humble themselves”*

Humility is always the place to start as we approach Almighty God. We are a proud people.

Psalms 51:17 *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-- These, O God, You will not despise.”*

1 Peter 5:5-6 “All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time,

“Clothe yourselves with humility” — same word used of Jesus, **John 13:4** “So he got up from supper, laid aside his outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around himself.”

John 13:14-15 “So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you.”

Revive Our Hearts: “Proud People vs. Broken People” (See pages 8-9)

Downloadable Bookmark or order: <https://www.reviveourhearts.com/articles/brokenness-bookmark-the-heart-god-revives/> Podcast: <https://www.reviveourhearts.com/podcast/revive-our-hearts/are-you-proud-person-or-broken-person/>

Also see *Come to the Lord’s Table* by Claude King — *Humble Yourself*, p. 85-86; and *Return to Me: God’s Plea and Promise to His Church* by Claude King, p. 109

Lord, I confess I need humility in _____

Hunger — “pray and seek My face”

“We also have the opportunity to learn to pray beyond the crisis in a new lifestyle of intimacy with the Lord that strengthens us with daily grace and resets our hearts toward His purpose for our lives on this earth.” (How to Pray in a Crisis, Henderson, p. 12)

Psalm 27:8 “When You said, “Seek My face,” My heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.”

Seeking His face before we seek His hand — **intimacy with Jesus – relationship**

“New Testament awakenings were Christ-centered.” — T.W. Hunt, *Christ-Centered Revival* (National Prayer Conference, NOBTS, June 1990, p. 11)

“Revival is ultimately Christ Himself, seen, felt, heard, living, active moving in and through His body on earth.” — Stephen Olford (Henderson, *Old Paths, New Power*, p. 221)

John 14:9

Hebrews 1:3

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Numbers 6:24-26

Colossians 1:19

Isaiah 59:2

Holiness — “and turn from their wicked ways”

Job 42:5-6 “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore, I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

“Much praying we hear today is focused on relief from the consequences of disobedience rather than focusing on the disobedience itself.” — Gary Frost

“The fruit of repentance is a changed lifestyle. Confession of sin is not enough. Confession is merely agreeing with God about our sin. That is the first step, but it is not repentance. Sorrow for sin is not enough either. ... A broken heart over our sin leads to repentance. Repentance requires a radical putting away of the sin—radical surgery. You must get rid of any idol of the heart, tear down any stronghold, and remove yourself from tempting situations.” (Fresh Encounter, p. 52-53)

See *Come to the Lord’s Table* by Claude King — *Repent from Sin*, p. 50-51; and *Return to Me: God’s Plea and Promise to His Church* by Claude King, p. 110

“Lord, we repent and turn from _____”

Matthew 3:8; 4:17

2 Corinthians 7:9-11

Luke 24:47

2 Peter 3:9

Acts 3:19

Revelation 2-3

Hear, Forgive, and Heal — “I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:15

1 John 1:9; 5:15

Malachi 3:7 “Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord of Armies.”

Hebrews 4:14-16 Approach the throne of grace. “*approach*”— used consistently in Hebrews to represent a person approaching God **Hebrews 7:25; 10:22; 11:5**

Only when we are forgiven of our sins — **Hebrews 7:25; 10:22**

Through Jesus we are given the privilege of a personal relationship, intimacy.

“*with boldness*” — confidence, courage; we can come without fear, in reverence

“*the throne of grace*” — know the grace of forgiveness

Gospel Prayer:

In Jesus, there is nothing I can do that would make Him love me more, and nothing I have done that makes Him love me less.

Jesus’ presence and approval are all I need for everlasting joy.

As Jesus has been to me, so I will be to others.

I will measure His love by the cross and His power by the resurrection.

— J.D. Greear, *Above All: The Gospel is the Source of the Church’s Renewal*

The Heart God Revives

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Ps. 51:17

Proud People . . .

- focus on the failures of others.
- have a critical, fault-finding spirit; look at everyone else's faults with a microscope, but their own with a telescope.
- are self-righteous; look down on others.
- have an independent, self-sufficient spirit.
- have to prove that they are right.
- claim rights; have a demanding spirit.
- are self-protective of their time, their rights, and their reputation.
- desire to be served.
- desire to be a success.
- desire self-advancement.
- have a drive to be recognized and appreciated.
- are wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked.
- have a subconscious feeling, "This ministry/church is privileged to have me and my gifts;" think of what they can do for God.
- feel confident in how much they know.
- are self-conscious.

Broken People . . .

- are overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need.
- are compassionate; can forgive much because they know how much they have been forgiven.
- esteem all others better than themselves.
- have a dependent spirit; recognize their need for others.
- are willing to yield the right to be right.
- yield their rights; have a meek spirit.
- are self-denying.
- are motivated to serve others.
- are motivated to be faithful and to make others a success.
- desire to promote others.
- have a sense of their own unworthiness; are thrilled that God would use them at all.
- are eager for others to get the credit and rejoice when others are lifted up.
- have a heart attitude that says, "I don't deserve to have a part in any ministry;" know that they have nothing to offer God except the life of Jesus flowing through their broken lives.
- are humbled by how very much they have to learn.
- are not concerned with self at all.

Proud People . . . (cont.)

- keep others at arms' length.
- are quick to blame others.
- are unapproachable or defensive when criticized.
- are concerned with being respectable, with what others think; work to protect their own image and reputation.
- find it difficult to share their spiritual need with others.
- want to be sure that no one finds out when they have sinned; their instinct is to cover up.
- have a hard time saying, "I was wrong; will you please forgive me?"
- tend to deal in generalities when confessing sin.
- are concerned about the consequences of their sin.
- are remorseful over their sin, sorry that they got found out or caught.
- wait for the other to come and ask forgiveness when there is a misunderstanding or conflict in a relationship.
- compare themselves with others and feel worthy of honor.
- are blind to their true heart condition.
- don't think they have anything to repent of.
- don't think they need revival, but are sure that everyone else does.

Broken People . . . (cont.)

- are willing to risk getting close to others and to take risks of loving intimately.
- accept personal responsibility and can see where they are wrong in a situation.
- receive a criticism with a humble, open spirit.
- are concerned with being real; what matters to them is not what others think but what God knows; are willing to die to their own reputation.
- are willing to be open and transparent with others as God directs.
- once broken, don't care who knows or who finds out; are willing to be exposed because they have nothing to lose.
- are quick to admit failure and to seek forgiveness when necessary.
- are able to acknowledge specifics when confessing their sin.
- are grieved over the cause, the root of their sin.
- are truly, genuinely repentant over their sin, evidenced in the fact that they forsake that sin.
- take the initiative to be reconciled when there is misunderstanding or conflict in relationships; they race to the cross; they see if they can get there first, no matter how wrong the other may have been.
- compare themselves to the holiness of God and feel a desperate need for His mercy.
- walk in the light.
- realize they have need of a continual heart attitude of repentance.
- continually sense their need for a fresh encounter with God and for a fresh filling of His Holy Spirit.

FIRST FRIDAY FAST 2020

Praying and
Fasting for
Supernatural
Gospel Impact

DENOMINEE PROCESS AND FUTURE TEAM

Seeking His future for Ohio Baptists

CHURCH REVITALIZATION

Seeking His plan for the church

CHURCH PLANTING

Seeking His places for church plants

PASTORS AND LEADERS

Seeking His favor for pastors, leaders & their families

AWAKENING

Seeking supernatural gospel impact for Ohio & beyond

Isaiah 58:12 *“Some of you will rebuild the ancient ruins; you will restore the foundations laid long ago; you will be called the repairer of broken walls, the restorer of streets where people live.”*

HOW TO PRAY FOR AMERICA - BY PRAYING INTO SEVEN CENTERS OF INFLUENCE IN OUR NATION — from the National Day of Prayer Task Force (<https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/prayforamerica>)

GOVERNMENT

Pray for your leaders, as well as the judges in our courts. Ask God to grant them wisdom to act with integrity.

(1 Kings 3:28; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Exodus 18:21; Proverbs 11:3; Romans 13:1-2)

Federal Government

Pray for our President, Vice President, Cabinet Members, Congressional Leaders, Supreme Court Justices

State Government

Pray for our Governor, Executive Leaders, Legislative Leaders, Judicial Leaders

Local Government

Pray for your Mayor, City Council, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Judges, County Officials

MILITARY

“He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them...and encouraged them with these words: ‘Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him. With him only is the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles...” (2 Chronicles 32:6-8)

Courage and dependence on God (Psalm 91)

Perseverance to endure hardship (Isaiah 43:2; Deuteronomy 31:6)

Divine protection from the enemy (Romans 5:1-5)

Wise leaders who inspire respect from those under their command (Romans 13:1)

Confidence and vision to persist in the face of negative publicity (Psalm 18:31-39)

Protection and support for the families they have left behind (Romans 1:8-10)

Chaplains who are divinely appointed to deliver hope and spiritual strength (Proverbs 4:11)

MEDIA

“...Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8)

The decision makers within the media to realize they can make a profit by producing family-friendly projects (Proverbs 8:10-11)

Christians in media to find favor and be filled with creative ideas that bring kingdom principles and life-giving messages to the public (Proverbs 2:1-15)

Celebrities to be provided with repeated opportunities to hear and receive salvation (Proverbs 8:35)

BUSINESS

“I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. He is a master craftsman, expert in working...” (Exodus 31:3-4)

Integrity among Christian workers so that they win the right to be heard (I Chronicles 29:17)

Impartation of ideas and resources to open principled businesses, especially in areas that need an economic boost (Psalm 132:15)

Christian workers to display Christ-like humility and service to their co-workers (Philippians 2:3)

EDUCATION

“If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:3-6)

A return to truth and Judeo-Christian ethics (Psalm 1:1-2)

A safe atmosphere conducive to learning

Excellence in educators (Exodus 18:20-21)

Equal opportunities for every student to achieve their full potential (Philippians 1:9)

CHURCH

“So then, just as you received Jesus Christ as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” (Colossians 2:6-8)

The church would find a new zeal and commitment to the mission and purpose of Jesus Christ (Matt 22:37)

Unity with and among churches that reveal God’s love to the world (John 17:23)

A return to the absolutes of God’s Word (Psalm 1:1-3)

Integrity—that God’s people look and act differently from the world (I Peter 2:11; 1 Corinthians 13:6)

A holy fear of the Lord released in the heart of God’s people (Proverbs 9:10)

FAMILY

“If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.” (Mark 3:25)

Unity and love in individual families that reach out in hospitality toward others (Romans 12:9-13)

The re-establishment of relationships between parents and children (Malachi 4:5-6)

A return to family values that serve the nation as a whole (Job 22:21-22)

A return to the biblical mandate to train their children at home in the fear of the Lord and not leave the responsibility to others (Proverbs 22:6)



PrayOhio! initiative is a **Cooperative Program** ministry of the
State Convention of Baptists in Ohio Bible
Teaching/Leadership Resource Group
For more prayer resources contact:
Steve Hopkins SteveHopkins@scbo.org (614) 601-6280
scbo.org/pray

