

## INTRODUCING THE CHURCH FAMILY TO THE MONTH OF SPIRITUAL REVIVAL AND RENEWAL

(This can take place during the announcement period of the worship service the week before the revival month begins)

(A sample question and answer format. Can be a conversation between two people.)

**Question:** I hear our church is beginning a month of spiritual revival and renewal. What's this all about?

**Answer:** This month of spiritual revival and renewal is the beginning of an on-going emphasis which will help make every member a "lively stone" of God's church in these last days. This program will help us to be an Empowered Church. By putting revival first, we're recognizing that, if we're to grow as a church, we must grow from the inside out.

**Question:** What will this look like?

**Answer:** We're going to begin our revival month by focusing on the necessity of prayer and Bible study in the development of a healthy Christian life.

**Question:** What do you mean "the necessity"?

**Answer:** It goes without saying that unless we breathe and eat we can't exist. In the same way, the vitality of our spiritual life is in direct proportion to the prayer and Bible study that we put into it. Prayer is the breath of the soul, and Bible study is the nourishment of a growing Christian life.

**Question:** So what can we expect from this month of revival?

**Answer:** Next Sabbath we'll begin with a strong emphasis on the devotional life. By the time we finish this special month, we'll have learned ways and means of how to implement prayer and Bible study in every aspect of our lives. In short, during this next month we'll focus on developing a devotional life.

Next Sabbath we'll receive the first in a series of bulletin inserts--actually a page for each day of the week. We'll take these home and read them. The emphasis the first week will be on how to develop a personal devotional life. The second week the emphasis will be on taking our devotional life to the next level, between husbands and wives. No one will be left out. Singles are included, because each one of us will be encouraged to have a prayer partner. The third week of spiritual renewal and revival will feature the importance of family worship and the blessing it is to the children.

There will be practical suggestions that can be implemented to make family worship something the children actually look forward to. Our goal for that week will be to encourage every family to have family worship every day, and there are some good ideas on how to make that happen.

The last week of spiritual renewal in our Empowered Church program will be to bring the devotional life to the entire church family. By that time, we'll already be enjoying the blessing that comes from praying and studying the Word together at home and with family and friends. But the old saying, that families that pray together stay together, is not something that happens just at home. Some churches have an opening prayer, a prayer for the offering, a congregational prayer, and a closing prayer. Other churches have all of this, plus they have a department of prayer ministries. But the most successful churches have gone to the next level--everything they do is bathed with prayer and the Word of God. That is the kind of Empowered Church we want to be.

**Question:** Why don't we pray right now that God will bless the time we've set aside this next month to change us all from the inside out? (prayer)

#