

EXCERPT



Longing for Revival *From Holy Discontent to Breakthrough Faith*

January 14, 2020 | \$17, 240 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-4591-0

Revival begins with God, but it's lived out through us. James Choung and Ryan Pfeiffer have seen revival in their own ministries, with remarkable transformation in both individuals and communities. They unpack what revival looks like, how Christians can anticipate it, and how they can experience it, providing a model of revival leadership for Christians who want to facilitate and spread revival in their contexts.

Why Revival?

It's important to long for revival for a few reasons: First, it has some biblical basis. The Psalmist prays, "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" It's right there: a prayer for the revival of the Jewish people and their faith in God. We'll make a stronger biblical case throughout the book for the concept of revival, but for now, wouldn't that be a great prayer for the Christian church?

It is also historic. From Pentecost to the present day, revivals have dotted the timeline of Christian history. There were times when Christian spirituality seemed to recede into the background, but when revivals arrived, new movements sprouted up that brought spiritual vitality back to the church—from the Franciscans to the Moravians to the Pentecostals to the Korean Presbyterians to the East Africans.

It could be strategic. Eighteenth-century pastor Jonathan Edwards saw the strategic nature of revival. As recounted by professor Richard Lovelace, Edwards believed, "Every major advance of the kingdom of God on earth is signaled and brought about by a general outpouring of the Holy Spirit."

And in the twenty-first century, Christianity hasn't died away, although much of its center has shifted away from the Western world to Africa, Asia, and South America. In his book *Global Awakening*, Mark Shaw shows that Christianity is surging worldwide, and he believes that revival is the main delivery system for this tremendous growth: "Global revivals . . . are at the heart of the global resurgence of Christianity."

Revivals are happening all around the world. And I don't want to be someone who's on the outside looking in. What if we were understanding and preparing ourselves, so that if revival were to come through our lives or land, we could be ready to be a part of it?

Perhaps more importantly, *revival* is a powerful word.

Our culture tries to co-opt the word. The word *revive* is used in all kinds of marketing from skin care to skateboards, craft beers to conferences, massage spas to mattresses. Even pop albums are titled *Revival*. It's almost a commercial cliché.

But more deeply, to revive something means that it must've been either dead or close to dead. Life had seeped away. Lungs stopped breathing. Hearts beat no longer. Flesh rotted away so that all that could be seen was a valley of dry bones. Something died within us or around us.

When something is revived, however, it comes back to life.

It's resuscitated.

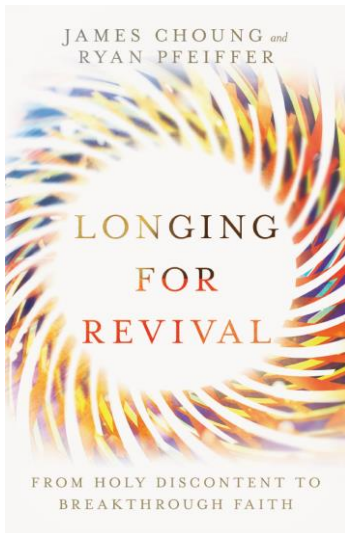


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In faith-speak, it's resurrected.

We seek that kind of resurrection in our lives, communities, societies, and ultimately, throughout the world, because right now, much of it reeks of death.

The world needs leaders who are resuscitated, resurrected, revived. No revival has happened in history without revived people. We need leaders who know how to help others be revived, and that's not going to happen merely with good management principles, solid plans and execution, or clever social media campaigns. Sure, they can be important and helpful, but they are merely the skin and bones. Revival needs to be infused with breath, blood, soul, and life.

And that only comes through God's Spirit.

But before we scare anyone off, we also know that revival without good, wise, feet-on-the-ground strategic leadership will quickly fizzle. It's the difference between a weekend retreat and an ongoing work of God's Spirit among us.

We seek the intersection of strategic and spiritual leadership that leads to revival, where structures and mystery meet.

We need form and fire.

We need revival for the rest of us.

And sure, we can't manufacture revivals. We definitely can't make them happen. But they can break out. And for revivals to last, they must be led.

That's where this book is going: If revival leadership is the kind of ministry leadership needed before and during revival, what would it look like to exercise revival leadership in this day and age? This book is not a history book on past revivals, nor is it an analysis of broad-scale dynamics for revival. Those volumes have been written. Instead, we want to equip you to prepare for and lead revival effectively.

Our hope is that if revival comes, this book will have equipped you so that instead of missing out, you will find yourself experiencing and leading in it. We hope that by the time you finish reading, you too will also long for revival.

—Adapted from the introduction, "Why Revival?"

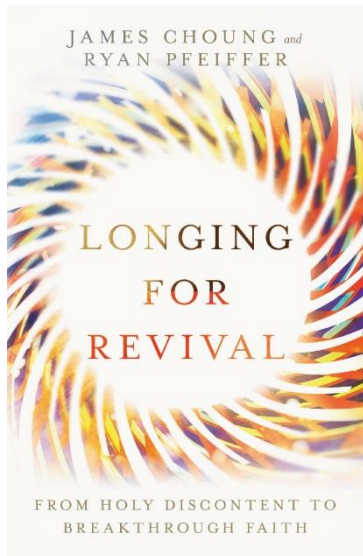


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Every Generation Needs Its Own Revival.

"I love spiritually insightful leadership books, and this is a gem! The chapter on the 'breakthrough U-curve' will totally change how you approach God with your disappointments and failures. And the genius of the 'mystery/strategy paradox' is worth the price of the book all by itself. Enjoy!"

—**Doug Schaupp**, national director of evangelism, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, coauthor, *I Once Was Lost* and *Breaking the Huddle*

"In my weaker moments I'm content with mere programs of our own making. But deep down I long to be a part of a genuine work of God. *Longing for Revival* is bursting with the clarity, inspiration, and wise counsel we all need to get involved in what God himself is already doing around us."

—**Don Everts**, author of *The Reluctant Witness* and *The Spiritually Vibrant Home*

"Every generation needs its own revival. My generation of boomers experienced the Jesus movement. We witnessed thousands of counterculture people, who had said no to organized religion, say yes to radically following Jesus. It's time for a twenty-first-century awakening. These thoughtful pages are filled with hope that may break up the fallow ground and prepare our hearts for a fresh move of heaven."

—**Mark Foreman**, lead pastor of North Coast Calvary Chapel, Carlsbad, California, author of *Wholly Jesus* and *Never Say No*

"James Choung and Ryan Pfeiffer take you on a remarkable journey in *Longing for Revival* by authentically sharing their own search for revival. They share the ups and downs of their faith all the while helping us believe that revival is possible today. If you long to see revival and want to be a part of one, you'll want to read this book!"

—**Dave Ferguson**, lead pastor of Community Christian Church, Naperville, Illinois, and author of *Hero Maker*

"A powerful and must-read primer for anyone longing for revival. Choung and Pfeiffer vulnerably present a thoughtful, biblically grounded framework, without silver bullets or shallow formulas."

—**Tom Lin**, president and chief executive officer, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA



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James Choung (DMin, Fuller Theological Seminary) is vice president of strategy and innovation for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA. He has been in campus ministry for over twenty years and previously served as InterVarsity's national director of evangelism. He is the author of *True Story* and *Real Life*, and he speaks frequently at campuses, churches, and conferences. Ordained with the Association of Vineyard Churches, he previously served on the pastoral staff of a Boston-area urban church plant, a megachurch in Seoul, and a house church in Los Angeles.

"At this time in history, there is a critical need for serious answers to the condition of our world. This book is honest, convincing, hopeful, redemptive, and thorough, and provides a way for every follower of Jesus to become part of the answer, no matter your age and place in life. It is a must-read for every church leader!"

—**Tammy Dunahoo**, vice president of US Operations, the Foursquare Church

"Nothing more is needed in the church other than revival at the present time. James and Ryan have done us a great service by bringing forth *Longing for Revival*. I strongly believe that this book serves all Christian leaders in all spectrums of leadership, because revival should be the prayer of every church in every part of the world."

—**Robel C. Disasa**, general secretary of Evangelical Students Union of Ethiopia (EvaSUE)/IFES-Ethiopia

"Ryan Pfeiffer and James Choung share their honest, personal journeys, dig deeply into the character of God and his word, and give an overview of global revival history to see what can be learned from it. And there is a lot! The book is brimming with thoughtful wisdom and experience, and is practical and visual in its explanations. As I read it I was challenged, convicted, and energized. This is revival theology at its best!"

—**Tor Erling Fagermoen**, regional secretary IFES Europe

"It is so helpful when someone tackles a word or theme when there are so many opinions as to what it means. James and Ryan have done a great service to all of us by doing just that. As a friend once said to me, 'The problem with words is, you do not know where they have been.' This is a book that will feed the hungry pilgrim and renew a longing prayer that lies within so many hearts."

—**Phil Strout**, national director, Vineyard USA

"For years now, I have been waiting for a book like this to come across my desk. As a pastor in a rapidly shifting context, I have myself been longing for revival, and this book has nourished my imagination. Revival can be an experienced reality today."

—**Tara Beth Leach**, senior pastor of PazNaz, author of *Emboldened*

"There's no better time than the present for a grounded, holistic, and strategic book on revival. James Choung and Ryan Pfeiffer have masterfully crafted a timely book that deals with head, heart, and hands in sustaining times of revival. Longing for, pursuing, and persisting toward revival are important precursors to sustaining and multiplying a move of God's Spirit among a people. You cannot read their book on revival without being profoundly moved to pray, 'Lord, do it again!' Read this book, learn from their experiences, and be shaped through their insights into all it takes to be ready for a move of God."

—**Ed Stetzer**, Billy Graham Distinguished Chair of Church, Mission, and Evangelism, executive director of the Billy Graham Center, Wheaton College



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Ryan Pfeiffer is Next Gen pastor at North Coast Calvary Chapel in Carlsbad, California. He previously served with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA as the divisional director for San Diego.

"This is a much-needed book to awaken our hearts with a longing for Jesus' glory to be revealed to a lost and broken world. Just a moment of his presence can transform a community, and this book will build your faith for another Great Awakening."

—**Gerard Long**, president of Awakening to God Ministries, former president of Alpha USA

"Since college, Ryan and I have shared a heartfelt desire for transformation. Ryan has been a tireless fighter for change: in our lives, our families, our communities, and our world. Full of the fire for abundant life, Ryan remains a lifelong champion of revival, committed to the hope that something brighter is about to break through. The healer of souls is on the move! I hope that this book will ignite a fire in your soul to join the movement."

—**Jon Foreman**, Switchfoot

"This book will equip younger (and older) leaders to long for and lead revival. I deeply appreciate the balance James and Ryan bring, integrating sacrifice and blessing, humility and authority, acts of power and servanthood, love and prophetic courage, strategy and prayer, and evangelism and multiethnicity. Rarely do these concepts and practices come together in a healthy, mature, and sustainable vision of God at work reviving and revitalizing God's people. May God use this book in the lives of many!"

—**Rick Richardson**, professor of evangelism and leadership at Wheaton College, author of *You Found Me: New Research on How Unchurched Nones, Millennials, and Irreligious Are Surprisingly Open to Christian Faith*

"One thing we know is that revival is something from the heart of God. Church history has shown us that revival is crucial to any person, church, and society. I appreciate this book and its desire to help us understand something that is beautiful and strange yet very necessary to the awakening of the church and seeing reformation and transformation take place in society today."

—**Eric Johnson**, senior pastor of Bethel Church, Redding, California

"Many of us longing for spiritual revival have run the gamut of various how-to manuals and texts on the topic. Often, they have left us drier and emptier than when we started. In this book Choung and Pfeiffer lead us through the various elements of revival that address the head, heart, and hands. This book offers the stirrings of steps forward toward a spiritual revival that is necessary for the next generation of Christianity."

—**Soong-Chan Rah**, Milton B. Engbretson Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism at North Park Theological Seminary, author of *The Next Evangelicalism* and *Prophetic Lament*



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