

Epilogue

Everything that has happened in your heart as you have read this book and have activated its truth in your heart through the application exercises has been about crisis. In the beginning I told you that downpours begin with a crisis—a crisis of returning to God. But what do we do when the crisis is over?

You may be saying, “James, I’ve dealt with my sin in view of God’s holiness. I’ve repented and made restitution and reveled in the grace of the cross. I’m at a better place with God than I have been for a long time, but how do I keep it going? How do I keep the river flowing? How do I keep the downpour falling? How do I keep flourishing in my relationship with Christ? And what if I struggle, stumble, or fall?”

Those are the right questions to ask now. Let me give you a simple answer: when you *falter* in the process of continuous revival, you must *return* to the crisis. Live every moment of every day in continuous revival through the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit. Inevitably, you will stumble. When you do, go back through the weeks in this study and review these five pictures:

1. God on the Throne: A Picture of Holiness
2. Sin in the Mirror: A Picture of Brokenness
3. Self in the Dirt: A Picture of Repentance
4. Christ on the Cross: A Picture of Grace
5. Spirit in Control: A Picture of Power

These steps are a proven road to revival. If you lose your way, retrace your steps. I cannot overemphasize this point: when you fail in the process, return to the crisis. Personal revival is always available for every follower of Jesus Christ. When you realize that you’ve drifted away from a passionate pursuit of Christ, turn around, repent of the sin God shows you in the mirror, and take hold of the grace that is freely bestowed on all who believe.

This week I read the testimonies of 20 well-known Christian leaders in the book *They Found the Secret*. Though they led very different lives and had very diverse personalities, the spiritual lives of Hudson Taylor, Amy Carmichael, Oswald Chambers, Charles Finney, and other men and women whom God greatly used all exhibited a common pattern. All of the witnesses testified that a crisis in their Christian lives led them to experience the joy and power of a Spirit-filled life. In their lives and in yours and mine, the path that leads from a spiritually barren, dry wasteland to the abundant, overflowing life Jesus promised is the filling of the Holy Spirit.

- ❶ **If you want to get fired up by the testimonies of men and women who found the secret of living in the victory of personal revival, get a copy of *They Found the Secret* and be blessed as you read their stories.**

As you know, revival doesn’t come from trying harder or wanting it more. If it did, the church would be ablaze with fervent, obedient, fired-up worshipers. No, only one thing keeps the portals of heaven open, and it’s not anything we can pump up in our flesh. Downpours come when you stand under the super-

Throw away your umbrellas and enjoy the rain

natural flow and power of God's Spirit. Christ *in you* is your hope of glory; Christ *in you* satisfies and refreshes. Being fully and gloriously controlled by His Spirit is the secret of lasting, transforming joy that produces a deeply satisfying downpour.

I praise God for the work He has done in your heart as you have applied the truths of these pages.

➤ Close your study with a prayer of thanksgiving for all He has done.