

01

PASTOR ALEX'S WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT CONCERNING OCTOBERFAST

REVIVE US AGAIN

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*“Will you not revive us again, that
your people may rejoice in you?”*

Psalm 85:6

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What a year! COVID-19 has shaken up the world in ways we never could have foreseen. We have never gone through a time like this in our lifetime. Many of us have gone through losses, griefs, pains, and difficulties in unprecedented numbers.

At the same time, COVID-19 has provided a unique reshaping of perspectives. A time to reevaluate. A time to shake things up, and to let God rid us of what in us might be decaying, dying, unhealthy, and unsustainable.

02

In 2020, God has given us the chance to let the Church be stripped bare of any flash or show. We are left without the weekly routine and meeting place of our building. In many ways, we have been forced into a fast since March. Fasting is a way of shaking us and depriving us of our indulgence in things that are not God or which distract us from Him. Fasting disconnects us from the places or methods we use to numb ourselves, so that our hearts may be quieted and we may hear the voice of the Lord. We continue in the spirit of what God has been doing this year as we enter into OctoberFast 2020.

This year's theme is "**Revive Us Again**" and comes from Psalm 85:6: "*Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?*" In response to this season, we are calling upon God to not simply help us survive, but to revive us into the fullness of what it means to wholly serve Him. I believe we are in a moment where God is actively reviving our church, our city, our state, our nation, and our world to be awakened to who He is, and for the renewal of our land to reflect His Kingdom.

03

He is taking what is dead, what is decaying, what has fallen by the wayside, and he is reviving and resurrecting through the power of the blood of Jesus, which we plead over our world. And I believe that true revival of the land begins with the renewal of the Church.

Revival occurs throughout both Scripture, and history. As we proceed each week, we will look at stories of revival through this guide, through Bible Study, through our prayer times, and our drive-in and online worship experiences. We will learn how God has revived people and nations in the past, and what it means to be part of a revival today. And we will learn how the renewal and repentance of God's people personally and corporately facilitates revivals.

Where is it that you need to be revived? Where do you see our city or our nation needing to be revived from ways of death and decay into life, flourishing, and abundance? Where do we need God's grace and awakening in places and dreams you have considered to have passed? Where do you need God's resurrection power to bring life to what you have considered to be dead, dying, or forgotten? Where do you believe God is incapable of working because things seem too impossible, too terrifying, and too overwhelming to see a way out?

04

As we set aside distractions and disrupt our normal rhythms and routines through the restriction of our diets, may we become enabled to hear the voice of God awakening our own hearts, and showing us where we are able to be a part of the revival of our people. May we be open to how God will work in our hearts this OctoberFast.

My Hopes for this fast:

- That we'd let our personal time in the Word and in prayer reveal to us where God is longing for our own revival.
- That we'd know the transformative power of God for our society, expecting and praying for revival in our world.
- That we'd be drawn together in this time as a Body to love, support, and pray for each other.

Fully in Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex', written in a cursive style.

Pastor Alex