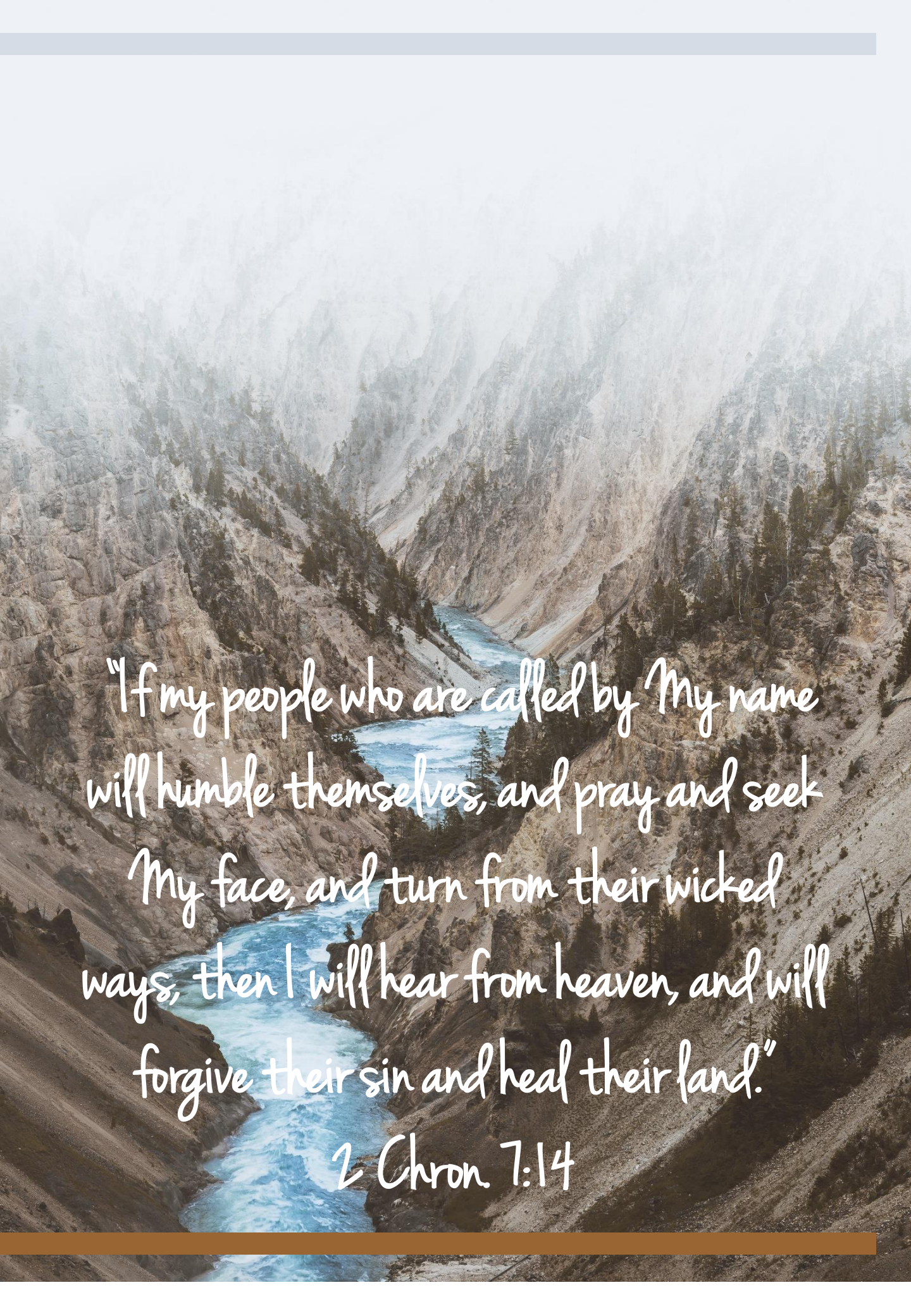


Week 40

Joel 2 Lifestyle



*What God is looking
for through
2 Chronicles 7:14*

A scenic view of a river flowing through a deep, rocky canyon. The river is a vibrant blue, contrasting with the grey and brown tones of the surrounding rock walls. The canyon walls are steep and rugged, with patches of green coniferous trees. The sky is overcast and grey, creating a somber atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image in a white, cursive font.

"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."

2 Chron. 7:14

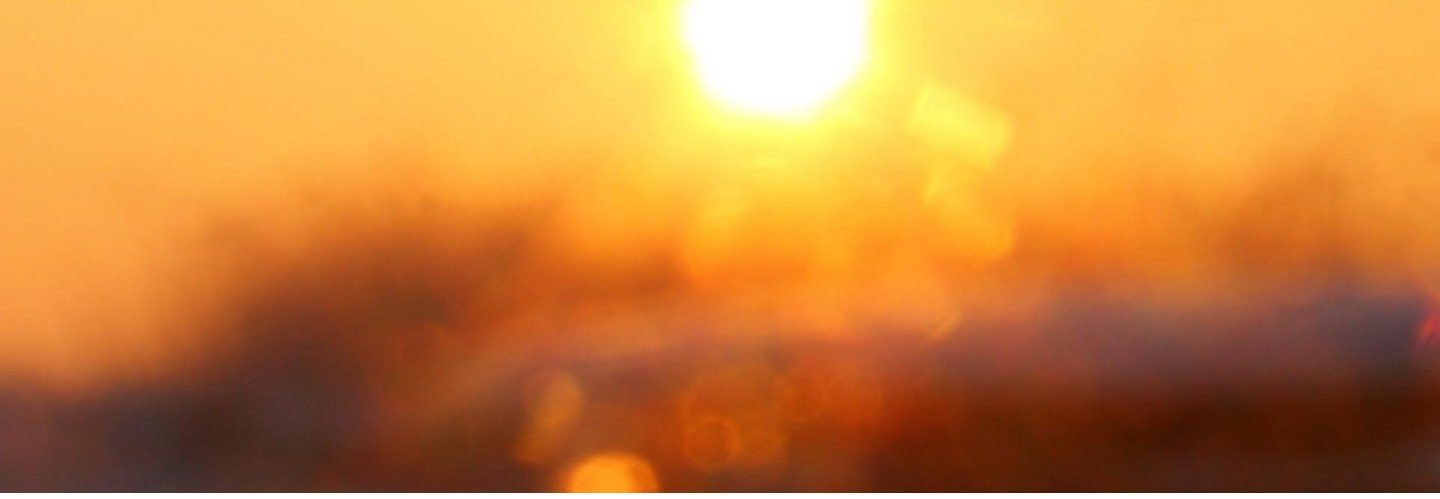
The Joel 2 lifestyle is not merely something that God came up with only during the time of Prophet Joel. It is what God has always insisted upon Israel and the Church throughout Scripture. God's constantly desires that His people humble themselves and gather to seek His face and pray.

Where else in the Bible do we see this?

You may recall that when Solomon built the temple, he dedicated it to the Lord (2 Chron. 2 to 7). The Shekinah glory of the Lord came and filled the House, so that the priests could not continue ministering. On the eighth day of the dedication, the Lord appeared by night to Solomon and told him that He had chosen the place for Himself.

Why did God raise up a temple in the land? It was because He was looking a place to dwell and rest.

He is looking for a place where people who are in full agreement with His heart and who love Him wholeheartedly will gather to seek His face. He is looking for a people whom He does not have to wrestle with, who will cry out to Him to contend for the very things that are on His heart!



God went on to tell Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7:13 -14 how the people of God should respond when there is crisis in the land. In verse 14, He tells Israel what He is looking for and how the people of God should respond. If His people respond rightly, God will intervene and heal their land; He will break in with revival.

2 Chronicles 7:14 is God's model on how His people should respond when there is crisis in the land, be it terrorism, natural disasters or economic, moral or truth crises. Note that this verse is addressed to God's people.

When there is increasing sin and perversion in the land, God does not look first to the unbelievers to turn from their wicked ways. Instead, God will look first to the Church to respond to Him and turn.

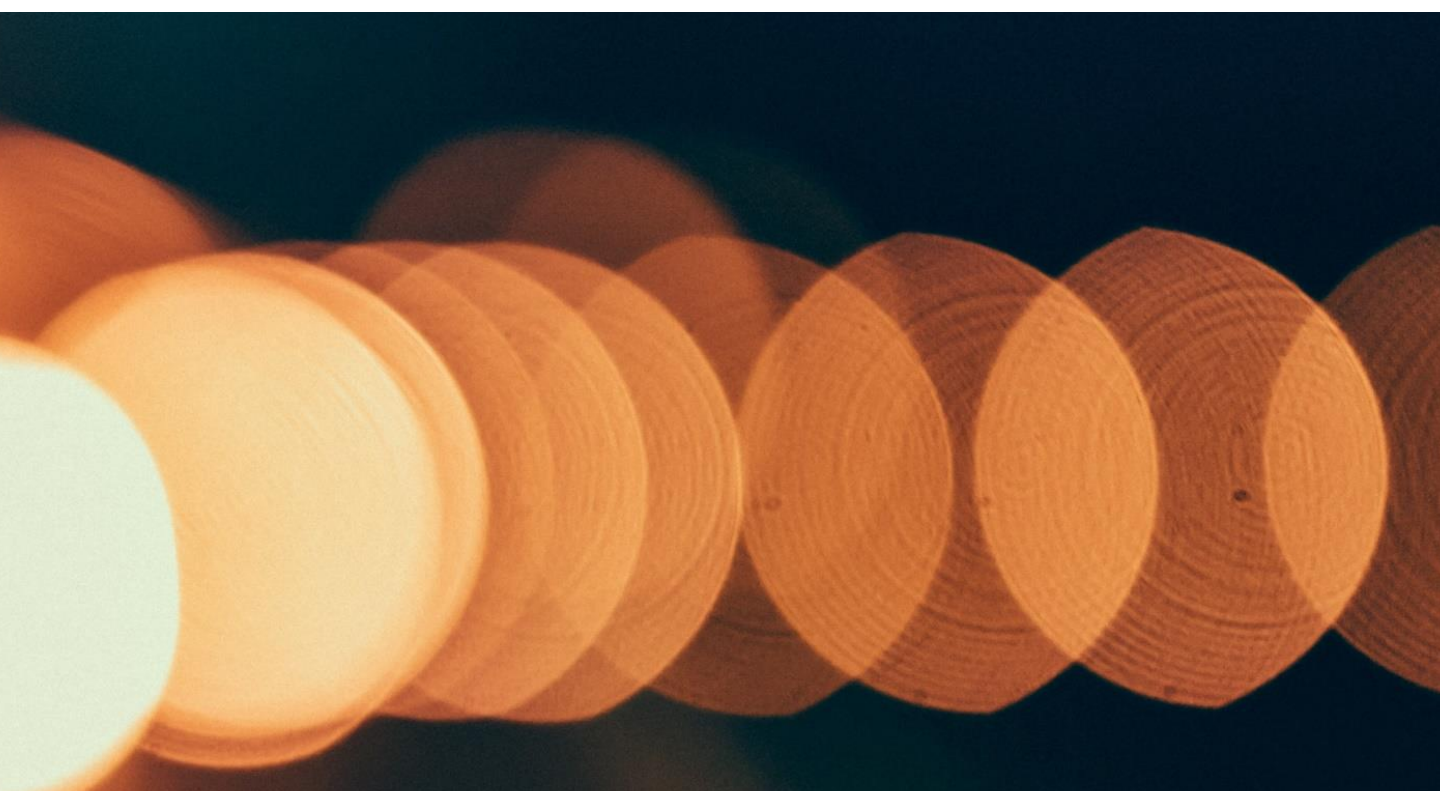
He wants the Church to turn to Him in wholeheartedness and deal with the sin that is in our hearts. He wants us to be honest with ourselves and to rend our hearts and not our garments.



More than just the individual response of wholeheartedness and rending of hearts, He wants us to *gather together to pray and seek His face*. In Solomon's time, the gathering was done in the temple. This often required the people to travel many days from different villages and towns in order to gather in Jerusalem. They have to set this as a priority and do it regardless of how inconvenient it can be.

Whatever their status in society, they have to humble themselves and gather in one place, as everyone is of equal standing before the throne of God.

Whatever their differences, they have to put them aside.



God is calling for national sacred assemblies where spiritual leaders from different denominations in the Body of Christ, charismatic or evangelical, gather in one location, in humility and like-mindedness, standing together as one in prayer and united around what is on the heart of God.



When the
agenda of God

becomes
our primary concern and consumes us,
we can put aside all our differences
and come together in
His love to pray.

When this happens in this land, God's heart will be moved and He will break in. God will heal our land. There will be revival and transformation.

More exciting than this is God's promise in verse 15 and 16. When we consistently walk out verse 14, which is in essence the Joel 2 lifestyle, God will respond with verses 15 and 16. He will be attentive to our prayers and His heart will be with us. He will pour forth revelations of who He is and His heart like never before.

*More than
revival,
the God of
revival
will be with us.*



The revelation of the name and the beauty of the Lord will be poured forth unto the Church in this land. This will fascinate our hearts and cause our hearts to come alive! We will be a people who know our God intimately and out of this knowledge of God, we will arise to shine and burn, partnering with Him in the midst of crises.

Ask ourselves, “Do we want revival more than God? Or do we want the God of revival more than revival?” God is looking for a people who fully love, desire and know Him. This is what 2 Chronicles 7:14 is about. This is what the Joel 2 lifestyle is about.

This is why God is calling for the Joel 2 lifestyle now. He is looking for a people who know Him intimately, and who will be loyal to Him at the place of prayer when He returns (Luke 18:7- 8). May the Church of Singapore be found worthy and live out 2 Chronicles 7:14!



Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 40

Take time to read through 2 Chronicles chapters 2 to 7. Try to feel God's heart and emotions as you read 2 Chron. 7:12 – 22. Feel His desires, His longings and the tenderness of His heart. What is God looking for in His people? What is it that God really desires and delights in?

Many of us want revival. Ask ourselves, "Why do we want revival? Do we want revival more than God? Or do we want the God of revival more than revival?"

Prayers for Week 40

Using Col. 1:9–10, pray for wisdom, spiritual understanding and conviction for the Church and for the spiritual leaders to know what God is looking for and have the resolve to walk worthy of the Lord in such a time as this.