

Romans 7:13-14 – “So that sin through the commandment might become exceeding sinful...I am carnal sold under sin.” Revival must be preceded by a deeper sense of sin. It is common for Christians in Bible believing churches to become content with their sins, numb to their conscience, and insensitive to the Holy Spirit. Carnality creeps in slowly, love for Christ wanes unconsciously, and compromise sets in easily. Believers get lulled into thinking that abnormal is normal. Our passion for Christ cools. Our urgency to reach the lost relaxes. Our commitment to mission dissolves. We get used to coasting and don't realize the power is off. For several years I lived in one city and the church I pastored was in another. The fastest way to church was by freeway. Once I got on, there was no getting off for several miles. One day, I forgot to get gas and didn't realize it until I hit the on-ramp. There were no exits ahead. I knew I would run out of gas. I prayed my way to the top of the grade. Soon after I reached the top the power stopped. The car was completely empty. I coasted to the bottom. I let the momentum carried me for about a mile, where I rolled to a complete stop. That is what happens when we run on empty. We are coasting, but we don't know it. There is no power, but we don't know why. When sin is in our lives, we quench the Holy Spirit, and His power is withheld. We live off the flesh. We don't even know we have a problem until everything stops. Before we know it, the flesh usurps the Spirit's energy. When that happens, we are on our own. We have no power. Before power can be restored there must be an acknowledgment, a confession, and a repentance of our sins. To seek revival is to seek God's face. To seek His face, we must turn from our wicked ways. We will never know normal until we yield our lives to the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for ourselves first, and then pray that a deep sense of sin will convict the church of its lack of power. The Holy Spirit cannot fill us until we empty ourselves of what we know to be unholy. HA