

# HOW PERSONAL REVIVAL FUELS CAMPUS MINISTRY: AN OPINION BY ROBBY GALLATY

In ministry, we often focus on strategies, outreach events, and discipleship programs. But true transformation begins with personal revival. I've seen it in my own life and ministry. Before revival can sweep through a church, campus, or community, it must first take root in the life of the leader. That's where every great movement of God starts with personal renewal.

## **A Leader's Revival Sparks Broader Change**

Before any revival can touch those around us, God often begins by reviving the leader. I've learned this firsthand. After years of ministry, I realized that the biggest obstacle to revival wasn't the staff, the congregation, or the community—it was me. My own heart needed transformation first.

A few years ago, I found myself in a season of burnout. I was doing everything right on paper—leading, preaching, and strategizing for the future—but something was missing. That's when I discovered the ancient practice of silence and solitude. It wasn't in the noise of ministry or the countless strategies where God spoke most clearly—it was in the quiet.

Through extended time in prayer and silence, I learned that God's first language is silence, and silence is where deep spiritual renewal happens. It

was through this personal time with the Lord that I experienced a revival in my own heart, which later spread to my congregation. What started as personal revival became the foundation for a larger, church-wide move of God.

## **The Ripple Effect of Personal Revival**

This experience highlights a vital truth for leaders in any ministry, especially those working with students: revival in your ministry begins with you. If you're leading, discipling, or mobilizing students, the first question you should ask is, "Am I experiencing personal revival?"

Before God can bring revival through you, He must revive you. As leaders, we often look outward to solve problems or find inspiration, but God calls us to look inward first. Personal revival—marked by a renewed relationship with God and a willingness to die to self—creates the conditions for broader transformation.

When this type of personal revival takes root, it doesn't stop with you. Just as the revival in my heart spread to my church, your personal transformation can ripple out to your ministry team, your students, and your entire campus.

### **Practical Steps for Leaders**

So, how can you, as a leader, begin experiencing personal revival? Here are a few practical steps:

1. **Create Space for Silence and Solitude** – Set aside daily time to sit in God’s presence without distraction. Start small, even five to ten minutes, and let it grow into a deeper practice.
2. **Embrace Humility** – Recognize that personal revival often begins with admitting you are the obstacle. Ask God to reveal areas of pride, self-sufficiency, and sin.
3. **Commit to Consistency** – Revival is not a one-time event. It’s a daily practice of surrendering to God’s leading and seeking His presence.
4. **Prepare for Broader Impact** – Don’t underestimate the power of your personal revival to impact others. Your transformation could be the spark that ignites revival across your ministry or campus.

The same holds true in campus ministry. Revival on your campus or in your ministry won’t happen without first experiencing it in your own life. Allow God to transform you—and watch as He works through you to reach students and others in ways only He can.

***Before God can use you fully, He must own you completely.”***