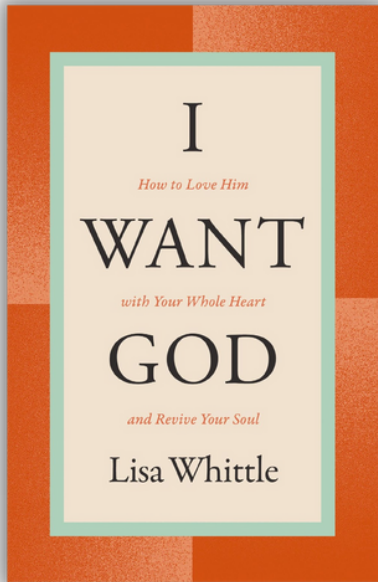




I WANT GOD

How Spiritual Revival is Fueled by a Desire for God

Lisa Whittle re-releases beloved book in February, one year after the Asbury Outpouring



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (January 15, 2024) – On February 8, 2023, people around the globe watched as a spiritual revival began as a routine chapel service at Asbury University in Kentucky. This Asbury Revival pre-empted classes and attracted media attention, propelling these questions: *What makes for such an extraordinary movement of God? And can it happen again?*

Twelve years ago, stale in her own life, in a “sick of me” spiral, and hungry for personal revival, Bible teacher Lisa Whittle pondered those same questions. Already an established author who “should know better,” she dared to break her own spiritual stigmas and ask the Lord for a raw and rogue spiritual awakening.

Among the things God spurred in her (a one-year shopping fast, shutting down her popular blog for a time, living small for a year, eventually writing a 3-book discipleship series), the Lord immediately led her to study revivals, which began an intensive study of the Welsh Revival of 1904-1905.

Said to have been sparked by various moments, Lisa was moved to learn about a key catalyst for that historic revival being Florrie Evans, a teenager who stood in church and declared aloud, “I love Jesus with all my heart.” Florrie’s words were followed by a powerful outpouring of God, and during that year more than 100,000 people found saving faith. More than a century later, Florrie’s words were read by another woman who was desperate for God. Lisa Whittle’s personal revival season had begun. She’s never been the same.

Like Florrie, Lisa’s desperation for God is inspiring other hungry people to seek Him with everything. Her own season of revival led to the 2014 publication of *I Want God: How to Love Him with Your Whole Heart and Revive Your Soul*. W Publishing will release an updated, expanded edition of the book on February 6, 2024. (February 2024 marks the beginning of Lent and the anniversaries of the 2023 Asbury Outpouring and the 1905 Welsh revival.

“We have been chasing lesser desires,” Whittle writes in *I Want God*. “But the eating a lot, drinking a lot, shopping a lot, making a lot of money thing isn’t working out so well. We are more depressed than we’ve ever been, more reckless than we’ve ever been, less satisfied than we’ve ever been, and hurting more too. It is time to chase our greater desire, to identify the ache and longing of what we want most. God brings revival to the hearts that truly seek Him.”

Lisa Whittle assures readers that as they pursue a greater desire for God, God will move in their souls. *I Want God* asks readers to begin by recalling their first encounters with the Savior and how much they once wanted God in their lives. Whittle then helps readers recognize how lesser desires – for comfort, control, popularity, and blessing – have diluted their earlier desire for God.

I Want God features Bible teaching and stories of historic Christian revival, including the 2023 Asbury Outpouring and the 1905 Welsh Revival, as well as deeply raw and personal stories of soul revival. Lisa helps readers discover:

- » How to know when you're in need of spiritual revival
- » The one element common to all historic Christian revivals: a greater desire for God
- » The power of a question Jesus asked (John 1:38) and still asks us today: What do you want?
- » The story behind BOTH historic revivals at Asbury College in Kentucky (100 years apart)
- » The story of teenage Florrie Evans, whose boldness and bravery brought a movement of God
- » How wanting God is different from knowing you need God (with different results)
- » Why other human desires – for popularity, control, or even God's blessings – can diminish one's greater desire for God
- » Why desire is crucial and shouldn't be overlooked
- » 40 daily questions for conducting a personal spiritual inventory (for Lent or any season)
- » 40 daily fasts for letting go of things that lessen one's desire for God (for Lent or any season)

“If we want more of God,” Lisa Whittle writes, “We have to take a step of moving forward, which is going back and doing what we did at first. In the beginning with us and God, it was about the love. And in the end and every moment in between, it has to be about the love too.”

About Lisa Whittle



LISA WHITTLE is a bestselling author, speaker, podcast host, and ministry leader. She has authored nine books, including *Jesus Over Everything*, *God Knows*, and her most recent book, ***I Want God: How to Love Him with Your Whole Heart and Revive Your Soul***. Lisa is a sought-after Bible teacher and host of the popular *Jesus over Everything* podcast. She has founded two online communities: Ministry Strong, for ministry leaders, and Called Creatives, for writers and speakers. Lisa is a wife and mom, a lover of laughter, good food, and the Bible, and a feisty work in progress. Learn more at lisawhittle.com/IWantGod

Thomas Nelson is a world-leading publisher and provider of Christian content, providing readers with quality inspirational products for more than 200 years. With over 250 new, original books and Bibles published each year and distributed in more than 100 countries, translating content into more than 65 different languages, Thomas Nelson is committed to one central mission: inspiring the world by meeting the needs of people with content that promotes biblical principles and honors Jesus Christ. As part of HarperCollins Christian Publishing, Inc., the publishing group provides multiple formats of award-winning Bibles, books, gift books, cookbooks, curricula, and digital content. For additional information, visit ThomasNelson.com.

I Want God: How to Love Him with Your Whole Heart and Revive Your Soul

By Lisa Whittle

Available February 6, 2024 from W Publishing

ISBN-13: 978-1400334445 • US \$19.99 • Paperback • Pages: 192

BISAC: Religion/Christian Living

Review copies, reprint permission and interviews are available.

Contact Pamela McClure, McClure Muntzinger Public Relations, 615-294-5073, pamela@mmpublicrelations.com

Suggested Interview Questions for Lisa Whittle

Author of

I Want God: How to Love Him with Your Whole Heart and Revive Your Soul

- ▶ What does it mean to want God? And how is wanting God different from loving God or needing God?
- ▶ Why is desire a missed concept in the church, and how has that caused us problems, even in spiritual leadership?
- ▶ Many people in this world feel desperate: desperate to quit, desperate for more, desperately sick for God, or desperately sick of themselves. You wrote *I Want God* almost a dozen years ago, after a pretty desperate season. You say that writing the book changed you forever – how so? Why have you updated the book to be released again in 2024? What is your hope for this new edition?
- ▶ Why is knowing what you want in life crucial, and why don't we know? What tangible changes happen in your daily life and relationships when you want God more than anything?
- ▶ Lisa, you've studied revivals and revivalists of the past, including the Welsh revival of 1904-1905 -- what similarities do you see between revivals past and present?
- ▶ You share a funny story about snow tubing with your family in chapter 4 and how it showed you the way comfort has actually stolen from us everything we think we want. Tell us about that and what you call "The Principle of the Greater Desire."
- ▶ You share a very raw and compelling story about asking your husband if he thought you were selfish in chapter 8. Share that with us and tell us why it's so critical to be willing to take a hard look at everything that is in the way of wanting God most.
- ▶ You write about the 'lesser things' we often desire more than God – such as comfort, control, popularity, and blessing. Shouldn't we want to be blessed? How does wanting blessing distract us from a greater desire for God?
- ▶ The new edition of *I Want God* includes a list of 40 daily fasts. Most people think that fasting relates to food, but can you tell us how fasting from things – such as people pleasing, logic, judgment, and harboring anger – can help increase our desire for God?
- ▶ The excerpt from your personal phone notes in chapter 12, after feeling convicted after over-shopping, was compelling. You've said that it led you to do a one-year shopping fast. You have recently shared that God is calling you to do another one, almost a decade later. What is a shopping fast and why fast from shopping?
- ▶ The last chapter of your book is entitled "I Want God Most." Was there a particular moment when you knew this was true for you? How can someone maintain that desire day by day, in those 3 R's you mention in that last chapter?
- ▶ Lisa, what is your ultimate hope for the people who read *I Want God*?



GUEST: Lisa Whittle

BOOK: *I Want God: How to Love Him with Your Whole Heart and Revive Your Soul*

AVAILABLE: February 6, 2024

SOCIALS: @lisawhittle (Instagram)

