

# REVIVE US *Lord* AGAIN

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER FOR REVIVAL  
& SPIRITUAL AWAKENING



# THOUGHTS ON REVIVAL

**"Revival is an extraordinary movement of the Holy Spirit, producing extraordinary results."** (Richard Owen Roberts)

**"Revival is an invasion from Heaven that brings a conscious awareness of God."** (Stephen Olford)

**"A revival is not merely the stirring of people's emotions, but a mighty manifestation of the power of God in turning men and women from their sins to a life of God glorifying and wholehearted sacrifice and service."** (J.T. Drysdale)

**"True revival is that divine moment when God bursts upon the scene and displays his glory. The glory comes when God takes over. He fills the Church with His presence and power, and when He takes over, all the credit goes to Him.**

(Del Fehsenfeld, Jr.)

**"Revival is God purifying His Church."** (Erwin Lutzer)

**"Revival is the Church on its knees."** (R.B. Jones)

**"It is God's method to counteract spiritual decline, and to create spiritual momentum; in order that His redemptive purposes might be accomplished on earth."** (Arthur Wallis)

**"A revival is about God; His people meeting with him, and the nation being confronted with Him."** (Colin Urquhart)

**"Revival is God's major means of extending His kingdom."**  
(Jonathan Edwards)

# FOREWORD

This booklet will help you understand and find your way back to a loving relationship with God. It is intended to be used as a guide to your search for repentance and restoration to your first love.

Your diligent study of the Word and prayer should not be compromised. God will reveal Himself to you as you diligently seek Him.

We should note that the word "Revival" can be applied only to the Church, for to revive means to reanimate the life that has become weaker and is in danger of dying. Unbelievers, who are unregenerate, obviously cannot be revived, as they have no spiritual life, not having been born again. They are 'dead in trespasses and sins,' so there is no life to be revived. They need to be regenerated from spiritual death or awakened from spiritual sleep. This is why the overflow of a revival from the Church into the World is called an "Awakening".

This is, of course what God wants, for that has been His intention ever since His power upon the Church was first seen on the Day of Pentecost, where the outpouring of the Spirit upon the 120 in the upper room was not for their benefit, but to reveal His power and grace to a world of sinners, to bring them to repentance and salvation, and from darkness into His marvelous light.

**"Revival happens when God rends the Heavens and comes down on His people, a Divine Power achieves what human effort at its best fails to do. God's people thirst for the ministry of the Word and receive it with tender melting of soul. The grip of enslaving sin is broken. Reconciliation between believers is sought and granted. Spiritual things, rather than material things, capture people's hearts".**

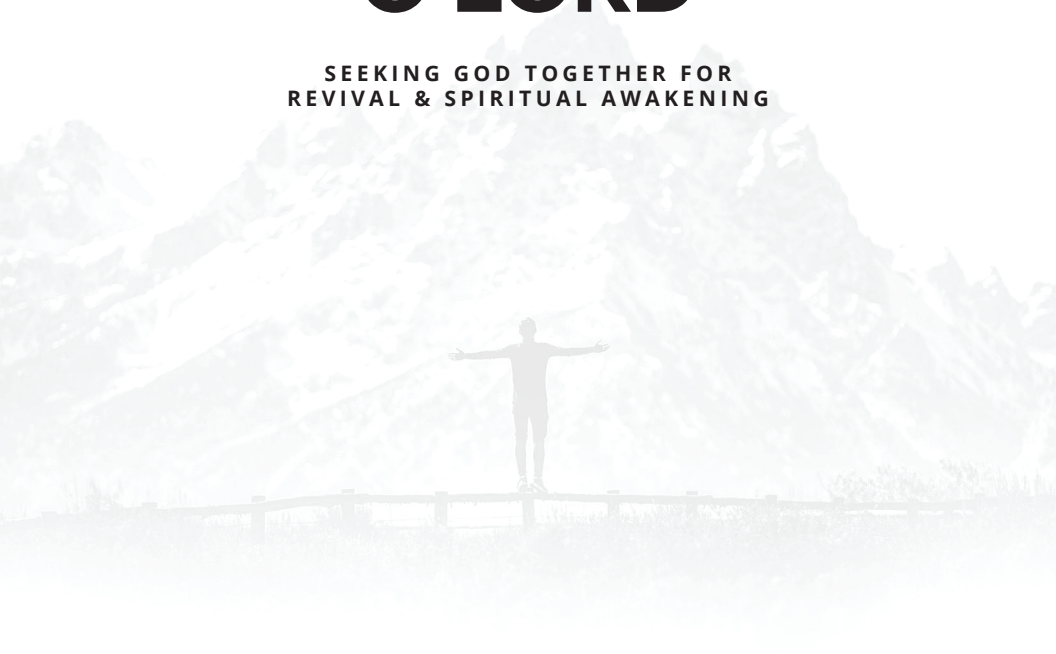
(Arthur Wallis)

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# REVIVE US AGAIN O LORD

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REVIVAL & SPIRITUAL AWAKENING



Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned my decrees and failed to obey them. Now return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. "But you ask, 'How can we return when we have never gone away?' **Malachi 3:7 (Living Bible)**

## WHAT IS REVIVAL?

**F**irst and foremost, Revival is a work of God. Spiritually dormant Christians cannot resuscitate themselves. Those in a coma cannot push the button beside their hospital bed to alert the nurse's station of their dire condition. They cannot give themselves medicine or go for a walk to get some fresh air. God is the Creator and Sustainer of life; only He can dispense it. Even when people begin to sense their need for revival and they start meeting with others to pray for it, they are simply responding to a divine initiative, convicting them of their sin and prompting them to return to God.

Secondly, what God does with His people in revival is to take them to the place of repentance. ***There will be no revival where there is no repentance.*** Some writers on revival have spoken of a "repentance revival" as if this one type out of many varieties of revival. However, such a view is untenable. Scripture clearly teaches that sin brings spiritual death (**Romans 6:23**). The only remedy for sin is repentance (**1 John 1:9-10**). Just as the first words of John the Baptist and Jesus in their earthly ministry was "repent", so the first place the Holy Spirit will always take people experiencing the spiritually deadening effects of sin is to the place of repentance (**Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:4-5**).

Third, Revival involves returning to God. When God seems distant from us, it is never God who has departed from the relationship: it is us. God urged His people through the prophet Malachi: "Return to Me, and I will return to you" (**Malachi 3:7**). Likewise, in the New Testament James declared, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (**James 4:8**). Throughout the historic accounts of revival, there are repeated references to the nearness and palpable presence of God in the midst of people. Just as in the days of Malachi when God's people asked, "In what way shall we return?" (**Malachi 3:7**), so God's people are often unaware of how far they have departed from God until He leads them to return. In times of revival, God's people suddenly become aware of how far they have strayed from God, and they return.

Fourth, true revival always leads to holiness. You cannot continue to practice sin and simultaneously experience spiritual renewal. In Isaiah 1, God rejected His people's worship when they entered the place of worship with sin-filled lives (**Isaiah 1:1-20**). When the prophet Isaiah experienced a fresh encounter with God, his immediate concern was his lack of holiness (**Isaiah 6:5**). More than our worship or our service for Him, God wants to see holiness (**Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:15-16**). While some people suggest there can be a revival of worship or prayer without repentance, we do not see this as possible or Biblical. Only after God restores us to holiness are we free to pray, worship and serve Him in the manner He deserves.

Fifth, when revival occurs, people are filled with the Holy Spirit afresh. Preaching becomes powerful when anointed by the Spirit. Duncan Campbell declared that after he experienced personal revival, he would preach sermons he had delivered before, but now they were characterized by Divine power. The congregation can sing the same songs, yet now they are invigorated by the Spirit, and the times of corporate worship are characterized by joy and the presence of God's Spirit.

Sixth, revival stimulates an attitude of willing obedience to whatever God requires. Much of carnal Christianity comes not from ignorance of what God expects but from heart that is unwilling to do what God has clearly commanded. Revival, because it draws people back to the Lord, inevitably produces an eagerness to do His bidding.

Most importantly, revival brings God's people back into a love relationship with Him. Christianity is not a religion. It is a relationship. As God demonstrated so graphically through the prophet Hosea, to forsake God is to commit spiritual adultery. Rejecting God is not merely breaking a command or neglecting a precept. It is a blatant repudiation of the One who dearly loves you. When revival comes, people recognize their sin for what it is: a renunciation of God and a violation of the love relationship. That is why, in times of revival, people often declare that God's salvation is too good for them considering the way they had coldly rejected the love of Jesus their Savior.

Even as we submit our definition of revival for your consideration, we recognize that it falls short of fully encompassing all that is involved in spiritual renewal. Yet as we discuss and illustrate these emphases in this conference, we encourage you to understand a serious study of this critical subject. Much has been written and many insights have been offered that are worthy of close examination.

## DEPARTURE FROM THE LORD AND RETRIBUTION

I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand [church] from its place (**Rev. 2:4-5**).

Though spiritual awakening is God's plan for the fruitfulness of His people, churches like the one in Ephesus, described above, tend to depart from the Lord. We see this cycle throughout the history of God's people. The Book of Judges describes this cycle among the Israelites in Old Testament times.

The following verses describe the first cycle in **Judges 2**.

- 1. The People Served The Lord.** “The people served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel” (**Judg. 2:7**). This is frequently the case. The generation of people who have experienced God’s mighty works are faithful to Him for the rest of their lives.
- 2. The People Forsook The Lord.** “After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals” (**Judg. 2:10-11**). The next generation turned away from the Lord and served other gods.
- 3. God Defeated Them Through Enemies.** “In his anger against Israel the LORD handed them over to raiders who plundered them. He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them” (**Judg. 2:14-15**). God brought discipline on His people just as He had said He would.
- 4. The People Cried Out For Help.** “They were in great distress ... [and] the LORD had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them” (**Judg. 2:15-18**).
- 5. God had compassion and delivered.** “The LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them... for the LORD was moved to pity” (**Judg. 2:16-18, NKJV**).

Some people today think God worked this way only in the Old Testament.

Part of the reason we don't see the same cycles in New Testament times is that the church was in the midst of spiritual awakening most of that period. However, by the time we reach the end of the New Testament, we see that the cycle of departure from God had begun again in some Churches.

In **Revelation 2 and 3** we read the words of the resurrected Christ as He called different churches to repent and return to Him. (As you read the following messages from Christ, underline the sin problem for which He was calling for repentance. Also notice the kinds of discipline Christ promised those who would not repent).

**To the Church in Pergamum:** “I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.

Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth” **(Rev. 2:14-16)**.

**To the Church in Thyatira:** “I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So, I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of their ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): Only hold on to what you have until I come” **(Rev. 2:20-25)**.

**To the Church at Sardis:** “I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you” **(Rev. 3:1-3)**.

**To the Church at Laodicea:** “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

“Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent” **(Rev. 3:15-17,19)**.

This cycle of departure and return to the Lord is a sad characteristic of God’s people throughout the ages. The way God deals with His people in this cycle forms a pattern we will examine.

- Jesus sent a message to these churches in Asia Minor. Ask Him to speak to you and your church about your relationship with Him.
- Pray that He will reveal His message to our nation as well.

## SUBSTITUTES FOR GOD'S PURPOSES

- Spending much of our time and resources on ourselves while ignoring justice for the oppressed or meeting the needs of the poor (**see Galatians 2:10**)
- Carrying out evangelistic visits primarily to boost church attendance rather than to lead people to God (**see 2 Corinthians 5:14-15**)
- Building personal kingdoms instead of building the Body of Christ

## SUBSTITUTES FOR GOD'S WAY

- Affirming and focusing on self when God says to deny self (**see Matthew 16:24**)
- Pursuing positions of influence and prestige when God instructs us to humble ourselves (**see James 4:10**)
- Clinging to what we have, though Christ said to give it away for the Kingdom's sake (**see Matthew 16:25**)
- Coercing people to serve on committees rather than praying for God to send forth laborers (**see Matthew 9:37-38**)

## SUBSTITUTES FOR GOD'S PROVISION

- Trusting in our limited resources without asking God to provide (**see Psalm 20:7**)
- Fleecing God's people and selling indulgencies to provide resources that God could provide when we are to seek Him and his Kingdom.
- Never attempting to do anything for God unless we already have all the resources needed in advance (**see Hebrews 11:6**)
- Quitting when problems arise rather than trusting that God will provide a way (**see Philippians 4:19**)

## SUBSTITUTES FOR GUIDANCE

- Turning to counselors and consultants and spiritual fathers but not spending significant time in prayer to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. **(See Jeremiah 33:3).**
- Conducting a survey of our community or taking a survey of our congregation to determine what our church should do but offering only superficial, token prayers to God **(see Jeremiah 33:3)**
- Listening to parents, spouse, friends, financial advisors, or others but not earnestly seeking God's will in a major decision we are facing **(see Matthew 7:7)**

God's Word warns of the danger we face when we take our eyes off of Him and His priorities: "If you ever forget the Lord your God and go after other gods to worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will perish" **(Deut. 8:19)**. You may consider this admonition to be extremely severe. It is. It reveals how seriously God views sin and rebellion. The Bible teaches that God is jealous of our love **(see Exodus 4:24)**.

## INVITATION FROM GOD

Come now, **and let us reason together, saith the Lord:** though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. **(Isaiah 1:18)**

Come and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.<sup>2</sup> After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. **(Hosea 6:14)**

*"Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, wherein shall we return?"* **(Malachi 3:7)**

<sup>1</sup>*In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Brachial, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,* <sup>2</sup>*The LORD hath been sore displeased with your fathers.* <sup>3</sup>**Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.** <sup>4</sup>*Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD.* **(Zachariah 1:1-5)**

<sup>8</sup>Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. **(James 4:8)**

## Revival Happens:

- When a committed few are willing to do the right thing in isolation. They must be the right kind of people actively prevailing in personal and corporate prayer with God. They are committed to this one thing in purity and humility.
- Following this pathway will isolate and make you lose your friends, funds, and fun.
- You will be discouraged because you do not see the same desperation from your friends, colleagues, or church members.
- God is not focused on who is not there. He is concerned about who is there.
- Time and energy are lost in developing unity using human efforts. Total reliance on the Holy Spirit is the unifying power.
- **2 Chron 7:14.** Prophetic meaning is simply: humility and holiness. To get God to answer, these two virtues are required.
- A handful of desperate intercessors can change a community. We don't see revival in our community because of our appetite. Our compelling appetites are our basic needs, our reputation, finances, pleasure, and personal security.
- The process of transforming revival starts when our hunger supersedes all other hunger. This hunger must be for the Presence of God.
- There must be an unsatiable hunger and nostalgia for God, a daily longing for Him. Retreats and conventions have taken the place of responsive personal relationship with God.
- We must have the same perspective as God's. Joshua and Caleb saw God's providence; the ten others saw human limitation. Numbers can limit our dependence on God.
- God does not give you grace before you need it. He gives you the grace when you need it. Our God is in heaven. He does what he pleases. His plans will come to pass. He made a promise to Abraham and made it impossible for him to achieve it without His intervention. Only God can bring revival to us.

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- We must keep the switch of faith turned on despite opposition and failure. In times of pressure and persecution, we can always rely on comfort of our God. The comfort of our God will override our needs, our obstacles, and failures.
- Even if the momentum of revival does not seem to be going on, don't quit. Don't let the pain and losses be a hindrance to the glory that is about to be birthed through you. Persevere in desperate prayers taking hold of God and His promises.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF REVIVALS & AWAKENINGS**

Every revival/awakening will have certain characteristics.

We can list these as follows:

1. The awareness of the awesome presence of a holy God.
2. Conviction of sin, with people crying out for mercy.
3. The things of eternity, especially the facts of heaven and hell, becoming more real than the things of time.
4. Deep and overflowing joy and delight in the Lord for those brought out of conviction of sin to faith in Christ.
5. A reverence for God and a fear of Him, so that people are afraid to sin.
6. Great concern for the salvation of sinners, with people pleading to stop others going to hell.
7. The lives of those awakened are radically altered, with worldly lifestyles renounced.
8. People become enthusiastic to pray and study the Bible and meet wherever possible.
9. Because those converted have a much deeper conversion experience than those 'converted' in a non-revival situation, they stay true to the Lord far longer.
10. The Church's priorities change and become much more spiritual; the Bible is honored, read, obeyed and shared; prayer becomes the Church's passion; and as the Holy Spirit is given His rightful place, holiness becomes paramount.

*A genuine revival/awakening will have these characteristics, so any claim to revival that is not centered on holiness, and does not emphasize the sinfulness of sin, is not from the Holy Spirit. These characteristics of revival are the issues we need to settle in prayer when we cry out for revival and awakenings.*

### **Consider This:**

- Taking off time to seek the Lord. Personal retreat. A few days every month. Cultivate a culture of awareness towards God.
- Focus on revival prayers. Alter your prayer focus. Make knowing and walking with God your priority. Pray for his kingdom to be established in the hearts of men. Come away from other things that keep your focus on eternal things. Part ways with worldly distractions and entertainment. Your time with God is more important.
- Find people of like passion and encourage one another to abandon yourselves to the mercy and service of God. You may have to offend some of your friends to be different.
- Consider a digital fast. Stop wasting your time on social media, chats, movies, and any other form of entertainment that does not edify.
- Our resistance to these changes is an indication that we have a major relational problem with God.
- Before we can become the agents of change, we must first be changed. First is our individual sin and then the corporate sin. It is always in that order.
- Individual sin has corporate consequences. Sin is not a private matter. When we sin, the repercussions affect us, our families, our congregation, our community, our nation. Achan sinned at Ai. The entire community of Israel was defeated by an inconsequential heathen community. God does not support sin.
- Solemn assemblies and revival meetings fail because we come to God expecting Him to change things but we refuse to change our ways first.
- Find out where God is at work in revival and join them. (Read books on revival.) Get out of your limited horizon and seek to know what God is saying to the Church. A personal experience of revival can have a long-lasting impact.
- Continuous and focused prayers on revival must be made daily. Prevailing prayer

cells must go on daily asking God to forgive our personal and corporate sin.

- Desperate prayers always precede visitation of God in revivals.
- Sin committed and not dealt with, will be dealt with by God no matter how long it takes for us to address it. The power of darkness easily settles down to areas of unconfessed sin.
- We must tear down the altars of sin before we can raise up the altars of true worship to our Holy God.

### **What is your response to God's invitation?**

- **(Ezra 7:10)** For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.
- **(Joshua 24:14-15)** Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord.
- And if it seems evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
- **(Revelations 3:20)** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

# MY INTIMACY WITH GOD

## EVALUATING MY DAILY WALK WITH GOD

Who can ascend the Lord's mountain? Who can stand in his holy sanctuary? Only the one with clean hands and a pure heart; the one who hasn't made false promises, the one who hasn't sworn dishonestly. That kind of person receives blessings from the Lord and righteousness from the God who saves. And that's how things are with the generation that seeks him, that seeks the face of Jacob's God. **Psalm 24: 1-6 EVS**

Before God can grant our request in prayer, we must meet His conditions. We cannot enjoy a daily walk with God if we regard and walk in iniquity.

If I regard sin and baseness in my heart [that is, if I know it is there and do nothing about it, The Lord will not hear [me]; **Psalm 66:18 AMP**

God is holy and he will not condone sin. It is therefore imperative that we take time to evaluate our daily walk with God. This write up may not be appropriate for you. Maybe you are not in the category of Christians still struggling with these issues, but for most of us, it is a reasonable resource to keep us alert as we walk the narrow way with Jesus.

Let's think about some ways that we have sinned against God. What are some of the evil ways that we as God's people have angered Him and brought on His remedial judgement?

**Let's just consider some areas and look at how honest we are with God. How honest am I with God as an individual? How honest are we with God as a church? How honest are we with God as ministers and intercessors? Could we be trying to deceive God in any of the following areas? Examine yourself and see if you are truly walking with Him.**

### **My Motives...**

Are all my motives pure?

Do I serve God with a genuine heart of love and devotion? Or do I have a secret desire to be noticed, applauded, and recognized?

Am I really serving God, or do I have a secret agenda? Am I using my resources, my education, my family influence to promote myself in ministry above others? Can God

trust me with the lives of the people I am given to serve? Is my ministry driven by compassion and love for Christ or am I just doing a job? If I cease to get a salary for my ministry, would I still serve the Master?

**Psalm 51:6** says, “Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts”...

## **My Prayer Life...**

**Are my prayers honest prayers?** Do I say words that I think will impress God? Or do I honestly communicate my real feeling and desires to Him? Have I turned my prayer time to a time of venting hate and anger at my enemy or is my prayer time a time of intimacy with my God? Is my prayer life nothing more than a religious activity or is it due to the love relationship I have with God? How much time do I spend with God daily in prayer? Is prayer a burden to me? Do I spend my time of prayer, reciting other people’s memo or do I take this time to express my innermost love to my Lord and savior? Do I believe in the prayers of other spiritual people than my personal prayers?

## **My Sins...**

Am I quick to agree with God when His Spirit convicts me of sin? Or do I tend to rationalize, justify, and defend myself? Am I trying to defend my position with a particular group that I have aligned myself with?

So, I see my sin and our sin as God sees it, or do I tend to think of it in terms that these are our “weaknesses, our “problems”, our “personality quirks”? Are we trying to justify our position in the controversy, or will we look at the controversy the way God looks at it, that it is a division among His people?

**Proverbs 28:13** — **“He that covereth his sin shall not prosper, but whosoever confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”**

If we want to experience the mercy of God, we must be willing to do the three things required in this scripture.

### **1. We must uncover our sins.**

What sins am I covering up? What are the secret sins known to me and God have I refused to let go? God will not prosper or hear our prayers if you live in sin. I have to confront the sin in my life openly and uncover them before God.

## 2. **You must confess the sin.**

Confession of sin must be made to God first, and one another. God may require you to make a public confession of your sin. It may be pride, anger, adultery, theft, or hatred. Are you willing to humble yourself before the brethren and openly ask God for forgiveness? Are you ready to go to an offended brother or sister and plead for forgiveness? Can you take off all limits to obey God on this matter? This is required by God if we who plead for God's mercy for our land want him to hear our voice.

## 3. **We must FORSAKE our sins.**

The word, **forsake, abandon, desert**, mean to leave without intending to return. We must forsake all known sin and never return to them. Are we ready to part ways with our ungodly projects that are not directed by the Holy Spirit? What about our titles, secret indulgencies, ill-gotten wealth, properties, and romance with the world? If the Lord asks you to step down from the leadership of your church or ministry, are you ready to comply? When we refuse to forsake our sin and never return to them, God will also forsake us and never hear our prayers until we obey his word.

# CLEAN HANDS AND A PURE HEART

*“Search me, O God and know my heart, try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me...”*

*(Psalm 139:23-24)*

## Do I Have A Worshipping Heart?

*“I will praise Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart” (Psalm 86:12)*

- Do I spend time each day sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening to His Word, and worshipping Him?
- Does the Lord Jesus occupy the center of my thoughts throughout the day? Is He the supreme object of my affection?
- Do I freely and regularly express my love, devotion, and praise to the Lord Jesus?
- Do I regularly meditate on the greatness and the character of God?
- When I sing praise songs, do I sing them to the Lord, from my heart?

## Do I Have A Pure Heart?

*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matthew 5: 8)*

- Do I love righteousness and hate evil?
- Am I quick to agree with God when He convicts me of sin?
- Do I guard my heart from ungodly influences?
- Can I honestly say there is no unconfessed sin between my soul and the Savior?
- Is my conscience perfectly clear toward all others?

## Do I Have A Broken And Contrite Heart?

*"The Lord is nigh unto them are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit" (Psalm 34:128).*

- Do I grieve over my sin and how it affects God?
- Am I conscious of my great need for God in every detail of my life?
- Am I conscious of my need for others?
- Am I more conscious of my own spiritual needs and failures than of the needs and failures of others?

## Do I Have A Surrendered Heart?

*"I delight to do Thy will, O my God" (Psalm 40:8).*

- Have I ever consciously surrendered my entire life to Jesus as Lord?
- Am I willing to go anywhere, do anything, be anything that God asks of me?
- Do I deliberately seek to know and to do the will of God in every area of my life?
- Do I sincerely want to do the will of God more than I want to do my own?
- Am I more concerned about pleasing God than pleasing myself or others?

## Do I Have A Forgiving Heart?

*"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Colossians 3:13).*

- Is my heart free from all bitterness and anger toward those who have wronged me?
- Have I truly forgiven all those who have ever hurt me (or those I love)?
- Have I taken steps to reconciled to those individuals with whom I have had a conflict in the past?

## Do I Have A Praying Heart?

*"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Ephesians 6:18)*

- Do I faithfully pray for the needs of my mate, my children, and other family members?
- Do I pray regularly for my pastor, my church and other believers in our community?
- Do I pray specifically for those around me who are lost and in need of a Savior?
- Do I pray earnestly for revival and spiritual awakening in our community, our nation, and our world?
- Do I have regular concentrated times of prayer when I am alone, just me with the Lord?
- Do I regularly pray with other believers for God's will to be done in our lives and our world?
- If revival in my home, my church, and my community depended on my prayers, would we ever experience revival?

## Do I Have A Caring, Burdened Heart?

*"I have great heaviness and unceasing sorrow in my heart" (Romans 9:2)*

- Do I really care about those in our world who are lost and separated from Christ?
- Do I grieve over the effects of sin in our world?
- Do I carry a burden on my heart for revival and spiritual awakening in my church, my community, and my nation?
- Have I asked the Lord what part He wants me to have in meeting the spiritual needs of those around me?
- Do I have a heart desire and longing to join God in what He is doing in our world and in the advancement of Christ's Kingdom throughout our world?

# THINGS I NEED TO DO TODAY TO GET MY HEART RIGHT WITH GOD

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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Indeed, the LORD's hand is not too short to save, and His ear is not too deaf to hear. But your iniquities have built barriers between you and your God, and your sins have made Him hide His face from you so that He does not listen. For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers, with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, and your tongues mutter injustice. No one makes claims justly; no one pleads honestly. They trust in empty and worthless words; they conceive trouble and give birth to iniquity. - **Isaiah 59:1-5**

**Psalm 32:5— "I acknowledge my sin unto thee and mine iniquity have I not hid."**

- Do I love the truth so much that I actively and regularly take steps to ask God to search my heart and reveal anything that is displeasing to Him?
- Am I Honest with Myself? Have I become self-deceived in any of the following ways? Are there any truths in God's Word that I know in my head, but am not practicing in my life?

**James 1:22— "But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving you own selves."**

- Do I give the appearance of being spiritual, yet fail to exercise control over my tongue?

**James 1:26— "If any man among you seems to be religious and brideleth not his tongue, but decieveth his own heart, this man's religion is in vain."**

- If God could play back all of your conversations just for the last 30 days would he consider your religion in vain based upon what you have said? Do I resist or deny conviction of God's Spirit or His Word in relation to my sin?

**1 John 1:8— "if we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."**

# HOW HONEST AM I WITH OTHERS?

*Ask God to examine your life in each of the following types of falsehood.*

## 1. Exaggeration

Proverbs 30:5-6— “Every word of God is pure, add thou not unto His words, least He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”

Proverbs 8:8— “All the words of my mouth are in righteousness, there is nothing forward or perverse in them.”

**Thought Questions:** Do I exaggerate past accomplishments? Do I exaggerate the results or fruits of my efforts in serving the Lord? Do I overstate the truth by using words like “always” and “never”? Do I make sweeping generalizations about people or situations? Do I embellish details to make a story more humorous or interesting? Do I overstate or understate the seriousness of a situation in order to make a point or for my greater effort?

## 2. Flattery

Psalms 12:2— “With flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.”

**Thought Questions:** do I ever give insincere praise? Do I compliment another just to enhance my own reputation in their eyes?

## 3. Lying

Proverbs 12:22— “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord but they that deal truly are His delight.”

**Thought Questions:** Do I ever slander- spreading false reports with the intent to inflict hurt or malign? Do I answer direct question with untruths in order to protect my reputation or my ministry?

## 4. Misleading

2 Corinthians 8:21— “Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord but also in the sight of men.”

**Thought Questions:** Do I ever leave a false impression though my own spoken words may be true? Do I ever communicate facts “selectively” to influence others for my own purposes?

## 5. Inaccuracy

Hebrews: 13:18— “We trust we have a good conscience, in all things, willing to live honestly.”

**Thought Questions:** How many times do I verify the actual facts before repeating a story? How careless am I with regard to factual details of stories? Do I ever fail to speak precisely to make sure that my words are literally true?

## 6. Deception

Psalm 120:2— “Deliver my soul, O Lord from a deceitful tongue.”

2 Corinthians 4:2— “But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness.”

**Thought Questions:** Do I ever appear to be busy at work while really not being productive? Do I ever attempt to create a better impression of myself than is absolutely true? Do I ever allow other people to say things that are untrue about another person and implying consent by silence?

Do I ever give the impression that I am more spiritually mature and committed than is actually true? Am I covering up any sins in my past?

## 7. Hypocrisy

Proverbs 26:23— “Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a pot shed covered with silver dross.”

Psalm 55:21— “The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn to swords.”

Psalm 62:4— “They bless with their mouths, but they curse inwardly.”

**Thought Questions:** Do I ever speak kindly to someone while harboring hatred or bitterness in my heart against that person? How often do I participate in corporate praise and prayers while my heart is cold, indifferent, or resistant to God making any changes in my life? Do I praise someone to their face while criticizing them behind their backs?

## 8. Consistency

Malachi 3:6— “For I am the Lord, I change not”

James 1:17— “...The Father of lights, with Whom there is no variableness, neither shadow or turning.”

**Thought Questions:** Do I ever “flip-flop” on issues, depending on my “audience”? Do I say what I know the other person wants to hear, rather than what I really believe? Am I unpredictable in my responses, temperament and my manner? Do I ever put a different spin on matters, depending on who I am talking to or who I am trying to influence?

## 9. Guile

Psalms 32:2— “Blessed is the man in whose spirit there is no guile.”

1 Thessalonians 2:3— “For our exhortation is not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile.”

**Thought Questions:** Do I maintain hidden agendas and ulterior motives when dealing with people? How many committees have I served on when I knew there was a hidden agenda or ulterior motive that was going to be accomplished outside of being honest and open with the whole group?

## 10. Broken Promises

Numbers 23:19— “Hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?”

Psalms 15:4— “He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.”

**Thought Questions:** How many times have I promised to pray for someone and then neglected to do so? How many times have I agreed to be somewhere or do a certain thing, but when it didn't fit my schedule, I made excuses and failed to do so? How many financial obligations have I failed to keep in my life?

Before my supplications can be answered in accordance with God's will, 2 Chron. 6:19 needs to be maintained. “Have respect therefore to the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Lord, my God, to hearken unto the cry and prayer which thy servant prayeth before Thee.” What would have to happen in my life for God to respect the prayer I offer?

Daniel 9:20— “And while I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and presenting my supplications before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God.”

**Thought Questions:** When was the last time I stood by myself or with any group of people and we honestly and openly confessed our sins and the sins of our Church, our City, our Home, our Country and ask God to be merciful to us?

Before any supplication can be seriously considered and be answered by God it must involve repentance. Repentance is always an ongoing process. Repentance is not something done once and forever accomplished. For God to answer our prayers on a consistent basis we must continually meet the biblical requirement for God to answer our prayers. True repentance affects our whole being and alters our lifestyle.

If I am truly repentant in my heart that means that I turn away from all that displeased God and turn completely towards what pleases Him. I must continually turn from sin and turn to Christ on a continuing basis.

We all know that we must repent of our sin and from “dead works”. Have ***we*** ever repented, have ***I*** ever repented from “dead works”? Think about this: any religious act calculated to gain merit with God by any human effort is “dead works”. My worship can be “dead works”, my prayer can be “dead works”, tithing can be a “dead work”. It is possible to turn any act of worship devotion or service into “dead works”.

***No “dead work” is more prominent in religious circles today than the formal, empty, false, legal acceptance of Christ without yielding to His lordship and genuine faith.***

It is entirely possible to be in physical sanctuary, singing from a physical hymn book, uttering praise with the physical tongue and listening to a sermon delivered by a physical man, while the inner spirit is miles away with the least thought on God. If we do not worship God in spirit and in truth all our worship is “dead work.”

Before any supplication is given to God perhaps we should review our “dead works.” Any religious work which is done in the flesh and not in the power of the Holy Spirit is dead works. How much preaching is “dead works”? How much ministry is “dead works”? How much of our religious activity is “dead works”?

The truth of matter is, it is easier and simpler to do one’s religious duty in the flesh and not in dependence on the Spirit of God. To do everything in and through the Spirit necessitates searching our motives and hearts. We must submit to God’s methods and to His scrutiny. We must rely entirely upon God to produce the results rather than upon ourselves to produce them.

To be very honest, it seems easier to do the work ourselves than to wait upon God for the endowment of power from on high. Thus much of our work conducted in the name of Jesus Christ in His Church and in our Organizations - is doomed to failure, and is nothing more than “dead works”.

- By now each of us know in our hearts what we need to do.
- God has revealed to us where we are in our relationship with Him.
- God knows our real true spiritual condition and our “dead works”.
- Let’s join together and pray with repentant hearts.

“When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, 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 I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place”. **2 Chron 7:13-15**

Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly. Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the LORD your God and cry out to the LORD. **Joel 1:14**

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