

Preparing for Personal Revival

*This is the moment for self-examination.
Without it we are wasting our time with God.*

God is eager to manifest His reviving presence and power in every generation. But we must take steps for the release of His fullness in our midst.

On the eve of their passage over Jordan into the Promised Land, Joshua charged the children of Israel to prepare their hearts: "...Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you" (Joshua 3:5).

The psalmist understood the importance of spiritual revival: "Righteousness shall go before Him and shall set us in the way of His steps" (Psalm 85:13).

Steps of Action

1. *Pray* the prayer of the psalmist: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23, 24).
2. *Be totally honest* as you answer each question.
3. Agree with God about each need He reveals in your life. Confess each sin, with the willingness to make it right and forsake it.
4. *Praise* God for cleansing and forgiveness.
5. *Renew* your mind and *rebuild* your life through meditation and practical application of the Word of God.

6. *Review* these questions periodically to remain sensitive to your need for ongoing revival.

Genuine Salvation (2 Corinthians 5:17)

- a. Was there ever a time in my life that I genuinely repented of my sin?
- b. Was there ever a time in my life that I placed all my trust in Jesus Christ alone to save me?
- c. Was there ever a time in my life that I completely surrendered to Jesus Christ as the Master and Lord of my life?

God's Word (Psalm 119:97; 119:140)

- a. Do I love to read and meditate on the Word of God?
- b. Are my personal devotions consistent and meaningful?
- c. Do I practically apply God's Word to my everyday life?

Humility (Isaiah 57:15) a. Am I quick to recognize when I have sinned? b. Am I quick to admit to others when I am wrong? c. Do I rejoice when others are praised and recognized and my accomplishments go unnoticed by others? d. Do I esteem all others as better than myself?

Obedience (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Samuel 15:22) Do I consistently obey what I know God wants me to do? b. Do I consistently obey the human authorities God has placed over my life?

Pure Heart (1 John 1:9) a. Do I confess my sin by name? b. Do I keep "short sin accounts" with God (confess and forsake when He convicts)? c. Am I willing to give up all sin for God?

Clear Conscience (Acts 24:16) a. Do I consistently seek forgiveness from those I wrong or offend? b. Is my conscience clear with every man? (Can I honestly say, "There is no one I have ever wronged or offended and not gone back to them and sought their forgiveness and made it right)?"

Priorities (Matthew 6:33) a. Does my schedule reveal that God is first in my life? b. Does my checkbook reveal that God is first in my life? c. Next to my relationship with God, is my relationship with my family my highest priority?

Values (Colossians 3:12) a. Do I love what God loves and hate what God hates? b. Do I value highly the things that please God (e.g. giving, witnessing to lost souls, studying His Word, prayer)? c. Are my affections and goals fixed on eternal values?

Sacrifice (Philippians 3:7,8) a. Am I willing to sacrifice whatever is necessary to see God move in my life and church (time, convenience, comfort, reputation, pleasure, etc)? b. Is my life characterized by genuine sacrifice for the cause of Christ?

Spirit Control (Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 5:18-21) a. Am I allowing Jesus to be Lord of every area of my life? b. Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to "fill" (control) my life each day? c. Is there consistent evidence of the "fruit of the Spirit" being produced in my life?

"First Love" (Philippians 1:21, 23) a. Am I as much in love with Jesus as I have ever been? b. Am I thrilled with Jesus, filled with His joy and peace, making Him the continual object of my love?

Motives (Acts 5:29; Matthew 10:28) a. Am I more concerned about what God thinks about my life than about what

others think? b. Would I pray, read my Bible, give and serve as much if nobody but God ever noticed? c. Am I more concerned about pleasing God than I am about being accepted and appreciated by others?

Moral Purity (Ephesians 5:3,4) a. Do I keep my mind free from books, magazines or entertainment that could stimulate fantasizing or thoughts that are not morally pure? b. Are my conversations and behavior pure and above reproach?

Forgiveness (Colossians 3:12, 13) a. Do I seek to resolve conflicts in relationships as soon as possible? b. Am I quick to forgive those who wrong me or hurt me?

Sensitivity (Matthew 5:23, 24) a. Am I sensitive to the conviction and promptings of God's Spirit? b. Am I quick to respond in humility and obedience to the conviction and promptings of God's Spirit?

Evangelism (Romans 9:3; Luke 24:46, 48) a. Do I have a burden for lost souls? b. Do I consistently witness for Christ?

Prayer (1 Timothy 2:1) a. Am I faithful in praying for the needs of others? b. Do I pray specifically, fervently, and faithfully for revival in my life, my church and our nation?

Original author unknown

Edited by:

MARTIN H. DUPREE

Evangelism & Church Growth Team

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

1-800-395-5102, ext. 228