

Understanding & Experiencing Revival

*For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To **revive** the spirit of the humble, And to **revive** the heart of the contrite ones. Isaiah 57:15 (NKJ)*

Objectives:

1. Understand Revival

- What is it? Why is it needed? How is it attained?

2. Experience Revival

- Revival must touch the **spirit**, not just the mind
- Revival is enhanced in a **corporate** setting

⇒ *Where **two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.** Matthew 18:20 (NKJ)*

Expectations:

1. There will be a **powerful move** of the **Holy Spirit** within our **lives** and within our the **Body of Christ**
2. This move of the Spirit will **extend outward** from the church and lead to a **spiritual awakening** within our **community**.

What is Revival?

Revival services are becoming more and more prevalent today. However, the word “**revival**” appears only once in the New King James translation:

⇒ *And now for a little while **grace** has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us a **remnant** to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may **enlighten** our eyes and give us a measure of **revival** in our bondage. Ezra 9:8 (NKJ)*

In the Old Testament, the phrase *sacred assembly* or *solemn assembly* was used to describe a **gathering of God’s people** that is closest to what we think of as a **Revival** today:

⇒ **Read Joel 2:15-17** for a description of a *solemn assembly*

There are two uses of the word *revive* in the Bible:

1. To live again:

- From the Greek *anazao* (*ana* = “again”; *zao* = “to live”)
⇒ *Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he **revived**.* 1Kings 17:22 (NKJ)

2. To flourish anew:

- From the Greek *anathallo* (*thallo* = “to flourish or blossom”)
⇒ *Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? Will You not **revive** us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?* Psalm 85:5-6 (NKJ)
⇒ *My soul clings to the dust; **Revive** me according to Your word.* Psalm 119:25 (NKJ)

For our purposes, **revival** means:

- ⇒ “**to renew or restore**” our spiritual life
- ⇒ Only born-again Christians can be **re-vived**, because this implies that we were once “**vived**” to begin with
- Revival is **not** “**spiritual awakening**” -- i.e. **turning to Christ** for salvation
- **Spiritual awakening** of the lost in large numbers is a **by-product** of the **revival** of the saints

Where is Revival Needed?

In today's world, **revival** is needed at **three levels** in order to spark a **spiritual awakening**:

1. Personal:

- **Every believer** needs to have their **spirit revived** from time to time in order to “shake off the dust” of the world.
⇒ *Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And revive me in Your way.* Psalm 119:37 (NKJ)
- **Revival** must begin in the **hearts and souls** of the **saints** before it can extend outward

2. Corporate:

- The **Church** also needs to **experience revival** so that it does not **stagnate**
⇒ *Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?* Psalm 85:8 (NKJ)
- The **fires of the Holy Spirit** must be burning brightly and intensely **within the church** before they can spread to the outside world.

3. Community:

- A revival is **not for our** sake, but for **God's** sake
⇒ *Revive me, O LORD, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.* Psalm 143:11 (NKJ)
- A **genuine revival** must seek only to see **God glorified** and to see His **plan of redemption** enacted in the world.

It is the **mission** of the Lion of Judah to **perpetuate the full gospel** of Jesus Christ in the **spirit and power of Pentecost**:

⇒ *“In order to accomplish our mission, we must be a **Spirit-anointed fellowship** whose **worship** brings God's **power** into the **life of the church** and extends **that power** through the **lives of believers** into the **marketplace of modern life.**”*
Paul L. Walker, General Overseer, Church of God

Why is Revival Needed?

Anytime people **turn away from God**, there is a need for **revival**, whether individually or corporately

- God created individuals -- and His Church -- to have an **intimate, personal, love relationship** with Him.
- Jesus said that the **most important** of God's Commandments is:
 - ⇒ *"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." This is the first commandment.* Mark 12:30 (NKJ)
 - More than anything else, **God wants us to love Him** -- from this, all else follows.
- However, individuals and the Church have a **tendency to withdraw** from this love relationship with God because of **worldly sin**.
 - When we move away from our love relationship with God, **He continues to loves us -- but He also disciplines us**.
 - ⇒ *Do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.* Hebrews 12:5-6
 - God continues to love His people even when they withdraw -- and invites them to return to Him through **repentance & forgiveness**
- The **primary reason** we need revival is that we have **forsaken** our love relationship with God -- our **First Love**
 - In the risen Christ's first **letter to the churches** in Revelation, He points out their **"fatal flaw"**
 - ⇒ **Read Revelation 2:4-5** to discover the fatal flaw

When is Revival Needed?

Revival is necessary **NOW** -- perhaps more than any time in history

- There is a lot of prophecy-fulfilling evidence that this is the **beginning** of the **end times** as Christ begins to separate out the **wheat from the chaff**.

Understanding & Experiencing Revival

⇒ *His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.* Matthew 3:12 (NKJ)

There are two **simultaneous forces** at work in the world today:

1. **Revival and spiritual awakening** are on the **increase**
2. **Turning away from God** is on the **increase**
 - The result? **Fewer uncommitted people** and **increasing conflict** between God & Satan, between God's people and the world.

The problem today is **not** so much that the **world is getting worse** (after all, the Bible tells us that **will** happen).

- Rather, the problem is that **God's people are not shining** God's light out into a darkening world.
 - ⇒ **God wants revival** and spiritual awakening **far more** than we want to receive it!
- Many people want to **receive it** but not to **transmit it** to others

Discussion

- What about **our church**? Are we **shining God's light** out into the world? Are we **reaching the lost**? Are we **igniting a spiritual awakening** in our community?

REACH for Revival Now!

The Church of God feels very strongly that we **must make a concerted effort** to **REACH the lost** during the next few years and has enacted a **5-year plan** to accomplish this objective:

⇒ *“God has promised revival -- and He is sending revival. We can perpetuate the power of the Pentecost in our lives and in the church by **participating in revival**, possessing the power that comes through **Spirit-filled living**, and **proclaiming Christ to the world**.*

Paul L. Walker, General Overseer

To help fulfill this responsibility, the Lion of Judah's ministry emphasis is called **REACH** (i.e. the 21st century):

Revival:

“Experiencing God in **revival** and **spiritual awakening**.” (Isaiah 57:15)

Education:

“**Discipling and equipping** the believers.” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Affirmation:

“Accepting and declaring the **worth of individuals**.” (John 3:16)

Communication:

“Utilizing all available means to **transmit the gospel**.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Harvest:

“Mobilizing to **reach the global harvest**.” (John 4:35)

Homework

- What was the **first revival** recorded in the Bible? Read **Genesis 35:1-7** to find out. Also read **Genesis 34:1-31** to learn why a revival was necessary.

Part I: God's Pattern for Revival

*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 **will forgive their sin and heal their land**.. 2Chronicles 7:14 (NKJ)*

Biblical Foundations

God **knew** that His chosen people would **depart from Him**, so He **made provision** for **regular times** of corporate **renewal**

- These times of renewal were called **holy convocations** or **sacred assemblies**
- **Sacred assemblies** were days for God's people to come together to:
 - ⇒ demonstrate **obedience** to God and His commands
 - ⇒ acknowledge God's **Lordship** over all aspects of their lives
 - ⇒ recognize God's **holiness**
 - ⇒ **confess and repent** of corporate sin
 - ⇒ renew their **fellowship** with God
 - ⇒ remember God's **provision and blessings** upon His people

Discussion

Which of the above purposes for sacred assemblies were satisfied by the **first recorded revival** in the Bible? (see Genesis 35:1-7)

- Leviticus 23 and Numbers 28-29 identify **seven prescribed days** each year that were to be celebrated as **sacred assemblies**:
 1. First day of the Feast of the **Passover** (15th day of the 1st month)
 2. Seventh day of the Feast of the **Passover** (21st day of the 1st month)
 3. Feast of **Firstfruits** (**Pentecost** - 50 days after Passover)
 4. Feast of **Trumpets** (1st day of the 7th month)
 5. Day of **Atonement** (10th day of the 7th month)
 6. First day of the Feast of **Tabernacles** (15th day of the 7th month)
 7. Eighth day of the Feast of **Tabernacles** (22nd day of the 7th month)

When these prescribed days of renewal accomplished their **intended purpose**, God's people stayed in **right relationship** to Him

- When these days became **mere ritual**, they did **not** bring the people back into a **right relationship** with God
⇒ In fact, God **condemned** these evil assemblies! **Read Isaiah 1:10-20**

New Testament Assemblies

The term *sacred assembly* does not appear in the New Testament.

- Because the **Jerusalem Christians** were primarily of Jewish ancestry, they **continued to practice Jewish customs**, including the prescribed days for sacred assemblies

There were **two very significant New Testament events** that occurred in connection with the prescribed Jewish sacred assemblies:

1. Pentecost

- After Jesus ascended to heaven, He directed the disciples to return to Jerusalem to **wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit** (Acts 1:4-5)
- They and their followers spent ten days together in **“one accord in prayer and supplication”** (Acts 1:14)
- On the day of Pentecost, **“they were all with one accord in one place”** when the Holy Spirit came and the Church was empowered (Acts 2:1-4)
- Then **Peter** preached a message from the **Book of Joel** that describes a call to **sacred assembly** before God (Acts 2:14-40)

⇒ *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about **three thousand souls were added** to them.* Acts 2:41 (NKJ)

Read Joel 2:15-17 (the call to assemble), **25-27** (God's answer), and **28-32** (prophecy) to see how this New Testament event was related to the Old Testament sacred assembly

2. Peter's Deliverance

- After King Herod executed **James**, he **arrested Peter** with the intention of executing him as well (Acts 12:1-3)
- Because it was the Feast of Unleavened Bread (**Passover**), King Herod put Peter in prison to try him **after the 7th day sacred assembly** (Acts 12:4)
- The Jerusalem Christians were **all gathered together** for the sacred assembly and **prayed constantly** for Peter's Deliverance (Acts 12:5)
- **God dramatically intervened** and freed Peter from prison (Acts 12:6-11)
- Peter then went to a house where **many were gathered in prayer** and he lived to provide **strong leadership** to the early church (Acts 12:12-19)
- Meanwhile, the **Lord struck King Herod down** "because he did not give glory to God" (Acts 12:20-23)
⇒ *But the word of God grew and multiplied.* Acts 12:24 (NKJ)

Applying Biblical Standards for Renewal Today

Although Christ did away with the necessity for adhering to Jewish traditions, He **did not alter God's pattern for revival** in His people.

⇒ *Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.*
Matthew 5:17-18 (NIV)

And even though **we have Christ available directly to us at all times** through the Holy Spirit, we still need to gather together for **corporate renewal**

- God still requires **corporate repentance** as the foundation for **spiritual revival** in His Church
- God still requires **spiritual revival** in His people before there can be a great **spiritual awakening** in the community

The Cycle of Sin and Revival

The early church following the Day of Pentecost is the model of **what God intends for His Church to be**.

- The believers were **rightly related to Him**
- The believers offered themselves as “living sacrifices” **through whom Christ could be glorified**
 - ⇒ As a result, **the early church grew at a phenomenal rate**, a true spiritual awakening spreading rapidly outward from Jerusalem

Churches, however, **don’t always stay in a right relationship** with God

- When God’s people **depart from God**, for whatever reason, they **need revival**

The Book of Judges show this **cycle of departure and revival** over and over again. Follow along in Judges 2 as an example of this ongoing cycle:

1. The people served the Lord (Judges 2:7)

⇒ *So **the people served the LORD** all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.*

2. The people forsook the Lord (Judges 2:11-12)

⇒ *Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; and **they forsook the LORD** God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them;*

3. God disciplined the people (Judges 2:14-15)

⇒ *And the **anger of the LORD was hot against Israel**. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and **He sold them into the hands of their enemies** all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies.*

4. The people cried out for help (Judges 2:18)

⇒ *The LORD was moved to pity by their groaning.*

5. God had compassion and revived the people (Judges 2:18)

⇒ *When the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and **delivered them out of the hand of their enemies** all the days of the judge.*

6. The people forsook the Lord (Judges 2:19)

⇒ *And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and **behaved more corruptly than their fathers.***

New Testament Cycles

This **cycle of departure and revival** was not just an Old Testament problem. In **Revelation 2-3**, the resurrected Christ calls the churches to repent and return to Him:

1. To the church at Ephesus:

⇒ *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 from its place.*
Revelation 2:4-5 (NIV)

2. To the church at Pergamum:

⇒ *You have people there who hold to the **teaching of Balaam....** by eating food sacrificed to **idols** and by committing **sexual immorality....** **Repent therefore!** Otherwise I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. Revelation 2:14-16 (NIV)*

3. To the church at Sardis:

⇒ *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. Revelation 3:1-3 (NIV)*

4. To the church at Laodicea:

⇒ *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.***
Revelation 3:17-19 (NIV)

Discussion:

What are the **common themes** in each of the above churches? How do these reflect the **cycle** of departure and revival in the **Book of Judges**?

This **cycle of departure and return** to the Lord is characteristic of God’s people **throughout the ages.**

- The way God deals with His people during these cycles forms a **pattern of revival** that we must adopt as our standard today.

Homework:

Read Nehemiah 7:73-9:3. How does the revival under Ezra and Nehemiah also demonstrate this cycle of departure from and return to God?

God's Pattern for Revival

*You are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who **called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.** 1Peter 2:9 (NKJ)*

Revival Under Ezra and Nehemiah

During one of the many **cycles of sin and revival** in the Old Testament, God disciplined Judah by sending them into **Babylonian exile**.

- After 70 years, **His people cried out** to Him and God began to bring a remnant back to Jerusalem
- A **significant revival** took place under the leadership of the priest **Ezra** and the governor **Nehemiah**

Let's examine how **God's pattern is revealed** in the Biblical account of this revival:

1. God's People Served the Lord

- Josiah purified the land, repaired the temple, found the Book of the Law and led a great revival in the land. (2Chronicles 34-35)

2. God's People Forsook the Lord

- Subsequent kings turned away and "did evil in the sight of the Lord" (2Chronicles 36:1-10)
- God warned the people to repent and told them exactly what the consequences would be 18 years beforehand (Jeremiah 25:1-14)
- But they didn't listen, culminating in the evil reign of Zedekiah (2Chronicles 11-14)

3. God Disciplined the People

- God carried out His discipline just as He had warned through Jeremiah (2Chronicles 15-20)

4. The People Cried out for Help

- God's people were devastated by the fall of Jerusalem and their exile and their cries are recorded through Jeremiah's *Book of Lamentations* and the *Book of Ezekiel*.

5. God Had Compassion and Revived His People

- After the Persian king Cyrus conquered Babylon, God used him to deliver His people out of exile (2Chronicles 36:21-23)
- After the Israelites had resettled into their land, the priest Ezra read the *Book of the Law* to a **sacred assembly** of all the people (Nehemiah 7:73b-8:3)
- The people worshipped and praised the Lord anew (Nehemiah 8:6)
- They were then instructed in the Book of the Law (Nehemiah 8:7-8)
- They consecrated the day to the Lord and experienced the joy of revival (Nehemiah 8:9-12)
- The revival then spread throughout the land (Nehemiah 8:13-18)
- Twenty-four days later, the revival was still going strong and the people repented of their sins (Nehemiah 9:1-3)

The 7 Phases of God's Pattern for Revival

God's pattern for revival is a **7-step plan** that ultimately will result in spiritual awakening and worldwide redemption:

1. God is on a mission to redeem a lost world.

- God offers salvation to the world through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus
- God works through His people to proclaim Christ to the world

2. God's people tend to depart from Him, turning to substitutes for His presence, His purposes, and His ways.

- God knows that even His people will depart from Him to some degree
- God calls upon His people to renew a right relationship with Him

3. God disciplines His people out of His love for them.

- Because of God's great love for us, He disciplines wayward Christians in order to bring them back into a right relationship with Him

4. God's people cry out to Him for help.

- God's discipline becomes more and more intense until His people cry out to Him for relief
- God is patient and long-suffering -- like the father of the prodigal son, God eagerly waits for His children to return to Him.

5. God calls His people to repent and return to Him or perish.

- God clearly defines His requirements for repentance
- His people can choose to return to Him or suffer the consequences

6. God revives his repentant people by restoring them to a right relationship with Him.

- God stands forever ready to receive His people when they choose to return
- He forgives and cleanses them of their sins and restores the joy of being part of God's family

7. God exalts His Son Jesus through His revived people.

- God empowers His people through the fullness of the Holy Spirit to carry out His plan of redemption for a lost world
- When God has a people rightly related to Him, He is able to display His glory through them to a watching world
- When a people experience the mighty power of God, people notice and want a similar experience of their own

Prayer Break:

God wants us to experience and to lead a revival in your community. Pray that the Body of Christ will have the courage and the fortitude to join God in spreading revival in our own land.

God Is on a Mission in Our World

A Perfect Creation

God wanted a people with whom He could **fellowship**, so He created mankind in His own image:

⇒ *God said, "Let Us **make man in Our image**, according to Our likeness.... So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.....* Genesis 1:26-27 (NKJ)

What God created was, in His words, "very good" which for us means **perfect**

⇒ *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed **it was very good.*** Genesis 1:31 (NKJ)

Before sin entered the world, the relationship with God was **eternal and pure**

- Nothing separated Adam and Eve from God -- no shame, no guilt, no fear, no despair -- they had **pure fellowship and love** for one another

⇒ *"And this is eternal life, that they may **know You**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.* John 17:3 (NKJ)

What God wants more than anything else is our **love** for Him

⇒ *You shall **love the LORD** your God with all your **heart**, with all your **soul**, and with all your **strength.*** Deuteronomy 6:5 (NKJ)

A Broken Relationship

From the very beginning, God gave His creation **free will** -- i.e. the freedom to choose between life and death.

⇒ *The **tree of life** was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of **good and evil**.... And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil **you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die.**"* Genesis 2:9,16-17

Sin entered the world when Satan induced Adam and Eve to **disobey God** and eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil:

- This choice not only **brought sin** into the world, it also **brought death** in place of eternal life -- just as God had warned!

⇒ *And the Lord God said, "This man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. **He must not be allowed** to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and **life forever.**" So the Lord God **banished him from the Garden of Eden** to work the ground from which he had been taken. Genesis 3:22-23 (NIV)*

God Provides Redemption

As descendants of Adam and Eve, we have been born into a **world of sin** -- and **death**.

⇒ *Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way **death came to all men.** Romans 5:12 (NIV)*

Because of our inherited "**sinful nature**", we all sin and **fall short** of the perfection of God:

⇒ ***All have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 (NIV)*

We are not able, on our own, to completely **overcome our sinful nature** -- as the entire Old Testament demonstrates!

⇒ *The **law is spiritual**; but **I am unspiritual**, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do..... As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is **sin living in me.** Romans 7:14-15, 17 (NIV)*

God has not abandoned us though -- in fact, he **sacrificed His own Son** to pay the penalty for our sin so that we might individually be given the choice of life or death:

⇒ *Therefore, as through **one man's offense** judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through **one Man's righteous** act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were **made sinners**, so also by one Man's obedience many will be **made righteous.** Romans 5:18-19 (NKJ)*

God's Mission is Our Salvation

When God saves us, He brings us back into a **perfect love relationship** with Him.

⇒ *For He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be **holy and blameless** in his sight. **In love** He predestined us to be **adopted** as his sons through Jesus Christ.* Ephesians 1:4-5 (NIV)

We then become part of **God's family** -- as well as **His army**. God's mission of worldwide redemption is carried out **through us!**

⇒ ***Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.* Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJ)

⇒ ***You also**, as living stones, are being built up into a **spiritual house, a holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.* 1Peter 2:5 (NKJ)

Read 1Peter 2:9

1. Who do we belong to? _____

2. For what purpose have we been chosen?

Homework

Memorize each of the "revival" scriptures at the top of pages 1, 7 & 13.

Prayer Break:

Prayerfully consider how faithful you have been to practice your priesthood before God and others. How faithful are you to proclaim God's praises to a world cloaked in darkness? Pray for the boldness that comes through the fullness of the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31).

God's People Tend to Depart from Him and Turn to Substitutes

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. Hebrews 12:5 (NIV)

Phase 1: God is on a Mission to Redeem a Lost World

- God calls upon His people to **join Him** on His mission of redemption.
⇒ *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them..... teaching them..... Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJ)*
- God asks that we offer ourselves as **living sacrifices** to His royal priesthood.
⇒ *You also, as living stones, are being built up into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood..... 1Peter 2:5 (NKJ)*
- To do so, we must provide God with a **clean** and **pure** heart.
⇒ *Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Psalm 51:10-12 (NKJ)*
- Without God it is impossible for us to remain pure and holy on our own -- however, **with God, all things are possible.**
⇒ *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13 (NKJ)*

Phase 2: God's People Tend to Depart from Him

People are born with an **inherited sinful nature** and, therefore, become **distracted** by the world and **deceived** by Satan.

- In doing so, we turn to **substitutes** for God's **presence, purposes** and **ways**

Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20 to see how this turning away happens.

Discussion:

1. How **difficult** is it to know God's **commands**? (vv.11-13)
2. **Where** do we need to have God's word in order to **obey** it? (v14)
3. What **two options** does God give us? (vv. 15&19 and also Joshua 24:15)
4. What are the **consequences** of each choice? (vv.15&19)
5. What **three things** does God command us to do? (v16)
6. Where does turning away from God **begin**? (v17)
7. What does turning away **result in**? (v17)
8. What **three things** must we do to **avoid** turning away from God? (v20)

Four Steps of Departure

At some point, we **all** will lose our focus on God to some degree. This always follows **four steps**:

1. Our hearts turn away.

- Moving away from God has nothing to do with physical **activity** -- rather, it has to do with a **shift** in our **hearts**.
 - ⇒ *Take heed to yourselves, lest your **heart** be deceived, and you **turn aside** and serve other gods and worship them.* Deuteronomy 11:16 (NKJ)
 - ⇒ *They always go astray in their **heart**, and they have not known My ways.* Hebrews 3:10 (NKJ)

2. We no longer hear God.

- That “*still, small voice within*” is easily drowned out by the **noise** of this world if we are not careful.
 - ⇒ *Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, **if you will hear His voice**, do not **harden your hearts** as in the rebellion.* Hebrews 3:7-8 (NKJ)
 - ⇒ *He who has ears to hear, **let him hear!*** Matthew 11:15, 13:9, 13:43; Mark 4:9; Luke 8:8; 14:35 (NKJ)

3. We are then drawn away from God by the world and by Satan

- The world is **not inherently evil**, but it is distracting and alluring
- The trouble is not that we live in the world, but rather that **we do not keep God first** and foremost in our hearts as we live in the world
 - ⇒ *But seek ye **first** the kingdom of God.* Matthew 6:33 (KJV)
- If we do not keep God first, then we are **vulnerable** to Satan's endless attacks
 - ⇒ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the **devil** walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may **devour**.* 1Peter 5:8 (NKJ)
 - ⇒ *Put on the whole **armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the **devil**. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against **powers**, against the **rulers of the darkness** of this age, against **spiritual hosts of wickedness** in the heavenly places.* Ephesians 6:11 (NKJ)

4. We then turn to substitutes for God's presence, purposes and ways

- The world provides us with an **endless stream** of "other gods"
- Our turning away from God is a **subtle process** that begins with **small**, seemingly innocuous **steps**.
 - ⇒ *These men have set up their **idols in their hearts**, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity.* Ezekiel 14:3 (NKJ)

Broken Cisterns

Read **Jeremiah 2:2-16**

Discussion:

1. What was the first step away from the Lord? (v8)
2. Who did the Israelites turn to in place of the Lord? (v8)
3. What did God say their two sins were? (v13)
4. What was the consequence of their turning away from God? (vv. 14-16)

Substitutes for God

There are **many things in this world** that people substitute for God (i.e., give **higher priority**). What do the following verses suggest that we use as **substitutes** for God?

Psalm 20:7 _____

Proverbs 3:5-6 _____

Isaiah 30:1 _____

Jeremiah 17:5 _____

Matthew 6:24 _____

Matthew 10:37 _____

Matthew 15:8-9 _____

Luke 9:23-24 _____

John 5:39-40 _____

1John 2:15-16 _____

Living Water

Read **John 4:10-21**

Discussion:

What **substitute** did the woman at the well turn to in place of God? (v17)

What **other substitute** did the woman turn to? (v21)

What did Jesus offer as **God's substitute** for worldly distractions? (vv.10-13)

Idolatry

Read **Ephesians 5:3-5**

Discussion:

What **three sins** does the Apostle Paul define as representing idolatry?

America's First Great Awakening

The first *Great Awakening* in the American Colonies occurred in 1740-43 in the New England area.

The Need

- Practices such as *The Half-Way Covenant* had brought many people into church membership **without requiring any indication of saving faith**.
- Churches were a **mixture** of believers and non-believers
- The **spiritual climate** of the churches had reached a **low point**

God Brings Revival

- Around 1734, **revivals** began to occur in **several locations** in New England
- God used these early revivals and awakenings to **prepare the spiritual soil** for the **sowing of the gospel** that would follow

Revival at Northampton

- One of the more **noteworthy revivals** occurred in Northampton, Massachusetts in 1734-35 where Jonathan Edwards was pastor of the Congregational Church
- Prior to the revival, the town had experienced a “**degenerate time**” and a “**dullness of religion**”, according to Rev. Edwards.
- The young people were addicted to “nightwalking, tavern drinking, lewd practices and frolics among the sexes”
- In addition, the **government had “failed the town”** with sharp divisions between two political parties who “were jealous of each other in all public affairs.”
- After the **tragic deaths** of two young people in the spring of 1734, Rev. Edwards led the people to **think soberly about spiritual and eternal matters**
- In the fall of 1734, Rev. Edward **preached on justification by faith alone**. Five or six people were **converted**, one of whom was a young woman who was “one of the greatest **company keepers** in the whole town.”
- Her life was so **radically changed** that everyone could tell it was the work of **God's grace**.

Awakening in Northampton

- During the following six months, **300 people were converted** out of a total population of 1,100 -- **27% of the entire town!**
- Rev. Edwards said, “There was scarcely a **single person** in the in the town, either young or old, that was **left unconcerned** about the great things of the eternal world... The town seemed to be **full of the presence of God**; it never was so full of love, nor so full of joy.”

A Great Awakening in New England

- Following the local revivals, **God used traveling evangelists** like George Whitefield and Gilbert Tennent to spread the gospel and “quicken the spirits of His people.”
- Historians estimate that **25,000 to 50,000 people were saved**, equivalent to 7-14% of the total population in New England at the time.
- **New churches** were planted in **record numbers**, colleges like Dartmouth and Princeton began to **train missionaries and ministers** to carry the gospel to the lost world
- This revival also laid the foundation of **cooperative relationships** between denominations
- The **religious liberties** guaranteed in the new republic **had their birth in this great revival.**

Discussion:

1. In what ways did the people of New England **turn away from God**?
2. How did the Great Awakening **get its start**?
3. How did the fires of revival **spread** beyond its local boundaries?

Phase 3: God Disciplines His People

Do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives. Hebrews 12:5-6 (NKJ)

God's Nature

Many people today have lost the sense of the *fear of God*:

- Many no longer believe that God holds us **accountable**
- Many don't believe that God **disciplines** and **judges** His people
- Many think that the God of **judgment** and **wrath** was the only the God of the Old Testament, not the New Testament
- Many think that the God revealed in the New Testament is **just a God of love and forgiveness**

But **God's nature doesn't change** -- He is the same today as He was yesterday and as He will be tomorrow:

⇒ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1 (NKJ)*

⇒ *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8 (NKJ)*

⇒ *For I am the LORD, I do not change. Malachi 3:6 (NKJ)*

Yes, **God is love** -- but He is also **much, much more**. Write in the space below the words or phrases that best describes one aspect of God's nature as revealed in the following Scriptures:

1John 4:8-9 _____

Jonah 4:2 _____

Romans 2:5 _____

Nehemiah 9:31 _____

Jeremiah 9:24 _____

Revelation 15:1 _____

Psalm 9:7-8 _____

Psalm 33:4-5 _____

Isaiah 5:16 _____

God does **not want** to discipline us nor does He take **pleasure** in His wrath -- what He wants is our **love and obedience**:

⇒ *Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?..... I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live! Ezekiel 18:23,32 (NIV)*

⇒ *He is **patient** with you, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but everyone to come to repentance. 2Peter 3:9 (NIV)*

We need to develop a **healthy fear of our holy God** not because He wants us to be fearful, but rather because He wants us to live!

⇒ *Moses said to the people, "**Do not be afraid**. God has come to **test you**, so that the fear of God will be with you to **keep you from sinning**." Exodus 20:20 (NIV)*

And why does God want to keep us from sinning? Because sin leads to death!

⇒ *For the **wages of sin is death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 (NIV)*

This was the **warning** God gave to Adam & Eve before they disobeyed Him:

⇒ *You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for **when you eat of it you will surely die**. Genesis 2:16 (NIV)*

God's Purpose in Discipline

God created and called out His people to have a **love relationship** with Him:

- When God's people **depart** from that love relationship, He is **grieved**

Read Hebrews 12:5-11

Discussion:

1. What **3 words** in verses 5-6 describe what God does to **correct** His children?

2. What happens if a person is **not disciplined** by the Lord? (v.8)

3. What is the Lord's discipline **analogous** to in our **world**? (v.9)

4. **Why** does God discipline His children? (v.10)

5. What does God's discipline produce? (v.11)

6. What should these words do for us? (v. 5)

The Nature of God's Discipline

God's judgment comes at the end of time when He will judge *all* people:

⇒ *We shall **all** stand before the **judgment seat** of Christ..... Each of us shall give account of himself to God.* Romans 14:10,12 (NKJ)

- God's judgments at the end times are *final* and *eternal*
- When final judgment comes, it is **too late for repentance**

God's discipline, however, occurs in our own lifetimes and is intended to either correct or punish us.

⇒ *'I am with you and will save you,' declares the LORD. 'Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will **discipline you but only with justice**; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.'* Jeremiah 30:11 (NIV)

- God's discipline in our lives is *remedial* and *temporal*
- Remedial judgments (i.e. discipline) are intended to correct us and lead us back into a right relationship with Him **through the door of repentance**.

Final judgments may be enacted by God here on earth:

- After **prolonged periods of sin** without repentance
- Or because the **nature of the sin** is so great

Read Acts 5:1-5

1. What was God's judgment on Ananias? _____
2. What was the nature of Ananias' sin? _____

Remedial discipline may be enacted directly by God or through intermediaries:

Read 1Corinthians 5:1-5

1. What was the judgment on the sinful man? _____
2. Was this judgment by Paul final? _____
3. What sin did Paul say the other Corinthians committed? _____
4. Was Paul's indictment of them remedial or final? _____

Read 2Corinthians 2:6-11

1. Was the punishment of the sinful man effective? _____
2. What did Paul now tell the Corinthians to do? _____

Read 2Corinthians 7:8-13

1. Was the church's correction also effective? _____
2. What were the results of Paul's correction? _____

⇒ *Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation.* 2Cor. 7:10 (NIV)

Biblical Truths About God's Discipline

- Judgment should begin with God's people
⇒ *For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?* 1Peter 4:17 (NIV)

- Every deed, including hidden things, will be judged.
⇒ *For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NIV)*
- God's discipline is progressive. It increases each time we do not respond. Leviticus 26:14-21 (NIV)
⇒ *But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands, and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant, then I will do this to you: I will bring upon you sudden terror, wasting diseases and fever that will destroy your sight and drain away your life. You will plant seed in vain, because your enemies will eat it. I will set my face against you so that you will be defeated by your enemies; those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee even when no one is pursuing you.*
⇒ *If after all this you will not listen to me, I will punish you for your sins seven times over. I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze. Your strength will be spent in vain, because your soil will not yield its crops, nor will the trees of the land yield their fruit.*
⇒ *If you [still] remain hostile toward me and refuse to listen to me, I will multiply your afflictions seven times over, as your sins deserve.*
- Jesus came into the world to bring judgment on it and on us.
⇒ *Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world. John 9:39*

Examples of God's Discipline and Judgment

The Scriptures are filled with examples of God's discipline and judgment. Match the scripture references below with the examples of God's disciplines & judgments.

- | | | |
|--|-------|------------------|
| a) Withdraws His Presence | _____ | Isaiah 59:2 |
| b) Refuses to Hear Our Prayers | _____ | Revelation 2:5 |
| c) Removes His Hedge of Protection | _____ | Isaiah 5:5 |
| d) Convicts of Sin | _____ | Amos 8:11-12 |
| e) Sends a Famine of His Word | _____ | Jeremiah 7:13-15 |
| f) Allows the Full Consequences of Sin | _____ | Luke 19:43-44 |
| g) Destroys or Removes | _____ | John 16:8 |

Phase 4: God's People Cry Out for Help

"Return to Me, and I will return to you," Says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:7 (NKJ)

Discipline is God's Call to Repentance

When we depart from the Lord, He **disciplines** us in love:

- We need to make the **connection** between our **sin and the discipline** that is happening to us.
⇒ *Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, And he who hates correction will die.* Proverbs 15:10 (NKJ)
- Hard times are **not necessarily God's discipline**, because Satan likes to keep us bound up in our misery.
⇒ *Man who is born of woman Is of few days and full of trouble.* Job 14:1 (NKJ)
⇒ *In the world you will have trouble.* John 16:33 (NIV)
- Therefore, we must **pray for discernment** in order to distinguish between God's discipline and the troubles of this world.
⇒ *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ.* Philippians 1:9-10 (NKJ)

If we are experiencing God's discipline, we must **respond immediately**:

- The longer we **delay**, the more **intense** His discipline becomes (e.g. Leviticus 26:14-21).
- God will continue to deal with us severely **until He finally gets our attention**
⇒ *Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, Who oppressed them; And in the time of their trouble, When they cried to You, You heard from heaven.* Nehemiah 9:27 (NKJ)
⇒ *But when in their trouble they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them.* 2Chronicles 15:4 (NKJ)

When King Solomon dedicated the temple, he asked God if He would forgive His people when they cried out to Him:

Read 2Chronicles 6:24-39

1. What are some of the disciplines or punishments God might bring upon His people _____

2. Why would God bring these disasters upon His people? _____

3. What was Solomon's supplication? _____

Read 2Chronicles 7:13-14

1. What four requirements does God demand from His people?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
2. What does God promise to do in return? _____

Requirements for Revival

The four requirements listed in 2Chronicles 7:14 are the same for: **one person**; a **group** of people; a **church**; or an entire **community**. However:

- Revival in a **community** cannot occur until there is a revival in the **church**
 - Revival in the **church** cannot occur until there is a revival in the **people**
- ⇒ It all starts and ends at the **individual** level and we **all** have a part to play

Phase 5: God Calls for Repentance

Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand! Matthew 3:2 & 4:17

When God's People Cry Out, God Says "Repent!"

When God's people cry out to Him, He calls on us to **repent** and **return** to Him:

⇒ *Repent now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD has given to you and your fathers forever and ever.*

Jeremiah 25:5 (NKJ)

⇒ *Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place; unless you repent.* Revelation 2:5 (NKJ)

Read Jeremiah 29:11-14

1. What kind of plans does God have for His people? _____

2. How must we seek God in order to find Him? _____

Even when God brings **disaster** upon His people, He still wants us to **prosper** as well as to give us **hope** and a **future**:

⇒ *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.* Romans 8:28 (NKJ)

God the Healer

When there is **sin** in your *life*, your *family*, your *church* or your *community*, you **cannot fix the problem yourself**.

- The good news is that **God is the greatest healer** the world has ever known
⇒ *If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.* Exodus 15:26 (NKJ)

- ⇒ *Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, **Who heals all your diseases**, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies. Psalm 103:3 (NKJ)*
- ⇒ ***God anointed Jesus** of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and **healing all who were oppressed** by the devil, for God was with Him. Acts 10:38 (NKJ)*

How Do We Know if We Need to Repent?

When we go to a doctor, he determines the cause of our **physical illness** by examining our **symptoms**:

- In the Spiritual realm, the **Holy Spirit** is our **diagnostician**
 - ⇒ *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the **Helper** will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will **convict** the world of sin, and of **righteousness**, and of **judgment**: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. John 16:7-11 (NKJ)*

We can determine if we have a **spiritual illness** (i.e. sin) by:

- Observing the **symptoms**
- **Praying** to the Holy Spirit to point out where we have a **need** for repentance

Symptoms of Spiritual Sickness:

There are three primary symptoms of spiritual illness:

1. **Disobedience** or failure to obey God's **commandments**
2. Turning to and accepting **substitutes** for God
3. God's **discipline** in our lives
 - All three symptoms indicate that our **hearts have turned away** from God to some degree in some manner or form
 - ⇒ *They always **go astray in their heart**. Hebrews 3:10 (NKJ)*

The symptoms are **not**, however, the primary problem

- If we only treat the symptoms, we mask the pain and **fail to cure the root causes** of the illness
- We must also go after the **hidden things** in our hearts that only the Holy Spirit can reveal to us
 - ⇒ *We have renounced the **hidden things of shame**, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the **truth**.*
2Corinthians 4:2 (NKJ)
- In the Spiritual world, **sin** is the root cause of spiritual illness -- and must be **rooted out!**
 - ⇒ *“Just as I watched over them to **uproot and tear down**, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them **to build and to plant**,” declares the Lord.... Everyone will **die** for his own **sin**.*
Jeremiah 31:28,30 (NIV)
 - ⇒ ***Unless you repent** you will all likewise **perish**.* Luke 13:3 (NKJ)

Sin is serious -- and we must treat it as we would treat a serious, **life-threatening** physical illness or injury:

- Just as we would go to the **emergency ward** for physical treatment, so too we must go to God through the Holy Spirit for **spiritual restoration**
- We must take the **first step** and go to God before He will heal us
 - ⇒ *“Return to Me, and I will return to you,” Says the LORD of hosts.*
Malachi 3:7 (NKJ)

Repentance Is the Road to Recovery

Repentance is how we return to God:

- The word **repent** has several meanings in the Bible:
 1. A sense of regret
 - ⇒ *The LORD **regretted** that He had made Saul king over Israel.*
1Samuel 15:35 (NKJ)
 - God didn't make the mistake, Saul did

⇒ *Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was **remorseful** and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." Matthew 27:3 (NKJ)*

- But he didn't cry out in repentance to God

2. A changing of the **mind**

⇒ *So the LORD **relented** from the harm which He said He would do to His people. Exodus 32:14 (NKJ)*

- God doesn't change His nature, but He can and does change His mind as a function of how people respond to Him -- a great encouragement for prayer!

3. To **turn away from sin** and turn to God

⇒ *He who would **love life** And see good days.... let him **turn away** from evil and do good. 1Peter 3:10-11 (NKJ)*

⇒ *Cast away from you all the **transgressions** which you have committed, and get yourselves a **new heart** and a **new spirit**. Ezekiel 18:31 (NKJ)*

- It is not enough just to turn away from sin, but we must also return to our right relationship with God

Genuine Repentance

Repenting with our whole heart means that:

- Mere sorrow is not enough -- **Godly sorrow** is required

⇒ *For **godly sorrow** produces repentance leading to **salvation**... but the sorrow of the world produces death. 2Corinthians 7:10 (NKJ)*

- Repentance is not just a recognition of sin, but rather an **appreciation of our unworthiness before God**

⇒ *I am **not worthy** of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant. Genesis 32:10 (NKJ)*

- Reforming our behavior for **just a while** is not enough -- we must become completely **dead to sin**

⇒ *Reckon yourselves to be **dead indeed to sin**, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:11 (NKJ)*

⇒ *If we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.* Hebrews 10:26 (NKJ)

- Repentance means that we humbly ask for Christ to live in us and through us
⇒ *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.* Galatians 2:20 (NKJ)

God's Requirements for Repentance

Repentance requires change in four areas:

1. Change Your Heart (the Greek antonym of repent is "hardness of heart")

Our **departure** away from God begins with a **shift in our hearts** -- and our **return** to God must begin there as well

- We need not only to be concerned about God's **ultimate judgments** on us, but we need to also be aware of how **our sins grieve God**

Read Ephesians 4:30 and Psalms 41:4

- Instead of holding on and enjoying our sinful ways, we must come to the place where **we too grieve** over our sins

Read Psalms 34:18 & 51:17 and Joel 2:12

- And never forget that **Jesus had to die on the cross** in order for us to be forgiven of our sins

Read Revelation 1:5

2. Change Your Mind

In order to be truly repentant we must **consciously agree with God** that:

a) **He alone is the Truth**

If we want to **argue with God** about what is right and wrong -- or, more likely, we only want to accept a portion of God's truth -- then we can be sure that **there is still sin lurking** in the shadows of our hearts:

Read Romans 1:24-25

b) **We are sinners**

If we continue to give God **excuses to justify ourselves**, we are still a long way from godly sorrow:

Read Romans 3:23 and Ecclesiastes 5:6-7

c) **We cannot overcome sin on our own**

Ultimately, we must overcome our **pride** and ask for help:

Read Romans 7:19, Galatians 5:4 and Ephesians 2:8

3. **Change Your Will**

Repentance requires **radical surgery**:

a) Get rid of any **“idols of the heart”**

Read Ezekiel 14:4-5

b) Tear down any **personal strongholds**

Read Psalms 89:40

c) Remove ourselves from **tempting situations**

Read 1Corinthians 6:18 & 10:14, 1Timothy 6:11, 2Timothy 2:22

d) Put on the **“whole armor of God”** and resist temptation when it occurs

Read James 4:7

e) God will enable us to change our will

Read Philippians 2:13 and Jeremiah 31:28

4. **Change Your Actions**

Repentance requires a **return to God’s Way** of living

a) Just as we can observe symptoms of spiritual illness, so too can we see the **fruits of repentance** in our actions

Read Acts 26:20 and Matthew 3:8

b) In fact, there is a strong relationship between faith and repentance

Read 2:38 and Hebrews 6:1

David's Prayer for Repentance

After King David sinned with Bathsheba and arranged to have her husband killed, he prayed for repentance:

Read Psalm 51

Which verses show how David's prayer for repentance satisfies each of **God's four requirements for repentance** on the previous two pages?

1. **Change of Heart** _____
2. **Change of Mind** _____
3. **Change of Will** _____
4. **Changed Actions** _____

There are some **additional lessons** to be learned from this prayer of repentance:

- What was David's **motivation** to seek repentance? _____

- David didn't just cry out for:
pardon, but for _____
acquittal, but for _____
comfort, but for _____
- Which verses indicate David's implicit **understanding and confidence** that God would not only **hear** David's cry for repentance but would also **respond** to that cry?

- What is the **ultimate result** of David's prayer of repentance? _____

Read 2Chronicles 7:14

- Does David's prayer also **fulfill** these four **requirements** of God?

Corporate Repentance

Just as individuals need to repent of their sins, so do **groups of people** -- families, churches, organizations, communities, nations, etc.

- **Corporate repentance** is required for **corporate sin**

Read the messages of the Risen Christ to the five sinful churches:

1. The “loveless church” of Ephesus -- **Revelation 2:4-5**
2. The “compromising church” of Pergamos -- **Revelation 2:14-16**
3. The “corrupt church” of Thyatira -- **Revelation 2:20-23**
4. The “dead church” of Sardis -- **Revelation 3:1-3**
5. The “lukewarm church” of Laodicea -- **Revelation 3:14-19**

- To whom was Christ speaking in each case? _____
- What common theme do each of these 5 letters express? _____

The **path** of corporate repentance follows the **same steps** as those outlined in the previous sections:

- **How** do we **know** whether a church **needs** to repent? _____

- **How** should the church **go about** seeking repentance? _____

- **Who** should undertake the **mission of repentance** for the church? _____

- **What if everyone doesn't participate** in the mission to seek repentance?

Revival Under King Josiah

Josiah was eight years old when he became king, succeeding Amon and Manasseh who both “did evil in the sight of the Lord.”

Read 2Chronicles 34:1-8

- Was King Josiah also a wicked ruler as his father and grandfather had been?

In King Josiah’s eighteenth year on the throne began to have the temple repaired under the steward ship of the high priest Hilkiah:

Read 2Chronicles 34:14-19

- What was King Josiah’s reaction when the Book of the Law was read to him? _____

Read 2Chronicles 34:20-22

- What was King Josiah so fearful? _____

- What did King Josiah do as a result? _____

Read 2Chronicles 34:23-25

- What did the prophetess Huldah say that the Lord God planned to do? _____

- Whose sins had brought this fate on the Israelites? _____

Read 2Chronicles 34:26-28

- What had Josiah done that pleased God? _____

Read 2Chronicles 34:29-33

- What 5 things did Josiah do to guide the people back to the Lord? _____

Read 2Chronicles 35:1-2,18

- Once the people had repented, what indication was there that they experienced a true revival? _____

Phase 6:

God Revives His Repentant People

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24 (NKJ)

Repentance Leads to Revival

Repentance initiates a series of 3 steps which ultimately brings about **revival**:

1. True Repentance Induces a Move of God

- If we are **willing**, then God is willing to revive us -- again and again and again
 - ⇒ *Those who dwell under his shadow shall return; **They shall be revived** like grain, And grow like a vine. Their scent shall be like the wine of Lebanon.* Hosea 14:7 (NKJ)
- We must become willing **to do the will of God**
 - ⇒ ***I die daily.*** 1Corinthians 15:31 (NKJ)
 - ⇒ *And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and **perfect will of God.*** Romans 12:2 (NKJ)

2. God's Responds with a Refreshing of our Spirit

- **Sin** causes our spirits to become dry and brittle, requiring a **refreshing** touch of spiritual healing from the Holy Spirit
 - ⇒ **Read Ezekiel 37:1-6**
 - a) What did the "bones" need to do before God would refresh them?

 - b) How does God revive the "dry bones?" _____
- We must be willing to say, "**Lord, I'm thirsty!**"
 - ⇒ *O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul **thirsts** for You; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.* Psalm 63:1 (NKJ)

- God’s **refreshing** is dependent upon our **repentance**
⇒ *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord.*
Acts 3:19 (NKJ)

3. Restoration Results from Repentance & Refreshing

- God restores us to a **right relationship** with Him just as the father did in the story of the prodigal son
⇒ **Read Luke 15:11-24**
 - a) Who does the father represent in this parable? _____
 - b) Who does the prodigal son represent? _____
 - c) What does this parable say about God’s forgiveness? _____

- **God wants to revive us** far more than we want to be revived!
⇒ *For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and **revived**, that He might be Lord both of the dead and the living.* Romans 14:9 (KJV)

4. God’s Restoration Enables us to be Overcomers

- In each of the risen Christ’s letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation, He tells them, “**Repent!**”
⇒ **Read Revelation 2: 7, 11, 17, 26 and 3: 5, 12, 21** and list the promises Christ has made to those who “overcome”
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
 - e) _____
 - f) _____
 - g) _____

Phase 7: God Exalts His Son Jesus Through His Revived People

*To Him Who is able to do **immeasurably more** than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, **to Him be glory** in the church and in **Christ Jesus** throughout all generations, for ever and ever!*

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

God's Plan to Win Back a Lost World

First and foremost, God is on a **mission to redeem a lost world** (Phase 1). What are the **three centerpieces** to His plan?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

When Jesus fulfilled this Master Plan, how did God intend to **touch** the rest of the **world** for the rest of the **ages**?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

God wants to take the lives that He has redeemed -- and subsequently revives -- and put them **on display!**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:18 & 27

- When people accept Jesus Christ as Savior, what do they become a part of?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

- What does God spread everywhere through us? _____

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18

- What are we to reflect to a watching world? _____

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-2,5-7

- Who is it that we project out into the world? _____

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:1

- What ministry has God given to us? _____
- Through whom is God reconciling the world to Himself? _____
- What does the word “reconciled” mean in this context? _____

- What should motivate us in this ministry? _____
- What two phrases describe our function in this ministry? _____

- What is our primary responsibility? _____

Revival Keeps God’s Light Shining in Us

When God’s People return to Him on His terms, He **commissions** us to be **His ambassadors** to bring Jesus to a lost world:

- In Christ, God established a **new covenant** with a new Israel -- the **church**.

⇒ **Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and 2Corinthians 3:5-6**

- What is this new relationship based on? _____
- Who are God’s People? _____

⇒ **Read 1Peter 2:9-11**

- What four phrases describe God’s People?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
- To what **purpose** have God’s people been called? _____

- What does it mean to be God’s “**chosen people**?” _____

- Who are God's **priests**? _____
- What does it mean to be a "**royal**" priesthood? _____

- What does it mean to be a "**holy nation**"? _____

- Who do we belong to? _____

The Ministry of the Church

God **saves and revives** His chosen people in order that they carry out His plan of redemption.

Read John 15:5, 8, 16 and 14:10-14

- How do we **relate to God** in His redemptive work? _____

- What must we **do** to bear much fruit? _____

- If we remain rightly related to God, what will we be able to **accomplish**? _____

- **Who** is actually accomplishing the **work**? _____

Revival Is God's Work

God is the One who revives His repentant people:

- **Revival** is the act of a sovereign God
- God brings revival on **His timetable** and under **His conditions**
- **We cannot cause a revival** to take place

So, what is **our role**?

⇒ *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 will **forgive their sin and heal their land**.
2Chronicles 7:14 (NKJ)*

The Role of Prayer

Corporate prayer has **preceded every great revival** in recorded history:

- Such prayer must be:

1. Read Acts 1:14 _____

2. Read James 5:16a _____

3. Read James 5:16b _____

4. Read Isaiah 1:15-16 _____

What God Promises to Do

When we have **met all of God's requirements**, He may -- or may not -- bring revival, depending on other **conditions, situations and timing** about which we know nothing.

- However, when it comes, **God promises to act mightily**

Read Ezekiel 36:22-36

1. For **whose sake** does God bring revival? _____

2. What does God **specifically promise** to do?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

g) _____

h) _____

i) _____

Personal & Corporate Reflections

Ask God how you and your church **measure up** against His purposes for His people:

1. Are you living in the **joy, wonder and awe** of being God's chosen and treasured possession? How?

2. How faithfully are you and members of your church **practicing your priesthood** before God and others?

3. How much time are you and members of your church spending in **direct communion with our Lord and Savior**?

4. How faithfully are you and members of your church **declaring God's praises** to the world in darkness?

5. What are you and members of your church doing as a body to **represent one another's spiritual needs to God**?

6. How **set apart** are you and members of your church from the world and its ways?

7. Are you and your church **holy as God is holy**? How is this holiness manifested?

Revival Scripture Memory Verses

Understanding & Experiencing Revival

*For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to **revive the spirit** of the humble, And to **revive the heart** of the contrite ones.*

Isaiah 57:15 (NKJ)

⇒ ***Revive me, O LORD, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.*** Psalm 143:11 (NKJ)

⇒ ***Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?*** Psalm 85:8

God's Pattern for Revival

*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 will forgive their sin and heal their land..* 2Chronicles 7:14 (NKJ)

- **Read Judges 3:7:11**

Phase 1: God is on a Mission of Redemption

*You are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who **called you out of darkness** into His marvelous light.* 1Peter 2:9 (NKJ)

⇒ *You also, as living stones, are being built up a **spiritual house**, a holy **priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.* 2Peter 2:5 (NKJ)

⇒ *For He chose us in him **before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless** in His sight. **In love** He predestined us to be **adopted** as His sons through **Jesus Christ*** Ephesians 1:43-5 (NIV)

Phase 2: God's People Tend to Depart from Him

*See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that **turns away** from the living God.* Hebrews 3:12 (NIV)

- **Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20**

Phase 3: God Disciplines His People with Love

Do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. Hebrews 12:5-6 (NKJ)

⇒ *Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.* Psalm 51:10-12 (NKJ)

- **Read Hebrews 12:7-11**

Phase 4: God's People Cry Out for Help

“Return to Me and I will return to you,” says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 3:7 (NKJ)

⇒ *Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, Who oppressed them; And in the time of their trouble, When they cried to You, You heard from heaven; And according to Your abundant mercies You gave them deliverers who saved them From the hand of their enemies.* Nehemiah 9:27 (NKJ)

- **Read 2Chronicles 6:24-39**

Phase 5: God Calls for Repentance

Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand! Matthew 3:2 & 4:17

⇒ *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.* 2Corinthians 7:10 (NKJ)

- **Read Hebrews 10:26-31**

Phase 6: God Revives His Repentant People

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24 (NKJ)

⇒ *Those who dwell under His shadow shall return; they shall be revived.* Hosea 14:7 (NKJ)

- **Read Ezekiel 36:22-36**

Phase 7: God Exalts His Son Jesus through His Revived People

*God... reconciled us to Himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**.... and He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore **Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making His appeal **through us**. 2Corinthians 5:18-20 (NIV)*

⇒ ***Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJ)*

- **Read Acts 2:42-27**