

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR MISSION WORK

***Will you not revive us again: that Your people
may rejoice in You (Psalm 85:6)?***

God is eagerly waiting to manifest His reviving presence and power to HIS PEOPLE the church. Before God will release His power and presence in the church body we must take steps to **prepare** for the release of His fullness in our midst. The only thing that will keep God from filling us with HIS power and God from using us for HIS glory is our own personal sin

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear (Isaiah 59:1, 2).

O Lord, I have heard your speech and was afraid; O Lord, revive your work in the midst of the years (Habakkuk 3:2)!

The psalmist knew and understood the importance of preparing for personal renewal and revival.

He wrote, “*Righteousness shall go before Him and shall set us in the way of His steps*” (Psalm 85:13).

On the next few pages are questions designed to reveal specific and targeted areas of spiritual need in your life. In order for a genuine refreshing of God's presence to come to you, you must allow God's Holy Spirit to reveal & convict you of sin that needs to be dealt with in your life. Many times you may overlook your own personal sin and easily see the sin in the lives of others. God will never overlook nor excuse your sin.

Taking the Steps to Walk in HIS LIGHT

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin (I John 1:7).

- **Pray** for personal identification of sin. Read the questions below and be totally honest with yourself in answering them.

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth (I John 1:6)

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).

- **Agree** with God as He reveals to you your sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and truth is not in us (I John 1:8).

- **Confess** each sin with the willingness to make it right before God and anyone else that might be affected by your sin.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9).

- **Praise & Thank** God for His cleansing and forgiveness.

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name (Hebrews 13:15).

- **Let God** re-new and rebuild your life for His glory.

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).

1. Genuine Salvation Experience (II Corinthians 5:17)

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

2. God's Word (Psalm 119:97; 119:40; James 1:22-25)

- Do I love to read and meditate on the Word of God?
- Are my personal devotions consistent and meaningful?
- Do I put to practice and apply God's Word to my everyday life?
- Am I just a hearer of God's Word and not a doer?

3. Humility (Isaiah 57:15)

- Am I quick to recognize and agree with God in confession when I have sinned?
- Am I quick to admit to others when I am wrong?
- Do I rejoice when others are praised and recognized and my accomplishments go unnoticed by people?
- Do I esteem others as better than myself?

4. Obedience (Hebrews 13:7; James 4:17; I Samuel 15:22)

- Do I consistently obey what I know God wants me to do?
- Do I consistently obey the "laws of our land" that God has placed over me?
- Am I consistently sensitive to God's Spirit leading me?

5. Pure Heart (I John 1:9, Psalm 51:10)

- Do I confess my sin by name?
- Am I willing to give up all sin for God?
- Do I desire to have a pure heart and clean spirit before God?

6. Clear Mind/Conscience (Acts 24:16, I John 2:28)

- Do I consistently seek forgiveness from those I wrong or offend?

- Is my conscience clear with every man?
- When you meet or think of people who have wronged you do you have peace in your heart or a grudge and un-trust toward them?

7. Priorities (Matthew 6:33)

- Does my schedule reveal that God is first in my life?
- Does my checkbook reveal that God is first in my life?
- Next to my relationship with God, is my relationship with my family my highest priority?
- Next to God and my family, is my relationship with my church a high priority in my life?

8. Values (Colossians 3:12)

- Do I love what God loves and hate what God hates?
- Do I value highly the things that please God (giving, witnessing to lost souls, studying His Word, prayer, etc)?
- Are my affections and goals fixed on eternal values?
- Do I love the “Church” as Christ loves the church?

9. Sacrifice (Philippians 3:7, 8)

- Am I willing to sacrifice whatever is necessary to see God move in my life and church (time, convenience, comfort, reputation, pleasure, etc)?
- Is my life characterized by genuine sacrifice for the cause of Christ?

10. Spirit Control (Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 5:18-21)

- Am I allowing Jesus to be Lord of every area of my life?
- Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to “fill” (control) my life each day?
- Is there consistent evidence of the “fruit of the Spirit” being produced in my life?

11. “First Love” (Matthew 22:37; Philippians 1:21, 3:10, 23; Revelation 2:4, 5)

- Am I as much in love with Jesus as I have ever been?
- Am I thrilled with Jesus, filled with his joy and peace, and making Him the continual object of my love?
- Do I desire to know Jesus more each day of my life?

12. Motives (Acts 5:29; Matthew 10:28)

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

13. Moral Purity (Matthew 5:27-30, Ephesians 5:3, 4)

- Do I keep my mind free from books, magazines, the internet, or entertainment that could stimulate fantasizing or thoughts that are not morally pure?
- Are my conversation and behavior in public and private pure and above reproach?

14. Forgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15, Colossians 3:12, 13)

- Do I seek to resolve conflicts in relationships as soon as possible?
- Am I quick to forgive those who wrong me or hurt me?
- Do I hold grudges against others?

15. Sensitivity (Matthew 5:23, 24)

- Am I sensitive to the conviction and prompting of God's Spirit?
- Am I quick to respond in humility and obedience to the conviction and prompting of God's Spirit?

16. Evangelism (Proverbs 11:30; Romans 9:3; Luke 24:46, 48)

- Do I have a burden for lost souls?
- Do I consistently witness for Christ?
- Am I conscious about the vast number of lost souls that come into contact with me each day?

17. Prayer (I Timothy 2:1)

- Am I faithful in praying for the needs of others?

- Do I pray specifically, fervently, and faithfully for revival in my life, my church, and our nation?

18. Lifestyle choices

- What most determines my sense of “needs”? TV? Career? Status? Peers? Or, Christ’s global cause and the need of reaching un-reached people?
- Is my lifestyle shaped by a desire for more – more possessions, more happiness, more power? Or, is it shaped by a desire for increased personal freedom and availability of resources in order to serve the world’s un-reached?
- What are the excesses in my life? What do I have too much of right now? Where do I presently squander, waste, or overindulge? How will this affect further outreach to the ends of the earth?
- Out of my 168 hours a week, can I justify the overall allotment of my time in light of Christ’s global cause? What specific time commitments need to be cut back in order to prepare me for increased future outreach? Are there places my investments of time should be re-channeled right now?
- Of the decisions I am making right now which ones will have a lasting impact on how involved I am in the worldwide outreach in the future? Which decisions might increase my effectiveness over what it is now? How should love for the un-reached guide my choices, such as where to live, whom to marry, what profession to pursue, new friendships to seek, purchase, prayer and Bible reading habits, service on a church committee, family size, magazine subscriptions, or Christian conferences I attend?

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