

# A Covenant to Seek God's Face

*Prayers that Embrace Christ's Heart*

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Herein are twenty-one different prayers of key importance to revival and kingdom expansion. Each prayer addresses an issue critically important to revival, spiritual power and kingdom expansion. With all of the main prayers, I include supporting scriptures and sample expanded prayers. Each central prayer also includes study material to help readers understand *why* that prayer is so crucial to the expansion of Christ's kingdom. In essence, this section is a study of God's heart and His top kingdom priorities. In this study we learn how to "co-labor with God" in nation-changing prayer and obedience.

It is crucial to note that the first twelve prayers relate specifically to revival and spiritual awakening. *Beyond question, today's first and foremost priority is sweeping revival and spiritual awakening in our land!* For this reason, I prioritize the twelve revival prayers by placing them as a separate covenant. In Appendix A, I actually list two optional prayer covenants. The first covenant relates solely to revival and awakening while the second includes broader kingdom concerns.

For specificity and simplicity of focus, most will officially adopt the first covenant. The first covenant focuses on revival and spiritual awakening. It is designed to empower personal, corporate and small group prayer. The more extensive covenant includes eight additional prayers which target broader issues critical to Christ's kingdom. At least for periodic study and prayer, many will also use the more comprehensive covenant for deeper growth and prayer. Every believer should earnestly desire to understand and (at least periodically) pray all of God's key kingdom priorities. *However* for consistent focus, all believers and church should at least embrace the covenant prayers for revival and spiritual awakening. May God grant us the determination to seek His face and pray His heart!

## Covenant Prayers for Revival and Spiritual Awakening

- 1. Plead for God's Merciful Grace on a Nation and Many Churches that are Under His Righteous Judgment** — (2 Chronicles 7:14; Nehemiah 1:4-9; Psalm 85:4-7; Micah 6:8; Lamentations 3:22; Ezekiel 36:19-23; Daniel 9:18-19; Hebrews 4:16, 10:30; James 4:8-10; 1 Peter 4:17)

"Father God, our hope is Your mercy and grace in Jesus. We understand we pray only by the covenant of grace in Christ's precious blood. Lord, we desperately humble ourselves and acknowledge Your righteous judgment upon our land. Rather than blaming the lost, we acknowledge that judgment and spiritual responsibility begin at the house of God. Lord, please forgive us for substituting endless activities and programs for Your manifest glory and presence. Forgive us for lukewarmness, sin and compromise with the world. Forgive us for shaming Your name and robbing You of glory. Lord, help us come before You with awareness we deserve Your judgment *far* more than Your blessing. Savior, for the glory of Your holy name we humbly plead for Your mercy upon our churches, nation and world. By Your blood alone, we plead for merciful grace to revive and turn our hearts to You. Lord, for the sake of

Your great name, turn our hearts to Yourself and convert the lost. Be glorified O God and Christ — be glorified in all the earth!”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart that His people approach Him in utter humility and total dependence upon Christ’s covenant of grace. In a day of great sin and compromise, it is vital that believers refrain from glossing over sin. It is crucial that we fully understand the enormity of today’s rebellion against God. Above all else, God is awesomely holy. We must never forget that our sole means of approaching God is the covenant of grace in Christ’s blood and redemptive work on the cross. (Romans 5:1, 6:6-14; Hebrews 4:15-16) And while we can indeed come boldly in Christ, we must never come with the slightest arrogance or flippancy. Beyond question, a huge priority of God is for His people to walk before Him in deepest humility. (Micah 6:8) Everything that we have and are is by God’s grace and for His glory. All of our hope is in Christ alone!

True revival always centers around the preaching of Christ’s cross, mankind’s utter lostness and God’s unmerited grace.<sup>5</sup> In light of today’s catastrophic moral collapse, utter brokenness and fasting are vital to our approaching to holy God. (Joel 2:12-13; James 4:8-10) Though we can call God “abba Father,” our hearts must break for the conditions that break His heart. The time for “bragging and business as usual” is past. Sackcloth and ashes are the proper heart attitudes for today’s conditions. (For a biblical perspective on God’s judges in our day, see Appendix J.)

While we can and must continually rejoice in God’s grace, we must not engage in shallow confession with little brokenness or specific repentance. Because we cannot “manufacture true brokenness,” we must pray and trust God’s grace for broken and contrite hearts. Though our brokenness must surely be balanced with faith and hope, brokenness and humility must nonetheless be genuine. Prayerfully consider the following questions to discover any points needing change.

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Am I fully mindful of the fact the nation and many churches are under serious signs of rapidly increasing judgment? \_\_\_ Have I truly humbled myself in deep brokenness, fasting and repentance? \_\_\_ Do I neglect regular times of deep cleansing and repentance? \_\_\_ Has my church embraced times of deep cleansing? \_\_\_ Do I fully recognize that revival requires phenomenal mercy and grace from God? \_\_\_ Am I approaching God solely on the basis of the blood and name of Jesus? \_\_\_ Do I have the appropriate humility and urgency in approaching God for revival? \_\_\_ Does my church exhibit deep contrition, humility and urgency in the way it corporately seeks God’s face? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on any steps for specific repentance. Please list your specific steps.

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“Lord, thank you for grace to help me repent in true humility. I now repent of complacency and cry out for Your mercy in deepest humility. But rather than just

saying “I repent,” I commit to embrace significant daily prayer with deep heart examination. By Your grace, I trust You to fill me with a spirit of deep brokenness, humility and contriteness of heart. As a church, we commit to humble ourselves in true brokenness and fasting for our land. Forgive us for focusing on personal needs and business as usual while our nation and many churches slide into further judgment.”

**2. Cry Out for Deep Brokenness, Godly Fear, Humility and Repentance to Sweep God’s People** — (Leviticus 10:3; Psalm 51:17; Proverbs 28:13; John 14:15; 2 Corinthians 7:1, 10; Ephesians 5:26-27; Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 12:14)

“Righteous God, we understand You require deep brokenness, humility and repentance to move mightily in our midst. We realize we cannot work up true brokenness is our own strength. Lord, please send overwhelming conviction of sin, true brokenness and repentance among Your people. Forgive us for the arrogance of not humbling ourselves in utter brokenness. Teach us to fear Your holy name in reverential awe and love. Grant to us the godly sorrow that leads to repentance. Please forgive us for shallow general confession and move us to deep repentance. Fill us with the broken, contrite hearts You can filly receive.

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart desire that His people walk before Him in true humility, godly fear and true repentance from hearts of love. Because of God’s awesome holiness, deep humility and repentance must ever remain the believer’s attitude of heart. While we are utterly confident in God’s love and grace, we must ever remain in reverence of His incredible glory. Make no mistake — great revivals come only by brokenness, humility and full repentance.<sup>6</sup>

While all prayer emphases must be based in grace, God’s awesome holiness is nevertheless a central focus. Generations that experience sweeping revival return to the reverential awe (or biblical fear) of Almighty God. Yet tragically, many in today’s generation have departed from the biblical theology of a holy, Sovereign God. Multitudes have turned from faithfully preaching God’s whole council to that which is mostly popular.

With far too many, God is now proclaimed more as a Santa Clause figure or success and wealth guru than holy God of the Universe. An alarming amount of preaching has become increasingly unbalanced and neglectful of God’s whole council. (Such patterns are virtually identical to the false prophets in Scripture.) Only God’s Spirit and biblical preaching can restore saints to the reverential fear of God and humble repentance.

The last century has further witnessed a vast majority of churches abandoning the essential pattern of periodic church-wide repentance. Throughout history, periodic solemn assembly-type cleansing is a non-negotiable element for sweeping and explosive evangelism. Yet today, most pastors have been taught neither the importance nor the practical biblical patterns for leading churches into true repentance. And unfortunately, what many have experienced are mostly ineffective, legalistic attempts at church cleansing. For this reason, they view periodic corporate repentance as ineffective and/or negative. Dear saints, if we are to see true revival, churches and their leaders must return to the God-ordained principle of church-wide, grace-based cleansing. Yet,

there is hope. A small but growing number of churches are awakening to the utter necessity of Spirit-guided church-wide repentance!

It is also possible to become unconsciously prideful and over-reliant upon academics, growth programs or innovative methods. While academics and strategies are certainly vital, they are *not* the main source of our power. Given today's appalling moral and religious conditions, there is only one appropriate posture. That posture is profound brokenness and God-seeking repentance, *not* smug over-confidence in our degrees, programs or training.

Saints, if what we are doing is not producing true New Testament power and revival, we have no business being anything but broken and fervent in prayer and fasting. In light of today's unprecedented spiritual collapse, sack cloth and ashes are likely far more appropriate than pomp and circumstance or bragging about our various degrees and efforts. For all of the above reasons, we must pray for God's Spirit to bring true humility. Only the grace and power of God can restore a deep brokenness and fear of His holy name. Let us hope in that grace to humble our hearts.

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Do I have deep heart brokenness and mourning over the state of my life, church or nation? \_\_\_ Have I become tolerant and desensitized about today's statue quo? \_\_\_ Is there a definite sense of apathy, prayerlessness, compromise or disobedience that I am tolerating in my own life? \_\_\_ Is my spiritual examination and confession mostly brief and shallow? \_\_\_ Do I fail to regularly allow the Lord to fully search my attitudes, thoughts, words, relationships and actions? \_\_\_ Do I neglect to use thorough Scripture-based cleansing guides to examine my heart? \_\_\_ Am I in any sense prideful or over-reliant on education, degrees, church strategies or programs? \_\_\_ Does my church or denomination exhibit true brokenness and conviction concerning repentance? \_\_\_ Has my church neglected significant times of congregation-wide repentance? \_\_\_ Has my church or denomination become so seeker-friendly and compromised it has failed to adequately address major areas of sin in members' lives? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on needed steps for repentance. List any specific steps.

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(See Appendix B and C for a complete guide to cleansing, repentance and loving surrender to Christ.)

“Lord, I fully embrace brokenness, prayer and fasting before Your throne. I trust You to fill me with a spirit of reverential awe, deep repentance and loving obedience. As a church, we commit to humble ourselves in deep Bible-based examination and repentance. Forgive us for proclaiming You as a shallow “god” of our own making. We covenant to return to the reverential fear and awe of Your holy name.”

**3. Pray for an Explosion of First Love Passion for Christ and a Deep Burden for Lost Humanity** — (Matthew 5:6, 44, 22:37-39; Philippians 2:13; 1 John 4:7-11, 20-21; Revelation 2:1-4, 3:15)

“Righteous God, You are worthy to receive fervent love and worship all the time. Please grant to us a burning hunger and first love passion for Yourself. Teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Please fill Your people with an obvious love and unity that glorifies Your name. Empower us with a pure love that seeks obedience more than earthly comforts. Grant to us a passion to glorify Your name and spread Your kingdom in all the earth. Banish from our hearts all traces of apathy and lukewarmness. Fill us with a passionate desire to know and do Your good pleasure”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart passion that believers walk in fervent godly love for Him and for one another. In Scripture and history, the believer’s primary command is passionate love for God and people. (Matthew 22:37-39) Jesus clearly states we are even to love our enemies! (Matthew 5:44) God’s central priority is burning “first love” and “heart passion” from His children. (Revelation 2:1-4) Both the motive and power for true revival is intense love for God and souls. Our driving passion should be a burning desire to obey, worship and glorify God’s name in all the earth. True repentance is not simply *putting off* sin, it is the motivation to *put on* the loving obedience to Christ.<sup>7</sup> (Colossians 3:5-15) In many ways, motivation is everything! A pure, fervent love is the central motivation by which we are moved to please God, spread Christ’s kingdom and glorify His name.

No believer will grow or serve beyond his or her level of spiritual desire and will. (Philippians 2:13) An intense godly love is indeed the essence of our motivation. We are to seek and serve God primarily because we love *Him*, not merely to get earthly blessings or avoid trials. But where do we find the strength to love with such passion? Such supernatural love can only come from one source. It comes by faith in Christ’s indwelling life flowing through us! (Colossians 1:27) Revival and spiritual power flow from an explosion of godly love. (Romans 6:6-11; Galatians 2:20) True passion is not produced by guilt trips, programs or high level promotion. It comes from a heart of fervent supernatural love. Obviously, only God’s Spirit can empower believers with passionate love for Christ and souls. For this reason, we must pray for a mighty baptism of godly love and passion.

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Is my love for God and others less than fervent? \_\_\_ Was there a time I was more passionate in my love for God? \_\_\_ Have I lessened in my desire for Your word, prayer and service? \_\_\_ Do I truly love my neighbor as myself? \_\_\_ Do I love and do good for my enemies? \_\_\_ Does our church give far more focus on the comforts of the saints than reaching a lost world? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on needed steps for repentance. List any specific steps.

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“Lord, I repent of all apathy and lukewarmness. I embrace a burning love for Christ and His kingdom. I trust You to fill me with a spirit of passionate love and motivation to serve. As a church, we repent of a love of blessings more than holiness and reaching the world. Set our church ablaze with holy love and zeal for Your name and glory.”

**4. Cry Out for an Explosion of Personal, Family and Corporate Prayer with Spirit-led Fasting** — (2 Chronicles 7:14; Joel 1:14; 2:12-18; Matthew 6:17-18; 17:21; 21:13; Mark 11:17; Acts 1:14; 2:1, 4:30-31)

“Lord, we praise You for Your desire to touch us through powerful prayer. Please forgive us for neglecting personal and corporate prayer and fasting. Forgive us for the pride of thinking we can function without significant time in Your presence. Pardon the arrogance of thinking activities and programs can substitute for powerful corporate prayer. Forgive us for also neglecting serious church-wide repentance. Lord, please fill us with the desire and wisdom to humble ourselves in corporate kingdom-focused prayer. Forgive us for neglecting regular times of family prayer and worship. Grant to us a burning passion for personal and family prayer. Cause us to embrace prayer that seeks Your face and kingdom, not mere earthly concerns. Teach us to be a house of prayer and repentance for the glory of Your name.”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart purpose that His people relate to Him in powerful corporate prayer and repentance. In both Biblical Testaments, God clearly commands His people to walk in powerful personal and corporate prayer with biblical fasting. Corporate prayer is an absolutely crucial expression of the Christ’s body in manifest power. Without exception, every Old Testament revival came by fervent corporate prayer and deep repentance. In the New Testament, Jesus clearly commanded His Church to be a “house of (corporate) prayer.” (Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17) The early Church was saturated with powerful corporate prayer and repentance. (Acts 1:4, 12: 2:1, 37-47: 4:29-31, 5:1-5) Both Testaments reveal the utter necessity of believers and leaders prioritizing personal and corporate prayer. Throughout Scripture, powerful corporate prayer is closely connected to God’s manifest presence.

Beyond question, the pattern of deep corporate prayer was also central in historic spiritual awakenings. In virtually every great awakening, personal and corporate prayers (with periodic fasting) were utterly crucial.\* So were special times of church-wide repentance. Since powerful corporate prayer, repentance and fasting are God’s requirements for sweeping revival, why would any generation think these could be marginalized or ignored? Yet tragically that is exactly what current generations have done! Because few modern pastors have been taught urgency of leading powerful corporate prayer meetings, most neglect this all-important biblical essential. However, we must pray for our pastors as they have had little encouragement or training in leading corporate prayer. Yet, there is great hope of change. A growing remnant of pastors is embracing powerful corporate prayer! We must pray for their

number to explode upward. A growing remnant is definitely awakening to these most crucial elements.

In emphasizing corporate prayer, I also mention biblical fasting as an often neglected key to powerful God-seeking prayer. I mention fasting for one reason — it is the undeniable pattern of Scripture and history! While fasting can certainly be over-emphasized and misused, it is nonetheless a direct command of God in several key texts. Jesus clearly taught that His people would fast. In both the life of Jesus and the early Church, Spirit-led fasting was unquestionably very significant. (Matthew 4:2, 6:17-18; Acts 10:30, 13:2-3, 14:23, 27:33; 2 Corinthians 6:5, 11:27)

Throughout all historic awakenings, prayer *and* fasting were unquestionably significant. It is also important to realize that fasting should often include activities other than eating (i.e. TV, Internet, hobbies, sports, etc.) While fasting must certainly be done only by God's grace and leadership, it must nonetheless be done. Yet sadly, many in today's self-indulging Church almost wholly ignore what all revival generations took seriously. Though fasting is not some legalistic requirement or magic gimmick, it is definitely a God-ordained element of powerful personal and corporate prayer. While prayer certainly does not always require fasting, it must at least receive serious emphasis.

Effective personal, corporate and family prayers are the primary ways believers abide in Christ and walk in spiritual power. Yet tragically, recent generations have seriously marginalized personal, family and corporate prayer. For individual believers, brief devotions and quick quiet times are promoted as a substitute for significant closet prayer. In most churches, family prayer time is either glossed over or wholly neglected. Activities, programs and strategies have become substitutes to corporate prayer and deep repentance. Few churches practice serious corporate prayer and fewer still embrace special times of church-wide repentance. These patterns are especially alarming because serious prayer and repentance are utterly essential to spiritual power and revival. In most churches, it has been decades since they embraced church-wide cleansing, solemn assembly or true revival.

It is crucial to realize that personal, family and corporate prayer are *not* options. These are the primary God-ordained means by which we humble ourselves and walk in spiritual power. They are the very essence of abiding in Christ's powerful manifest presence. (John 15:4-5) To marginalize or neglect serious prayer is to walk in arrogance, disobedience and self-reliance. Personal and corporate prayers are crucial to developing victorious saints and empowered churches. In light of today's de-emphasis of personal and corporate prayer, it is little wonder we have witnessed history's worst moral and spiritual collapse. Yet, there is hope! Growing numbers are awakening to God's primary paths for experiencing His manifest presence. Are you in that number? If not, you can be starting today! (See Appendix E for practical guide on personal, family and corporate prayer.)

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Have I neglected serious time in daily prayer and Scripture? \_\_\_ Do I tend to have brief devotions (with little spiritual cleansing) instead of significant time with God? \_\_\_ Am I neglecting effective family prayer and Scripture reading? \_\_\_ Does my church fail to prioritize powerful corporate prayer meetings? \_\_\_ Have we neglected the essential pattern of periodic

church-wide cleansing? \_\_\_ Does our practice indicate that we think programs and preaching eliminate the need for corporate prayer and repentance? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on needed steps for repentance. List any specific steps.

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“Father, I repent of shallow personal and family prayer. I covenant to prioritize significant time in Your word and prayer. As a church, we commit to obey Your command to be a house of corporate prayer. We covenant to prioritize personal and corporate prayer.”

**5. Plead for God’s Powerful Manifest Presence, a Restraining of Evil and a Mighty Outpouring of His Spirit** — (Exodus 33:15; 1 Kings 8:11; Isaiah 59:19, 64:1; Zechariah 4:6; Acts 1:8, 4:31)

“Blessed Lord, help us be satisfied with nothing less than Your holy Presence mighty in our midst. Forgive us when we settle for programs and activities instead of true closeness with Yourself. Grant to us deep surrender to Christ’s Lordship. Fill us with the mighty power and fire of the Holy Spirit. Reveal Your holy presence that we might be motivated to seek Your face and spread Your kingdom. Lord, cause us to seek Your face, not just Your hand. To the glory of Your Name and spread of Your kingdom, fill us with Yourself.”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart desire to manifest His awesome presence as glory among His people. Throughout Scripture and history, God’s manifest presence and spiritual fullness are always the sources of powerful blessing, sweeping evangelism and revival.\* It is by God’s awesome presence that He raises up a standard and restraining evil forces. Indeed, it is “*not by might nor by power but by My Spirit says the Lord.*” (Zechariah 4:6)

God’s primary desire is to manifest His glory and presence in the midst of His people. And through His people, God desires to touch the whole earth. No doubt, it greatly disappoints and saddens God’s heart when His people do not hunger and seek for more of His presence. A lack of hunger and active seeking says we are content to continue religious activities and studies without experiencing God’s manifest closeness. Sadly, many today have substituted programs, doctrines and ritual for the fullness and power of God’s Spirit. Most modern saints know far too little about the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, what many do know is unbalanced and unbiblical.

Until churches again major on the biblical empowerment of the Holy Spirit, they will do without God’s mighty presence and power. (Acts 1:8) Education, promotion, programs and training can never substitute for the “*demonstration* of the Spirit and of power.” (1 Corinthians 2:4) It is not enough simply to have the right doctrine about the Holy Spirit. We must also seek the authentic daily “reality” of fullness and power.



It is indeed possible to become coldly cerebral and doctrinally theoretical to the point we miss the true heart experience of Holy Spirit power.

Tragically, the excesses and imbalances of some have caused many evangelicals to essentially avoid the Holy Spirit altogether. Yet, Scripture and history clearly reveal the utter necessity of spiritual fullness and power. (Luke 3:16; Acts 1:4-8; 1 Corinthians 4:20; Ephesians 5:18) While our emphasis on the Spirit's power must be fully biblical and balanced, it must nonetheless be central and real in our lives, ministries and prayers. In Appendix C, there is a full description and practical biblical pattern for walking in genuine fullness.

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Am I intensely hungering for more of God's mighty fullness and power? \_\_\_ Have I settled for something less than actually experiencing Christ's mighty fullness? \_\_\_ Have I so over-intellectualized the "doctrine" of the Spirit that I have little "experience" of true empowerment? \_\_\_ Am I content to live and minister without God's mighty manifest presence? \_\_\_ As a church, do we hunger for God's manifest presence or are we mostly satisfied with our own programs and activities? \_\_\_ Are we truly seeking to be a God-centered, Spirit-guided church or are we more guided by our own rituals? \_\_\_ Do we earnestly seek the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit in all we do? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on your needed steps for repentance. List the specific steps.

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"Lord, thank You for the glorious promise of Your Spirit and power. I wholly repent of trying to live, worship and minister without the full power of Your Spirit. I trust You to fill me with Holy Spirit fire and power from above. Forgive me for settling for less than Your promised passion and power. As a church, we covenant to seek the continual power of Your manifest presence. Forgive us for being content to conduct church without the fullness and power of Your presence. We commit to seek nothing less than Your manifest presence in our midst."

**6. Pray for a Burning Passion for Evangelism, Discipleship and Missions** — (Matthew 18:12, 24:14, 28:14, Luke 19:10; Acts 1:8; Romans 5:5, 9:1-3)

"Holy Father, we praise You for the gift of Your Son to a lost world. Please fill us with a burning passion to pray for and witness to the lost. Cause our eyes to weep for souls that we may reap in joy. Fill us with holy resolve to aggressively evangelize and do outreach. Teach us to use all possible tools for reaching the lost. Empower us as burning witnesses unto Your Son. Grant to us a fiery zeal for missions and planting churches. Please forgive us when we have so little concern beyond "me and mine." God, give us a passion for missions giving, missions going and missions praying. Grant to us a burning passion to pray for, support and do missions at home and abroad. Fill us with that same passion for going into all the world."

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart that His people exude a burning passion for evangelism, discipleship and missions. Beyond question, evangelism, discipleship and missions are primary heart passions of God. For this reason, no believer or church can be right with God without a burning passion for reaching lost souls and disciplining believers. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8) All true revivals involve fervent prayer for the lost, passionate missions and empowered evangelism.\* Truly revived churches and explosive evangelism are inherently linked!

Genuine surrender to Christ always produces a passion for souls. If anyone thinks they are “spiritually or theologically advanced” yet have no burning passion for souls, it is *not* genuine spirituality. Mark this well — if any person or church claims to be “in revival” yet there is little passion for souls, it is *not* true revival! In many ways, evangelistic prayer is the very heart of walking with God.

It is also true that if any person or church emphasizes evangelism but marginalizes discipleship, they too are out of balance. Mark this well — the Great Commission does not stop with baptizing. It equally includes “making disciples and teaching them to observe all things I have said.” (Matthew 28:18-19) The strongest discipleship is usually the one (or few) on one mentoring as modeled in Scripture. Unfortunately, most churches barely have discipleship classes, much less true personal mentoring. Today, far too many want merely to teach and have little passion for soul winning. Even those who do evangelize often have little interest in serious discipleship. Today, the desperate need is for biblical balance! To embrace God’s heart is to embrace a consuming passion for evangelism, missions *and* discipleship. Yet, because we cannot “manufacture or guilt” ourselves into true balance and passion, we must fervently pray for grace to empower our hearts. (Romans 5:5) As we trust God for power, we can then step out in empowered obedience.

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* – Am I somewhat weak, inconsistent or uncommitted in praying for and witnessing to the lost? \_\_\_ Is my church neglecting to emphasize strong evangelism and witnessing to the lost? \_\_\_ Have I or my church failed to follow up with strong discipleship of converts to Christ? \_\_\_ Am I fully committed to practice missions going, praying and giving? \_\_\_ Is my church failing to highly prioritize missions going, praying and giving? \_\_\_ Do our activities and focus reveal a lack of priority on evangelism and missions? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on any needed steps for repentance. List your specific steps.

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“Lord, I repent of personal complacency about evangelism and missions. By Your grace, I will embrace personal involvement in evangelism, discipleship and missions. As a church, we repent and commit to embrace all of praying for and witnessing to the lost. We covenant to highly promote evangelism, discipleship and missions in all its forms. May Your top priorities become our top priorities.”

**7. Plead for Holy Boldness, Fervent Prayer and Strong Scripture Focus in God's Leaders** — (1 Timothy 3:1-2; 2 Timothy 1:6-7; 1 Corinthians 2:4)

“Mighty God, we praise You that You desire to give us leaders after Your own heart. Please touch our pastors and leaders with deep repentance, powerful prayer and renewed passion for Yourself. Teach them to rely upon Your Spirit far more than the latest program, strategy or training. Fill them with a spirit of prayer and holy boldness. Cause them to proclaim Your whole biblical council with courage, love and power. Teach them to be leaders of personal and corporate prayer and to fill Your people with Scripture. Save our leaders from today's flood of false prophecy, weak prayer and shallow preaching. Grant to our leaders and their families, a mighty wall of protection from the world, the flesh and the devil.”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* – God purposes that His leaders be filled with holy boldness, fervent prayer and Scripture. Throughout history one principle is constant — *as go the leaders, so goes the Church!* Only Spirit-empowered Bible-filled leaders bring churches into true New Testament power.<sup>9</sup> To be fully empowered, leaders must also be strong in fervent prayer. In today's Church, far too many leaders rely more on human training, programs and methods than holiness, empowerment and spiritual fire from above. Rather than being deeply prayerful holy men of great spiritual anointing, many depend more on positive thinking and human leadership skills.

Over the last century, many pastors and church leaders drifted into serious weakness in the three areas crucial to full biblical empowerment. The areas are: (1) maintaining prayer lives that are powerful, deep and fervent, (2) strong Bible-filled preaching of God's whole council and (3) leading powerful meetings of corporate prayer and church-wide repentance. Surveys leave no doubt that most pastors evidence serious neglect and weakness in at least two of the vital areas. Many now acknowledge they are deficient in all three! We need to remember that in most cases pastors have had little training toward effective personal and corporate prayer. Rather than criticize, we must earnestly pray for our pastors to return to these essential elements of truly empowered churches. Modern spiritual leaders are faced with many intense pressures. They desperately need our fervent prayers and encouragement.

Mark this well — genuine spiritual movements come only by prayer-filled leaders accurately declaring God's whole counsel in the full power of the Spirit. Great spiritual awakenings do not come primarily from the ideas, personalities, strategies or clever clichés of men. (1 Corinthians 2:4-5; 4:20) They come from fervent prayer, deep repentance and God's word fully declared. If we are to see sweeping spiritual renewal in our day, we *must* see a renewal of Spirit-empowered, Bible-filled leaders.

While new methods and strategies can certainly be helpful, they are *never* the main force behind nation-shaking revivals. Yet sadly, many are placing enormous focus on the latest new theory while virtually ignoring God's ways of genuine spiritual power. Regardless of growth theories that quickly come and go, there are no short cuts to true New Testament power. If there is to be hope for genuine spiritual awakening in our day, we must pray for an explosion of prayer-filled leaders who

accurately proclaim God’s full council in holiness, grace and power. We must pray for true shepherds after God’s own heart, not mere promoters of themselves and the latest popular fads. (Jeremiah 3:15)

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Am I fervently praying for holiness, humility and power in my leaders? \_\_\_ Lord, I now commit to consistently pray for my spiritual leaders and their families. Do I daily seek and receive the mighty fullness and power of the Holy Spirit? \_\_\_ As a leader, I commit to fervently seek God’s holiness and power. \_\_\_ I covenant to declare Your whole word regardless of the opinions of men. I commit to settle for nothing less than fullness and power of God’s Spirit. Prayerfully reflect on any needed steps for repentance. List your specific steps.

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“Lord, I repent of a lack of boldness and power. I trust You to fill me with a spirit of boldness, power and faithfulness to declare Your whole word. Forgive me for any compromise in the content and manner of my leadership. Help me not only believe Your whole word, but also live and proclaim it. As a church, we repent of any compromise in proclaiming Your word. Help us settle for nothing less than true holiness, boldness and power.”

**8. Cry Out for Restored Love and Unity in Churches, Denominations and Families**  
— (John 13:34-35; 15:12; 17:20-22; Acts 2:1, 42-47; 1 Corinthians 1:10)

“Holy Father, we praise You that we have the power for true oneness. Please move us to embrace loving unity *in* our churches and deep harmony *between* our churches. Fill us with supernatural fellowship in You. Help us tear down the strongholds of bickering and disunity that so ravage our churches, denominations and families. Move us to ask forgiveness of everyone we have offended and extend forgiveness to all who have offended us. Forgive us for saying things in person, in print or on-line that profane Your name before a watching world we are supposed to reach. Fill us with a loving unity that draws the lost and glorifies Christ.”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart desire that His people live in powerful love and oneness to the glory of His name. With God, everything is about relationships! We must remember that the two great commandments are “loving God with all our hearts” and “loving our neighbors as ourselves.” (Matthew 22:38-39) It is further clear that love and unity between believers is key to an empowered witness to a lost world. (John 13:34; 17:21) While loving unity brings God glory, bickering among believers horribly profanes His name and grieves His Spirit.\*

In Scripture, there is no doubt that right human relationships are crucial to right relationship with God and answered prayer. (Matthew 5:23-24, 6:14-15; Mark 11:25)

In virtually all historic awakenings, reconciled relationships and families were central elements. This element is even more crucial for today's fractured society! With so many churches and families divided, revival must surely involve a flood of reconciliation and godly love. Make no mistake — praying God's heart means passionate intercession for Christian unity and reconciled relationships. It also means embracing the specific biblical steps for restored love and unity. (Matthew 5:23-24, 6:14-15, 18:15-17)

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Is there anyone I have offended, yet I have not asked forgiveness? \_\_\_ Do I harbor any anger or unforgiveness I have not fully released? \_\_\_ Are there damaged relationships in my family, church, school or work that I have ignored? \_\_\_ Have I neglected regular united prayer with and for my family? \_\_\_ Is my church disunified yet it has not embraced the biblical steps for restoring loving fellowship? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on any needed steps for repentance. Please list your specific steps.

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“Lord, I fully repent of ignoring my broken and damaged relationships. I now covenant to forgive and reconcile all damaged relationships. I commit to unify and strengthen my family through prayer. As a church, we commit to embrace loving fellowship and biblical reconciliation with one another. Lord, we trust You to fill us with a spirit of love, forgiveness and right relationships with others.”

**9. Pray for Bold Faith and Nation-Changing Courage to Fill God's People** — (Joshua 1:9; Acts 4:29-31; Matthew 9:29, 16:18, 17:20; Mark 9:23, 11:22-24; Ephesians 6:18-19; 2 Timothy 1:7)

“Victorious Lord, we praise You that nothing is impossible with You. Please empower us with a mighty spirit of boldness, courage and faith. Guard us from any elements of discouragement or fear. Cause us to walk in the light of Your awesome power and victory through Christ. Help us keep our eyes on Him. May we not be overwhelmed by the depth of today's darkness. Strengthen us to stand on Your promises and walk in victorious faith. Help us believe that nothing is impossible with You! Fill us with a determination to claim the nations for Christ's kingdom and glory. May Your name be praised in all the earth!”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — God purposes for His people to be filled with bold faith and nation-shaking courage. From start to finish, the way of spiritual victory is by faith! Strong faith is utterly crucial to powerful moves of God's Spirit. Jesus repeatedly stated, “*It shall be unto you according to your faith.*” (Matthew 9:29, 17:20; Mark 9:23, 11:22-24) God continually commands His people to be filled with boldness and courage. In Hebrews 11:6, Scripture proclaims, “*It is impossible to please God without faith.*” Sweeping revivals and evangelism are

always wrought by people of great boldness, courage and faith, not timidity. For this reason, Satan works constantly to get believers discouraged, fearful and intimidated. The enemy accuses and condemns believers to cause them to focus on their weakness instead of God's grace and power. If our expectation and faith grow small, so will be God's work in our midst.

Today, it is especially easy for believers to be intimidated by the world. Some of this intimidation is subtle and unconscious. If we are not vigilant, the enemy's persecution can dampen our sense of expectant faith and bold witness. Mark this well — Christ's Church is to be on the offense against the gates of hell, not defense! (Matthew 16:18) While the shield of faith and spiritual defense certainly have a vital role, the Church is to be on bold offensive for Christ's kingdom. Though there will certainly be challenging days when "having done all we simply stand," defense should not be the main tone of our lives. We are *not* to live in a defensive shell of intimidation!

If God's people become discouraged, intimidated or unbelieving, they cannot be instruments of evangelism or revival. Discouragement produces lowered expectations and false standards of spiritual success. If we begin to "measure ourselves by ourselves" we will start believing God for less than full New Testament power. Because powerful faith is so crucial to knowing God and walking in revival power, we must pray for supernatural boldness, courage and faith. Only God's grace and Spirit can fill us with nation-shaking faith.

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Have you in any sense become discouraged or intimidated by the great intensity of today's darkness? \_\_\_ Are you frequently hindered by anxiety and fear? \_\_\_ Do you genuinely expect God to move mightily in your life, family and church? \_\_\_ Have you in some sense given up on yourself, a loved one, your Church or nation? \_\_\_ Are you more often discouraged and timid than bold, courageous and believing? \_\_\_ Are you attempting great things for God or merely trying to survive? \_\_\_ Is your church committed to aggressive outreach and growth or mostly just seeking to maintain itself? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on your needed steps for repentance. List the specific steps.

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"Father, thank You for Your glorious faithfulness. Please forgive us for doubt and unbelief. Fill me with a spirit of boldness, courage and faith. Help me claim your promises and reach souls for Christ's kingdom. As a church, forgive us for unbelief and timidity. Set us on fire with a mountain-moving, nation-shaking faith."

**10. Plead for Churches to Fully Proclaim Christ's Preeminence, Calvary's Cross and True Conversion** — (John 3:3, 13:32, 16:8-14; Acts 4:12; Romans 6:1-14; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:9-18)

“Almighty God, we praise You for Christ’s preeminence as Lord, Savior and Judge. Please forgive us when our central focus has shifted from Jesus crucified, resurrected and glorified. Guard us from turning our main focus from sin, righteousness and judgment to earthly blessings and comforts. Cause us to exalt and glorify Jesus in all things. Teach us to seek first His kingdom and righteousness. May Christ’s name be praised and His kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart that Christ be continually exalted and proclaimed above all. From beginning to end, the central biblical message is God’s holiness and glory reflected in Christ. Even throughout the Old Testament, every blood sacrifice and symbol pointed to Jesus. In all things, *Jesus* and His eternal kingdom are to be front and center. God’s major focus is sin, righteousness and judgment, not temporal comforts. (John 16:8) While God certainly desires to bless and comfort believers, His overwhelming priority is to focus on Christ, holiness and His coming eternal kingdom.

In John 16:14, Jesus specifically stated that when the Holy Spirit was come, He would declare of Him (meaning Jesus). Indeed, Jesus is not just the means of our getting into heaven, He is also the means of daily victory by grace through faith. (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:6) Because Christ is the one and only means of knowing, loving, serving and worshipping God, He is to be preeminent in all things at all times.

The same preeminent focus on Christ and God’s holiness were also central in all historic spiritual awakenings. When Christ’s Lordship, the new birth and holiness are centrally proclaimed, the Holy Spirit moved in sweeping power. The Spirit-empowered proclamation of Christ, sin and judgment are crucial to the release of God’s manifest presence to convict and save. In generations when churches truly embraced a central emphasis on Jesus, discipleship, evangelism and missions exploded and God received great glory.

Yet today, a disturbing number of churches have departed from Christ’s central focus and message. While many declare Christ as our blessing and friend, they either ignore or marginalize the fact He is also Lord, Judge and Savior. Even in doctrinally sound believers and churches, some have drifted toward a neglect of adequate focus on Jesus. Revival surely requires a return to balance. It is certainly no accident that the Church revives and evangelism explodes when Jesus is a central focus.

Sadly, we live in a day when many churches and evangelism efforts focus more on temporal happiness than Christ’s Lordship, repentance and new birth. Far too many churches have become little more than self-help pep rallies for earthly success. In those churches, Christ’s central message of sin, righteousness and judgment is at best an occasional periphery emphasis. At worst, the essential truths are wholly ignored.

In today’s Church, there is also a frequent neglect to declare the full message of Christ as it relates to believers’ daily victory. The foundational truths of Romans 6:6-14 are often either completely ignored or marginalized. In other cases, the truths are mentioned but not explained. As a result, many believers do not realize Christ’s death and resurrection saves them from sin’s “power” as well as its “penalty.” For this reason, many believers know they are saved (eternally) by grace through faith but are

trying to walk in victory more by self-effort. Of course, the result is defeat, powerlessness and lack of confidence.

Make no mistake — when the focus shifts from Christ’s foundational truths, we must assume false prophecy has taken center stage. If churches are more interested in being “politically correct, popular and non-offensive” than faithful to Christ’s preeminent truths, the need for revival is desperate! Beyond question, that is the condition of many modern churches. So how can these conditions reverse? Only a mighty move of God’s Spirit can restore the centrality of Christ and His full gospel. For this great revival reformation, we must labor and pray with all our hearts.

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Have you in any sense thought you could know and walk with God without total reliance upon Christ’s cross and Spirit? \_\_\_ Have you neglected to trust Jesus as your life and victory over sin’s power as well as its penalty? \_\_\_ Is there any pattern of seeking God’s blessings and comforts more than seeking personal holiness and total surrender to Christ’s Lordship? \_\_\_ Does your church fail to focus predominately on exalting Christ’s Lordship, righteousness and new birth salvation? \_\_\_ Have you or your church in any way neglected to emphasize the Bible’s preeminent doctrines of sin, righteousness and judgment because they might be offensive? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on steps for repentance. List any specific steps.

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“Father, please forgive me for ways I have neglected Christ’s preeminence and Lordship in my life. Lord Jesus, I realize You alone are my strength, my love and means of eternal life. Grant me the determination and wisdom to exalt You in all I say and do. As a church, please forgive us for any ways we have neglected Christ’s Lordship, righteousness and judgment. Help us major on Christ’s Lordship, kingdom and glory.”

**11. Cry Out for an Explosion of Sound Doctrine, Balanced Theology with Full Exaltation of God’s Glory and Grace** — (1 Chronicles 29:10-13; Isaiah 42:8; 1 Corinthians 1:29; Ephesians 1:3-6, 2:7-9; 1 Timothy 1:17)

“Father, You alone are life, light, glory and truth. Cause us to proclaim Your full holy nature and glory. Fill us with burning hunger for the whole council of Your word and sound doctrine. Consume us with the exaltation of Your glory and grace. Forgive us for neglecting to declare Your whole word and holiness. Please pardon the ways we have sought You without total reliance upon Your grace and Spirit. Guard us from proclaiming a “god” in our own image. Save us from robbing You of glory that is Yours alone. Fill us with hearts to ever-exalt Your sovereign grace and glory.”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — God purposes that His people continually proclaim sound doctrine, holiness and the glory of His grace. Only in



truly knowing and exalting God do we find full life and meaning. All life, glory and truth are in God alone. Our very reason for existence is to know, love and glorify God for Who He truly is. The heart of Scripture is to declare God's holiness, glory and grace in Christ. The predominant biblical message is God's holiness, man's sinfulness and his utter dependence upon grace in Jesus. Humankind has immeasurable value for one primary reason — we are made in God's eternal image and are valuable to Him.

In reality, all meaning and truth revolves around God and His glory, *not* us. Biblical theology and right doctrines not only matter — they are everything! Indeed, spiritual truth is the foundational essence of all we are and do. Jesus proclaimed, “*I am the way, the **truth** and the life.*” (John 14:6, emphasis added) For these reasons, sound biblical doctrine and theology are the very heart of discipleship, evangelism and worship. When God is proclaimed in all His holiness and glory, He sends forth His presence in manifest saving power.

Until our view of God and doctrinal truth is correct, nothing else is truly right. Unless we fully proclaim God's holiness and truth, our evangelism is shallow and unbalance. The sad result is many religious “decisions” that are not true “conversions.” Yet tragically, much religion is dangerously infected with teachings that overly humanize God and deify mankind. The obvious intent is to create a “god” in our own image. A “god” *we* create is one who says what we want him to say and one we can control for our own ends. Of course, any such “god” bears little resemblance to the one true God of Scripture. The consequence of shallow evangelism and/or preaching is many “church members or attendees” who do not know the second birth. (John 3:8)

Many churches now even pride themselves on minimizing biblical doctrine and theology. Saints, if there is to be genuine sweeping revival, we *must* witness a major rise of sound theology, right doctrine and high exaltation of God's grace. Obviously, only the Holy Spirit can empower such a widespread return to knowing and proclaiming God and doctrinal truth. For just such a movement, we must fervently pray and do our part to proclaim God's holiness and glory!

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Have I failed to revere and respect God as the holy Sovereign God of the universe? \_\_\_ Do I tend to abuse God's grace by frequently confessing the same sins without really repenting? \_\_\_ Have I neglected to seriously study the Bible for sound doctrine and right theology? \_\_\_ Do I seek personal blessings more than deep study God's nature and biblical truth? \_\_\_ Do I in many ways act as if God should revolve around me and my desires rather than my knowing, loving and glorifying Him? \_\_\_ Does my church fail to make much of teaching sound theology and biblical doctrines for every issue of life? \_\_\_ Are we in any way guilty of ignoring doctrine? \_\_\_ Do we focus on a few doctrines we like while ignoring many others? \_\_\_ Do we proclaim a dangerously unbalanced view of God by continually focusing on His love while wholly ignoring His holiness and judgment? \_\_\_ Do we fail to continually exalt God's grace as our only means of knowing Him? \_\_\_ Please be specific in identifying steps for repentance. List any specific steps.

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“Father, I praise You that You want me to know You in all Your glory and truth. I repent of creating any god in my own image and ignoring You as the God You are. Forgive me for trying to fit You into my own likeness rather than wholly seeking and living by Your truth. As a church, forgive us for having ears for false teaching and world-views that ignore Your full holy nature and truth. Please grant us the determination to major on biblical theology and sound doctrine. Cause us to exalt Your Sovereign grace as our only hope and strength. To You alone be all praise, glory and honor!”

**12. Plead for God to Rend the Heavens in Sweeping Revival and to Give Us the Nations in Spiritual Awakening** — (Psalm 2:8; 72:11; Isaiah 64:1; Acts 2:1-2; 4:30-31; Ephesians 5:26-27; Revelation 22:17, 20)

“Sovereign God, we praise You for Your awesome power to shake entire nations for Christ! We ask You to “rend the heavens” and show forth Your awesome glory and manifest Presence. We ask You to move so powerfully that over thirty million Americans will be saved in a single year. Lord, please cause Your glory to sweep the whole earth bringing unprecedented millions to Christ. Give us the nations for the glory and kingdom of Christ! We ask You to purify the Church and prepare Christ’s Bride. For Your glory O God, pour out Your Spirit greater than any previous awakening. Blessed God, we pray for one last great harvest before the glorious return of Your Son. Purify Your Bride O Christ! Cause us to wash our robes white. May Your name be praised in all the earth!”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart to rend the heavens in sweeping revival of the Church and a mighty harvest of lost souls for Christ’s glory and kingdom. Beyond question, a predominant purpose of God is sweeping revival and spiritual awakening. Throughout all history, evangelism, discipleship and missions explode far deeper and further during times of great revival.\* Thus, the greatest way we can further evangelism, discipleship and missions is to passionately seek God for sweeping revival! Absolutely nothing glorifies God, spreads Christ’s kingdom and purifies the Church like heaven-sent revival! For this reason, we must pray fervently, effectively and strategically for revival and spiritual awakening. (2 Chronicles 7:14; James 5:16-18)

We must also pray with great faith and hope. It is crucial to keep our eyes squarely on the One with whom nothing is impossible. If we let our eyes focus on the overwhelming darkness of today’s world, we will surely slide into defeat and doubt. Let us never forget the awesome power of God’s activity in history’s great awakenings. Several historic awakenings have produced conversions equaling ten to fifteen percent of entire nations in just two to four years. Not only do conversions and church growth explode rapidly, the converts tend to be far more genuine and lasting than typical patterns today. In the 1904 Welsh revival, such massive numbers of converts joined churches in just six months.\* To put it in perspective, a similar

awakening in America would produce 30-35 million new true converts actually joining churches in less than a year! Obviously, that would change everything from Washington to Hollywood and everything in the middle!

It is further vital to note that history's great revivals never come from prayers that are brief, general or shallow. They come from the effective fervent prayers of those who pray with strategic biblical depth and detail. Believers, we are not only to pray effectively — we are to pray with a bold faith and passion to see the nations come to God. (Psalm 2:8; 72:11) We are also to pray much for the peace of Jerusalem that Israel and all nations may come to Christ.” (Psalm 122:6; Romans 9:3)

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Do I pray daily and fervently for sweeping revival? \_\_\_ Am I knowledgeable of the several specific things God does to send true revival? \_\_\_ Do I specifically pray these things as a co-laborer together with God? \_\_\_ Does my church continually emphasize specific prayer for revival? \_\_\_ Does my church call special emphases to pray for spiritual awakening? \_\_\_ Has my church committed to seriously pray for revival and kingdom expansion? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on any needed steps for repentance. List any specific steps.

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“Lord, I repent of neglect and commit to fervently pray for sweeping revival, awakening and global harvest. I covenant to make revival, spiritual awakening and kingdom expansion my personal priority. Lord, I trust You to fill me with powerful intercession for revival and spiritual awakening. As a church, we covenant to pray consistently and deeply for spiritual awakening.”

**Author's Note** — The previous twelve prayers have related most specifically to revival and spiritual awakening. I strongly encourage all believers and churches to adopt the first twelve prayers as an official covenant for revival and spiritual awakening. (They are listed as a separate covenant in Appendix A.) The remaining eight prayers relate more to Church maturity and kingdom culmination. They are also very important to fully knowing and praying God's heart. At least periodically, I urge believers to pray all of God's priorities. No doubt, some will elect to embrace all twenty-one prayers as their ongoing covenant with God.

**13. Pray for Believers to Seek First God's Kingdom and Righteousness in Every Area of Life** — (Psalms 27:8; Matthew 6:9-10, 33; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:14; James 5:16)

“Gracious God, Your kingdom and righteousness are worthy to be sought above all else! Forgive us when our prayers are more on earthly needs than kingdom priorities. Forgive us when we prioritize personal gain over holiness and sacrificial service. Fill us O God with a passion to seek Your face and glorify Your name in all

the earth. Teach us to place Your glory and kingdom above any costs revival might require. Thank You for Your promise of abundant grace and blessing. May Your kingdom expand and Your name be praised in all the earth.”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart desire that His people focus on His kingdom and righteousness. In Matthew 6:33, God clearly defines the top priorities for every believer and church. “*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*” In this foundational command, believers find God’s priority focus for their prayers. While our loving God certainly wants to bless His children, His central priorities are Christ’s eternal kingdom, righteousness and glory.

As perhaps never in history, believers are inundated with busyness and distractions. For many saints, Satan’s most effective ploy is “weapons of mass distraction.” Few generations have so evidenced the dangerous heart condition of the “word being choked by the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches.” (Matthew 13:22) For many believers, the most damaging distractions are actually “good things” that are crowding out the “best.”

Today’s Church is tragically afflicted with the “Martha syndrome.” (Luke 10:38-42) I define this syndrome as being so busy working *for* God we spend very little time *with* Him in prayer, surrender and kingdom focus. When this becomes the pattern, our voluminous efforts are seriously lacking in full empowerment. And while many of our efforts may be biblical and right, they are seriously lacking in full empowerment of the Holy Spirit. (John 15:4-5) Though we are busier than ever, we see fewer and fewer lasting results.

When believers and churches become fully focused on expanding God’s kingdom, growing in righteousness, fervent prayer and spreading His glory, full blessing are the promised results and power! (Matthew 6:33) In a day of rampant materialism and self-seeking religious shallowness, revival depends much upon a renewed focus on Christ’s kingdom, righteousness and self surrender. Saints, we do not simply need “more” prayers. We need more prayers of the “right type, power and focus!” “*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*” (James 5:16b) We need hearts utterly committed to the sacrifice of true biblical discipleship, not a fleshly preoccupation with earthly blessings and comforts.

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Do my prayers tend to revolve more around personal needs and desires than God’s kingdom and righteousness? \_\_\_ Is more of my time and energy centered around earthly concerns than eternal priorities? \_\_\_ Do I seem to make time for everything else but serious prayer, Scripture study and service to Christ? \_\_\_ Is our church prayer focus more centered on earthly needs than evangelism, missions and revival? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on any needed steps for repentance. List your specific steps.

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“Lord, You are worthy to be first in every area of my life. I repent of placing other concerns ahead of Your kingdom and righteousness. I now covenant to seek first Your kingdom and righteousness in all I pray and do. As a church, we commit to seek Your kingdom and righteousness above all else. Guard us from the shallowness and self-focus that can so easily become our practice. May Your kingdom advance and Your name be praised in all the earth!”

**14. Ask for Saints to Have a Burning Passion to Glorify God and Exalt His Name Alone** — (Judges 7:2; Isaiah 42:8; Romans 1:29)

“Sovereign God and Christ, all glory, praise and honor belongs to You. Your Name is the only name to be praised and Your kingdom is the only one that matters. Lord, please banish from our hearts every desire to over-exalt ourselves, people or organizations. Guard us from the slightest hint of self-exaltation or reliance on human strengths. Fill us with a holy passion to exalt your name and glory at all times. Empower us with a resolve to spread Your fame and kingdom in all the earth.”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart that His people continually exalt His name and glory! Throughout all Scripture, one thing is utterly clear — God will share His glory with no flesh! (Judges 7:2; 1 Corinthians 1:29) Yet concerning humankind, there is little question that our core sins are pride, self-will, self-exaltation and/or self-reliance. All of these elements come from a single root source — *placing self over God*. It was the original sin of Satan and the root sin in all mankind

In Judges 7:2, we see God greatly reducing the size of Gideon’s army because He knew “they would try and take some of God’s glory.” Even in the great biblical text describing “the whole duty of man,” God said we are to “fear God and keep His commandments.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13) Throughout both biblical Testaments, the constant emphasis is a total exaltation of God’s name and a total rejection of exalting men.

Historically, God’s greatest power is always through evangelists and revival leaders who are deeply humble and filled with a burning passion to exalt God. There is little doubt that true humility and passion for God’s glory are characteristics most desperately needed today. In a day of Fifth Avenue type publicity and promotion, there is genuine risk of prideful exaggeration and robbing God’s glory. Far too often, today’s publicity and promotion can cross the line into subtle exaggeration and pride. Denominations can drift into reporting that makes conditions (and us) look better than we actually are. Whether it is self, church or denominational pride, we must be very sensitive to any attitude, action or language that robs God of glory and praise. One thing is certain — God will share His glory with no man, program or organization! (Isaiah 42:8, 1 Corinthians 1:29)

In today’s generation of high competition and rivalry between Christians and various agencies, we must resolve never to take glory unto ourselves. True revival and spiritual power always depends upon deep humility and a burning passion to exalt God alone. Throughout history one principle is clear — God only commits His

fullest manifest presence to those who “will not touch the glory.” Let us ever pray for hearts He can trust.

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Do I have a burning passion to glorify God and continually exalt His name alone? \_\_\_ Have I in any sense exalted myself or called attention to my accomplishments? \_\_\_ Have I drifted toward relying more on my own ability or training than full reliance upon God’s Spirit? \_\_\_ Has my church drifted into patterns of prideful self-promotion or competition against others? \_\_\_ Has my denomination or group resisted true brokenness by bragging or exaggeration about average (or poor) results? \_\_\_ Have either I, my church or denomination spoken in ways that exaggerate successes and marginalize (or ignore) failures? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on steps of needed repentance. List those steps in the spaces provided.

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“Lord, You deserve all praise, glory and attention all the time! You alone are the source of all power and righteousness. Your name and kingdom are the only ones to be praised. By Your grace, we covenant to exalt and praise You alone. Save us O God from the slightest hint of robbing Your glory.”

**15. Seek God for Increased Laborers and Sweeping Global Harvest** — (Matthew 9:37-38; Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:1-4)

“Lord of the harvest, thank You for the unspeakable joy of serving in Your harvest! Please call millions more into ministry, missions, prayer, preaching and Christian witness. Raise up a mighty army who will pay any price and endure any hardship to glorify Your Name. Father, please send forth a mighty flood of laborers into the harvest. Remove spiritual blindness, expose false religion and send forth a sweeping harvest of souls.”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart desire to raise up faithful laborers for the Church and harvest of souls. In God’s word, believers are specifically commanded to pray for laborers for the harvest. (Matthew 9:37-38) Today’s Church is starved for those who will labor fervently in prayer, preaching, teaching and missions. True revival always involves an explosion of dedicated laborers.\* Indeed, the only hope for America is a flood of Spirit-empowered intercessors, preachers, laborers and witnesses. Furthermore, we not only need a flood of laborers, we need laborers who will declare God’s whole nature and full biblical truth.

As we pray for laborers, we must also consider whether we are willing to be God’s answer to that prayer. In other words, are we fervently laboring ourselves? Are we ourselves willing to boldly proclaim the God of Scripture and stand strong for right doctrine? Are we indeed willing for God to call *our* loved ones to dangerous

foreign mission fields? May God help us fulfill Christ's kingdom by not only praying for laborers, but by becoming laborers ourselves.

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Is there any sense in which I am neglecting to fervently labor for the Lord? \_\_\_ Does my church fail to call its members to serious labor for Christ? \_\_\_ Do I or my church fail to pray for laborers for the harvest? \_\_\_ Have we become satisfied with “doing church” rather than being passionate in laboring for the harvest? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on your needed steps for repentance. List the specific steps.

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“Lord, I repent and commit to be a faithful worker and to pray for laborers for the harvest. I trust You to fill me with a burning passion to labor and pray for Your kingdom and glory. As a church, we covenant to call and equip all members to be laborers in the harvest. Banish from our hearts the shallowness that fails to make disciples.”

**16. Pray for Persecuted Saints and Rapid Gospel Advancement in Lands of Darkness** — (Psalm 144:1-15; 1 Peter 4:1-2; Ephesians 6:18-20; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 10:3-5; Hebrews 13:3)

“Blessed God, we praise You for a love worth living and dying for! Forgive us when we become selfish and forget our brothers and sisters who are persecuted. Lord, we cry out for powerful grace upon believers in lands of darkness. Grant them boldness, wisdom and love for their persecutors. Please empower their witness and direct their efforts. We pray for their protection, provision, power and grace. Fill them with the knowledge their eternal rewards will be infinitely greater than their suffering. Empower us with the same willingness to endure in sufferings. Lord, please remove the spiritual blindness from the cultures in darkness. Destroy Satan's efforts to blind and deceive. Please send swift gospel advancement in lands of atheism and false religion. Holy God, help us realize our own nation must also now be called a land of darkness. Remove Satan's blinders from Americans and help them recognize the lies of atheism and false religions.”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God's heart to grant comfort, grace, provision and power to His persecuted saints. He also purposes that believers be mindful, prayerful and supportive of other believers in difficulty. (1 Corinthians 13:26; Hebrews 13:3) Because of God's great compassion, it is crucial for Christians to have concern for the global body of Christ. We are not to become over-preoccupied with just our own immediate local or national needs. It would be the height of arrogance and selfishness to act as if God's kingdom only revolved around believers in our own city, state, country or denomination.

Americans should count it a high priority to pray for strategic nations like China and India. God is so mightily at work in these nations that they may very well be the greatest hope for a global spiritual awakening! In many ways, believers in lands of persecution are always priority one in God’s heart and kingdom. They are top priority for at least two reasons. (1) God’s compassion always moves His heart toward believers who are in serious suffering. (2) Many persecuted believers are in lands most strategic to proclaiming Christ to the unreached masses.\*

As believers, we should also focus on faithful persecuted saints because we desperately need to embrace their same willingness to faithfully witness and suffer for Christ. When we consistently pray for persecuted saints, we are both instructed and inspired by their example. *Not only do persecuted saints need and deserve our support, we need to learn from their example!* Unless there is a great spiritual awakening in America, persecutions will become far more intense in coming days. May God grant us the same spirit of suffering joyfully for the Savior. (Acts 5:41)

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Do I often fail to pray for the persecuted saints around the world? \_\_\_ Have I failed to inform myself about the specific people and places under severest pressure? \_\_\_ (Contact “Voice of the Martyrs” for specific information.) Am I selfish in focusing only on my own country and personal concerns? \_\_\_ Does my church fail to pray regularly for persecuted saints? \_\_\_ Do I or my church fail to pray for gospel advancement in strategic lands of darkness? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on any needed steps for repentance in your prayer patterns. Remember this — no believer can be fully surrendered to God’s Spirit and remain neglectful of suffering saints and strategic lands for gospel expansion. While we cannot pray for all things all the time, we can and must pray (at least periodically) for persecuted believers and lands of spiritual darkness. List your specific steps of repentance.

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“Lord, I repent and commit to pray regularly for persecuted believers and explosive gospel advancement in strategic lands of darkness. (Let God guide you to pray for specific people and places.) I trust You to fill me with compassion for the persecuted and the power to suffer for Christ myself. As a church, we repent of neglecting to pray for persecuted saints around the world.”

**17. Pray for Selfless Motives and a Willingness to Suffer Joyfully for Christ** — (Matthew 5:11-12, 6:33; Acts 5:41; Philippians 3:10; Hebrews 4:12; James 4:1-4)

“Holy Lord, we ask You to deepen and purify our very motives in praying for revival and blessing. Cause us to seek revival for Your glory, kingdom and pleasure, not just to avoid trials or gain earthly benefits. Help us seek Your glory and kingdom whether it leads to good times or trials. Lord, teach us to seek Your “face” for holiness, not just Your “hand” for comforts. Cause us to seek *You*, not just personal



gains. Help us greatly rejoice when we are persecuted for Your sake. Purge us from all self seeking or personal agendas in our prayers for revival. In all things teach us to seek first Your kingdom and righteousness.”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart that His people are filled with pure motives and kingdom-focused priorities. Beyond question, a major factor in answered prayer is the purity of the motives behind the requests.\* In several biblical passages, God rejected prayers that were insincere or more for selfish gain than the glory and kingdom of God. The New Testament clearly states that believers must be willing to suffer joyfully for the cause of Christ. (Matthew 5:12)

Today, a major need is to ensure we are seeking revival for God’s kingdom and glory rather than merely to be blessed or avoid trials. While it is certainly right to pray for blessing and peace, these must not be our sole motivations. In fact, God may very well have to bring severe breaking and humbling for revival to fully sweep America. May we be willing to seek God’s face regardless of the cost.

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Do I tend to pray far more for personal blessings than for deep holiness and usefulness? \_\_\_ Do I refuse to boldly stand for Christ in order to avoid criticism or rejection? \_\_\_ Am I failing to rejoice in sufferings and trials for Christ’s sake? \_\_\_ Does my church take the safe route of popular preaching and political correctness over faithfulness to God’s whole truth? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on needed steps for repentance. List those specific steps.

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“Lord, I repent of shallowness and commit to seek Your face no matter the cost. By Your grace, I will even rejoice in sufferings for Your Name’s sake. I trust You to fill me with the courage to boldly witness and suffer for Your name sake. As a church, we repent of the fear of men. Forgive us for compromising Your truth and rejecting Your word. Cause us to proclaim Your truth regardless of the opinions of pagan society.”

**18. Cry Out for Salvation and Wisdom to Come to Government, Religious and Cultural Leaders** — (Psalm 2:8; 1 Timothy 2:1-4)

“Holy Father, we praise You for Your power to touch world authorities. We humbly ask for a mighty move of conviction and salvation in government and religious leaders. We cry out for all who influence our culture and laws. Lord, we ask You to grant great wisdom and power to denominational and religious leaders. We ask You to pour out convicting, saving power upon Washington, D.C., the Supreme Court, colleges, universities, media networks and the Hollywood movie industry. Let us not stagger in unbelief at the depth of today’s darkness. Lord, we plead for millions to be converted to Christ in these strategic centers of cultural government/and religious influence.”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart desire to give His people leaders of integrity, wisdom and justice. In Scripture, believers are commanded to pray fervently for government, cultural and religious leaders. This command even carries a powerful promise from God. (1 Timothy 2:1-2) In today’s world, it is obvious many leaders desperately need new-birth in Christ. In today’s America, more and more politicians and courts are less and less Christian.\* Yet, through aggressive, strategic prayer even the most godless leaders can be influenced for good.

In Matthew 16:17-19, Jesus gives the picture of a powerful church boldly reaching souls for Christ. Saints, we are not to be “defensive” or “intimidated” by the darkness of sin. As believers we must pray with an aggressive faith to “take the nations for Christ and His glory. We must never forget that “all things are possible with God.” (Jeremiah 32:27; Matthew 17:20) Even in a society as dark as ours, leaders *can* be converted and influenced for Christ! Of course, in praying for leaders we must always remember that in a democracy the elected leaders are a direct reflection those who elect them. We must also understand that God often judges a rebellious people by giving their leaders that are evil and foolish. Even in praying for leaders, our first priority is prayer for society to return to God and Christ receive glory. (For extensive guides on praying for elections, leaders and authorities, see Appendices H and I.)

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Do I fail to pray diligently for government, religious and cultural influencers? \_\_\_ Have I given up in my prayers because of the intensity of today’s darkness? \_\_\_ Does my church fail to emphasize consistent prayers for those in authority? \_\_\_ Have we failed to pray consistently and specifically for the proposed laws and policies of our land? \_\_\_ Have we become self-focused in our praying? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on any needed steps for repentance. List any specific steps.

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“Lord, I repent of any neglect to pray for those in authority. I commit to pray for the salvation and guidance of government, religious and cultural authorities. I trust You to fill me with a spirit of love for my enemies and kindness toward persecutors. As a church, we covenant to pray for our leaders. We repent of shallow prayer and trust Your guidance for strategic kingdom intercession.”

**19. Pray for an Explosion of Deeper Worship in Spirit and Truth** — (1 Samuel 15:22; Psalm 29:2; Isaiah 1:12-17, 58:1-8; Amos 5:23-24; John 4:23)

“Blessed Father and Son, You are worthy of all praise and worship all the time. We understand we were created to worship You in pure adoration, holiness and love. Teach us to worship You in the beauty of holiness and in Spirit and truth. Forgive us

for singing songs without embracing the pledges we sing. Guide us into a pure love and worship revealed in obedience and holiness. Please move us to a worship that is far more about heart and surrender than music styles and personal preferences. Fill us with a worship that is more about Your glory and pleasure than our earthly comforts. Lord, You are worthy of all glory, praise and honor all the time! Grant to us a pure worship in Spirit and truth.”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart passion that His people worship Him in Spirit and truth. Indeed, our very reason for existence is to continually worship and obey God with great sincerity and passion. In both the Old and New Testaments, God earnestly desires for His people to worship Him with great power, intensity and purity. In fact, He is literally “offended” by worship that is shallow and disconnected from obedience. (Isaiah 1:12-14, 58:1-8; Amos 5:20) Throughout history, great spiritual awakenings always result in newly impassioned worship.\*

God is ever-seeking worship in Spirit and truth, *not* the mere singing of high-sounding words that do not match our lifestyles. (John 4:23) In fact, if we don’t mean what we sing, pray or preach, our worship becomes seriously offensive to God! While we should certainly sing hymns, choruses and spiritual songs, we must also commit to embrace what we sing. It is crucial to understand that true worship is far more than singing. It is praying, praising, responding to God’s word and living it in daily life.

A major element of seeking revival and preparing for Christ’s return is to seek a powerful personal and corporate deepening of true worship. True worship is primarily about whole life surrender and full obedience, not the mere singing of songs and choruses. Worship involves ever-deeper repentance with the love and passion to live in obedience. In other words, it is quite useless to sing choruses like “You’re All I Need” when I will not even commit to a serious daily quiet time. Merely singing certain words or getting a gushy feeling are not the same as personally embracing the professed words in lifestyle obedience.

God is not worshipped by the lip-service of high-sounding words or emotional lyrics that do not match our lifestyles. He is ever seeking a worship of true heart passion and obedience. (1 Samuel 15:22) In worship, God desires utter sincerity and truth. Think about it. If I sing “Brokenness is All I Long For” yet consistently fail to allow God to search my heart, I am essentially singing a lie. Would it not be seriously disingenuous to sing *I Surrender All* if I am robbing God by refusing to tithe and give offerings? (Malachi 3:7-8) Indeed, it would! (Matthew 15:8) Since we cannot “work up or fake” sincere worship, we must pray for a deeper worship of Spirit and truth to grip our hearts. But along with our prayers, we must embrace the disciplines of serious Bible study, fervent prayer, fasting and life surrender that true worship requires. Dear saints, let us pray for God to teach us true worship. But, let us pray with faith and hope. God definitely *wants* to deepen us in worship! (John 4:23)

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Do I often sing choruses and hymns without surrendering my life to the pledges the songs profess? \_\_\_ Is my life disconnected from the professions I sing in worship? \_\_\_ Does my church fail to connect worship with deep repentance and actual surrender in daily life? \_\_\_ Have

we been guilty of worship devoid of biblical content and depth of meaning? \_\_\_\_  
Prayerfully reflect on any needed steps for repentance. List some of those steps.

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“Lord, I repent and commit to worship You more fully in Spirit and truth. I covenant to embrace a lifestyle of worship by full obedience and surrender. I trust You to fill me with a spirit of continual worship in the beauty of holiness. As a church we commit to stress lifestyle obedience to the songs and prayers we profess.”

**20. Ask for Hearts Prepared to Seek God Even If As a Faithful Remnant in a Land Under Judgment** — (Jeremiah 45:5; Hosea 10:12; Matthew 5:10-12, 10:16-26; 26:39; Acts, 5:29; Romans 8:18; Philippians 3:10; James 4:1-4)

“Righteous Lord, we praise You for grace to help us be faithful in a land of darkness. We ask You to send sweeping revival even if it takes stronger judgments and greater trials to prepare the soil of our hearts. Break up our fallow ground and rain righteousness upon us. If we must walk many years as a remnant in a land under judgment, we will praise and trust You still! Father, we pray not for shallow selfish ends, but for the glory of Your name sake and spread of Your kingdom. Lord, cause us to seek You in true humility, brokenness and contriteness of heart. Cause us to surrender to Your will regardless of cost or sacrifice. Help us desire to know You in the fellowship of Your suffering as well as the power of Your resurrection. Teach us that no suffering can be compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us! Dear Father, help us willingly embrace persecution if it is required to see revival in our land.”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart that His people stand strong in persecution and walk joyfully in the fellowship of His sufferings. (Matthew 5:10-12; Acts 5:29; Philippians 3:10) The purposes and ways of God do not always lead quickly to great revival and blessings. (Jeremiah 45:5) There are many times in history when a people or nations had to go through major periods of judgment and trial. (Jeremiah 29:4-9) Obviously, there are also many instances when believers endure intense persecutions and difficulty for the sake of the gospel. For years, I have sensed that prayer for revival in America might mean we must first see a time of deep breaking, trials and humility. But whether it does or doesn’t mean far greater trials, believers must be fully willing to obey and seek God *regardless* of the cost!

The central object of our prayers must be God’s kingdom and glory regardless of cost or sacrifice. Whether we soon see revival or endure a remnant period of deepening trial, we are to love and seek God all the same! While God certainly delights in sending great blessing and sweeping revival, societal and church conditions at times make that impossible without prior breaking and trials. As believers, we must be willing to pray God’s heart even if it means a lengthy period of chastisement, persecution and trial. Though revival is certainly crucial, our prayers

must be about the Reviver and His full kingdom will not just revival or personal blessings. Whatever revival requires, His grace will be sufficient!

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Have I failed to prepare my heart to fervently seek the Lord? \_\_\_ Am I willing to embrace and endure brokenness, persecution and trials if such are God’s will? \_\_\_ Am I prepared to rejoice in trials and boldly witness in spite of severe persecution? \_\_\_ Have I compromised with political correctness? \_\_\_ Has our church failed to teach faithfulness and wise living as a remnant in a dark time? \_\_\_ Have we allowed political correctness to take precedence over biblical correctness and faithfulness to Christ’s Lordship? \_\_\_ Have we in any way allowed politics and social issues to take precedence over God and truth? \_\_\_ Are we prepared to witness as a bold faithful remnant in a day of darkness? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on needed steps for repentance. List any specific steps.

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“Lord, I repent of shallowness and commit to embrace Christ’s full Lordship in my life. I commit to live for Your glory and kingdom whatever the cost. As a church, we covenant to be a faithful remnant in a land of darkness. Help us be bold, faith-filled and uncompromising. We will seek Your face and proclaim Your truth no matter the cost.”

**21. Cry Out for Christ’s Swift Return, His Kingdom to Come and His Glory to Fill the Earth** — (Psalm 42:1; Matthew 6:10; Revelation 22:17-20)

“Lord, we praise You that Jesus will return and His kingdom will come! We cry out for Your manifest presence to be mighty in our midst. Forgive us when we become so enamored with the world, we fail to long for Christ’s close presence and soon return. Forgive us for settling for religious activities and church work instead of Your manifest presence. Help us trim our lamps and cry out for the marriage of the Church with the Bridegroom. Lord, cause our hearts to yearn for Your face of intimacy. Lord Jesus, let Your kingdom soon come on earth as it is in Heaven. Be glorified in all the earth! Come Lord Jesus, come quickly!”

*The Biblical and Historical Importance* — It is God’s heart desire that His people passionately yearn and prepare for Christ’s return. Believers’ greatest passion and prayer must be the ultimate coming of Christ’s kingdom and glory of His name.\* Rather than being consumed only with Christ’s “work,” we are to be consumed with a passion for His personal “coming.” (Revelation 22:17-20) Believers are to yearn for His immediate manifest presence. We are to cry out for the final wedding of the Bride (the Church) with the Bridegroom (Christ.) Churches are to faithfully proclaim the return of Christ.

A huge part of co-laboring with God is praying and preparing for the ultimate coming of Christ's kingdom. In fact, our obedient labor to spread the gospel is a huge part of brining about Christ's return. (Matthew 24:14) Believers, we are to ever be "washing our robes spotless from the world" and "seeking to save the lost." (Luke 19:10; Revelation 3:18) Only by so doing and praying, do we embrace God's deepest heart and purpose. Yet, we are always to keep our eyes fully centered on personal love and surrender to the Savior. Believers, it is entirely possible to allow the "work of the church" to distract us from *first love intimacy* with the "Lord Himself." (Revelation 2:1-4) May God save today's busy, distracted Christians from the "Martha syndrome." (Luke 10:38-42)

*Reflections for Prayer and Repentance* — Have I become so engrossed in the world and church work that I am not consciously yearning for Christ's return? \_\_\_ Am I in any way settling for religious activities and earthly blessings instead of Christ's manifest presence? \_\_\_ Have I lessened in hunger and thirst for God Himself? \_\_\_ Has working *for* God in some ways become a substitute for intimacy *with* God? \_\_\_ Prayerfully reflect on any needed steps for repentance. List specific steps.

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"Lord, I repent and commit to seek Christ's fullest daily presence and to yearn for His ultimate appearing. I trust You to fill me with a trimmed lamp and a heart prepared for Your return. (Matthew 25:1-13) As a church, we covenant to be pure and faithful in a land of darkness. Help us be ready and watching for Your glorious appearing!"

**Will You Now Covenant to Watch With Jesus?**  
***The Covenant to Embrace and Pray God's Heart***  
*(Psalm 27:8; Matthew 26:40)*

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus gave His disciples a most passionate plea — "watch with Me!" Believers, we again find ourselves at a most crucial moment of history. Our nation is sliding into serious judgment and most churches are asleep at the wheel. As the world careens toward judgment, the Savior is again calling to His remnant — "watch with Me!"

If there is to be a final great awakening and sweeping global harvest, it can only come one way. That way is effective fervent prayer, deep repentance and empowered obedience in evangelism and missions. Yet one thing is certain — fullest power *never* comes from shallow prayer, surface repentance, voluminous programs or promotions alone. It only comes by God's grace through the effective, fervent prayers of deeply repentant hearts. (2 Chronicles 7:14; James 5:16) For the most part, that is *not* the kind of prayer most practice in our generation. However, it is the type outlined in the covenant prayers in this tool.

Each of us must come to a crucial decision — do we truly want to embrace God’s heart and mission or just continue with business as usual? Today, there are various prayer covenants or particular prayers we are urged to embrace. Unfortunately, many modern suggested prayers are general and non-specific. They fail badly at bringing believers to biblical prayers and deep detailed repentance. Whatever we do, we must not settle for anything less than genuine heart surrender and kingdom focus in our praying. It is time for both our intercession and obedience to grow up into the maturity of a holy Bride.

### **How This Prayer Covenant is Different from Most**

This covenant is different from most in that it calls for an *ongoing* lifestyle of deeper prayer with three *specific* steps of actual repentance. It is also different in that it provides concise, practical tools that enable believers to carry out their pledges. Rather than an occasional emphasis of merely “saying” some general prayers, believers are led to embrace concrete patterns of lasting prayer and repentance. It is very important to realize simply “saying” we repent is *not* the same thing as embracing actual steps for doing it.

Sadly, surveys strongly suggest most American believers have inadequate knowledge of how to embrace deep, detailed repentance. Many acknowledge they have never been taught how to embrace full heart examination and deeper prayer. For this reason, many modern covenants and prayer emphases are far too general to guide believers into meaningful surrender to Christ’s Lordship. While leaders’ intentions are no doubt excellent, they are based on the false assumption that Americans already understand true repentance. One thing is certain — a true return to God *requires* a commitment to embrace deep heart searching and specific yielding to Christ. Anything less is a mere “pretense” of prayer and a “false show” of repentance. God is neither impressed nor fooled by shallow efforts.

As believers, we simply must do more than briefly “say” we repent and voice a few general prayers. We must *decide* to fully embrace a God-seeking lifestyle of deeper prayer and detailed repentance. Yet, by God’s grace there is glorious hope! He invites us to a loving intimacy and purpose too wonderful for words. Let us lay aside the shallow general prayers of spiritual children and join our Lord in the grown up prayers of a mature, loving Bride.

### **We Must “Decide” to Fully Embrace Christ’s Heart (It Will Not Happen by Accident!)**

One thing is certain — seriously embracing Christ’s heart will not happen without a real commitment. Deep intimacy with God will not happen by accident. Dear saint, it is my deepest prayer you and your church will embrace the Savior’s call to seriously seek His face. If thousands of believers and churches fully embraced this covenant (or one similar,) God would indeed “rend the heavens” in sweeping revival! (Isaiah 64:1)

In Appendix A, I list twelve covenant prayers for revival and spiritual awakening. This primary covenant is designed for easy use in personal, small group or corporate prayer. It can also be adopted as an official covenant by churches, denominations and groups. For convenience, I also list a second covenant that includes additional prayers for

broader kingdom focus. Appendices B through H are practical tools for all aspects of seeking God's face in powerful prayer. The time is now — Jesus is surely calling us to seek His face and kingdom. May we say unto Him, "*Thy face O Lord I will seek.*" (Psalms 27:81) Let us seek Him while He may yet be found! (Isaiah 55:6)

*An important note to readers:* This unique covenant calls for serious ongoing commitment to powerful personal and corporate prayer. It also commits to embracing a meaningful pattern of deep heart search and surrender to Jesus. While of course, no one is perfect, this covenant is far more than meaningless general phrases. Do not just "say" these words, Trust God's grace to help you mean it. He will surely do His part!

(From **Praying God's Heart in Times Like These! "A Covenant to Seek the Reviver Not Just Revival,"** Dr. Gregory Frizzell, 2009, [Frizzell Ministries](http://www.frizzellministries.org) ([www.frizzellministries.org](http://www.frizzellministries.org)), [Master Design Books](http://www.masterdesign.org/frizzell.html) ([www.masterdesign.org/frizzell.html](http://www.masterdesign.org/frizzell.html)), reproduced by Call2Fall with permission from the author)