

Preparation for Personal Revival

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: Try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24).

Prayerfully consider the following questions. Ask God to help you answer each one truthfully. Every "yes" answer reveals an area of sin in your life. As the Lord convicts you of sin, confess it at once to Him, be willing to make it right... then you can claim cleansing and forgiveness.

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

Dear Friend,

This guide has been designed and is given with the prayer that these soul-searching questions may lead you to real and genuine revival! Honestly answer two or three of these points each day in your personal or family quiet time. Then ask the Holy Spirit to search you and try you until you are truly abiding in Christ. God responds to two attitudes more than any other, honesty and humility. With these two in hand (heart), come before Him and seek his face!

Sincerely,

Dwight Smith

- I. Forgiveness - "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14-15).

	Yes	No
A. Is there anyone against whom you hold a grudge?	☐	☐
B. Is there anyone you have not forgiven?	☐	☐
C. Is there anyone you hate?	☐	☐
D. Is there anyone you do not love?	☐	☐
E. Are there any misunderstandings you are unwilling to forget?	☐	☐
F. Is there any person against whom you are harboring bitterness?	☐	☐
G. Are you resentful toward anyone?	☐	☐
H. Is there anyone of whom you are jealous?	☐	☐

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VI. Faithfulness Before the Lord - "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2).

- | | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Are you undependable so that you cannot be trusted with responsibilities in the Lord's work? | ☐ | ☐ |
| B. Are you allowing your emotions to be stirred for things of the Lord but you are doing nothing about it? | ☐ | ☐ |

VII. Discipline and Spirit-Control - "What know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

- | | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Are you in anyway careless with your body? | ☐ | ☐ |
| B. Do you fail to care for your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit? | ☐ | ☐ |
| C. Are you guilty of intemperance in eating or drinking? | ☐ | ☐ |
| D. Do you have any habits which are defiling to the body? | ☐ | ☐ |

VIII. Deflecting Glory to Where it Belongs - "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Corinthians 10:31).

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Do you take the slightest credit for anything good about you, rather than give all the glory to God? | ☐ | ☐ |
| B. Do you talk of what you have done rather than of what Christ has done? | ☐ | ☐ |
| C. Are your statements mostly filled with "I"? | ☐ | ☐ |
| D. Are your feelings easily hurt? | ☐ | ☐ |
| E. Have you made a pretense of being something you are not? | ☐ | ☐ |

IX. Leaning Upon the Sufficiency of Christ - "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

- | | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Are you self-conscious rather than Christ-conscious? | ☐ | ☐ |
| B. Do you allow feelings of inferiority to keep you from attempting what you ought in serving God? | ☐ | ☐ |

- X. Others First – Me Last - “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth: (Ephesians 4:28).

	Yes	No
A. Do you underpay your workers?	☐	☐
B. Do you accomplish very little in your work?	☐	☐
C. Have you been careless in the payment of your debts?	☐	☐
D. Do you waste time?	☐	☐
E. Do you waste time for others?	☐	☐

- XI. Kindness and Thoughtfulness - “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice: (Ephesians 4:31).

	Yes	No
A. Do you complain?	☐	☐
B. Do you find fault?	☐	☐
C. Do you have a critical attitude towards any person or thing?	☐	☐
D. Are you irritable and cranky?	☐	☐
E. Do you ever carry hidden anger?	☐	☐
F. Do you get angry easily or frequently?	☐	☐
G. Do you become impatient with others?	☐	☐
H. Are you ever harsh or unkind?	☐	☐

- XII. My Time Is God's - “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16).

	Yes	No
A. Do you listen to unedifying radio programs?	☐	☐
B. Do you watch TV shows that in anyway dishonor God?	☐	☐
C. Have you clicked on web-sites that are frivolous, impure, or inappropriate for a Christian to view?	☐	☐
D. Are you indecent in your social networking habits?	☐	☐
E. Have you formed ties with others via text-messaging which should not be formed?	☐	☐
F. Do you read unworthy magazines?	☐	☐
G. Do you partake in unholy amusements?	☐	☐
H. Do you find it necessary to seek satisfaction from any questionable source?	☐	☐
I. Are you doing certain things that show that you are not satisfied in the Lord Jesus Christ?	☐	☐

XIII. Thankfulness - Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20).

	Yes	No
A. Have you neglected to thank Him for all things, the seemingly bad as well as the good?	☐	☐
B. Have you virtually called God a liar by doubting His Word?	☐	☐
C. Do you worry?	☐	☐
D. Is your spiritual temperature based on your feelings instead of on the facts of God's Word?	☐	☐

XIV. Christ Alone - "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

	Yes	No
A. Are you taken up with the cares of this life?	☐	☐
B. Does your conversation or heart joy over "things" rather than the Lord and His Word?	☐	☐
C. Does anything mean more to you than living for and pleasing Christ?	☐	☐

XV. Tongue Control - "Do all things without murmuring and disputing" (Philippians 2:14).

	Yes	No
A. Do you ever by word or deed seek to hurt someone?	☐	☐
B. Do you gossip?	☐	☐
C. Do you speak unkindly concerning people when they are not present?	☐	☐
D. Do you carry prejudice against true believers because they are of some different social or ethnic group than yours, or because they don't see something just like you?	☐	☐

XVI. Rejoicing in God's Goodness - "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4).

	Yes	No
A. Have you neglected to seek to be pleasing to Christ in all things?	☐	☐
B. Do you carry bitterness against God?	☐	☐
C. Have you complained against Him in any way?	☐	☐
D. Have you been dissatisfied with His provision for you?	☐	☐
E. Is there in your heart any unwillingness to obey God fully?	☐	☐
F. Do you have any reservations as to what you would or would not do concerning anything that might be His will?	☐	☐
G. Have you disobeyed some direct leading from Him?	☐	☐

XVII. Speaking the Truth - "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds" (Colossians 3:9).

	Yes	No
A. Do you engage in empty and unprofitable conversation?	☐	☐
B. Do you ever lie?	☐	☐
C. Do you ever exaggerate?	☐	☐
D. Carefully consider – do you overcharge?	☐	☐

XVIII. Purity is a Must - "Flee also youthful lusts: But follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart: (II Timothy 2:22).

	Yes	No
A. Do you have any personal habits that are not pure?	☐	☐
B. Do you allow impure thoughts about the opposite sex to stay in your mind?	☐	☐
C. Do you read or look at that which is impure or suggests unholy things?	☐	☐
D. Do you indulge in any unclean entertainment?	☐	☐
E. Are you guilty of the lustful look?	☐	☐

XIX. Church Attendance & Devotion to God - "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

	Yes	No
A. Do you stay away from the meetings of the preaching of the the gospel and the Word?	☐	☐
B. Do you whisper, write notes, or think about other things while God's Word is being read or preached?	☐	☐
C. Are you irregular in attendance at services?	☐	☐
D. Do you neglect to attend or participate in prayer meetings?	☐	☐
E. Have you neglected or slighted daily or private prayer?	☐	☐
F. Have you neglected God's Word?	☐	☐
G. Do you find the Bible or prayer uninteresting?	☐	☐
H. Have you neglected thanksgiving at meals?	☐	☐
I. Have you neglected daily family devotions?	☐	☐

XX. Submission to Authority - "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for this is unprofitable for you" (Hebrews 13:7).

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Do you hesitate to submit to leaders in the church or elsewhere? | ☐ | ☐ |
| B. Are you lazy? | ☐ | ☐ |
| C. Do you rebel at requests given to you to help in the work of the Gospel? | ☐ | ☐ |
| D. Do you in any way have a stubborn or unteachable spirit? | ☐ | ☐ |

XXI. Humility - "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble" (James 4:6).

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Do you feel that you are doing all right as a Christian? | ☐ | ☐ |
| B. Do you insist on having your own way? | ☐ | ☐ |
| C. Do you insist on your "rights"? | ☐ | ☐ |

XXII. Holy-Spirit Dependence - "And be not drunk with wine, wherein, is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Does your life lack the fruit of the Spirit? | ☐ | ☐ |
| B. Have you been functioning, operating, and working in the energy of the flesh? | ☐ | ☐ |
| C. Do you daily neglect to ask the Holy Spirit to fill, control, empower, and enable you? | ☐ | ☐ |
| D. Is a personal & vibrant relationship with the Holy Spirit missing from your life? | ☐ | ☐ |
| E. Do you fail to see visible evidence of the fruit of souls in your life? | ☐ | ☐ |

XXIII. Reconciliation - "Speak not evil one of another, bretheren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge" (James 4:11).

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Have you dishonoured Christ and hindered His work by criticizing His servants? | ☐ | ☐ |
| B. Have you failed to pray regularly for your pastor and other spiritual leaders? | ☐ | ☐ |
| C. Do you find it hard to be corrected? | ☐ | ☐ |
| D. Is there rebellion towards one who wants to restore you? | ☐ | ☐ |

- E. Are you more concerned about what people will think than what will be pleasing to God? ☐ ☐

If you have been honest and true in the matter of admitting your sins, then you are ready for God's cleansing. Sins admitted, are sins confessed, and sins confessed, are sins *forgiven!*

Remember these three truths:

1. If the sin is against God, confess it to God, and make things right with God.
2. If the sin is against another person, confess it to God, and make things right with that person.
3. If the sin is against a group (i.e. church, work, school, youth group, family), make it right with that group.

"He that covereth his sin shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).