

A Suggested Prayer Guide

How to use:

1. Set aside a specific time and a quiet place to work through this plan once each week for the next 17 weeks (about 4 months).
2. Use along with your Bible. Be aware that you are in the presence of God and He is speaking to your heart.
3. Answer the questions and follow the suggestions.
4. It should take you at least one hour to read and pray through this guide. (It could take all night!)
5. DON'T TAKE ANY SHORTCUTS! It is more meaningful to put forth the effort and have the privacy needed to examine yourself.

We are asking God to revive our hearts and energize His work through us. Revival needs to begin with ME! I must be willing to lay down my life, my time, my talents, my money—all that I am, and all that I have on God's altar.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1

God is able to:

- Forgive every sin,
- To cleanse every stain,
- To save any sinner,
- To overcome all doubts,
- To quiet every fear,
- To meet every need,
- To use His people in evangelism,
- To bless His churches with revival,
- And to give victory!

This guide follows the example of prayer found in Nehemiah chapter 1. Nehemiah spent four months in prayer before discussing his burden to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem with King Artaxerxes. Nehemiah began his prayer with recognizing God, then recognizing sin, and concludes by requesting help. This isn't the only way to pray, but it will help us seek the Lord together as a church. For your convenience at the end of the guide is a checklist to track your progress over the next 17 weeks.

Recognizing God

Start your prayer time by spending time praising the Lord. Focus on worshiping God for Who He is. Here's a few passages to help you: Psalm 95 & 96; John 4:24; Isaiah 6:1-8.

Thank Him for blessings you have received. Consider Psalm 103.

Recognizing Sin

Read: Proverbs 28:13; I John 1:8-9; Psalm 51.

Three kinds of sin which we must confess:

1. Private—sins against God alone, must be confessed to God alone.
2. Personal—sins against others. There can be no peace until these sins are confessed to God. AS GOD LEADS, you will need to confess to the person you have wronged. You must make an effort to restore disturbed fellowship—Matthew 5:23-24.
3. Public—sins against the church, such as: gossip—tale bearing; neglect of duty; wrongful attitudes.

As long as iniquity among the people of God is covered over and unconfessed, just so long will the Spirit of God be unable to bring about a revival. Men must get right with each other in order to be right with God. The sooner we admit that we have sinned and are ready to confess and forsake it, the sooner may we expect God to hear us and work in mighty power. Why deceive ourselves? We cannot deceive God. Then let us remove the obstacle, the hindering thing, before we take another step. "If we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged" (1 Corinthians 11:31). "Judgment must begin at the house of God" (1 Peter 4:17).

Oh then, let us plead first of all the prayer of David when he cried, "Search me, O God ... and see if there be any wicked way in me" (Psalm 139:23,24). Agree with God about your sin & rest in His forgiveness.

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:8-9

Am I really concerned about revival?

Am I willing to pay the price for personal revival?

Am I willing to do anything God wants me to do?

Is God FIRST in my plans?

Am I sinning the sin of prayerlessness?

Is my prayer time crowded out by other things?

Have I neglected the Word of God?

Have I forgiven everyone?

Is all resentment out of my heart?

Am I willing to ask forgiveness from anyone I have wronged in any way?

Am I impatient?

Am I irritable?

Am I offended easily?

Do my "hurt feelings" keep me from serving God?

Do I get angry?

Do I bear grudges?

Do I "blow up"?

Do I "swell up" with resentment?

Do I have enmity toward anyone?

Am I willing—here and now—to ask God to help me put it out of my heart? (see Matthew 6:12-15; 18:21-35, Luke 6:27-37, and Ephesians 4:32 for more help)

Have I, in any way, been dishonest with God?

Have I been dishonest within my church?

Have I broken any promise made to God or to His church? my family?

Since my emergency or crisis is past, have I kept the promises I made in prayer?

Am I dishonest with others?

Do I try to leave a wrong impression if I can do it without really telling a lie?

What about covetousness?

Am I too concerned about THINGS?

Have I sought material blessings more than SPIRITUAL blessings?

Is there anything in my life that I would be unwilling to give up for Christ?

Do I deny myself daily to follow Jesus?

Have I paid my debts to others?

Do I have anything in my possession that does not rightly belong to me?

Do I have any habit which I should forsake?

Have I asked God's help?

Is there jealousy in my heart?

Have I wronged anyone and failed to make restitution?

Can I keep a secret?

Is the reputation of another safe in my hands?

Have I been a tale-bearer or a gossip?

Have I hurt someone—or my church—by needless talk about someone's faults?

Even if it was true—did I glorify my Lord by telling it?

Do I pray for others in the church?

When another is preferred before me, does it make me envious and uncomfortable?

Do I get jealous of those who can pray, speak and do things better than I can?

When people fail to notice me and pass by without speaking, does it hurt? If others are made much of and I am neglected, how do I feel about it?

Do I think a great deal of my own position and attainments?

Do I seek a position a position in the church or do I seek to be a blessing?

Is my mind honest and clean in the sight of God?

Are my thoughts pure?

Do I harbor an unholy imagination?

Am I faithful to my wedding vows—in deed? in thought?

Is my home a testimony for Jesus?

Am I willing and ready to forgive any wrong against me or against my family?

Do I have any secret sin that I excuse, but should forsake?

Have I forgiven those who have talked about me?

What about those who have talked about my loved ones?

Do I have a right attitude toward my fellow church members?

Do I have a right attitude toward leaders in the church?

Does my pastor know that he can count on me?

Did I meet every situation today as a Christian should?

Have I honestly tried to be a good witness for Christ this week?

Have I worried or been over-anxious about things over which I have no control?

Do I criticize unlovingly, harshly, severely?

Am I always finding fault and looking for the flaws in others?

Do I believe God can: cleanse any sinner, change any life, take care of any situation, guide me in my decisions?

Now remember the marvelous grace of God!

He has promised to forgive every sin confessed to Him! (See Isaiah 1:18, 44:21-22; Hebrews 8:12, 10:17; 1 John 1:7-9) Thank God for forgiving you!

Requesting Help

For yourself – for cleansing, for strength, and for courage to forsake the sins confessed. Trust Him—fear not! Put your life in His hands. His way is best for you! Use the space below for your own requests:

For your family – ask for God’s wisdom and guidance for your home; ask God’s blessing in your home. Use the space below for your own requests:

For your church – your pastor, other leaders. Pray for weak members. Pray for unity and love in the church. Be sure you are a helper—not a problem. Use the space below for your own requests:

For the unsaved – ask God to burden you for individuals—and to use you to reach them. Intercede for our missionaries.

Track your progress towards a goal of working through this 1x per week:

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____
10 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____ 13 _____ 14 _____ 15 _____ 16 _____ 17 _____