

# Change **ME**

A PERSONAL REVIVAL GUIDE

*Steve Horn*





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2021 by Steve Horn

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## *Dedication*

Dedicated to my friend and colleague, Gary Ruffin, retired Minister of Education and Outreach at First Baptist Church, Lafayette. You are a living testimony to the principles outlined in this 28-day journey to personal revival.

## *Acknowledgements*

This work is the collaboration of a burden that many have for revival. The specific concept had its origin in a retreat of the Administrative Council of Louisiana Baptists. This group, comprised of our team leaders, included Dale Lingenfelter, John Hebert, John Kyle, Keith Manuel, Mark Robinson, and Ray Swift - all who helped me think more precisely about the content and approach of this 28-day journey.

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Our Director of Communications, John Kyle, and his team edited, proofed, and designed what you hold in your hands. Team members involved included Art Director, Gavin Stevens, Administrative Assistant, Leanne Treme and Production Coordinator, Kristina Henry.

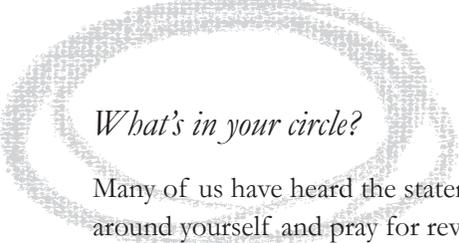
Finally, I want to thank Louisiana Baptists for the privilege to serve as Executive Director and for our churches who faithfully and sacrificially support missions and ministries in Louisiana and beyond through the Cooperative Program.

# Change **ME**

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# Introduction



## *What's in your circle?*

Many of us have heard the statement, “Revival begins with me” or “Draw a circle around yourself and pray for revival to begin right here.”

Through the prophet Isaiah, God said, “My hand made all these things, and so they all came into being. This is the LORD’s declaration. I will look favorably on this kind of person: one who is humble, submissive in spirit, and trembles at my word.” (Isaiah 66:2)

I believe our churches and our nation have no problems that humility before God and His word would not fix immediately.

Have you ever asked yourself, “If revival was up to me (and thankfully, it is not), how likely would it be to happen?”

Without question, revival is a sovereign act of God; however, I believe we can set the sails for revival.

If we fail, let us fail as we invite people to seek first the kingdom of God. Even if our pleas fall on deaf ears, they might result in our own personal revival.

If the only result of this pursuit is that our personal walk with Jesus morphs into a constant state of revival, renewal, freshness, consecration, and obedience, it will be worth it.

Would you be willing to commit the next four weeks to seek personal revival? If so, please review and sign the commitment below:

*I need and desire revival. To the best of my ability, I commit the next 28 days to work through this guide. God, please search me and change me as You desire.*

*Signed:* \_\_\_\_\_

# Our Journey to Personal Revival

Week One will focus on introspection. Will you be willing to earnestly pray for God to reveal any and all sin? Will you be willing to pray Psalm 139:23-24 where David invites God to:

*Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my concerns.  
See if there is any offensive way in me;  
lead me in the everlasting way. (Psalm 139:23-24)*

In Week Two, introspection gives way to consecration. Consecration simply means preparing yourself to meet with God. Believing the primary way that God speaks is through His word, our week of consecration will involve reading large portions of God's Word. Our prayer will be Lord, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:10)

The primary focus of Week Three will be intercession where you will be challenged to pray in a variety of ways. You will also be challenged to read a book on prayer. Review the suggested list of books on pages 60-61 and order your selection now in order to have it ready for this focus. If you already have a book on prayer, feel free to use it.

The journey continues in Week Four by inviting you to make some lasting decisions. You'll also have the opportunity to invite others to join you on this journey of personal revival.

Are you ready? Our world needs revival. Our nation needs revival. Your city needs revival. Your church needs revival. But, most of all, you need revival. Remember, revival begins in your circle.

So, what's in your circle? Begin by praying, "Lord, change me."



WEEK 1

*Introspection*



## WEEK 1, DAY 1, SUNDAY

How many times have you been at a meeting when someone talked about a Great Awakening? We all agree we need another Great Awakening.

However, the hard truth is we are not likely to see spiritual awakening—globally, nationally, or even locally—without first experiencing personal revival.

The format of this Personal Revival Guide is to have seven days of readings and reflections in four areas: introspection, consecration, intercession, and decision. On Sunday, we will introduce the week's focus. Due to your church commitments, this day's assignment will be brief. In Weeks 2 and 3, you will be introduced to assignments which will require planning and preparation.

As you worship today, here are some verses for reflection and some assumptions to consider:

### THIS WEEK'S KEY VERSE:

*Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my concerns.  
See if there is any offensive way in me;  
lead me in the everlasting way. (Psalm 139:23-24)*

Pray these verses daily. The goal of introspection is to ask God to search **your** heart and show **you** the offensive ways in **your** life. The temptation is to find the sin in someone else's life. That is not the goal of this week. The easiest way to stop personal revival is to be preoccupied with someone else's sin while your sin goes unchecked.

Here are several assumptions to guide us in our journey.

1. Following this guide does not guarantee personal revival.
2. Revival is not broken into phases, but this study provides an action plan whereby we might seek the Lord for personal revival.

## WEEK 1, DAY 1, SUNDAY *(cont.)*

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3. While not everyone necessarily needs revival, all of us can and should be moving toward greater sanctification (becoming more like Christ), therefore making this journey useful for all.

### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

- What would you add to this list of assumptions?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Begin memorizing Psalm 139:23-24 and make it your personal prayer.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- As you worship corporately today, be particularly sensitive to what God might say to you about your sin.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- As you pray today, individually and in corporate worship, commit these next four weeks to God to seek personal revival.

## WEEK 1, DAY 2, MONDAY

As we continue our journey, I cannot escape this one thought: If there is not complete repentance, there cannot be revival. Repentance is absolutely essential to revival.

We can have prayer meetings, fasts, evangelistic gatherings, and all-day worship meetings, but until there is repenting of sin, there can be no real revival.

The Old Testament is filled with God's warnings to Israel on this very subject. Consider His words in Isaiah chapter 1.

### THE SITUATION (ISAIAH 1:1-9)

Four words describe the situation of Isaiah's day.

- **Rebellious** (2, 4)—What is summarized in verse 2 is detailed in verse 4 with 6 phrases. In Hebrew, the word translated “nation” usually describes pagan nations instead of the people of God.
- **Blind** (3)—The analogy is that even oxen and donkeys know how to get back home when it is time to eat.
- **Desperate** (5-8)—The description is of a desolate land with burned, demolished cities.
- **Merciful** (9)—Only God's mercy kept Israel, and keeps us, from utter destruction.

### THE SOLUTION (ISAIAH 1:10-17)

First, in verses 10-15, we see where our solution is not. In verses 16-17 we see where our solution resides.

Our solution is not in worship and prayer – if they are not accompanied by obedience. This is not the only time we encounter this truth in the Bible.

## WEEK 1, DAY 2, MONDAY *(cont.)*

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Consider the following passages:

### **Amos 5:21-24:**

*I hate, I despise your feasts!  
I can't stand the stench  
of your solemn assemblies.  
Even if you offer Me  
your burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them;  
I will have no regard  
for your fellowship offerings of fattened cattle.  
Take away from Me the noise of your songs!  
I will not listen to the music of your harps.  
But let justice flow like water,  
and righteousness, like an unfailing stream.*

### **Micah 6:6-8:**

*What should I bring before the LORD  
when I come to bow before God on high?  
Should I come before Him with burnt offerings,  
with year-old calves?  
Would the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams  
or with ten thousand streams of oil?  
Should I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the offspring of my body for my own sin?  
Mankind, He has told each of you what is good  
and what it is the LORD requires of you:  
to act justly,  
to love faithfulness,  
and to walk humbly with your God.*

## WEEK 1, DAY 2, MONDAY *(cont.)*

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### Psalm 51:16-17:

*You do not want a sacrifice, or I would give it;  
You are not pleased with a burnt offering.  
The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit.  
You will not despise a broken and humbled heart, God.*

Remember our one truth—if there is not complete repentance, there cannot be revival. Repentance is absolutely essential to revival.

### OUR SALVATION (ISAIAH 1:18-20)

Our restoration is based on two things...

1. **God's ability to restore** — there is certainly no question regarding His ability.
2. **Our willingness to repent** — there is definitely a question regarding our willingness.

### SO WHAT?

We must repent.

- We must repent personally. We should not expect national repentance if there is not a willingness to repent personally.
- We must repent completely.

Luke 15 gives us one of the Bible's most well-known and well-loved stories often called "The Prodigal Son." The young son asks for his inheritance early. He leaves for a distant country and quickly squanders the inheritance. Now penniless, he finds work feeding pigs. To Jesus' Jewish audience, this boy is as far away from his father's house as he can be – in the land of the Gentiles, among the forbidden pigs. It is this point in the story where we get a classic description, even a definition, of personal and complete repentance. Don't miss it.

## WEEK 1, DAY 2, MONDAY *(cont.)*

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### Luke 15:17-20:

*When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food, and here I am dying of hunger! I'll get up, go to my father, and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I'm no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired workers.'" So he got up and went to his father.*

The son's actions reveal to us that true repentance is...

- **A Change of Mind**—He came to his senses.
- **A Change of Will**—I'll get up, go to my father, and say to him...
- **A Change of Action**—So, he got up and went to his father.

### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

- Pray, meditate on, and continue to memorize Psalm 139:23-24.
  
- Ask God to show you any offensive way within you. Write it down. Confess your offensive way and repent of it.

## WEEK 1, DAY 3, TUESDAY

The most significant challenge to introspection is staying focused on introspection. Our natural tendency is to quickly move on. However, we must avoid the temptation to shift our focus to someone else's sin.

Remember, we're praying "Search me. Know my heart. See if there is any offensive way in me." This prayer is not about someone else. This prayer is about me—about you. The ultimate pride, and even deception, is to say someone else's sin is worse than your sin.

Jesus gave a strong teaching about this attitude in the Sermon on the Mount. Review the words about the speck and the log in Matthew 7:3-5. Then read the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector in Luke 18:9-14.

### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

Don't hurry through this list of questions. Ask God to reveal any offensive way in you as you consider these questions.

- Is there a sin in my life I am trying to hide or anything in my life I hope no one else finds out about?
- Have I rationalized my sin, relationship, attitude, or habit? Do I find myself saying, "It's not that bad," or "Everyone else is doing it?"
- Is there any hint of pride in my life?
- Is there a person I am unwilling to forgive? Am I secretly hoping someone encounters a problem as revenge for an action he/she has taken?
- Is there a sin in my life that I find myself repeating?
- Do I sense God revealing something to me that I have not before thought of as sin?
- Have I refused to do something that I believe God has already told me to do?

## WEEK 1, DAY 4, WEDNESDAY

Today, let's focus on the **God** part of "Search me, **God**." Understand, God thoroughly knows you. God is aware of your sins so there is no need to hide them. In fact, we can't hide them!

To reinforce this truth, read Psalm 139. As you do, you will be reminded of God's omniscience (He is all knowing, verses 1-6), God's omnipresence (He is ever present, verses 7-12), and God's personal knowledge of us (verses 13-18).

Next, read Revelation chapters 1-3. These chapters provide a description of Jesus and His intimate knowledge of the named churches. Notice the pattern of the letters: the recipients, the identification of the author (Jesus), the activity of the church, an assessment of the church, a call to endure, and an appeal to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Don't miss how the description of Jesus in chapter 1 relates to the letters in chapters 2 and 3. Jesus is assessing these churches. It matters not what we think about our church. It matters not what others think about our church. What matters is what Jesus thinks about our church. The same is true for us as individuals. Note every instance of the word "know" or its equivalent in chapters 2-3.



**REMEMBER, WE'RE PRAYING "SEARCH ME. KNOW MY HEART. SEE IF THERE IS ANY OFFENSIVE WAY IN ME." THIS PRAYER IS NOT ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE. THIS PRAYER IS ABOUT ME—ABOUT YOU. THE ULTIMATE PRIDE, AND EVEN DECEPTION, IS TO SAY THAT SOMEONE ELSE'S SIN IS WORSE THAN YOUR SIN.**

## WEEK 1, DAY 4, WEDNESDAY *(cont.)*

### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

- Have you memorized Psalm 139:23-24? Spend time today completing the memorization of these verses and make them your prayer every day.
- Repeat yesterday's Daily Change Challenge. Ask God to reveal any offensive way in you as you consider these questions:
  - Is there a sin in my life I am trying to hide or anything in my life I hope no one else finds out about?
  - Have I rationalized my sin, relationship, attitude, or habit? Do I find myself saying, "It's not that bad," or "Everyone else is doing it?"
  - Is there any hint of pride in my life?
  - Is there a person I am unwilling to forgive? Am I secretly hoping someone encounters a problem as revenge for an action he/she has taken?
  - Is there a sin in my life that I find myself repeating?
  - Do I sense God revealing something to me that I have not before thought of as sin?
  - Have I refused to do something that I believe God has already told me to do?

## WEEK 1, DAY 5, THURSDAY

Begin by reading Psalm 19. Today's focus is on the word "**any**" as in "any offensive way." Don't be too quick to dismiss a sin. When thinking about sin, ask yourself "Is there anything I am doing I should not be doing? Is there anything I am not doing that I should be doing?"

Return to Psalm 19, particularly verses 12-14. Notice the phrase, "unintentional sins." Then notice the word "willful" in verse 13. If we are honest, some sin is "willful." Instead of addressing the general questions we've raised the last two days, let's get specific:

### **ARE YOU INVOLVED IN . . .**

- Alcohol or Drug (prescription or illegal) Abuse?
- Adultery?
- Pornography?
- Gambling Addiction?
- Homosexuality?
- Sex outside of marriage?
- Stealing (including robbing God by not tithing—Malachi 3:8-10)?
- Abusing someone physically, sexually, emotionally, verbally, psychologically?
- Lying?
- Coveting?
- The use of inappropriate language?
- Misplaced priorities (overly pursuing worldly hobbies)?
- Gossip or slander?

## WEEK 1, DAY 5, THURSDAY *(cont.)*

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### ARE YOU NOT CONSISTENTLY INVOLVED IN . . .

- Private and corporate worship?
- Bible reading, study, and even meditation on God's word?
- Praying?
- Giving sacrificially to the work of the Kingdom of God?
- Sharing your faith?

The problem with making a list is someone will protest, suggesting some sins are worse than others, or begin debating whether something is a sin or not. That is not the point. The point is for us to do business with God. Make your own list. Make sure you confess and repent of obvious, known sin.

Reflect on words of the Psalmist:

*When I kept silent, my bones became brittle  
from my groaning all day long.  
For day and night your hand was heavy on me;  
my strength was drained as in the summer's heat.  
Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
and did not conceal my iniquity.  
I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,'  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.' (Psalm 32:3-5)*

O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone, wrote a book titled *Moral Earthquakes and Secret Faults*. He suggests the moral failures of our lives are much like earthquakes. Earthquakes have their origin in secret, hidden faults beyond the surface of the earth. These secret faults can go undetected for years but are steadily building towards a catastrophic eruption. Likewise, moral failure is often the culmination of years of hidden, unchecked sin. Hawkins notes a second parallel between earthquakes and our sin— just as most earthquakes have aftershocks, our sin has aftershocks. The aftershocks of our sin are the consequences left behind by our sin. Whereas we would like to believe our sin is an isolated event, Hawkins'

## WEEK 1, DAY 5, THURSDAY *(cont.)*

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analogy is a good reminder that our moral failures, like earthquakes, do not happen overnight and are not finished overnight.

The answer to our moral earthquakes lies in “quake proofing” our lives. One way we can quake proof our lives is to meditate on God’s Word. The Psalmist said, “I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:11) A second way to quake proof our lives is to respond to conviction. When we ignore conviction, our heart grows hard, and ultimately we move farther from God and closer to a moral earthquake.

### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

Think about your own life. Are there secret faults that nobody else knows about that could be the beginning of a moral catastrophe in your life? Repent immediately and completely before your sin catches up with you.

Consider these Scriptures:

- *“...be sure your sin will catch up with you.” (Numbers 32:23)*
- *“The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13)*
- *“Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)*
- *“Don’t be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap...” (Galatians 6:7)*

## WEEK 1, DAY 6, FRIDAY

This week you have been asked to be introspective. You have been asked to examine your life and acknowledge your sin before God. However, it is not enough to simply acknowledge our sin – we must repent of our sin. Repentance is at the heart of the Gospel. Repentance means to turn. Most people believe it's like the military command "About face!" In reality, it's more along the lines of the command "To the rear march!" You don't simply turn around and stay put. You turn around and move in the other direction. Repentance is moving away from your sin and moving towards God through your relationship with Jesus.

### **Repentance is the consistent message of the Bible.**

Repentance is absolutely essential for salvation. Some might say this sounds contradictory to grace. No, it is consistent with grace because only by God's grace can we be delivered from sin, which is at the very heart of repentance.

1. Repentance is the heart of John the Baptist's message – "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15)
2. Repentance is the heart of Jesus' message – Repent or perish.
  - "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as well." (Luke 13:5)
  - "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near." (Matthew 4:17)
3. Repentance is the message of the resurrection.
  - "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 2:38)
  - "Therefore, repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord..." (Acts 3:19-20)

## WEEK 1, DAY 6, FRIDAY *(cont.)*

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4. Repentance is the message of Paul.

- “Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God now commands all people everywhere to repent...” (Acts 17:30)
- “Instead, I preached to those in Damascus first, and to those in Jerusalem and in all the region of Judea, and to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works worthy of repentance.” (Acts 26:20)

**Repentance is obvious in the life of one who has been saved.**

Acts 26:20 says when a person repents that person ought to “do works worthy of repentance.”

It’s in this statement we begin to see what repentance looks like. Repentance is not about feeling something, but doing something.

1. Repentance is not the same as feeling sorry about your sin. Feeling sorry says, “I am sorry.” Repentance is change.
2. Repentance is not the same as penance. Penance causes you to say, “I’ll make it up.” Repentance says, “I will change.”
3. Repentance is not the same as reformation. Reformation says, “I’ll try to do better.” Repentance says, “I will change.”

So, what is repentance?

Repentance is being **convicted** by Christ about sin in your life, **confessing** that sin as wrong, and living a **changed** life as the result of the conviction and the confession.

Again, a changed life is obvious. Somebody might say they love you, but you aren’t sure. They might say they are sorry, but you aren’t sure. But, when a person says they repent, just observe them for a little while and you will know.

## WEEK 1, DAY 6, FRIDAY *(cont.)*

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Repentance is the ongoing activity of our relationship with God.

Like confession, repentance should occur over and over again. Sure, there is a starting point, but then we repent continually as God's Spirit points out our sin.

### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

- What specific sin has God shown you this week?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Have you repented of that sin?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Is there another step you need to take to rid your life of that sin?

## WEEK 1, DAY 7, SATURDAY

I have been acquainted with the word revival all my life. When I was young my church had annual and sometimes semi-annual revivals. My familiarity with the word revival extends beyond meetings. I have heard people long for revival and lament not experiencing it. I believe people are not necessarily looking for a meeting as much as they are longing for a movement.

This begs the question – what is revival?

Without intending to initiate a debate regarding the definition of revival, allow me to submit the following:

- Revival is a movement of God in the hearts of believers resulting in the spiritual conversion of unbelievers, so large in scope, the effects can only be explained by the hand of God.
- Revival is the people of God moving in closer relationship to Him in dramatic and extraordinary ways.

When you review the story of Israel, the original “people of God” in the Old Testament, you can easily conclude the people of God have almost always been in need of revival.

Consider these summaries from the early days of Israel:

- Exodus 19:8, “Then all the people responded together, ‘We will do all that the Lord has spoken.’”
- In chapter 20, Moses received from God the Ten Commandments. In chapter 24, we read of a covenant ceremony in which the people of God repeat their commitment to obey. “Moses came and told the people all the commands of the Lord and all the ordinances. Then all the people responded with a single voice, ‘We will do everything that the Lord has commanded.’” (Exodus 24:3)
- But, a marked change is recorded by the time we arrive at the last verse in chapter 24, verse 18. “Moses entered the cloud as he went up the mountain, and he remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights.” (Exodus 24:18)

## WEEK 1, DAY 7, SATURDAY *(cont.)*

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- From there to the very end of Exodus 31, more laws are recorded, specific to the design of the Tabernacle, the furnishings of the Tabernacle, and the priests of the Tabernacle.
- Then, we arrive at Exodus 32:1, “When the people saw that Moses delayed in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said to him, ‘Come, make gods for us who will go before us because this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt—we don’t know what has happened to him!’” And the people of God have been in need of revival ever since.

In this great act of rebellion, we find several reasons why we need revival.

1. At the heart of who we are, we are sinners. Or as God said about Israel, we are “stiff-necked.” (Exodus 32:9)
2. We are an impatient people. We want revival right now.
3. We are tempted to follow people instead of God.
4. We are filled with pride.
5. We desperately need the blessing of God upon our lives as we are doomed without it.

In all of this however, there is glorious good news. God is a God who will never let us go.

Continue by reading Exodus 34:1-9, and zero in on verses 6-9.

We have sought the Lord this week asking Him to show us any offensive way. What has He shown you? What do you need to do?



WEEK 2

*Consecration*



## WEEK 2, DAY 1, SUNDAY

This week we're going to spend some extra time in God's Word. If you are already participating in a daily Bible reading program, please continue in that plan! You will, however, need to dedicate extra time this week in order to read the assigned Scripture. So today, decide how you are going to carve out the needed time.

Your immediate reaction may be that you do not have enough time for the additional readings. Life is busy and your response is understandable. Allow me to respond with two questions:

1. What can you give up for one week to spend more time in God's Word?
2. How desperate are you for God to move in your life, your family, your church, and your nation?

If we are asking God to do something extraordinarily different in our lives, we are going to have to do something different than we have been doing. Do you believe the result of personal revival is worth giving up time usually spent on something else? Begin thinking through the rest of this week so you can devote at least one hour a day to reading and responding to God's Word. Consider breaking up the time and spend 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the evening. Pray it through and God will show you how to make it work.

As you gather for corporate worship today, continue to ask God to show you any offensive way as we discussed last week.

Ask Him to use His Word to show you any hidden or willful sins.

### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

Read James 1:19-25. Meditate on the analogy of the mirror.

## WEEK 2, DAY 2, MONDAY

### READING ASSIGNMENT: THE BOOK OF JAMES

Mark Twain reportedly said, “It ain’t those parts of the Bible that I can’t understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.” When we come to the book of James, we find parts we can understand. The problem with disobeying the Word of God cannot be blamed on our lack of understanding, but rather on our unwillingness to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The call of God on our lives is not to read the Bible for information purposes, but for transformation purposes. We must be doers of the Word, not merely hearers. So, how can we become a James 1:22 Bible reader—one who will not just read the Word, but do the Word?

#### Receive the Word of God Properly

If we are going to “do” the Word of God, we must receive the Word of God properly. James provides the proper way in this letter:

- With **Conviction** (James 1:17-18)—In 2 Timothy 3, Paul reminded Timothy, “All Scripture is God-breathed.” Is that your conviction? If your conviction is “here is the Word of God,” that ought to end all question as to whether we are going to obey that Word. In addition, if we have the conviction “here is the Word of God,” there should be an eagerness about approaching the Word of God.
- With **Commitment** to obedience (James 1:21a)—James outlines a commitment to action. Verse 21 uses the imagery of a Christian removing undesirable attitudes and actions just as a person removes filthy clothing. Everyone should read the Bible every day, but there is a caution – if you are a Christian but have no desire to do everything this book says, as it’s rightly interpreted, you would probably be better off not reading the Bible.
- With a **Controlled** Spirit (James 1:21b)—As a Christian, we should receive the Word of God with humility. We are pretty good at believing our interpretations of the Bible are absolutely correct. My experience tells me I must come to the Word of God with a fair amount of humility if I am going to correctly receive the Word of God.

## WEEK 2, DAY 2, MONDAY *(cont.)*

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Billy Graham said, “Early in my ministry some intellectual theologians challenged me because they felt I was naive when it came to understanding the Scriptures. As I listened to them, I began to question what I believed. One moonlit night I walked into the woods and spread my Bible over the stump of a tree. ‘Lord,’ I said, ‘I don’t understand everything in this book. But I accept it by faith as your divine Word.’ From that moment on, I’ve not had a doubt that the Bible is God’s inspired Word. The Scriptures have remained my constant guide.”<sup>1</sup>

We must come to the point where we say, “This is the Word of God. I do not understand all it says to do; but, as God gives me understanding, I will obey, because this is God’s Word.”

### **Respond to the Word of God Immediately and Fully**

When you do not respond to the Word of God immediately and fully, two consequences are possible:

- You will deceive yourself.

You will deceive yourself on the basis that you read the Bible. You will deceive yourself on the basis you did something. You can deceive yourself on the basis of knowledge. You can deceive yourself on the basis that you are obedient to some of what the Bible says. If you are deceived, how you deceived yourself doesn’t matter.

- You will forget.

You wouldn’t think you would forget, but you do. The analogy of looking into the mirror and turning away is a good one. I hate to admit this, but this happened to me. I was in college, living in the dormitory, and I was wearing a cast and using crutches on this particular morning. I struggled to get myself ready for the day with my new friends (cast and crutches). Walking to the school cafeteria, I noticed how everybody was staring at me. A few even pointed. I thought to myself they must have been at the game on Saturday and been

<sup>1</sup>Excerpt from “The Tree Stump Prayer: When Billy Graham Overcame Doubt,”  
by Will Graham, July 9, 2014, [BillyGraham.org](http://BillyGraham.org).

## WEEK 2, DAY 2, MONDAY *(cont.)*

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eyewitness to my body going one way and my ankle the other. But that wasn't the case. After sitting at the table with some friends, one friend immediately said, "Hey Steve, you know you've got a piece of toilet paper on your face?" Yes, I had done what every shaving male has done at least once in life—stuck a piece of toilet paper to a fresh shaving cut. But no, I didn't know it was there. I once knew it was there. I had looked in the mirror and had seen it was there. But I turned away thinking I would leave it on my face just a little longer while I continued to get ready. I didn't mean to leave the room with the paper stuck to my face, but having turned away from the mirror, I'd forgotten "what kind of man [I] was."

As we read the Word, it becomes a mirror to our soul. Looking into the mirror of the Word of God, we see ourselves as God sees us. Unless there is an immediate and full response, we will turn away and forget what we have just seen.

### **Recognize the Benefits of Obeying the Word of God**

James 1:25 says the one who obeys the Word of God, "will be blessed in what he does." That's the same message God gave to Joshua when he assumed leadership of Israel after Moses. God said, "This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do." (Joshua 1:8) I'm sure you would agree we do not want to miss out on the blessing of God.

### **A QUICK TEST (JAMES 1:26-27)**

So, how do we know if we are simply hearers of the Word of God and not doers? There is a quick test in verses 26-27. There are other tests, but here is the one James provides. How would you grade yourself when it comes to:

- Controlling the tongue?
- Compassion for the less fortunate?
- Conforming to the world?

## WEEK 2, DAY 2, MONDAY *(cont.)*

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The answers to these questions help us determine whether we are doers of the Word of God or hearers just fooling ourselves.

My friend, Stan Wafler, was a missionary in Uganda for many years. His work involved a popular missions technique called “storying.” Missionaries evangelizing and discipling people groups who have no written Bible in their own language teach the people basic stories from the Bible. This technique is having a tremendous impact simply because these groups, who have never had God’s Word, are coming into contact with the powerful, eternal Word of God.

Stan wrote about Mawa and Grace in his January 8, 2007 newsletter:

On Thursday the team discussed the impact the stories have had on their lives in the last twelve months. Mawa said, “When a problem came on me I used to groan and complain and cry ‘what can I do?’ But now when something difficult happens I go to be alone and I pray and God answers. God has been giving me dreams of providing for me. He is teaching me to trust. Even the things he showed me in the dreams are coming true.” Grace said, “Although I have been a Christian for many years I am very different from last year. Formerly I could go on sinning but my prayers were not being answered. But now when temptation comes the stories come into my mind and help me stand firm. If my child is sick or if there is no medicine and no money I just pray and the sickness can leave. Sometimes I have had no food to feed my family but after prayer God does miracles and brings us what we need.” As the group discussed a close friendship with God, we were able to conclude that some common things are happening in their lives by learning the Word of God and obeying it. 1) Their ability to face temptation has grown. 2) Their ability to trust God has grown. 3) Their prayers are being answered. It is interesting we have not done any specific teaching about prayer or temptation or trusting God. However collectively, the stories are doing this. We praise the Lord that He uses His Word in wonderful ways to transform lives.

We hear a lot of talk about the sufficiency of the Bible. The greatest illustration of your belief in the sufficiency of Scripture is not in saying you believe the Bible, but by obeying what the Word tells you to do.



## WEEK 2, DAY 3, TUESDAY

### READING ASSIGNMENT: PSALM 119

One Sunday years ago, about thirty seconds after the closing “Amen,” I met a young man who said to me these exact words, “I am Muslim. How can you say that the Bible is true? I say that the Koran is true. How can you know?”

His question is an important one. His question is the question of many. It is not just a question from a Muslim perspective. It could be from an atheist or agnostic perspective. It could be from an extreme liberal perspective that holds to a philosophy that we cannot know real, absolute truth.

In addition, his question is important because we are using the Bible to answer all manner of other questions about faith. So the way we answer this question of the Bible’s authority becomes by default the answer to many other questions.

I am going to attempt to do something rare – and it should be rare. I want to answer this young man’s question without using the Bible. His question demands to be answered without the use of the Bible because it’s a question of authority. If I can answer his question without using the Bible, and in the process establish the Bible’s authority, then we can use the Bible as our authority when additional questions arise.

### WHY I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT THE BIBLE IS GOD’S WORD

There are many reasons I believe the Bible is the Word of God. Allow me to build my case around 5 key reasons.

#### **Theological Reasons**

Theology is the study of God. As the title of one book puts it, theology is *Thinking about God*.

People who give their lives to the study of theology often use the word “systematic” to explain their theology. So, in seminary we study “Systematic Theology.” As the word suggests, systematic theologians attempt to put their thinking about God

## WEEK 2, DAY 3, TUESDAY *(cont.)*

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into a logical system of thought considering the whole of Scripture. A beginning theology might sound like a faith statement:

1. We believe God is the one true God.
2. We believe Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation.
3. We believe the Holy Spirit completes the Trinity. God has come to us in the Holy Spirit to be the very power and presence of God.
4. We believe salvation is by grace and grace alone.

All of these things are part of what we call “theology.” I have come to believe these things because they are things the Bible teaches. I have also come to believe these things as a result of the resurrection of Jesus Christ—the ultimate pillar of our faith. For me, as a Christian, every theological thought hinges on the resurrection of Christ. Because I believe in the reality of the resurrection of Jesus, I trust and believe in the One who was raised from the dead. Also, I believe what He said and what His closest disciples attributed to Him as saying.

What does this have to do with the truth of the Bible? The Bible is consistent with the things I believe about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. For me, there is only logic in believing all or nothing. If I believe Jesus rose from the grave, then I believe in what He said.

So, what about the person who does not believe the Bible? That’s our point today. The answer begins with this question: Why do I believe in the resurrection? The great thing for me is I don’t believe in the resurrection of Jesus just because it is in the Bible. There is credible proof of the resurrection outside the Bible. I use what I call the Four E’s to explain my belief in the resurrection:

- The Empty Tomb—Many have tried to disprove Christ rose from the grave, but none have been successful. Why? The Eyewitnesses.
- The Eyewitnesses—The early eyewitnesses believed in the resurrection to the point they were willing to die for their belief that the tomb was empty. People

## WEEK 2, DAY 3, TUESDAY *(cont.)*

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die all the time for a lie. But the difference here is if the resurrection was not true, and those who said it was true knew it was not true, they would be dying for a lie they knew to be a lie. Big difference!

- The Emergence of the Church—How could the church take off as it did without the reality of the resurrection?
- My own personal Experience—As the hymn writer said, “He walks with me and talks with me.” “You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart.” Or as the modern song writer said, “I know my Redeemer Lives—I spoke to Him this morning.”

### **Prophetic Reasons**

Another reason I believe the Bible is God’s Word, that it is “true,” is the Bible validates itself with the accuracy of prophetic predictions. Allow me to focus on a few:

1. God entered into a covenant with Abraham about the promise of land in a little strip of territory now called Israel. Over the scores of years, there have been numerous threats to the security of that land and, at times, discipline from God involving that land. Yet the descendants of Abraham continue to occupy that land.
2. The prophets of the Old Testament prophesied (predicted) invaders from the North would overtake the land of Israel and send many of its inhabitants into exile.
3. Another prominent theme of the Old Testament prophets is the prophesy of the Messiah—details of Jesus’ birth, life, and death are all prophesied with accuracy centuries before His coming.
4. Finally, the prophet Daniel prophesied the existence of four major kingdoms of the world dating from his lifetime to the time of Jesus.

## WEEK 2, DAY 3, TUESDAY *(cont.)*

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### Historical Reasons

Personally, this is one of the greatest reasons for believing in the authority of the Bible. We stand on the shoulders of those believers who lived much closer to the time of Christ's time on the earth. The early church believed these 66 books were inspired by God. They preserved them, protected them, and were willing to give their life for these books because they believed they are the very words of God. It was not one man who said, "I have the word of God." It was not one man who said, "Here are the books that are authoritative." The Church in unified agreement said, "Here are the books." They didn't choose which books were. They just began to recognize which ones were and which ones were not. How did they recognize you ask? When it comes to the New Testament, here are three criteria that appeared to be used:

1. Apostolic origin—Apostle or close relationship with Apostles.
2. Universal acceptance—Collectively, the Church recognized these were books or letters from the Apostles who spoke for God.
3. Used by the early church in worship.

Another historical factor is the preservation of these ancient texts before the invention of the printing press. The care with which the believing community treated these ancient texts is without rival. One of the leading evangelical scholars in this area of study (textual criticism) is Bruce Metzger. He died in 2007, but he was one of the church's greatest scholars on the subject of the ancient texts. Author and apologist Lee Strobel asked him, "All these decades of scholarship, of study, of writing textbooks, of delving into the minutiae of the New Testament text—what has all this done to your personal faith?"

Metzger answered, "It has increased my faith. It has built it. I've asked questions all my life. I've dug into the text, I've studied this thoroughly, and today I know with confidence that my trust in Jesus has been well placed—very well placed."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ* (Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 71.

## WEEK 2, DAY 3, TUESDAY *(cont.)*

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### **Personal Reasons**

I could say the very same thing that Dr. Metzger said. God speaks to me through His Word. It is my most important tool for maintaining and growing my relationship with God. I am comforted by His Word. By the way, His Word tells me in Psalm 119:52, I ought to find comfort. I find conviction in His Word. I find direction in His Word. His Word is described in Hebrews 4:12 as a living word. I have found that to be true in my life.

### **Scriptural Reasons**

The goal was to answer the young man's question without using the Bible, but in light of all we've covered, the time has come to let the Scripture, the Living Word of God, speak for itself.

Consider the following:

- “So My word that comes from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do.” (Isaiah 55:11)
- “The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever.” (Isaiah 40:8)
- “All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- “Above all, you know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from the prophet's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:20-21)
- “Also, regard the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our dear brother Paul has written to you according to the wisdom given to him. He speaks about these things in all his letters. There are some things hard to understand in them. The untaught and unstable will twist them to their own destruction, as they also do with the rest of the Scriptures.” (2 Peter 3:15-16)

## WEEK 2, DAY 3, TUESDAY *(cont.)*

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Again, the point is the Apostles, and those who were closely associated with the Apostles, believed something supernatural was taking place. They recognized this and testified about it.

Therefore, we are left with this question, “If I believe the Bible is God’s Word, what place does the Bible have in my life?”

### **If the Bible is God’s Word**

Once we come to understand the Bible is the Word of God, there are some immediate demands placed upon our lives. If the Bible is the Word of God...

- The Bible demands our attention.
- The Bible demands our acceptance.
- The Bible demands our obedience.

Psalm 119 is one of the most beautiful chapters in the Bible in both form and meaning. The form is very structured. The content is a meditation on all Scripture. An understanding of the structure of this Psalm may be helpful. In many translations of the Bible you may notice some unfamiliar words at the beginning of every eight verses (Aleph, Beth, Gimel, etc.). These words are the Hebrew alphabet. In the original Hebrew, every verse in that “8-verse” section begins with that Hebrew letter. For example verses 1-8 begin with the Hebrew letter “aleph” (the English equivalent of “a”). Verses 9-16 each begin with the Hebrew letter “beth” (the English equivalent of “b”). This structure continues throughout the entire Psalm using each Hebrew letter.

What’s the reason behind this structure? We cannot be certain, but perhaps the Psalmist intended this to serve as a memory aid for reciting the chapter. Children in Christian schools learn a Scripture memory verse for every letter of the alphabet. In much the same way, Hebrews could have memorized this chapter with the aid of their own alphabet.

As you read Psalm 119, look for all of the benefits of reading the Word of God.

## WEEK 2, DAY 3, TUESDAY *(cont.)*

### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

- Does your consistency in reading God's word reflect your belief that the Bible is the word of God?

- React to the following:

Adrian Rogers, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and long-time Pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, proposed these questions to his congregation during one of his sermons:

How many of you believe the Bible is true? How many of you believe everything you read in the newspaper is true? Now, having answered those two questions, how many of you spend more time reading the newspaper than you do reading the Bible? Think about that, as believers, we spend more time reading that which we have doubts to be true than reading that which we say we believe to be true.

Today, we could change the word newspaper to online articles or social media and emphasize the same point. What about you? Have you neglected the God-breathed, authoritative, true Word for that which entertains, at times is purposefully false, and is filled with content which does not honor God?



## WEEK 2, DAY 4, WEDNESDAY

### READING ASSIGNMENT: PROVERBS 1-9

Remember, one of the goals this week is to read large portions of Scripture, allowing God's Word to speak to us.

Proverbs is widely considered the most practical book in the Bible. Every line is flowing with God's wisdom. In an attempt to make the book's wisdom come alive, an overview of the book will be helpful. If time permits, consider reading beyond the assigned chapters.

### The Division of the Book

- Proverbs of Solomon contrasting wisdom and folly (1-9)
- Proverbs of Solomon (10-24)
  1. Contrasting righteousness and wickedness (10-18)
  2. Describing life (19-24)
- Proverbs of Solomon compiled by the men of Hezekiah (25-29)
- Proverbs of Agur (30)
- Proverbs of Lemuel (31)

### The Different Styles of Proverbs

- Parallelism - The first line introduces an idea to which the second line relates. Why does this matter? It's important to identify the kind of parallelism to get the force of the meaning.
  1. Synonymous parallelism—the second line echoes the first, reinforcing the idea.

Example: "Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)

## WEEK 2, DAY 4, WEDNESDAY *(cont.)*

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2. Antithetic parallelism—the second line is opposite of the first. These are not contradictory, but rather give both sides of the coin. Ninety percent of chapters 10-15 fall into this category.

Example: “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.” (Proverbs 14:34)

3. Synthetic Parallelism—the second line advances the first.

Example: “To start a conflict is to release a flood; stop the dispute before it breaks out.” (Proverbs 17:14)

- X, X + 1 Pattern = heightened expectation. Though all are true, the focus is on the last one.

Example: “Three things are too wondrous for me; four I can’t understand: the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship at sea, and the way of a man with a young woman. This is the way of an adulteress: she eats and wipes her mouth and says, ‘I’ve done nothing wrong.’ The earth trembles under three things; it cannot bear up under four: a servant when he becomes king, a fool when he is stuffed with food...” (Proverbs 30:18-22)

### **The Purpose of the Book**

The first seven verses of chapter 1 serve as an unidentified introduction to the whole book. The introduction helps us see the purpose of Proverbs, the possibility of Proverbs, and the ultimate path (or goal) of Proverbs.

The Purpose of Proverbs (1:2-4)

- To attain wisdom and discipline
- To understand words of insight
- To acquire a disciplined and prudent life

## WEEK 2, DAY 4, WEDNESDAY *(cont.)*

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- To give prudence to the simple
- To give knowledge and discretion to the young

The Possibility of Proverbs (1:5-6)

We are promised we will become increasingly wise if we apply these Proverbs.

The Path of Proverbs (1:7)

The ultimate aim of these Proverbs is to “fear the Lord.” This phrase is the most repeated phrase in Proverbs. The fear of the Lord begins (1:7) and ends (31:30) the book.

In describing the fear of the Lord, devotional writer Oswald Chambers concluded, “The remarkable thing about fearing God is that, when you fear God, you fear nothing else; whereas, if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.”

### **The Invitation constantly before us**

- Enticement of the world and its result (Proverbs 10-19)
- Instruction of the Word and its result (Proverbs 20-33)

This choice runs through Proverbs and through the Word!

Why is this important? Read Proverbs 8:32-36.

As you read the Bible do so ...

- Devotionally
- Doctrinally
- For Direction
- As a Disciple
- With Discipline



## WEEK 2, DAY 5, THURSDAY

### READING ASSIGNMENT: MATTHEW 5-7, THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

There is nothing like a good story because people tend to remember it long after they have forgotten the sermon. Jesus liked stories too. The gospels are filled with stories Jesus told. We call them parables. Therefore, it is not surprising when Jesus closed His famous Sermon on the Mount with a story. The story consists of a wise man and a foolish man. The wise man was wise because he built upon a good foundation. The foolish man was foolish because he built upon sand. What does that mean for us?

#### The Need for a Foundation

We cannot avoid the problems of life.

The common denominators of this story are the flood, rain, and wind.

*“The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn’t collapse...the rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house...”*  
(Matthew 7:25, 27)

We are going to face difficult problems. The believer and the unbeliever deal with similar problems. We have health problems, marriage problems, parenting problems, financial problems, etc. In Jesus’ story, the wise man and the foolish man experience the same outside forces. When Hurricane Katrina went through New Orleans, churches and crack houses were flooded.

Why are such problems unavoidable? Several reasons ...

- Our own sin
- Other people’s sin
- Persecution
- Temptation
- To build our faith—God’s purposes for our lives are often larger than we’re able to immediately identify.

## WEEK 2, DAY 5, THURSDAY *(cont.)*

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### **Choosing the Right Foundation**

We choose the foundation.

Problems are inevitable, but we can prepare for the problems of life by building on the right foundation. Be careful regarding the foundation you choose for life.

### **The Foundation Defined**

This story about a wise man and a foolish man is the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus said, “everyone who hears these things I say and obeys them ...” (Matthew 7:24)<sup>3</sup> What are “these things?” “These things” are the words of His sermon. “These things” are the foundation on which we must build our life. Here’s the list of “things” Jesus included in His sermon:

- The Attitudes Christ taught
  - 1) Poor in Spirit
  - 2) Mourning
  - 3) Gentle
  - 4) Hunger and thirsting for righteousness
  - 5) Merciful
  - 6) Pure in heart
  - 7) Peacemakers
- The Actions Christ taught
  - 1) Be contagious. (Be salt and light.)
  - 2) Be perfect. (In the Christian context, we understand this is possible only in Christ.)

<sup>3</sup>*The Holy Bible, International Children’s Bible® Copyright© 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Tommy Nelson™, a division of Thomas Nelson.*

## WEEK 2, DAY 5, THURSDAY *(cont.)*

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- 3) Be real.
- 4) Be focused on eternity.
- 5) Be careful of a judgmental spirit.
- 6) Be careful how you ask.
- 7) Be sure you are going to heaven.

### **The Foundation Defended**

Why this foundation? Why is it better than the rest (Matthew 7:28-29)? Jesus' authority was already being recognized. His authority is confirmed in the resurrection. Jesus is the right authority because of who He is and what He did. He overcame death!

### **The Absolute Importance of the Right Foundation**

Once your foundation is decided, your future is decided.

This is your choice. You choose the foundation of life. Your life is being built on some kind of foundation. Some people build their life on the foundation of money, career, success, standing in the community, or relationships. Anything can be the foundation a person builds upon. Jesus said you are a fool unless you build on the foundation of Him and His Word. Any foundation other than the foundation of God and His Word will not withstand the storms of life.

Jesus offers an incredible promise if we build on the right foundation. "It didn't collapse." (Matthew 7:25)

No matter the storm—the kind or the frequency—you can make it! God promises!

But God also promises something else – a warning. "And it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash." (Matthew 7:27)

## WEEK 2, DAY 5, THURSDAY *(cont.)*

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If you choose not to build on the right foundation, the Word of God has a prophecy about your life: your life will fall and the fall will be great.

So the question becomes: What will you do with what you hear?

Imagine what would take place in the lives of believers if we listened and obeyed the Word of God with the same earnestness.

Someone said, “There’s only one time when we read something for all we are worth—when we are in love.” I happen to know that is true. My wife and I traded letters back and forth for nearly two years while we were dating (this was before the invention of e-mail!). The happiness of my day was determined by whether or not I received a letter from her. Similarly, the Bible is a love letter. The Bible is God’s special letter of love just for you.

I have learned there is another time when we read or listen to something for all we are worth—when our life depends upon it. I encountered this lesson/truth years ago. I participated in a rappel down a 25 story building in Baton Rouge for a fundraiser for Louisiana Family Forum. My training occurred in 30 minutes immediately preceding my rappel. Honestly, I was uncertain when the training ceased and the actual rappel began. However, I can tell you this - I followed every instruction the guide gave me. Why? My life depended on my following his directions. I tuned in to every detail of the instructions. I heard the instructions, remembered the instructions, and followed the instructions.

May we do the same with the Word of God.



## WEEK 2, DAY 6, FRIDAY

### READING ASSIGNMENT: JOSHUA 1-8 AND 23-24

Today, the introspection of last week meets the consecration of this week.

The book of Joshua picks up the story of the people of promise preparing to enter the Promised Land. With a new leader, Joshua, we see God's continued presence. Joshua is one of the most inspiring books of the Bible.

This book opens with God encouraging Joshua. God called Joshua to awaken to the challenge before him. As God issued the challenge, He assured Joshua of His presence and that the plan was consistent with His past promises to His chosen people. God called on Joshua to be strong and courageous as he assumed this leadership position. Ultimately, God challenged Joshua to align himself with the Word of God.

Chapters 2-5 provide details of the preparation to enter the Promised Land. It had been a long forty years since Israel should have entered. Now, they were ready. Chapter 6 gives the details of the miraculous, God-directed conquest of Jericho. When chapter 6 closes everything was going great. This was consistent with obedience to God.

Then comes chapter 7. As stunning as the victory is in chapter 6, so is the defeat of chapter 7. The writer not only records the facts of the defeat, he also reveals the underlying reasons for the defeat.

As we read these underlying reasons, we learn a great lesson relating to sin. I believe we can see at least six basic principles about sin. Follow along.

However, before we consider chapter 7, there is part of chapter 6 we need to re-read as it provides the background for the events of chapter 7. Consider Joshua 6:17-19:

*But the city and everything in it are set apart to the LORD for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and everyone with her in the house will live, because she hid the messengers we sent. But keep yourselves from the things set apart, or you will be set apart for destruction. If you take any of those things, you will set apart the camp of Israel for destruction and make*

## WEEK 2, DAY 6, FRIDAY *(cont.)*

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*trouble for it. For all the silver and gold, and the articles of bronze and iron, are dedicated to the LORD and must go into the LORD's treasury.*

Now, on to chapter 7 and the six principles about sin.

Whatever else we say about Joshua 7, we must observe that God is serious about sin. God is serious about sin because He knows . . .

### **Sin always affects others. (7:1)**

From one verse, we learn something vital about sin—it always affects others. This chapter is devoted to the sin of Achan, but we learn the sin of one affected the whole nation. We should be careful and clear to note much has changed since Joshua 7. There may not be a 1/1 correlation here, but there is a principle — our sin always affects the lives of others around us. Notice the two affected parties in this story:

- Faith Family

Our faith family is affected. I'm of the belief this applies first to our church — the specific faith family to which we are a member. This becomes a frightening text. Read verse 1 again. Because of Achan's sin, the Israelites could not defeat their enemies.

- Family

Our family is affected by our sin. Deuteronomy 24:16 makes it clear every person is responsible for his/her own sin, but there is no escaping the fact that our sin affects others in our family. Look at how Achan is described—the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah. He is identified in the same way in verse 18. Because of Achan's sin, his family was stoned/burned.

### **Sin always carries consequences. (7:2-15)**

The immediate consequence is God's blessings are withheld. Ultimately, the eternal consequence of unrepentant sin is hell.

## WEEK 2, DAY 6, FRIDAY *(cont.)*

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There is a time for prayer (which will be our emphasis next week) but here, did you see it? When God tells Joshua to get up, God is essentially saying, “This is not a matter of prayer. This is a matter of sin.”

Instead of a prayer meeting, God was calling them to a meeting of repentance. God may be doing the same today.

### **Sin always is found out. (7:16-19)**

God knows. We might hide our sin for a while, but eventually we cannot hide sin. We can never hide sin from God.

God uncovers what we cover, and He covers what we uncover.

### **Sin always has a precise pattern. (7:20-23)**

Here is the pattern of Achan: He saw. He coveted. He took. He concealed. This pattern is repeated throughout Scripture.

Remember Eve? “The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it.” (Genesis 3:6) Later Adam told God, “I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.” (Genesis 3:10)

See the pattern? Saw. Coveted. Took. Concealed. Remember David with Bathsheba? We read his story in 2 Samuel 11. He saw Bathsheba. He desired Bathsheba. He took her. He hid what he had done.

We do the same. Satan has not changed his strategy. He doesn’t have to. His plan still works.

### **Sin always leaves us longing. (7:21)**

“They are concealed in the ground inside my tent, with the silver under the cloak.”

Here is the great irony of sin. We can’t enjoy the sin. Achan could not enjoy his sin. He had to hide his sin.

## WEEK 2, DAY 6, FRIDAY *(cont.)*

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### Sin always must be dealt with in death. (7:24-26)

This is not the feel good message many in our culture look for today, is it? Some might say, “This is too harsh,” or some might add, “How could a loving God do this?” Remember what we said previously? Here’s a reminder: Whatever else we might say about Joshua 7, we had better observe God is serious about sin.

How serious? The writer of Hebrews reminds us:

- “Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through His death He might destroy the one holding the power of death—that is, the Devil—and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death.” (Hebrews 2:14-15)
- “For this is the kind of high priest we need: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He doesn’t need to offer sacrifices every day, as high priests do—first for their own sins, then for those of the people. He did this once for all time when He offered Himself.” (Hebrews 7:26-27)
- “But Christ has appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come. In the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands (that is, not of this creation), he entered the most holy place once for all time, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow, sprinkling those who are defiled, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works so that we can serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:11-14)
- “According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22)
- “But now he has appeared one time, at the end of the ages, for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of himself.” (Hebrews 9:26)

## WEEK 2, DAY 6, FRIDAY *(cont.)*

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- “By this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time.” (Hebrews 10:10)
- “Therefore, Jesus also suffered outside the gate, so that he might sanctify the people by his own blood.” (Hebrews 13:12)

Can you see it? Jesus died so we wouldn't have to die for our sin.

A final thought – are you living as though you are dead to sin? Would people be surprised that sin had been dealt a death blow in your life? Paul implored the believers in Colossae to put sin to death. (Colossians 3:5) That challenge still stands.



**OUR FAMILY IS AFFECTED BY OUR SIN. DEUTERONOMY 24:16 MAKES IT CLEAR EVERY PERSON IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS/HER OWN SIN, BUT THERE IS NO ESCAPING THE FACT THAT OUR SIN AFFECTS OTHERS IN OUR FAMILY.**

## WEEK 2, DAY 6, FRIDAY *(cont.)*

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### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

- Go back to a point of obedience in your life. Write down some examples of how God blessed your obedience.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Write down a point of disobedience in your life. What was a consequence of that disobedience?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Compare the blessing to the consequence. Was the consequence worth the disobedience?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Pray through Psalm 139:23-24 again with the story of Achan fresh in your mind.

## WEEK 2, DAY 7, SATURDAY

### READING ASSIGNMENT: THE BOOK OF MALACHI

Malachi prophesied after the rebuilding of the temple. Unfortunately, the same kind of disobedience that existed before the exile still existed in Malachi's day.

#### The Organization of the Book of Malachi

The best way to organize the book of Malachi is around seven questions asked of God. These questions are introduced with the phrase, "But you say . . ."

SCRIPTURE	QUESTION	GOD'S ANSWER
1:2	... how hast thou loved us?	<b>I have loved.</b>
1:6	... how have we despised thy name?	<b>Through defiled sacrifices.</b>
2:14	... why does the Lord not accept our offerings?	<b>They had sinned.</b>
2:17	... how have we wearied Him?	<b>They questioned God.</b>
3:7	... how shall we return?	<b>They denied they had left.<sup>4</sup></b>
3:8	... how have we robbed Him?	<b>They did not tithe.</b>
3:13	... what have we spoken against You?	<b>They said "vain to serve God."</b>

The tone of all of these questions indicates an argumentative, rebellious, complacent, and hardened relationship with God. They were so out of touch in their relationship with God they believed they had done no wrong. Could this be descriptive of God's people today?

#### Applying the Book of Malachi

Each of the seven questions has a contemporary application for us. The bottom line in our walk with Christ is not what we think about ourselves, but what God thinks about us.

<sup>4</sup>*This is the implied answer based on their question.*





**IF I BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD,  
WHAT PLACE DOES THE BIBLE HAVE IN  
MY LIFE?**

WEEK 3

*Intercession*



## WEEK 3, DAY 1, SUNDAY

Ronnie Floyd, President and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, recently wrote in a newsletter about a concept he calls *Extraordinary Prayer*:

Extraordinary prayer is experienced when you pray beyond your normal practice of prayer. If you ordinarily pray five minutes a day or an hour a day, anything beyond your ordinary becomes extraordinary.

Practicing ordinary prayer can become extraordinary in the following ways:

**Extraordinary in Time:** This is in relationship to the length you pray.

**Extraordinary in Days:** This is in relationship to the number of days you may desire to focus on a specific prayer need.

**Extraordinary in Commitment:** This is in relationship to combining your prayers with fasting.

**Extraordinary in Focus:** While extraordinary prayer can occur in your normal daily life, there are certain times in your life when you will need to focus on a specific burden in prayer.

Therefore, perhaps a one-day prayer retreat may be helpful.

I am convinced that practicing extraordinary prayer in a specific way will ascend your prayer life in an extraordinary way. Jonathan Edwards believed that when God wants to accomplish something special in a church, extraordinary prayer usually precedes it.

We are living in a season of time in our generation where extraordinary prayer needs to be a consistent practice in our lives. We need it. Our pastors need it. Our churches need it. Our Southern Baptist family needs it. Our country needs it. Our world needs it.

The greater the burden we carry, the more desperation rises to practice extraordinary prayer.

## WEEK 3, DAY 1, SUNDAY *(cont.)*

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Self-sufficiency leads to a prayerless life, a prayerless church, and a prayerless Convention. I believe it is time for all of us to practice extraordinary prayer.<sup>5</sup>

This week our personal journey of revival is all about prayer. As Dr. Floyd exhorted, I want to challenge us to practice extraordinary prayer this week. Because schedules, personalities, and disciplines are so varied in this area, consider the following options as they relate to extraordinary prayer. As you review these options, let your schedule and personality dictate the days you engage in a specific activity. I am intentionally providing more options than needed to allow flexibility (see page 62). This will be your daily change challenge for Monday through Friday. There will be another specific challenge of reflection on Saturday.

At the top of each day's page, write your specific method of praying and your reflections upon the conclusion of the prayer time. In addition, consider reading at least one book on prayer this week. Here are some suggestions\*:

*How to Pray*, Ronnie Floyd

*Praying the Bible*, Donald Whitney

*The Circle Maker*, Mark Batterson

*Draw the Circle*, Mark Batterson

*The Hour that Changes the World*, Dick Eastman

*How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life*, Gregory R. Frizzell

*Returning to Holiness*, Gregory R. Frizzell

*Transforming Prayer*, Daniel Henderson

*Before Amen*, Max Lucado

*When God Answers Prayer*, Bob Russell

<sup>5</sup>Ronnie Floyd, "Weekly Newsletter", (17 March 2021).

## WEEK 3, DAY 1, SUNDAY *(cont.)*

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*E. M. Bounds on Prayer*, E M Bounds

*The Doctrine of Prayer*, T. W. Hunt

*Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret*, Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor

*Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, Richard J. Foster

*The Disciple's Prayer Life*, T. W. Hunt and Claude King

*The Power of Positive Praying*, John Bisagno

*Prayer: Life's Limitless Reach*, Jack Taylor

*The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions*, Arthur G Bennett

*The Battle Plan for Prayer: From Basic Training to Targeted Strategies*, Alex Kendrick

*Prayer: The Great Adventure*, David Jeremiah

*Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly about Prayer*, C. S. Lewis

*How to Pray: What the Bible Tells Us about Genuine Effective Prayer*, R. A. Torrey

*Between Heaven and Earth: Prayers and Reflections that Celebrate an Intimate God*, Ken Gire

- \* If you already have a book on prayer, feel free to read it. If not, consider purchasing one of the suggested titles. Some of the titles may be out of print. If so, check the availability of a digital version or select a different title.

### **Prayer Challenges**

It is not sufficient to simply read about prayer—we must actually pray. Select five (5) of the eight (8) options provided below for daily times of prayer. Plan for at least one hour each day.

1. Read specific prayers from the Bible and pray using these Scriptures as a guide. Examples include: 2 Chronicles 6:12-42, Nehemiah 1:4-11, Matthew

## WEEK 3, DAY 1, SUNDAY *(cont.)*

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6:9-13, John 17:1-26, Romans 11:33-36, Ephesians 1:15-19, Ephesians 3:14-21, Philippians 1:9-11, Colossians 1:9-14.

2. Pray with a friend for one hour. It will probably be best to do this with someone who is participating in this personal revival guide. If that is not possible, choose someone who has an exceptionally strong prayer life. Agree upon 6 areas or subjects of prayer (your choice) and spend 10 minutes on each subject - with each of you praying approximately 5 minutes per subject.
3. Prayer Walk for one hour—Someone described prayer walking as praying with your eyes open. You may want to choose a strategic spot for this experience.
4. Fast and pray one day.
5. Go on a Prayer Retreat—Spend a whole day praying and reading about prayer.
6. Write out your prayer for one hour.
7. Spend the day in unceasing prayer even as you go about your day. Focus on being in constant, silent conversation with the Father for the whole day.
8. Pray in an uncommon place for you. As Jesus did, get away.













## WEEK 3, DAY 7, SATURDAY

Today is a day of prayer and reflection on this week.

### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

- Spend time in prayer today simply thanking God. Do not make one single request. Commit this time to thanksgiving. Hopefully, there will be specific things about these last three weeks for which you will give thanks.
- What has this week revealed regarding needed changes in your prayer life?
- What was your favorite activity of prayer this week? Why?
- What practice from this week should you incorporate into your regular prayer life?



**WE ARE LIVING IN A SEASON OF TIME IN OUR GENERATION WHERE EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER NEEDS TO BE A CONSISTENT PRACTICE IN OUR LIVES. WE NEED IT. OUR PASTORS NEED IT. OUR CHURCHES NEED IT. OUR SOUTHERN BAPTIST FAMILY NEEDS IT. OUR COUNTRY NEEDS IT. OUR WORLD NEEDS IT.**

*– Dr. Ronnie Floyd, President/CEO, SBC Executive Committee*

WEEK 4

*Decision and  
Invitation*



## WEEK 4, DAY 1, SUNDAY

One of the most convicting comments about revival comes from Leonard Ravenhill. Ravenhill said, “As long as we are content to live without revival, we will.” This statement is particularly convicting if we live without revival.

One of our assumptions from the beginning is that this process does not guarantee revival. While that is true, if you have followed this guide to the best of your ability, then prayerfully, you are different than you were three weeks ago.

As we move through this final week, we will repeat some of the activities of the past three weeks. We’ll also add an additional discipline and end the week in reflection. All of this will point us toward decision.

In order to help you prepare, here is the plan for the week. If you need to change the days slightly because of scheduling, feel free to do so. Also, if you were unable to finish your book on prayer last week, please continue reading this week.

- Monday we will introduce what may be a new practice for many—silence before the Lord.
- Tuesday will be committed to an hour of Scripture reading.
- Wednesday will be a day of prayer.
- Thursday will be a day of fasting. If fasting is physically impossible, practice your favorite activity of prayer from last week or fast from social media, TV, etc.
- Friday will be a day of introspection.
- Saturday will be a day of guided reflection.

As you worship today, continue to ask the Lord to show you any offensive way.

## WEEK 4, DAY 1, SUNDAY *(cont.)*

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### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

Focus on corporate worship. Resist any temptation to think about someone else's sin. Ask God to show you any offensive way and lead you in the everlasting way. There are days to pray for God to reveal sin to other people, but today is a day to humble yourself before Him and deal with your sin.

## WEEK 4, DAY 2, MONDAY

For some, this may be the most difficult day of our four-week journey. You will be asked to do something unnatural for many us. The assignment today is to spend up to one hour in silence.

Why silence?

The Bible gives evidence that God speaks to us during times of silence.

This period of silence and solitude is not necessarily restricted to only silence. Bring your Bible, pen, and paper. Think through the last three weeks.

During the process of writing this pursuit for personal revival, I came across a quote that describes precisely what has been stirring in my soul:

Have you noticed how much praying for revival has been going on of late—and how little revival has resulted? I believe the problem is that we have been trying to substitute praying for obeying, and it simply will not work.<sup>6</sup>

Yes! Yes! Yes! It's like singing "God Bless America!" His blessing requires that America obeys. We will not experience personal revival without honesty, humility, and holiness.

As you reflect on the last three weeks, as you spend time in silence and solitude, think on three questions.

1. Have I been honest in asking for God to reveal any known sin?
2. Have I humbled myself to God and His Word?
3. Am I living in obedience to all I understand God's Word commands me to do?

*<sup>6</sup>A.W. Tozer, "Praying Quotes" (AZ Quotes, 12 April 2021)*  
[https://www.azquotes.com/search\\_results.html?query=have+you+ever+noticed+how+much+praying](https://www.azquotes.com/search_results.html?query=have+you+ever+noticed+how+much+praying)

## WEEK 4, DAY 2, MONDAY *(cont.)*

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### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

As Jesus did when He would get away from the crowds, get away for at least one hour of silence and solitude. Bring no music. Turn your phone off. Listen to God. Read His Word. Pray. But also, sit in silence before the Lord.

## WEEK 4, DAY 3, TUESDAY

Today, we return to an extended period of reading God's Word. Remember, if you need to switch assignments this week, please do so. The order is not important.

### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

Read one or more of Paul's letters in the New Testament. Write down every command you read. Ask yourself whether you are obedient to these commands.

## WEEK 4, DAY 4, WEDNESDAY

Today is devoted to an extended time of prayer. Choose one of the Week Three's prayer challenges (listed below) and repeat.

1. Read specific prayers from the Bible and pray using these Scriptures as a guide. Examples include: 2 Chronicles 6:12-42, Nehemiah 1:4-11, Matthew 6:9-13, John 17:1-26, Romans 11:33-36, Ephesians 1:15-19, Ephesians 3:14-21, Philippians 1:9-11, Colossians 1:9-14.
2. Pray with a friend for one hour. It will probably be best to do this with someone who is participating in this personal revival guide. If that is not possible, choose someone who has an exceptionally strong prayer life. Agree upon 6 areas or subjects of prayer (your choice) and spend 10 minutes on each subject - with each of you praying approximately 5 minutes per subject.
3. Prayer Walk for one hour. Someone described prayer walking as praying with your eyes open. You may want to choose a strategic spot for this experience.
4. Fast and pray one day.
5. Go on a prayer retreat. Spend a whole day praying and reading about prayer.
6. Write out your prayer for one hour.
7. Spend the day in unceasing prayer even as you go about your day. Focus on being in constant, silent conversation with the Father for the whole day.
8. Pray in an uncommon place for you. As Jesus did, get away.

## WEEK 4, DAY 4, WEDNESDAY *(cont.)*

### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

During your prayer time, spend about 10 minutes on each of the following areas:

- Praise—Praise God for Who He is. Use the Psalms to help you to do this. Use Job 38-42 as another way to help do so. Use the alphabet and think of one attribute of praise for each letter of the alphabet.
- Thanksgiving—Give thanks to God for specific provisions in your life.
- Confession and Repentance—Review the notes you made on the days of introspection and be specific regarding your sin. Again, resist the temptation to think of the sins of others. Focus on your own sin.
- Petition—Be specific in your personal requests.
- Praying for the Lost—Make a list of lost people in your circle of influence. Pray using the acrostic LOST.
  - Pray the person will realize they are lost.
  - Pray you will have opportunity to share with the person.
  - Pray each on your list will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit.
  - Finally, pray each one will be transformed by the power of the Gospel.
- Commit your ways to God—Close your prayer time by yielding yourself to God. Promising your earnest commitment to Him is to walk in obedience in every area of your life.

## WEEK 4, DAY 5, THURSDAY

Today is a day of fasting. If you cannot fast, choose another prayer activity from Week Three.

### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

While fasting and praying, spend your normal eating times praying and reading God's Word. Spend a few minutes writing down your thoughts from this entire experience.

I believe there is a connection between fasting and humility. Meditate on these verses dealing with humility:

- “All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you.” (1 Peter 5:5-7)
- “My hand made all these things, and so they all came into being. This is the Lord's declaration. I will look favorably on this kind of person: one who is humble, submissive in spirit, and trembles at my word.” (Isaiah 66:2)
- “Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not appealed to what is false, and who has not sworn deceitfully.” (Psalm 24:3-4)
- “Test me, Lord, and try me; examine my heart and mind.” (Psalm 26:2)
- “When arrogance comes, disgrace follows, but with humility comes wisdom.” (Proverbs 11:2)
- “The Lord hates six things; in fact, seven are detestable to him: arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet eager to run to evil, a lying witness who gives false testimony, and one who stirs up trouble among brothers.” (Proverbs 6:16-19)



## WEEK 4, DAY 6, FRIDAY

Today is a repeated day of introspection. Remember the goal: asking the Lord to search us. Two analogies come to mind when I think about the words “search” and “test” in Psalm 139:

Regarding “search” - Think about what happens when a law enforcement officer performs a search. The officer is looking for that which is hidden.

Regarding “test” - A doctor runs tests to identify what is wrong in the body. Again, the doctor is looking for what is hidden.

What is hidden in your life from others? Remember, this is not hidden from God.

### DAILY CHANGE CHALLENGE:

Take your time going through this list of questions. Ask God to reveal any offensive way in you.

- Is there a sin in my life I am trying to hide or anything in my life I hope no one else finds out about?
- Have I rationalized my sin, relationship, attitude, or habit? Do I find myself saying, “It’s not that bad,” or “Everyone else is doing it?”
- Is there any hint of pride in my life?
- Is there a person I am unwilling to forgive? Am I secretly hoping someone encounters a problem as revenge for an action he/she has taken?
- Is there a sin in my life that I find myself repeating?
- Do I sense God revealing something to me that I have not before thought of as sin?
- Have I refused to do something that I believe God has already told me to do?





## WEEK 4, DAY 7, SATURDAY *(cont.)*

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Charles Finney was a leader in the Second Great Awakening. He observed:

Revival is a renewed conviction of sin and repentance, followed by an intense desire to live in obedience to God. It is giving up one's will to God in deep humility.<sup>7</sup>

As we conclude this four-week journey, I trust you are prayerfully and noticeably different than when we began. Consider God's words to Daniel in Daniel 10:12:

*"Don't be afraid, Daniel," he said to me, "for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your prayers were heard. I have come because of your prayers."*

Though the circumstances are different, I pray the same is true for all of us who have taken up this challenge for the last 28 days.

I close with the same question I proposed 28 days ago, "What's in your circle?"

Continue to pray, "Lord, change me."

<sup>7</sup>Charles Finney, "Conviction, Repentance, Obedience, and Humility-Charles Finney,"  
*Deeper Christian Quotes*, deeperChristian, 22 January 2019,  
<https://deeperchristianquotes.com/conviction-repentance-obedience-and-humility-charles-finney/>.







# Change **ME**

Have you ever asked yourself, "If revival was up to me, how likely would it be to happen?"

Steve Horn acknowledges revival is a sovereign act of God, but believes we can set the sails for revival.

*Change Me, A Personal Revival Guide* is a 28 day journey towards personal revival.

- Week One focuses on introspection.
- Week Two encourages consecration.
- Week Three dives into intercession.
- Week Four invites you to make some lasting decisions.

Are you ready? Our world needs revival. Our nation needs revival. Your city needs revival. Your church needs revival. But, most of all, you need revival.

Begin by praying, "Lord change me."



**STEVE HORN** serves as the Executive Director for Louisiana Baptists. He holds a Master of Divinity in Biblical Studies and a Ph.D. in Greek/New Testament from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to his current position, Dr. Horn served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Lafayette from 2005 – 2019. He has served in numerous national and state denominational positions including President of the Louisiana Baptist Convention in 2014-2015 and President of the Executive Board of the LBC in 2010-2011. He is married to Linett and they have two sons, Joshua and Dru.



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