



# REVIVAL CRUSADE

MATERIALS FOR PREPARATION FOR REVIVAL MEETINGS

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“O LORD, I have heard thy speech, *and* was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy” (Habakkuk 3:2).

“<sup>1</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because *there is* no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. <sup>2</sup> By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. <sup>3</sup> Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away. <sup>4</sup> Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people *are* as they that strive with the priest. <sup>5</sup> Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother. <sup>6</sup> My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. <sup>7</sup> As they were increased, so they sinned against me: *therefore* will I change their glory into shame. <sup>8</sup> They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity. <sup>9</sup> And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings” (Hosea 4:1-9).

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## Suggestions for the Preparation for Revival Crusade

Dear Pastor,

Let me begin by thanking you for the privilege of allowing me to share in your ministry. Having served the Lord as a Pastor for many years, I understand the responsibilities of your guardianship of the Pulpit God has given you to administrate. I understand the concern you have for the people under your oversight and the care you must take to trust someone else to preach to them. I assure you, I will try to give the same meticulous care for the Lord's Sheep that you do as their Shepherd.

I always look forward to Revival Crusades in local churches with a sense of great expectations. I am sure you are doing the same. I believe with all my heart that God wants to work in the lives of His people and in the lives of the lost through His people. Although Revival is a supernatural work of God, before God can revive sinners, we must acknowledge our sins, repent of those sins, be filled with His Spirit, and begin to live the Truths of His Word. There are no short cuts in the process that leads to the event of revival. Secondly, there are no painless pathways to revival, nor is this an endeavor we can pursue without considerable spiritual effort and self-examination on our parts.

Revival will not happen by accident. Someone has said, "We must work as if all depends on us and pray as if it all depends on God." This is partly true. I believe, "We need to pray, *because* it all depends on God, and we must work because God usually answers our prayers by blessing the work we do in anticipation and expectation of answers to our requests. Like the slogan in a real estate office, LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION; revival is dependant upon three things:

1. PRAYER for the *binding* of Satan and the *overflow* of the Spirit of God *through* the believer's life
2. PRAYER for the believer's *sensitivity* to the *convicting* of the Spirit of God and the *willingness* to be *transparent* before others in making *public* spiritual decisions
3. PRAYER for the *boldness* of the believer's life as the Spirit of God *overflows* in their lives and as they are *led* of the Spirit of God to *bear testimony* to God's workings in their lives.

Do all you can to promote increased prayer time throughout the months before the meetings. In the last two weeks prior to the meetings make the focus of your prayer meetings on the three areas above. Ask your people for a certain amount of time to pray daily and seek volunteers who will commit to that time of prayer.

Encourage families to invite other families to their home one night a week to get together to pray for God's working. Ask home keepers to gather together daily in different homes for a time of prayer during the day. Ask your students to take a time during their school day to gather together for a time of prayer. Ask your men to get together for a *Men's Prayer Breakfast* the day before the meetings are to begin.

Open the church auditorium during each day for a certain amount of time and invite anyone to come during those times to pray. During those times, people can move from pew to pew and ask God to work in a special way in the lives of anyone that sits in that pew during the week. Ask people to pray that they will be faithful in *filling a pew* with themselves, their families, and their friends during the week.

Remind them that *even God cannot bless something they do not do*. Ask them if they have ever considered the fact that God may not have done something simply because they never asked Him to.

### **DEDICATION & CONSECRATION**

Ask God's people for commitments of dedication and consecration for the two weeks preceding the meetings. Ask them to commit to turning off their Television sets for these two weeks, or, at least, watch only the news or very limited Television viewing. Try to get people to make the focus of the two weeks prior to the meetings to be completely upon their own spiritual lives and upon *seeking the face of God*.

**We cannot expect to reap a harvest if we  
never get the Seed out of the barn!**

**You cannot expect to walk on the water if  
you never get out of the boat!**

## PUBLICITY

Full color posters are an effective way to publicize the meetings. We usually produce these for individual churches with the times, location, and focus of the meetings. These are provided digitally in PDF format and can be printed on a color inkjet printer or at most office supply stores for a minimal cost. Have someone put these up around the city at numerous public locations (get permission before putting up flyers).

1. Storefront windows
2. Grocery store Bulletin Boards
3. School or College Bulletin Boards or display areas
4. Banks
5. Restaurant windows or Bulletin Boards
6. Apartment Complex Bulletin Boards
7. Laundromats

**The same PDF poster can be reduced at most print shops or office supply stores to the size of a flyer (5½ x 8½).** These can be used as handbills for canvassing. However, I have found that they are more effective when used as a personal invitation to friends, co-workers, or family members (give a *God Wants You To Know* booklet with the flyer). Every church member (including children) should be able to make at least 25 personal invitations to friends, co-workers, or family members. These individual's names should be gathered for prayer. This also produces accountability in getting the flyer into the hands of these people.

**This same PDF can be used for newspaper ads.** Often local newspapers provide free advertizing to churches for special events or activities. Radio announcements can also be effective.

**Make sure you put Bulletin Inserts in your Sunday Church Bulletin** each Sunday for at least a month before the meetings. Announce the special prayer emphasis and the special prayer meetings. The success of the meeting will depend mostly upon the effectiveness of getting people to genuinely pray and expect God to work.

Finally, a week or two before the meetings, send a letter and Flyer with the details of the meetings to the homes of all church members. Your local church is making a considerable investment in bringing an Evangelist to your community. Their personal faithfulness is absolutely critical. They should clear their calendars of anything else to be faithful in attending these meetings. It is a sad testimony to have someone come to special meetings after being invited by a church member only to find the church member was too busy to attend.

## PROMOTION NIGHTS

Accountability is a gift we give to people we respect. Being personally involved in what we promote is essential to God's blessings. People will not put effort into that which they do not believe they are personally accountable for. **Accountability is manifested by being accountable.** One of the ways to make one's self accountable is through *Special Night Promotion Leaders*. Each night of the meetings, assign Leaders to work as partners for the next evening special promotion service. The winning Leaders will be given a gift of a book each night. The following are some suggestions for special Promotion Nights:

### **MONDAY: Sunday School Night**

The Sunday School Teachers become the Leaders for this night. They can choose one other person to work with them. The goal is to get every person who has attended their class in the last year out to the meetings for that night. This will make all Teachers accountable to contact each of those people. On Monday night each teacher will stand with all those they invited and they will be counted. Visitors they invited, or that were invited by others from that class, are counted with the class.

### **TUESDAY: Men's Night**

This is the men's *pack-a-pew* night. You can either assign a certain number of men to be leaders, who find their own partners to work with them, or you can just allow all the men to choose a partner. The latter is better for smaller churches. The former is better for larger churches.

### **WEDNESDAY: Ladies' Night**

This is the ladies' *pack-a-pew* night. You can either assign a certain number of ladies to be leaders who find their own partners to work with them, or you can just allow all the ladies to choose a partner. The latter is better for smaller churches. The former is better for larger churches.

### **THURSDAY: Family Night**

This is a great night for families to invite their friends or family members. Each family member in attendance and each of the visitors they brought will stand together and be counted as one family.

### **FRIDAY: Rally Night - Couples' Night – Friends' Night**

Try to make this last night the biggest night of the week. Any man or woman in the church can form a team of two. They should concentrate on being sure every person that has attended throughout the week has been contacted and invited. Plan for a *Couples' Buffet* or *Banquet* at the Church. This can be *carry-in* food or *catered*. If you charge for the meal, be sure to have your people pay for the couple(s) they invite.

## MUSIC

The right spiritual music is critical to successful revival meetings. Let me say I appreciate *soul stirring* hymns and *soul stirring* preaching. However, we must begin by Scripturally defining what *soul stirring* means regarding both worship music and preaching. There are two critical texts in the epistles that define what *soul stirring* music should be about.

“<sup>17</sup> Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.<sup>18</sup> And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;<sup>19</sup> Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;<sup>20</sup> Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;<sup>21</sup> Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God” (Ephesians 5:17-21).

“<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.<sup>17</sup> And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Colossians 3:16-17).

In Ephesians 5:19-21 and Colossians 3:16-17, God instructs us that “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” are to result in *introspection* and *reflection*. *Introspection* means that true “spiritual songs” will cause us to speak to ourselves in a way that leads us to consider our own internal spiritual condition as compared to God’s revealed will. *Introspection* turns our hearts to compare our spiritual reality with God’s Word.

*Reflection* means that “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” are to cause us to fix our thinking upon Scriptural Truths (Theological proclamations) that lead us to worship God in grateful admiration and praise for His goodness and grace in our lives. *Introspection* and *reflection* are the two main things that a true Christian should be involved with when singing “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.” “Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” are not for our enjoyment or entertainment. If that is all they do, they are not “spiritual.”

Truly “spiritual songs” are intent upon *stirring* our thinking towards the things of God and *stirring* our actions and emotions towards worshipping God through joyful obedience to His commands and loving (self-sacrificial) ministry to the world. Using worldly music to make Christianity *culturally relevant* is an oxymoron because that is not the purpose of worship music. Spiritual music is not intended to make the church relevant to the cultures of the world. Spiritual music is intended to communicate the truths about God and the commands of God relevant to Christians.

## THE MUSICAL PRELUDE

Your Music Director, Pianist, and Organist should put together a package of songs that produce a cheerful and enthusiastic atmosphere. These songs should especially reflect upon the purpose of the meetings. These songs should be evangelistic and revival hymns. Pick one song to be the *Theme Song* for the week (such as Revive Us Again, Old Time Power, Showers of Blessing; Jesus Saves, Redeemed How I Love to Proclaim It, He Lives). Begin each meeting with this congregational hymn.

## CONGREGATIONAL SONGS

**Make sure that the Song Leader is enthusiastic.** He needs to be able to draw people to the message of the God with the intent of causing them to reflect upon what they are singing, especially as the song selections begin to get closer to the time of preaching. Start with more rousing, stirring hymns and move to more reflective hymns as you approach the time for the message.

## REVIVAL CHOIR OR SPECIAL MUSIC

It is usually a great addition to have a Choir number each night of the meetings. These can be a collection of hymns that the Choir has sung during the last few months or year. Although there is extra work involved, it is usually only an extra half hour before the service and it adds greatly to a spiritual atmosphere of the meetings. These selections should also be enthusiastic and evangelistic in emphasis.

**Special music and those that sing need to be carefully selected.** This is not the place for self aggrandizing or Hollywood/Nashville performances. Special music and musicians need to be those with a spiritual purpose intent on bringing glory to the Lord and edification to the saints, not *entertainment* to the saints. These kinds of issues should be mentioned at the time of the introduction of special music to maintain this focus in both the singers, musicians, and before the congregation.

## INVITATIONS

**I will give an invitation at the close of every meeting.** Instruct the musicians to take their places at their instruments at the end of the preaching during the invitation time. If I want them to play a song softly in the background as I am giving the invitation, they will be instructed to do so. **Do not play during prayer.**

Invitation hymns each night will be selected from the following hymns: Is Your All On the Altar; Just As I Am; Jesus I Come; Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling; Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus; You Must Open the Door; I Surrender All; Have Thine Own Way Lord). **When I am finished, I often turn the invitation over to the Pastor.** He is usually much more familiar with the people in attendance and sensitive to the decisions they may need to make.

**OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES IN YOUR VICINITY WILL OFTEN BE WILLING TO PROVIDE SPECIAL MUSIC FOR ONE OF THE EVENINGS OF THE WEEK IF YOU CALL THE PASTORS AND ASK. THE EXTRA NUMBERS IN ATTENDANCE ARE OFTEN AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOUR PEOPLE.**

## **OUR ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE SCHEDULE**

**Arrival:** We will try to arrive sometime after noon of the Saturday before meetings beginning Sunday morning. If we will be arriving earlier or have some delay, I will call to notify you. Please do not plan a meal for us as we will need the afternoon and evening to set up the motor home and display. Afterwards, we need a time to rest and prepare for the next day. This is usually the only evening of the week we are not busy.

We will need a place to park our 40 ft. Motor Home (12.5' roof clearance) where it is not muddy and has easy access to the Church building. If you need to get an idea how large this unit is, look at the average Semi-trailer or a large city bus. We will need either a 30 Amp or 50 Amp electrical outlet for electricity and access to an outside water tap (we can use the holding tank if a water tap is not available). At present, we do not travel with a *Toad* (a car in tow). Therefore, we will have no transportation for the week.

We praise the Lord for His provision of this Motor Home. It usually saves the local church a considerable amount against the high cost of motels and meals in restaurants. The travel expenses for the Motor Home (Fuel, Maintenance, Insurance, and Depreciation) amount to about \$1.05 per mile.

We would appreciate a key to the church building in case of emergencies such as a blown fuse/breaker and the use of the facilities for other purposes during the day.

### **MEALS**

We prefer to prepare our own meals. Our experience is that every time we are guests in someone's home, it ends up being a *buffet*. We do not go to the homes of church members without the pastor and his wife being present. We are always available to share meals with the Pastor and staff members of the Church. We usually leave Sunday dinner (noon meal) open if the Pastor wants to go out to eat.

### **VISITATION**

If the Pastor wants to do any visitation during the week, I make myself available to accompany him. I also will make myself available to visit people with church members provided the arrangements to do so are done *through the Pastor*. I come to be a servant to the local church. However, *I put myself and my time under the administration of the Senior Pastor*.

### **DEPARTURE**

We normally leave early in the morning of the day following the last day of the meetings. We will pack up all our display materials and everything possible the night before. Therefore, we usually will not be able to schedule much of anything the last night after the meetings. We try to be available for fellowship that evening for a short time after the meeting.

## FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

*Many Evangelists hesitate to talk about finances lest their motives be misunderstood.* My experience is that most mature and experienced Pastors do not need to have any of these matters addressed. They understand the costs and the needs of a traveling Evangelist and the additional expenses he has over the average resident minister. However, just as the Pastor trusts the Evangelist with the *Sheep* God has given him oversight of, the Evangelist trusts the Pastor to do all in his power to see to it that his expenses and living needs are met.

Secondly, many people view an Evangelist's Motor Home or Fifth Wheel Trailer like they view a *luxury item* like a big boat, or recreation vehicle that are owned by wealthy people. These items are not *luxury items*. They are living essentials. They are our *homes on the road*. Besides maintaining these *homes on the road*, we also must maintain a residence somewhere with the normal expenses involved with it.

Our ministry takes us to local churches of all sizes. In fact, our burden is to help smaller churches and so we take a higher percentage of smaller churches than we do larger churches. Some local churches cannot provide much at all financially, but they do give sacrificially and try to do the best they can. It should be remembered that *sacrifice is a two-way street in these cases*. The expenses still need to be paid for and our living costs still need to be met. If the local church does not meet those expenses and needs, it makes it very difficult to live from week-to-week, or even get to the next place of ministry. Sometimes, larger churches are able to give more to balance out the weeks where expenses are barely met.

**We come to local churches totally on a faith offering basis.** Although on at least one occasion I have had money fall from the sky at my feet, *that is not the way God usually works*. That means we trust God to provide through the gifts of God's people and their understanding of their responsibility to provide for God's servants. We ask that each local church provide us with *two checks* at the end of the week. First, a *reimbursement form* with the details of the travel expenses will be given to the Pastor upon our arrival. The Love Offering should be applied to the expense check *first*. If there are any funds left over after the expenses are met, this amount should be included on the second check.

## EXPENSES

**Travel Expenses:** the expenses for the Motor Home are \$1.05 per mile. This includes the expenses for diesel fuel, insurance, maintenance, and depreciation.

**Food Expenses:** we ask for a consideration of \$75.00 per week. Obviously, this does not cover a week's food expenses. This is calculated by what it costs on the road *above our normal weekly expenses*.

## Love Offerings

My wife and I have served the Lord in Church Planting or itinerant evangelism for almost 40 years. We do not have any savings accounts, invested funds, or other means of support. We live from week to week on what God provides. The love offerings from God's people are our sole means of support. **We ask nothing up front.** We simply ask the Pastor to do the best he can in leading his people to provide our needs. I will not mention money one time while I am at your church or during the meetings. I will not discuss our finances with any of your people or try to raise funds from your people at any time. I believe making people aware of these needs is the sole responsibility of the Pastor. However, we understand that he has no control over what people give.

Offerings should be received in a Scriptural, sacrificial, cheerful manner. As the Evangelist has an obligation to minister *spiritually* to the local church members, the local church members have a responsibility to minister to the Evangelist *materially*. Finances are the main reason many Evangelists are no longer able to continue to travel and the main reason for the dwindling numbers of Evangelists serving the Lord today.

**I will be grateful for all that you do. Once I arrive at your location, you will never hear me mention finances again.**

## BOOK TABLE

During a week of meetings, I will be able to preach only about eight messages. The book table is intended to provide an extension of our ministry long after we leave a local church. I may promote a different book each night.

**However, I would prefer that the Pastor promotes our Book Table.** Most of our books are written for the *person in the pew*. Although this ministry requires a considerable investment to maintain and provide, my books are usually priced at about 50% of what the same book would sell for in a Christian Book store. If the Pastor prefers not to promote my books or is not familiar with my books, I will leave any promotion he chooses to do, or not to do, up to his discretion.

My wife takes care of the Book Table and all payments should be made to her. I do not take money from anyone, even for my own books or materials during the meetings to avoid any appearance of complicity.

# Altar Workers and Visitation Training Manual

**“Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only,  
deceiving your own selves” (James 1:22).**

**A Publication of Disciple Maker Ministries**

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## Why Should I Train For Altar Work?

A trained Altar Worker is one of the most valuable individuals in a local church. The Altar Worker is usually the person who deals with individuals at various turning points in their lives. If he\she is trained well and takes his\her ministry seriously, God will use him\her in great ways.

The Altar Worker must be a person of impeccable character and integrity. He\she will help people with intimate spiritual decisions. There is no room in this ministry for a person who cannot be trusted with the intimate details of another person's life.

An Altar Worker must be a prayed-up, confessed-up, "walking in the Light" Christian. The success of his\her ministry will depend on if he/she is filled with and enabled by the Holy Spirit to deal with the intricacies of a person's spiritual needs. Without the empowering of the Spirit of God, the Altar Worker will be powerless to discern needs and give the appropriate Biblical counsel.






The Altar Worker is frequently used of God to explain the gospel and lead a person to saving faith and confession of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary the Altar Worker have a thorough understanding of the gospel and is able to transfer that understanding to others. The ability to transfer a thorough understanding of the gospel will prevent many problems for the new convert in the future.

A faithful Altar Worker will not be satisfied with knowing the Romans Road and memorizing a few Scripture verses. This person will study to prepare (2 Timothy 2:15) himself\herself with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures which can be used as effective tools to deal with individual spiritual questions that might arise.

A faithful Altar Worker keeps his/her "Sword" sharp (Ephesians 6:17), always searching the Scriptures for truths which can be used to establish "doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Altar Worker will usually deal with five major areas of spiritual decisions. This booklet will provide the Scripture tools to sharpen your *Sword*. It will be up to you to learn to use them effectively.

## Five Major Spiritual Decisions

-  **Salvation**
-  **Assurance of Salvation**
-  **Baptism and Church Membership**
-  **Dedication**
-  **Repentance**

The Altar Worker must learn to genuinely care for people. Those coming to make spiritual decisions are those to whom God has spoken. Sometimes their lives have been opened by the Word of God like a gaping wound. They are hurting and under conviction.

They need a compassionate person who can use the Word of God to close the wound and apply the healing balm of God's forgiveness to their broken and repentant hearts. They need someone to understand and love them. They need someone to weep with them in their hurting and rejoice with them in their healing (Romans 12:15).

They need the truth of God's Word given in true tenderness, love and compassion. They do not need someone to robotically quote endless Bible verses. Scripture is like balm and bandages. The Altar Worker learns to lovingly and tenderly apply Scripture truths to the areas required.

## Understanding the Turning Points of Life

“<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do, <sup>2</sup> That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon. <sup>3</sup> And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. <sup>4</sup> And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, *and* wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: <sup>5</sup> Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel. <sup>6</sup> *But* if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments *and* my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them: <sup>7</sup> Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people: <sup>8</sup> And at this house, *which* is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house? <sup>9</sup> And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil” (I Kings 9:1-9).

All Christians have had *turning points* in their lives (many for good, perhaps some into sin). A Christian can also be used to bring about turning points in the lives of others. Perhaps a *turning point* in someone's life might take place because of something we say or do.

When a Christian says something that hurts someone or does something that leads someone into sin, his life could result in a negative *turning point* in the life of another. When we are focused on doing God's will and living under the control of the Holy Spirit, our lives can be used to bring about positive *turning points* in the lives of others. This should be the goal of the Altar Worker.

Often turning points take place when a person hears God speak to his heart during a sermon or in his daily Scripture reading (this should be the norm, not the exception). Most Christians can look back on their lives and remember the decisions they made which were *turning points*.

We can remember a time when we made a spiritual decision which completely changed the way we lived from that point forward. Like a movie running in reverse, we can traced where we are today right back to that *turning point* in time.

As a Pastor, I have seen many people make great spiritual decisions completely changing their lives. I have also watched people close their ears to God's message, quench the working of the Holy Spirit in their lives and reject God's convicting about some area of sin. In either instance, it was a *turning point* in that life, a turning point that not only effected their life personally, but the lives of hundreds of people around them.

I have seen dads decide a free day on Sunday was more important then attending church services. I have seen that *turning point* decision in their lives change the direction of their whole family. I have seen their children abandon the cause of Christ and live lives of wasted ruin.

I have also seen the opposite. I have seen people heading down the wrong road in life. I have watched as God convicted their hearts and they have responded by turning from that path and turning to obedience in Christ. I have seen some decisions made in preaching services where people have walked the aisle to be saved, or turned from a life of sin and turned their lives over to Christ. I have also watched some of those same people walk out the church doors and never return again.

From I Kings 9:1-9, we can see from God's Word the importance of *turning points* in the life of every believer and the importance the Altar Worker plays in seeing that those *turning points* become real and are not later abandoned.

Read I Kings 9:1-2 again. We know from I Kings 9:10 that Solomon spent 20 years building the Temple and his own house. We know from I Kings 6:38, he spent 7 years building the Lord's House (the Temple). We know from I Kings 7:1, he spent 13 years building his own house. Does this reveal a spiritual problem?

In I Kings 9:1, the words “it came to pass” refer to the time passed from the great sermon and prayer of dedication of the Temple in I Kings chapter 8. What “came to pass” was the 13 years of time Solomon spent occupying the nation of Israel with building a *house for him*.

For 13 years Solomon was pre-occupied with his own wants and desires extending way beyond this elaborate palace he was building for himself (I Kings 9:1). It says in I Kings 9:1, “And all Solomon’s desire which he pleased to do.” In I Kings 9:2 it says, “the Lord appeared to Solomon the second time” (v 2, the first is recorded in I Kings 3:4-15). God reiterates His promise and His warning to Solomon.

Why was this necessary? I believe it was necessary because Solomon viewed his religious obligations completed once the house of God was finished and dedicated. Just as I Kings 3:14-15 was a turning point in Solomon’s life, so was the completion of the building and dedication of the Temple a *turning point* into a life of sin.

It was 20 years earlier, while Solomon went to Gibeon to offer sacrifice at the Tent of the Meeting located there, that God spoke to him and confirmed the covenant He had made with David, his father. It was at Gibeon that a 34 year old King, lacking confidence or character, asked God for the one thing he needed the most in order to make the hundreds of decisions he needed to make everyday. He asked for wisdom. This was a major turning point in Solomon’s life.

Remember, Solomon was born of Bathsheba and David. He knew of the consequences of the turning point in his father’s life when David sinned with Bathsheba and had Bathsheba’s husband (Uriah the Hittite) murdered to cover their sin.

I am sure he remembered the curse of God upon the household of David that ended with the death of his older brother as a baby, the rape of his half sister Tamar, the killing of Amnon for raping her, the resentment of Absalom for David’s inaction, the later attempt of Absalom to overthrow David’s throne, even the attempt by Adonijah to usurp the anointing of Solomon as King just before David’s death. All this strife in this family came because of a *turning point* in David’s life when he chose to sin with Bathsheba and murdered Uriah.

When God first spoke to Solomon at Gibeon, God gave Solomon the spiritual wisdom he needed to make decisions. However, as we will see, wisdom is nothing unless it is translated into the practices of life.

This second appearance (I Kings 9) takes the form of a warning more than anything else. God knew the direction Solomon was taking in life and it was *not* the direction leading to God’s blessing.

I Corinthians 10:11 says, “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples (types): and they are written for our admonition (correction and warning), upon whom the ends of the world (ages) are come.”

No where else in the Scriptures do we have a better example of the consequences of a *turning point* of apathy towards the things of God and the consequences it had on hundreds of generations to follow than the life of Solomon.

After the highlight of Solomon's life was completed (the building of the Temple), there is no other mention in Scripture of Solomon having anything else to do with the Temple of God. He reigned for 40 years (from 971 B.C. to 931 B.C.). He was 34 at the first appearance and 54 at the second appearance. He was probably close to 74 when God appeared to him the third time (I Kings 11:9).

That means there was a *turning point* in I Kings 9:2 when Solomon heard the warning of God and rejected that warning for the next 20 years. This was 20 wasted years of life (as recorded in the book of Ecclesiastes). This was twenty years of back sliding and twenty years of living in contradiction to God's commands. Twenty years beginning when he walked away from a personal encounter with God, not taking God seriously.

Read I Kings 11:1-8. Here are the consequences of that turning point in Solomon's life. When Solomon did not take God's warning seriously (after all it was only a dream, I Kings 3:5 and 9:2), Satan began to devour his life *bite by bite* (I Peter 5:8).

The sad part of this story is that the turning point in Solomon's life in I Kings 9 did not end with his death in I Kings 11. As a result of Solomon's life, the United Monarchy was divided into the 10 northern tribes under Jeroboam and Judah under Rehoboam.

Although the northern Kingdom would experience a few revivals (one partial under Jehu and another under Hezekeah), for the next 300 years the effect of Solomon's *turning point* to apathy and indifference (and finally, open rebellion) would reign in Judah until II Kings 23:1-10. For 300 years, thousands upon thousands of people were effected and infected by Solomon's turning point and failure to obey God.

At the end of his wasted life Solomon wrote, "Better *is* a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished" (Ecclesiastes 4:13).

Whenever dads and moms are divided in their dedication in living for Christ and in faithfulness to their local Church, expect them to lose their children to the world. Every time families sporadically attend church services, or fail to make living for Christ the priority of their homes and lives, expect them to lose their children to the world.

Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. How many children do you suppose he had? How many grand-children did he have? A thousand maybe? 2,000, maybe 3,000? How many great-grand-children? How many great-great-grand-children?

Ten generations later, Josiah is the first mention of any descendent of Solomon living for the Lord. Read I Kings 13:1-3 and II Kings 23:12-14 together. God knows the consequences of *turning points* in our lives. **The whole story of Solomon's life is one of lost potential.**

When it comes to helping people with *turning points* in their lives, we must take that work seriously. There is no room for complacency. There is no decision unworthy of serious consideration. When God brings a soul to a *turning point* in his life and you have part in helping, take it seriously. There are thousands of souls that might be affected for good or for bad.

## **What Is Expected of Me?**

### **Altar Workers Schedule**

**A.** Four Altar Workers should be scheduled for each service (preferably two men and two women). Men should never counsel with a woman, nor a woman with a man.

**B.** If you cannot be at the service for which you are scheduled, seek a replacement for yourself from the approved list and notify the Pastor one week in advance (in case of illness, ASAP). If you repeatedly miss your scheduled dates or are not faithful in attendance to all church services, your name will be dropped from the approved list.

### **Dress Appropriately**

**A.** Men should wear a tie and sports jacket or suit.

**B.** Ladies should wear a modest dress or skirt with blouse, sweater, jacket, etc.

### **At the time of closing prayer, quietly make your way to the front of the auditorium**

**A.** Take a clip board with a Spiritual Decision Record sheet from the front pew.

**B.** Be sure you have an ink pen with you.

**C.** Watch the Pastor for instructions. He will direct you. Do not go to anyone unless you are directed to do so.

### **Fill out a Spiritual Decision Record sheet**

**A.** Make sure you fill out all information asked for on the sheet.

**B.** Do the best you can. If you think you need help, wait until after the service and bring the person to the Pastor for additional help.

**C.** Have the individual write the decision he/she made in his/her own words in the area provided.

**D.** Bring the individual to the Pastor with their filled out decision card when you have finished. Do not leave without doing this!

**E.** Give the White copy to the Pastor. Keep the Yellow copy for yourself (THINK FOLLOW-UP, your job is not finished until you have followed-up) and give the Pink copy to the person making the decision as a future reminder of his/her decision.

## Beginning Questions

**Are you comfortable with me, or would you like someone else to help you?**

**Find out the need. What spiritual decision have you made?**

- A. Salvation
- B. Baptism (schedule appointment with Pastor)
- C. Assurance of salvation
- D. Church membership (schedule an appointment with Pastor)
- E. Doctrinal issue
- F. Sin problem (ask if he/she would like to schedule an appointment with pastor)

**If the decision is for salvation or if it is about assurance, carefully explain the gospel.**

- A. *Understanding* the gospel is the essential foundation for faith in Christ.
- B. Assurance comes when a person understands what Christ had done to procure the gift of salvation (gospel).
- C. The question of assurance is one of faith. *Have I trusted alone in what Christ did for me and acknowledged His Lordship of my life?*
- D. If a person has a thorough understanding of the gospel and still lacks assurance of salvation, more than likely he/she has a sin problem he/she is not getting victory over or honestly dealing with. A person who continues to live in sin will never have assurance (I John 2:4-6).
- E. Ask if there is an un-confessed sin problem. Deal with the sin problem or bring the person to the Pastor.

## **Test for Understanding & Misunderstanding** (The *God Wants You To Know* booklet is designed for this)

**Question #1:** If you were to stand before the throne of God today, and He were to ask you; “What have you done to deserve to be in My Kingdom?,” what would your answer be?

**Question #2:** In order for you to go to heaven today what things do you think you would have to STOP doing, before God could allow you in?

**Question #3:** In order for you to go to heaven today what things do you think you would have to START doing, before God could allow you in?

**Question #4:** If you believe that you are saved and will go to heaven when you die, what could you do in the future, before you die, that might cause you to lose your salvation?

## **God’s Two Requirements to Enter His Presence**

### **Sinners cannot enter God’s presence**

“<sup>9</sup> Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, <sup>10</sup> Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (I Corinthians 6:9-10).

### **A person must be as righteous as God is**

“For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20).

## **No One Meets God’s Requirements**

### **All have sinned**

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” (Romans 3:23)

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” (Romans 5:12)

### **No one is righteous enough**

“<sup>10</sup> As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: <sup>11</sup> There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. <sup>12</sup> They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Romans 3:10-12).

“But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags;” (Isaiah 64:6).

## The Penalty for Sin Is the Death Sentence

“For the wages of sin *is* death;” (Romans 6:23a).

“Behold, all souls are mine;...the soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4).

### Jesus Took Our Death Sentence and Died In Our Place

“<sup>22</sup> Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: <sup>23</sup> Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously: <sup>24</sup> Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed” (I Peter 2:22-24).

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:” (I Peter 3:18).

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6).

“And he is the propitiation (this means the satisfaction of God’s righteous judgment on sin by paying our death sentence) for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*” (I John 2:2).

### Salvation is a gift received by believing what Jesus did to save us (the gospel) and by confessing Jesus to be Lord.

“<sup>9</sup> That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. <sup>11</sup> For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed” (Romans 10:9-11, also John 3:16-18).

### Salvation must be by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

“<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: <sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified” (Galatians 2:16).

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)

## Assurance of Salvation and Eternal Security

Assurance of salvation and eternal security in Christ are two separate issues in the Scriptures. If a believer has understood the gospel, believed it and publicly acknowledge the authority of Jesus over his life (confessed, Romans 10:9-10), that person is saved (Romans 10:13) and eternally secure in that salvation.

Assurance of salvation is based upon determining if the individual has understood the gospel, believed in what Christ did to save him and publicly acknowledged the authority of Jesus over his life.

Assurance “assures the heart” (1 John 3:19) that salvation (regeneration) has taken place. Many people are given a false assurance who have not understood the gospel or publicly acknowledged the authority of Jesus over their lives.

Assurance comes when a person fully understands the consequences of sin and what Christ has done to procure salvation from the condemnation of sin, believes that truth and trusts in Jesus alone.

## Empirical Evidences for Assurance of Salvation

**EMPIRICAL: Relying or based upon experiment and observation rather than theory.**

1. Read II Corinthians 5:17. What is the ultimate question for assurance of salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What is the basic empirical test to determine if *eternal life* has been transferred to you according to II Corinthians 5:17? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Read Romans 8:16. How does “the Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” ? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Read Romans 8:9-11. **If** you have been born again of the Spirit of God, should there be empirical evidences internally and externally of His indwelling presence? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. When there is an absence of the consciousness and conviction of sin in your life, what is that a sure sign of? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Empirical Evidences that testify to the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit

### 1. The Fatherhood of God becomes a Personal Reality

A. Matt. 11:27-28; What Old Testament concept is Christ relating in His use of the word “rest”? (see Ruth 1:9) \_\_\_\_\_

B. Does John 10:29 confirm the *safe shelter* concept? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. The Reality of Answered Prayer

A. IF Christ indwells you in the Person of the Holy Spirit, do you suppose He will prompt you to pray? \_\_\_\_\_

B. In Luke 11:1 Christ taught His disciples how to pray. Did He ever teach them anything He did not expect them to do? \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. The Reality of an Appetite for the Word of God

A. In Luke 4:4 what was Christ's response to the devil's temptation? \_\_\_\_\_

B. According to I Peter 2:2 what should a *newborn* Christian *desire*? \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. The Reality of the “fruit of the Spirit”

A. According to Gal. 5:22-23, if you have the Spirit of God indwelling you, what should be the product of that reality? \_\_\_\_\_

B. How will that be outwardly visible? \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. The Realization of the Reality of the Kinship of Other Believers

A. According to I John 3:14, what radical change in our practice will manifest “that we have passed from death unto life”? \_\_\_\_\_

B. According to I John 3:16-18, is love expressed with words or the practice of life? \_\_\_\_\_

C. According to I John 3: 15, if you harbor hatred for a “brother” can you ever have assurance? \_\_\_\_\_

D. From I John 3:19, what can our “hearts” have “before Him” by the manifestation of loving the brethren? \_\_\_\_\_

## Eternally Secure In Christ

“<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: <sup>28</sup> And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father’s hand” (John 10:27-29).

“<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. <sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35-39).

“<sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (I Peter 1:3-5).

## Baptism and Church Membership

Water Baptism was of great significance in the early church. That significance hasn't changed. Water baptism signified certain COMMITMENTS by new converts to Jesus Christ and it emphasized certain EXPECTATIONS of them.

Water baptism is not so much a testimony of salvation, that is presumed. It is a testimony of a crucified “*flesh*”(self) and a resurrected life empowered by the Holy Spirit. Some will get saved who never become disciples, but NO ONE should be baptized who does not understand the cost of discipleship and what God expects of him once baptized.

“What shall we say then, Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer in it? Know ye not that, as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death, that as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection; Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” (Romans. 6: 1-6 ).

**The mode of baptism should never be in question.** Water baptism is immersion. However, not all immersion is water baptism. Water baptism signifies an

*end* and a *beginning*. The *end* is the burial of our *Old Man* (the sinful desires of the sin nature) with Christ signifying an end to our old way of living in the *flesh*. The *beginning* is the replacement of that old dead way with a new and living way (Heb. 10: 20; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3: 9-10).

Water baptism is setting a tombstone on the grave of our “*old man*” and raising a flag of testimony to our resurrected life in Christ. When we think of our water baptism, we should be reminded of the time we BEGAN to set that headstone and the time we BEGAN to raised that flag. WE NEED TO DO THAT DAILY (I Cor. 15:31).

When people decide to be baptized, they should be instructed about what they are doing and what will be expected of them once they are baptized. This is where discipleship can really be channeled in the right direction. We can only conclude that this teaching is avoided because of the steady inroads of *easy believism* into the church. People refuse to be Scripturally baptized because they refuse to make the commitment to the change that is expected of them.

Throughout the Gospels, water baptism is directly related to the beginning of discipleship. The Lord said to the multitudes that followed Him; “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple” ( Luke 14:26-27).

In the next six verses, He makes it very clear that discipleship is not intended to cost you anything, it is intended to cost you EVERYTHING. This gives a much broader meaning to Luke 9:23 where the Lord said: “And he said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

Water baptism was a joyous occasion of testimony of commitment to follow the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. and they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:41-42).

This text records a great testimony from this early church about those who were baptized. This testimony should serve as a reminder to us of what genuine disciples are and what genuine baptism is about. The first thing they did was join the church, making, themselves accountable to one another in every area of their lives.

Secondly, they continued in the “apostles’ doctrine.” This involves the study and practice of the Word of God . They did not study the Word of God to be able to debate with people, but to understand God’s will for their lives. Continuation is a fairly short-lived term today. I believe it means they continued until they knew the Word of God and were able to practically apply it to their daily lives and to those to whom they ministered. They would do so for the rest of their lives.

They were also “*steadfast*” in that doctrine. I believe in a dogmatic theology. Someone once asked me to define dogmatic. I told them it was a person who grabbed on to the truths of the Word of God like a bulldog and would never let them slip. *They submitted themselves to the teaching and became unmovable in what they learned.*

Thirdly, they continued in “fellowship.” Fellowship means *partnership* or *participation*. They were not spectators in the work of God, nor would anyone allow them to be. There were certain things expected of them (see next page) Suffice it to say there were no *arm chair Christians* in this church. They would not allow it. It was not normal.

Fourth and fifth were the Lord’s supper (“breaking of bread”) and prayer. The Lord’s supper was a time of self examination and remembrance of the wonders of the work of Christ Jesus to provide the free gift of salvation. Prayer is the work of faith. Only a believer can really pray, everyone else just begs.

Christ began His ministry in the waters of baptism. This is the same way He expects everyone professing to be His disciple to begin his life of obedience. There was no forgiveness of sin in it. It was a simple act of obedience. *Ministry must always begin with obedience* (I Samuel 15:22). Water baptism is the first *baby step* of obedience for every believer.

Water baptism is centrally a testimony of the start of a new beginning for the new believer. Being a disciple means being a Christ follower. A disciple proclaims the beginning of his discipleship by water baptism.

The Greek word for baptism in the Bible is not translated. It is TRANSLITERATED. That means the original Greek word is modified into an English word without giving its real meaning. If we were to translate that word it would be translated *immersed*.

Baptism means immersion in something. John said he “baptized with water.” Therefore, Biblical baptism is *immersion* in water. Why? Very simply, baptism in water portrays our death, burial, and resurrection with Christ.

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ (compare I Cor. 12:13) were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should also walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection” (Romans 6:3-5).

As the believer is immersed under the water, it portrays his burial with Christ and identifies him with a death to his old way of living (Gal. 5:24). As he is raised up from under the water, he is portraying his new resurrected life in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:1-3).

## **God's Expectations of a Baptized Disciple** (Acts 2:41-42)

**1. They joined a local church,** making themselves accountable to the other disciples in every area of their lives.

**2. "They continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine."**

They studied the teachings of the Apostles, as now embodied in the Scriptures, as a student studies for final exams, knowing their future success depended upon understanding the material (II Tim. 2:15). ("*Steadfast*" means un-moveable; see I Cor. 15:58)

**3. They "*continued in fellowship.*"** Fellowship means a partnership; a co-operative effort to accomplish a purpose.

**A.** Baptized believers were not allowed to be spectators in the work of God.

**B.** Baptized believers were expected to serve the Lord and exercise their gifts.

**C.** Baptized believers were expected to tithe and to give offerings.

**D.** Baptized believers were expected to bring forth spiritual fruit and win souls.

**E.** Baptized believers were expected to manifest the "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22-24).

**F.** Baptized believers were expected to regularly and constantly examine their lives for personal sin.

**G.** Baptized believers were expected to pray and receive answers to prayer.

# Understanding the Responsibilities of Spiritual Decisions

## The Spiritual Law of Dedication

“Notwithstanding, no devoted thing, that a man shall devote unto the Lord of all that he hath, both of man and beast, and of the field of his possession, shall be sold or redeemed {*purchased back*}: every devoted thing is most holy unto the Lord. None devoted, which shall be devoted of men, shall be redeemed; but shall surely be put to death” ( Lev. 27:28-29).

The spiritual law of dedication established anything “devoted,” or dedicated to the Lord’s service, was His possession. Once something, or someone, was dedicated to the Lord, it (or they) could not be bought back. God would eternally retain possession. To use that devoted thing (or person) for selfish pursuits or satisfaction was a very serious offense bringing God’s swift correction upon it.

All believers are instructed to make a vow of dedication of themselves to God. “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” (Rom. 12:1).

Once a person consecrates his life to God, that person becomes a “living sacrifice.” The word “holy” implies much more than an absence of sin. It refers to something that is distinctively God’s possession and has been separated for His particular use and service.

“Acceptable” refers to something that is not defiled with corruption. An animal that was sick or wounded was not acceptable to be dedicated or, sacrificed. In regard to people, the idea of acceptability is based upon abstention from anything that would defile or corrupt and the immediate cleansing if corruption took place (see I John 1:7-9).

## Understanding Repentance

Repentance is the negative aspect of faith, emphasizing the need to change the mind, and resultantly the attitude and action about self-righteousness, religiosity, meritorious good works, or anything else that might interfere with a gospel of pure grace.

**Repentance is NOT** a promise to stop sinning, although it is preceded by a desire to do so.

“For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me” (Psalm 51:3).

“Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts” (Revelation 9:21).

**Repentance is more than** sorrow for sins or sinfulness. Real repentance is always accompanied with real change.

<sup>10</sup> “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. <sup>11</sup> For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, *what* clearing of yourselves, yea, *what* indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal, yea, *what* revenge! In all *things* ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter” (II Corinthians 7:10-11).

“And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and *that* I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed” (II Corinthians 12:21).

**Repentance is NOT** the desire to pay back or recompense (*penance*) for sins, although the desire to make restitution to the one harmed is the by-product of genuine repentance.

**Repentance IS** a change of mind intent on moving away from sin and toward God by the power of God, and is accompanied with self-judgment.

<sup>28</sup> “But what think ye? A *certain* man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. <sup>29</sup> He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. <sup>30</sup> And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I *go*, sir: and went not. <sup>31</sup> Whether of them twain did the will of *his* father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. <sup>32</sup> For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen *it*, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him” (Matthew 21:28-32).

“And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:” (Acts 14:15).

“To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me” (Acts 26:18).

<sup>27</sup> “Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup. <sup>29</sup> For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. <sup>30</sup> For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. <sup>31</sup> For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. <sup>32</sup> But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world” (I Corinthians 11:27-32)

## Separating from Worldly Practices

### **Do not be inclined toward the things of this world.**

“<sup>15</sup> Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (I John 2:15-17).

### **Test every teacher according to the Scriptures.**

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (I John 4:1).

### **Publicly renounce those teaching things contrary to the Scriptures.**

“<sup>17</sup> Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. <sup>18</sup> For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple” (Romans 16:17-18).

“<sup>10</sup> A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; <sup>11</sup> Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself” (Titus 3:10-11).

### **Publicly rebuke those unwilling to do what is right.**

“<sup>10</sup> For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: <sup>11</sup> Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake... <sup>13</sup> This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; <sup>14</sup> Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth” (Titus 1:10-13).

### **Do not co-operate with those who teach or practice heresy.**

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*” (Ephesians 5:11).

### **Withdraw from professing Christians unwilling to do what is right.**

“<sup>3</sup> If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; <sup>4</sup> He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, <sup>5</sup> Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself” (I Timothy 6:3-5).

### **Do not be hospitable to false teachers.**

“<sup>5</sup> Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. <sup>6</sup> For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, <sup>7</sup> Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (II Timothy 3:5-7).

“<sup>10</sup> If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed: <sup>11</sup> For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds” (II John 1:10-11).

### **Do not keep company with professing Christians unwilling to do what is right.**

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,” (II Corinthians 6:17).

“<sup>14</sup> And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. <sup>15</sup> Yet count *him* not as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother” (II Thessalonians 3:14-15).

### **Be willing to be militant about fighting for truth.**

“<sup>3</sup> Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. <sup>4</sup> For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 1:3-4).

# Soul Winner's Prayer Journal Card

Date of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tele: \_\_\_\_\_

### Short Term Goals:

Date:

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Date:

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Date:

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### History ( Give dates - Use back of card for additional history)

Gave Bible Tract: \_\_\_\_\_ Conversation:

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Encouragement: \_\_\_\_\_

Invitation to lunch\home\church etc. \_\_\_\_\_ Shared the Gospel:

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Special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

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### *ADDITIONAL HISTORY WITH DATES AND DETAILS:*

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