

Seek the Lord

What does it mean to "Seek the Lord"? Seeking the Lord means seeking His presence. The Hebrew word for "face" in is often translated "His presence." God's people are encouraged to seek the face of God. In Psalm 105:4, God's faithful ones were called to "*seek his face always.*" When we seek the face of God, we are seeking His presence. Seeking God's face means desiring to know His character, attributes and wanting Him—His presence—more than anything else. When we approach God in prayer or worship, we are seeking His face/presence: "*Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob*"(Psalm 24:3–6)

It is the honor and privilege of every Christian to know God and to walk with Him on a daily basis. He is the one true and glorious God who has created and redeemed us so that we may walk with Him. To be a Christian is to be a follower, an imitator, of Jesus Christ. We must pursue God, love Him, serve Him the way our Lord and Savior has modeled for us. Becoming a Christian is the first step in process of seeking God and but rest of one's life is to be spent drawing closer to Him. Though some have known God through forgiveness of Jesus Christ for years, they may not be aware of what it means to seek God and what He expects of those called by His name. Understanding the principles will make you a seeker after God. *With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!*(Psalm 119:10)

But aren't his children always in his presence? In one sense, God is everywhere. He is omnipresent, therefore always near everyone. Bible teaches that God is everywhere present. In every place in the universe God is present. Nothing in the universe can hide a person from God.(Psa.139:7-12) And He is always present with His children and works for us and turns everything for our good. "*Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age*"(Mat. 28:20) God's presence comes in the person of the Holy Spirit. When we seek Him, He pours out His Holy Spirit into our lives. And He inhabits people in special ways. This is what we are to seek after – the very presence of God in our lives. We want the presence of God to be on earth as it is in heaven. But there is a sense in which God's presence is not with us always. God's manifestation, His presence is not our constant experience. There are times when we neglectful of the Lord to pursue Him and give him no thought and do not put trust in Him. His face is often hidden by our fleshly desires. For this reason, Bible repeatedly calls us to seek the Lord. *Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!* (1CH16:11) The call to seek God's face was issued to His people because they had abandoned Him and needed to return to Him. The Lord desires to be our constant companion in every experience of life. He wants us to know Him. God calls us to enjoy continual consciousness of his greatness, power and worth. This happens through seeking His face.

The heavens are telling the glory of God. He reveals himself in His word, Bible. The seeking is the conscious effort to get through the natural means to God himself—constantly set our minds toward God, direct our hearts toward Him through means of his revelation. And there are obstacles that we must get around in order to see Him clearly, so that we can be in the light of His face. We must flee every spiritually dulling activity. We know what dulls us, blinds us, makes us not even want to seek him. The great obstacle to seeking the Lord is pride. "*In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him*"(Psa.10:4). These things we must move away from and go around if we would see God. Therefore, humbleness and humility is essential to seeking the Lord. What does God promise those who diligently seek? The Promise is that he will be found, and when he is found, there is great reward. "*Whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who diligently seek him*"(Heb.11:6) We must give ourselves to the pursuit for God with a priority and a passion. When we diligently do so, our reward will be God Himself and we will be enriched by the joy of a heart that overflows with His glory. When we have Him, we have everything.(Gen.15:1) "*If you will seek God and plead with the Almighty for mercy*"(Job.8:5) Seeking involves praying and pleading. O Lord, open my eyes, pull back the curtain of my own blindness. Lord, have mercy and reveal yourself. I long to see your face.

Now ask yourself whether you are diligently seeking after God. Are you seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness? Are you taking up your cross every day and following after Christ? There is nothing more important or exciting in life than to seek God that is come to know Him, His glory and find our Creator God. We will find God if we seek Him with all our heart. Prayer is the means by which we can make our requests known to God, that He truly listens, responds to our prayers as our loving Father. Prayer are for thanksgiving, repentance, petition ie. Pray to Him for help/favors. While we examine Scriptures every day we will know the truth about God, shows us His grace, attributes, know God's will for our lives. The Holy Spirit leads us into a fresh understanding of the Word of God. We need to be continuously filled with the Spirit.(Eph.5:18) We begin our search for God by getting to know Jesus Christ with coming to faith in Him and have a personal relationship with Him. As we take a closer look at Jesus, we are willing to make a heartfelt effort to draw closer to God by praying, filling of the Holy Spirit, reading and meditating Scriptures.

The Christian walk is a life devoted to seeking God's presence. The true nature of worship is to seek God's face. The Lord wants us to humbly, trustingly seek His face in our prayers and in our times in His Word. Pursuing God's face is developing an intimate relationship with Him: "*Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.*(Isa.55:6-7) When we draw close to God, we are blessed. *Those who look to him were radiant* (faces shined with joy)(Psa.34:5) He causes His face to shine upon those who see His face and want to be a blessing to Him. *The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;*(Num.6:25)

The Book of Haggai 1:1-15, has a message to put first things first in our lives, ie. give God the supreme place in your life. It was written to people, who would say that God must be first. But, they had drifted from this truth and they lived with other priorities. God sent this prophet to help His people get their priorities in line with what they knew they should be. God will grant true blessing when we put His house first. Jesus put it, "*Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you*"(Mat.6:33) All of us who have trusted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord know that it is foolish and vain to live for the things of this world. We know that we will not find true happiness, apart from God is vanity. And yet we keep drifting towards loving the world if we don't fight against it.

Haggai spoke his message to Jews who had returned to Jerusalem after living captivity in Babylon for about 70 years. They knew that God's purpose for His people involved in the Promised Land. By faith they had responded to the call to return and had committed themselves to the hardships of getting re-established in the land that had been devastated. When they returned from exile they faced scary task of rebuilding Solomon's Temple which was destroyed. Shortly, they had made an attempt to rebuild the Temple, but the opposition had stopped the project. Gradually, they had lost their vision and had drifted into a lifestyle where God's house was no longer the priority. As years passed, Jerusalem came to life again. Homes were built, stores opened, commerce established, fields planted, crops harvested, and life began to resemble normalcy. However, Israel got used to life without the Temple. The foundations were overgrown with weeds and fail to take care of God's house. After years passed, Haggai appeared with one prevailing message: It's time to finish rebuilding the Temple. It was a message of priority: Put first things first. Temple was the center for worshiping God. Temple was the place where God dwelled. For the Temple to lie in ruins was to neglect the worship of God. It was a testimony of misplaced priorities. It was an embarrassment to God and a blemish on his reputation.

We need to see ourselves in this picture. If you know Christ, there was a time when you made a personal commitment to Him. You decided to follow Jesus. At first, you were zealous for spiritual things. You read the Bible every day. You got involved with groups like youth camp. You got involved serving in a local church. But perhaps your efforts met with difficulties. You had a personality clash with another person, or you were disappointed with the results, or you encountered personal trials that God didn't remove, even after much prayer. Meanwhile, life moved on. You started a career/job and a family. You had bills to pay and other demands on your time. Church and the Lord's work drifted into the background. You still attend church as often as you can, but it has become a slice of life, not the center or priority. You tell yourself that you just don't have time to serve as you used to. Without deliberately rebelling against God, you have drifted into putting your house above God's house. When your conscience points, you have reasons to explain why things are this way. As they say, "The time has not come, the time for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt"(1:2) You say, timing just isn't right. We're in an economic downturn right now. Everyone's tense for money. There aren't enough good jobs. But times will get better, and then we'll rebuild the temple!" We're all prone to make up excuses (reasons) for why we are not obedient to put God first with the time, talents and money He entrusts to us. We even use the verses to support our excuses. And someday we'll be through this phase, and then we'll get involved in the church.

Seek first His kingdom, the spiritual realm over which God reigns as King, and the fulfilment on earth of God's will. People who slip into putting their prosperity above God's kingdom have lost spiritual perspective. They're working for the food that perishes, but not for the manna that endures to eternal life. They're forgetting if their ways are pleasing to the Lord, He will give them all that really need, pertaining life and godliness. Some had measure of material success. Solomon, who tried money, fame, knowledge, sensual pleasure and everything a man could dream of, ended up saying, Vanity of vanities! All is vanity!(Eccl.1:2) We must deliberately, continually put God's house above our prosperity.

What good does it do to work hard all your life so that you can retire and enjoy the good things in life, if a month after your retirement; you have a heart attack and die? You have just put your wages into a purse with holes! What good does it do to build bigger barns to hold your increased wealth if God says, "You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?"(Luke 12:20) History is spread with people that devoted themselves to climbing the ladder of worldly success! There are many pitfalls and temptations that can lead us to disobey God's Commands. It is really easy to get caught up in the daily things going on in our lives. We have parties, friends, Internet, Mobile, TV and all kinds of distractions in our lives. It's so easy to put everything else in your life in front of God because there are so many pressures on each of us to get things done by a deadline. God stands beside us when we don't even feel Him, so it becomes easy to put Him last. What would we be without God? Sadly, some of those people have been God's people who just drifted downstream with the world. The truth is, only God can satisfy your soul. He is the most important of all and we should put God first. When we put God and His kingdom first, He gives us all material things we need. But we have to fight constantly drift toward wrong priorities.

What mean by God's Temple. A temple means a dwelling place of God or the house of God. In our text, it refers to the temple in Jerusalem. In the church age, God's temple is not a physical building, but rather, His people, both individually and corporately.(1Cor.3:16) In the scripture where the body is actually likened to a temple. But He (Jesus) was speaking of the temple of His body.(Joh.2:21) *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*(1Co.6:19) God dwells in human hearts, together we are being built into house of God.(Eph.2:21;1Pet. 2:5) To make God's house priority means that make your body a fit dwelling for the Holy Spirit and to devote yourself to building others in Christ to become a proper dwelling for God.

The Lord looks down from heaven upon the sons of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. (Psa. 14:2) *There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.* (Rom.3:11) No one has really sought after God! Many are always sought after false God. This fact ties directly to Adam/Eve's sin prompted by Satan's deception. That deceit transmitted by Satan has been throughout history of mankind. (2Cor.4:1) The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. Most never seek God because of on-going and un-confessed sin. As a result, our conceptions about God are blurred. It's only when God chooses to reveal Himself to us as our eyes are opened to truth. Then, truly seeking God becomes possible.

How are people saved if no one is seeking God? First we must understand human nature. We are born with a natural desire for rebellion, self-interest, disobedience. We seek fulfilment. We seek pleasure. Even with the knowledge of God's existence everywhere, people naturally choose to "suppress the truth by their wickedness" (Rom.1:18-20) In Romans 7:18, Paul says, For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." In ourselves, we cannot seek after God, for sinful nature is incapable of good and holy things. In today's culture, there are countless enticements that pull us away from truly seeking God. Jesus said, No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them. (Joh.6:44) In other words, the only way we can seek God is if the Holy Spirit has first stirred our hearts with a desire for God. Because no one naturally seeks God, God seeks us. He sought Adam and Eve as they hid in the Garden (Gen.3:9), and He has been seeking His lost loved ones ever since. Jesus gave this as His mission statement: "*The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost*" (Luk.19:10) It is God who draws us to Himself. God enables the heart to seek Him. We are saved when God touches our hearts and prompts us to use the faith He gives to receive His gift of salvation. Only God draws a person and only hearing the Word of God can bring faith to the seeker of truth. We are saved only the grace of God through the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. So God is gracious, at the same time, we are responsible to keep seeking God.

In John 17:3, "*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*" Here Jesus is telling us that our continuing to seek God, desiring to know Him more, is the essence of true life, eternal life. The most important thoughts our minds can entertain are thoughts of God, because they will determine the quality and direction of life. Seeking God, then, is an ongoing responsibility and privilege for all Christians. But we know that seeking God is not always an easy thing to do, because our minds are saturated with misconceptions and deceits planted by Satan and reinforced by the culture, and the sinful nature of our own hearts and deceitfulness of sin. (Jer.17:9; Jam.1:13-15) But the good news is that these mistaken beliefs are done away through coming to know God and growing in our relationship with God. This starts when we turn to Him for salvation and put our trust in Jesus Christ. When we are saved, we receive the indwelling Holy Spirit who helps us to know God and even transforms our hearts to want to seek Him. (Eph.1:13-14) We learn the truth about God and seek Him through reading His Word, We seek God through prayer and in times of worship. We seek God both individually and corporately. (Hebrews10:24-25)

In Jeremiah 29:13 God says, "*You will seek me and you will find me, when you seek me with all your heart*" Biblical seeking is not done half-heartedly. The key in asking God to help us grow in Christ is to ask with all of our hearts. We know that God first gives us faith. But we also have a free will. We decide what to do with the faith God gives. We can ignore it, we can misuse it by chasing after false gods, or we can receive it gladly and use it to embrace the gospel. It is now up to us to engage our will and follow Him. The faith to seek Him is a gift, but we must accept it and exercise it to have a relationship with Him. Hearts that truly want to know the truth and who ask accordingly will find it. So let us seek God with all of our hearts, continuing to grow in truth by the Spirit who lead us into all truth. May God give us the desire to know mighty things about Him through His Word. "*But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul*" (Deu.4:29) When we draw near to God, and he will draw near to you, He reveals Himself to us. God does not hide Himself from the seeking heart.

"*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you*" (Mat.7:7) What is it believers ought to be seeking? It is God Himself! "When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek." (Psa.27:8) It means that your main goal is to know Christ in your heart by faith. "*The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.*" (Psa.34:10) Our all-powerful God wants to give us every good thing. He wants to provide everything you need. God is not hiding from His children. His heart's desire is for us to persistently and passionately look for Him, He promises He will be found. Seeking is a matter of paying attention with an engaged mind and acute awareness. It is good to pray and seek God, in ways that are pleasing to God. Jesus said to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness" (Mat.6:33) Seeking God's kingdom means putting God's plan before our own; seeking God's righteousness means setting a priority on personal holiness and desiring to be sanctified. Once a person is saved, seeking is a humble, driven, wilful searching through the Scripture to know and love God deeper and with increasing wisdom and maturity. We are responsible before God to seek truth in salvation and in sanctification. God delights in His children seeking Him out and asking Him to learn more, to gain wisdom, and to grow to maturity. Seeking God is the most important aspect of the Christian life to truly know God.

Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed & fainting. (Psa61:2) David calls out to God in prayer. He knows that only way he can rest and find safety in the Rock of Salvation. He has always found shelter. He has found rest. David finds comfort in God's grace, care and protection.

Our default mode is to put material prosperity above spiritual blessings. That is the strong pull of the world. If we want to go God's way, we have to fight every inch of the way. We must accept the Bible as the authoritative word of God and submit to it. When it confronts the way we live, we can either resist it by making up more excuses, or we can obey it. We must deliberately and continually obey if we want to keep our priorities in order. How do we do that? Lord tells the people, "Consider your ways"(1:5,7) Evaluate your life in the light of God's Word and fearing Him.

Stop making excuses: First, Haggai confronted excuses for the Temple lying in ruins. "The Lord of Hosts says this: These people say: The time has not come for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt"(Haggai 1:2) They intended to build God's house, but just hadn't got around to it yet. If you were to ask them about it, they would probably say, "I'm all for building the Temple. It is a great cause. But we want us to take care of our own families first. Times are hard. It is always easy to make excuses when you don't want to obey God. We can always find rational justification for not doing what God wants us to do: The time is not right. I've got family responsibilities. My kids need me now. When things settle down at work, then I can do something. The first step to putting first things first is to admit our responsibility.

Cease being selfish: Closely aligned with excuse making is a selfish mindset that invades everything. Haggai challenged the people's selfish behavior. "The word of the Lord came through Haggai the prophet: Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?"(Haggai 1:34) Please understand, nothing is wrong with having a nice home. What's wrong is spend all your money on selfish needs while ignoring the things of God. What's wrong is to spend one's time, talents on selfish pursuits while the things of God are left undone. It is a condemnation of misplaced priorities. It is easy to drift away from God's agenda to our own. It is easy to pursue selfish desires while ignoring God's. In fact, it is the default mode of our lives. If we give no thought to how we are living, we will live for ourselves. The bent of our hearts is always toward selfishness, when we don't persistently/consistently seek God first.

Don't miss God's blessings: As a consequence of their excuse-making and selfish living, the people in Haggai's day experienced hardship. He continues: "Now, the Lord of Hosts says this: Think carefully about your ways: You have planted much but harvested little. The wage earner puts his wages into a bag with a hole in it"(Haggai 1:5-6) They sowed plenty of seed, but there was a drought and the crops didn't yield as much as they had hoped. They had active lifestyles but were not experiencing satisfaction. They were laboring but showing no profit. No matter how much money they made, they could not keep it. Because of their selfishness the people missed God's blessings. Because people had pushed God out of the center, they suffered in every area. What they did not see was that God caused their difficulty. God was trying to tell them something. It's God who controls the rain and the harvest. He is withholding his blessing because your priorities are not right. Put his house first and he will bless you. Blessings come through obedience.

Take time to evaluate: With this strong condemnation and devastating difficulty, the people realized they had caused their own calamities. People were ready to evaluate their situation. Haggai instructed the people, "Consider your ways" The word consider means to give careful thought to. It was time for people to do some serious self-examination before the Lord. Haggai wanted the people to stop in their busy schedules to evaluate their life. He wanted them to measure consequences of their actions. Each day we need to evaluate how we spend our time and our money, how we use our talents. We should examine who we choose as friends, what we set as goals, where we are going. Guess who removed God from his rightful place? The failure to take the proper precautions today will result in consequences tomorrow.

(1) *How are you spending your time?* These people had plenty of time for themselves, but they didn't have time for God. Rearrange your schedule! (2) *How are you spending your money, which is really God's money?* These folks claimed that they had to get their own houses built first, and then they could build God's house. God says that we are to give Him the first fruits, off the top. We are to give Him the best. We are managers of all that He has given us, to invest it profitably for His kingdom. (3) *What are your goals?* What is it that you're aiming at in life? If you live to an old age, what do you want to look back on as far as accomplishments? (4) *What do you think about the most?* What secretly occupies your thought life? Do you dream of getting rich, achieving fame, some hobby or leisure pursuit, (5) *Who are your heroes or models?* Whom do you most admire? Whom would you like to be like? Why? (6) *Who are your friends?* Whom do you like to spend time with? Why do you like to be with them? (7) *How do you spend your leisure time?* When you have time off, how do you spend it? Do you watch TV? Do you live for sports? Do you hang out with friends? Do you think about the Lord and How does your leisure time reflect and affect your devotion to Jesus Christ?

When we stop making excuses, cease being selfish, seek God's blessings, take time to evaluate, we can see God work in powerful ways. This is what happens when first things are first, when God is first in our hearts. Here are 3 indications.

We are active in the right things: "Go up into the hills, bring down lumber, and build the house. Then I will be pleased with it and be glorified, says the Lord"(Haggai 1:8) Those who put first things first are up and doing the right things: spending time with God daily, serving people, honoring him with their time, talents, and financial resources. God is glorified: When the Temple is built, God be glorified. When God is first, we are caring to his glory—his fame and his reputation being spread. In fact, everything we think, say, and do is to honor God and bring credit to Him. God blesses us: When the people obeyed, God sent word: "I am with you"(1:13) And sure sign of his blessing was his manifested presence. When you seek God first in your daily pursuits, He promises to add unto you those things which you were needed. "Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another"(John 1:16)

How does a person seek after God?

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Seeking after God should be our most important priority. It is crucial that you have right priorities—godly priorities. Your priorities determine how you spend your time, with whom you spend your time, and how you make decisions. Earnestly seek after God! In Psalm 63, *O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You.; My soul thirsts for You; My whole body longs for You. In a dry and thirsty land, Where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, how I praise you!*” David knew God in an intimate way. That’s how it must be with God, if you want to seek after Him. There must have been a time when you met Him personally through Jesus Christ. Your view to God comes when you turn from your sin to God and trust in Jesus Christ and His death on your behalf. He gives you eternal life. And then you must develop an intimate relationship with God by spending time in variety of situations, which you are seeking through the Lord Jesus.

King David calls Him “my God.” But he wanted go deeper. He knew that there was more and his whole being craved it as a thirsty man in the desert craves for water. The word translated ‘seek earnestly’ is related to the word for “dawn” The point is, to seek after God means to go after God with an intense desire. He had walked with God for years, but he thirsted for more. The fact is, it’s easy to fill your life with things other than God. They may be good things, but God alone can satisfy your soul. For example, many people fill their lives with family and friends. Others try to fill their lives with possessions or with a successful and satisfying career. Again, those things have their place, but they are not meant to satisfy your soul. To seek Him means to pursue Him alone to fill that God-shaped vacuum in your life. Thus seeking after God means to have an intimate personal relationship with Him; always to desire more of Him; and, to pursue God in your life. Maybe there are circumstances in your life that prevent you from seeking God in the early morning hours, but Put first things first and spend time with God to build a personal relationship with Him

What does the person look like who seeks after God? “My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness...” (63:5) He is never contented, but satisfied. David’s soul was at rest. Even in the middle of a calamity such as rebellion, which would push many to fall apart emotionally, David had inner peace and calm. He was satisfied in God. “My mouth offers praises with joyful lips”(63:5b) “In the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy”(63:7b) “But the king will rejoice in God (63:11) In response to God’s love and care, he Praise God; lifting his hand to God in praise and worship to honor and adore God. David had a joy, just he had the Lord and His loyal love, so he could sing and rejoice in God.

“For You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.”(63:7-8) God protects his soul from all the dangers of the "desert". David hid under God’s wing. God’s powerful hand upheld, sustained him. He stayed steady in the storm because he had inner resource of God’s strength. As he realized that God would judge fairly. The wicked would not prevail in the long run. Thus David could commit situation to the Lord and act with the right perspective and balance: that God would not fail to accomplish all that concerned him. The person who seeks after God will be a person of strength and stability, to meet every crisis in life.

We have only received God’s undeserved grace. But once you’ve received it, how do you go on seeking after God? God’s lovingkindness was better than life itself.(63:3) Therefore, David says, “My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me”(63:8) David clings to God, he put him first, he seek with whole heart. God’s powerful hand is under David. What a beautiful balance! The Hebrew word translated “clings” points to loyalty related to affection. Your relationship with the Lord is compare to a marriage relationship, where intense feelings of passion and a lifelong commitment are entangled. The commitment carries you through the hard times. Seeking after God means keeping your passion for God alive. As you think on what God has done for you, it ought to move you emotionally. As you reflect on His love and faithfulness toward you over the years, in spite of your failures, you ought to feel love for Him.

David knew the pressures of leadership, as the king of Israel. And he knew the pressure of problems. During his reign, his son, Absalom, led a rebellion against him. David and his loyal followers had to flee for their lives. And yet he did not neglect earnestly seeking God in this trying situation. There is a determination here: “I shall seek you earnestly” (63:1b) “My lips will praise You”(63:3b) “So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name” (63:4) David made it a priority to spend time alone with God. If you love God, you’ll make time to spend with Him because you delight to do so. This includes time in His Word, renewing your mind so that you can please Him, time in prayer, bringing your needs and others’ before Him, time in praise and worship, expressing your love for Him.

The life of a Christian should be characterized selfless service to God that flows from love for Him and to His people. That is what it means to put God first. Any wealth that comes our way should be used to generously give, any talents that we have should be used for Christ’s Kingdom, any health we enjoy should be spent in His service. In every area of your life, God should be an integral part. He’s at the center of every decision you make. He’s the Lord of every relationship you have. When we put God the supreme place in your life, He is pleased and glorified. We are responsible to get our priorities in order. God is the source of all wisdom, including our priorities and what our day should look like. If we have God with us, we have everything. When you put God in first place, you experience a new awareness of His presence. We must seek after God, never satisfied with anything less than His divine blessing and presence in our lives.

David says he is seeking God. How do you imagine he is doing this? Praying, talking, waiting until he senses God’s presence, perhaps crying out to God or pouring his heart out to God. Seeking God is essential like David, the man after God’s heart. “*The Lord is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you,*(2Ch.15:2)

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9) The moment you gave your life to Christ, He forgave all of your sins. Your Heavenly Father looks at you as acceptable, loved because Jesus died for your sins. Once you accept Him as your Lord and Savior, you can never lose that relationship with Him.

In Hebrews 6:1-3, Dead works defined as sin. Sin is selfishness. It is the love of self as opposed to the love of God. The original sin of Adam and Eve corrupted human nature and this sinful nature is inherited by all men. This corrupt nature results in all men sinning when they are drawn into acts of sin. The word repentance means is a change in mind which results in a change in outward actions. It is a change of mindset. Repentance from dead works was defined as an inward decision or change of mind resulting in the outward action of turning from sin to God and righteousness." By the act of repentance you turn from your own dead works of sin towards God. "repentance toward God." It is a personal decision to forsake sin and enter into fellowship with God. It brings change in mind, heart, life of the sinner.

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Rom.3:23) We all make mistakes. What makes us different as the Holy Spirit to convict us when we make mistakes. He convicts so that we might acknowledge and confess that sin and turn from it. God does not expect you to be perfect. But He is looking for is a teachable and repentant heart. "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation, leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death" (2CO7:10) Judas experienced sorrow over what he had done but he did not experience true repentance. He continued in sin and in the end, hung himself. When you make a mistake, Holy Spirit is the one who will prick your heart. He will prompt you to ask for forgiveness and turn from your sin. And lead you in the right direction towards God's will for your life.

Genuine repentance begins with heartfelt conviction of sin, eye-opening, heart-rending awareness of having oppose, rebelled God. Repentance, involves knowing in one's heart: "This is wrong." "I have sinned." "God is grieved." To truly repent one must confess sin openly, honestly to the Lord. We see in Psalm 32 where David describes his experience following his adultery with Bathsheba. When he finally responded to conviction in his heart it resulted in confession with his mouth. David "acknowledged" his sin to the Lord. He refused to "cover" his iniquity. He was determined to "confess" his transgressions. David makes no excuses, no shift blame. When one truly repents there is an awareness that the sin committed, whatever its nature, ultimately against God alone. David declared: "Against you [God], you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight." David is so broken that he has treated God with disregard, he is blinded to all other aspects of his behavior. Repentance is painful, it demands brokenness of heart. (Psa.51:4,17)

The Steps of Repentance: Salvation (to be saved) means "to be delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of His beloved Son" (COL1:13) The domain (Satan's kingdom) of darkness is evil and affects every area of mankind's existence. Man is born with the nature of sin/Satan, therefore, born a slave to the Kingdom of darkness. The Bible teaches that for a person to come into a state of salvation, one must: (a) hear the gospel message. (ROM10:17) (b) believe it. (JOH3:16) (c) repent of ones sins (ACT 17:30) (d) confess the name of Christ (MAT 10:32) (e) be baptized (MAR16:16) Each of these steps involves purity of purpose and obey it. (MAT 7:24-27) The heart must be pure in order to believe the gospel. (ROM10:10) The "Gospel" is the good news of Jesus Christ. It is the power of God for salvation (ROM1:16) The gospel is the power to deliver you from the kingdom of darkness and transfer you to the kingdom of God's beloved Son/Jesus Christ! This promise is for everyone who believes in Jesus. Therefore, delivers you from all aspects of the kingdom of darkness-spiritual death, sickness, disease, tragedy, calamity, poverty, fear, oppression. But not only does repentance open our eyes to our sinfulness, it also opens them to the greatness of God's forgiveness.

Repentance are best illustrated by a story Jesus told about the prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-24. This young man left his father and home, went to a distant land, and through sin wasted all he owned. Eventually this young man realized his condition. He was hungry, lonely, in rags, and tending pigs for a job. Firstly, he aware of the sin in his life, his mind is alerted to sin. Secondly, the emotions are aroused. "I am troubled by my sin" (PSA;51:17) Thirdly, the will acts. Then he made an important decision. He said, "I will arise and go to my father." This inward decision resulted in a change in his outward actions. He went home to his father to seek forgiveness. In repentance, there will be confession of sin to God. That is in his own sinful condition, every man has turned his back on God as his Father and on Heaven as his home. There is a major decision he must make. He must "come to himself" and recognize his spiritual condition. He must make a decision which will result in a change of spiritual direction that will turn him from sin towards God.

Repentance is necessary for salvation, God made a plan to enable message of repentance for everyone. *'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.* (Mar.1:3-4) John the Baptist mission was to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah. John introduced Him as the Lamb of God. John prepared way for Christ by calling people to acknowledge their sin, repentance and their need for salvation. Repentance was necessary in order for the Messiah to be revealed.

Bring forth fruit that is consistent with repentance. ie. let your lives prove your change of heart. (MAT3:8) The purpose of repentance is to stop doing the sinful things that one once did and a turning from it to reform the pattern of one's life after righteousness. True repentance must produce in us the fruit of restitution - returning money and things and taxes due, that are wrongfully in our possession, apologizing to those we have wronged. It is a new attitude a change of mind a change of heart that results in one turning from sin to God and ultimately to His ways. When God forgives us, He also requires that we forgive others in the same way. We must be diligent not to fall short of God's grace.

Many Christians though we belong to God through faith in Christ, still seem to experience the same problems that beset us before we were saved. We often become discouraged in life's cares. The fact that God knows problems and worries are inevitable in this life. Life is hard, and the burdens it hands you can be so hard to bear. We know what burdens feel like. They make our hearts feel heavy like something is weighing them down. So what causes this? We see something painful in our future uncertainty, fear of future pain is a weight — a burden — on our hearts. Are you feeling burdened? If so, identify what pain you fear. Maybe it's the pain of a broken marriage; lost job; wayward children; poor health; finances; a dried-up spiritual life. The reason you are burdened is because you fear that pain.

But what can we do when we feel burdened? But you don't need to carry them alone: "*Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never let the righteous to be moved*"(Psa.55:22) and "*Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you*"(1Pet.5:7) The word "cast" means "throw upon, or place upon." Contained within these two verses are several truths: God will sustain us, He will never let us fall, He cares for us. God declares His ability, His willingness to be our strength and support—mentally, emotionally, spiritually. He is able to take everything threatens to overcome us and use it for our benefit. He has promised work all things together for good of those who love him. And He will allow no trial to be so great we cannot bear it and that He will provide a means of escape.(1Co.10:13)

"he cares for you"—gives us the motivation behind His promises. It's not God's will that you should be crushed down with burdens. Jesus will remove your burden of guilt and hopelessness and give you true rest in Him.(Mat.11:28) For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, '*Fear not, I will help you*'(Isa.41:13) God promises to support and help you through every trial. Good Shepherd will bear you in His gentle arms.(Isa.40:10-11) God will listen when you call to Him for help and delivers them out of all the troubles and keep you from falling. Trust in God and His unchanging love. Once we realize God is in control and He holds us in His loving hands, we can meet life's dangers, uncertainties with confidence. Our God is loving Heavenly Father whose heart is tender toward His children, just as an earthly father would not deny his children's bread, God promised to give us "good gifts" when we ask Him.

God is bigger than all our worries and problems put together, and we must realize that if we are to have any victory in our lives. Everyone suffers with difficulties, because the temptation is common to mankind.(1Co.10:13) "but we also boast in our sufferings because suffering produces endurance; maturity of character; hope."(Rom.5:3-4) Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Rejoice in the midst of sufferings. As we experience hardship, God finds us transformed into pure gold for His glory. We must not let Satan deceive us into thinking that all our problems are our fault, worries will come true, anger condemns us. If we do sin confess it to God, and seek His forgiveness and help. God in His love and mercy forgives our sin, cleanse it from our lives by Christ's blood and clothed with His righteousness. God is faithful.

How should you deal with anxiety and fear? First, turn them over to Christ. Don't deny them--and don't cling to them. Confess them to Christ, and ask Him to lift them from your shoulders. So come to God with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. He loves you, promises to help you in our time of need.(Heb.4:16) Ask God to keep this painful event from happening. Ask God to save your marriage, keep you employed, save your children, give you good health. To strengthen your faith, think about when God delivered His people—Israel from Egypt, Joseph from his dungeon, Bartimaeus from his blindness. Second, stand firmly on God's promises. Fear and anxiety vanishes when it is exposed to the promises of God's Word. What are those promises? One is that God is with you, He says, "*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you*"(Heb.13:5) Jesus declared, "*Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*" (Mat.28:20) Saturate your mind and heart with the Promises of God's Word. Finally, pray diligently and in faith that God would deliver you from all painful events. Pray for strength in the face of whatever you fear, for God helps us hold on in the midst of life's storms. Pray also for wisdom to deal with whatever is worrying you. Then result comes of God's promise: "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. God has promises to deliver all including every pain, sorrow, trials, sufferings. Jesus have overcome the world. The Lord reveals that we can be of good "cheer" that we can rejoice in our problems. Our victory is in Jesus!

He will provide all the wisdom you need to make decisions, all the finances you need to fulfil His call on your life, all comfort you need for your sorrows, all the grace you need to keep faithful to Him, all the strength you need to endure. Trust God will take care of your every burden. He will take away that immense feeling of responsibility, replace it with awareness of God's faithfulness and found rest in Him. And give thanks to God, Praise Him. Rejoice in the Lord always! When George Müller was asked how he could be so calm in the middle of a hectic day with so many issues, problems, uncertainties at orphanage, he answered, 'I rolled sixty things onto the Lord this morning' How did Müller handle the burdens of ten thousand orphans? He took them, one by one, off his own shoulders, and he rolled them onto God's.

In reality, feelings come from thoughts, so, even though we can't change how we feel, we can change how we think. And this is what God wants us to do. "*Let this mind/attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*"(Phi.2:5;4:8) Christians are told to think on things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, praiseworthy. We are told to set our mind on things above, not on things on the earth.(Col.3:2) Therefore, as we do this, our feelings of guilt diminish. So, we should pray for God's Word to guide us and teach us. The secret to giving things over to Christ is asking Jesus to take our burden and be our Savior, as well as submitting to Jesus as our Lord in day-to-day living. When God has lightened your burdens, then we "*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ*.(Gal.6:2)

God's creation was originally "very good"(Gen.1:31) He created man and woman in His image and gave them dominion over the physical world (1:26)—all creatures were subject to them. Then Satan deceives of Eve, they ate of the prohibited tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It is a clear transgression of God's command. Adam and Eve chose to turn their backs on God. They separated themselves from God. Satan's work of deception of causing human transition to world of pain, sorrow, death began in the Garden of Eden and has continued worldwide ever since then. When Satan, the ancient serpent, is destroyed, we can go back, finally, eat from Tree of Life and be eternal in paradise.

God promised that human race would be revived, restored, renewed back to God. His first promise was of the coming Messiah to defeat the work of Satan, the forces of darkness and the sin that infects all mankind. The word "restoration" means to receive back or return back to its original condition. When Adam and Eve rebelled from God, they broke the relationship with God. Sin is the fact of our separation from God, also involves disobedience. This can be the result of our thoughts, behavior or in what we say. Jesus Christ came to restore a new and lasting connection to God and the tree of life. "*And the God of all grace, ..will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*"(1Pet.5:10)

In the fullness of time, God sent his own Son to bring humanity back to God. The entirety of the life that Jesus lived, his death and resurrection, and his ascension back to His Father is the seed for every revival for until the world ends. *And the Word [Christ] became flesh and dwelt among us,*(Joh.1:14) Jesus being born as a human, fully God yet fully man, in order to grow up and suffer and die for us on a cross, rose to life again. Our sins, our grief, our sorrows, were laid on him. Our judgment fell on Him, our punishment roll all over Him. He defeated Satan when he died on the cross of Calvary, and then He rose from the dead. After Jesus ascended into heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to bring revival to God, not just to a nation, but to all people. Jesus had trained leaders for revival whom he called disciples. God began church where humans could be reconciled/revive to God. Jesus gave His disciples power over demons, every sickness, diseases. He told them to preach the Gospel as they went, healing the sick, cleansing the lepers, raising the dead. God was going to use revival leaders beginning with disciples and apostles. These revival leaders were going to be used to proclaim the gospel, revive people's hearts back to God. Many Christians are experiencing the results in their lives.

Whatever the enemy has tried to take away from you, God wants to restore it. One of the first things the enemy will try to steal from us is our joy. He wants to get us sad, sorrowful, and oppressed. God doesn't want us to lose that joy! *The Joy of the Lord is your strength.*(Neh.8:10) Yet God promises the impossible: "*I will restore the years that the locust has eaten*"(Joel 2:25) God's people had suffered complete destruction of their entire harvest through swarms of locusts that marched like an insect army through the fields, destroying the crops. But the Lord became zealous for his land and had pity on his people. The promise in v.18-19, are for those people meant that years of abundant harvests would follow the years of desolation. Some of you have been down with lot of worms in your life. Some of you have lost years to health problems; some lost years are without God. All Christ-less years are locust years. But God is the One Who brings restoration. Whether it is the enemy, who has stolen from you, God is still the Restorer! Don't let devil steal anything from you. Declare restoration over your life! Take what belongs to you, in the Name of Jesus!

In 1Samuel 30, David Seek After God & Success: The Amalekites had invaded the Ziklag, attacked and burned the city, "steal" and carry away every man, woman, and child from David's camp. David and all his men lifted up their voices and wept, once they had found out what had occurred. The grieving was so bad, that some of them wanted to stone David and kill him. And what does David do next? He then "*strengthened himself in the Lord his God.*" Then next thing David does is to first seek the Lord, *So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all."* Once he puts this request before the Lord, God gives him permission and tells David that he will be successful in recovering "all" David pursues the Amalekites and he recovered every man, woman, child, along with all of the goods they had stolen.

We are called to be soldiers of the Cross of Jesus Christ. *We have to "fight the good fight of faith. Lay hold of the eternal life, to which you were called"*(1Tim.6:12) Every true minister of the Gospel longs for men and women who will stand with him and faithfully fight the spiritual battles. We continually have to face in these troubled last days. There is a subtle enemy called the devil who is working against God's people to rob and destroy our lives. His tactics are to render us powerless and useless so that we will be of no threat to him and his evil kingdom. Satan plans his attacks and directs his demonic forces. There is a battle raging right now and it is for the minds of men and women. Scriptures be so emphatic for us to be strong in the Lord and to be equipped with the armour that Jesus has provided for us. "*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wile.*(Eph.6:10-20) God promises to shield His people under His wings.

Those who trust in Jesus will follow Him into the spiritual warfare, empowered by God's Spirit. And that's the spirit of the godly soldier—asking for God's help to be prepared for what's ahead. God has given us armour and weapons to be able to defeat the devil. We have a call to arms and we must be ready for the battle against the enemy. It is time to fall into ranks with God's anointed leaders. Let us use them to the glory of God! *for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands.*"(1Sam.17:47) As a good soldier of Jesus Christ we must stand our ground and not allow the enemy to drive us back into his subtle ways. And keep marching in step and in the victory which Jesus gives us! We can do it together, for "*Greater is He (Jesus) who is in us than he (the enemy) who is in the world*"(1John 4:4)

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. (II Tim.1:7) There is evil in the world. We have challenges dealing with fear in this life. But God has given us enough grace that is sufficient for whatever we will face. We don't have to be afraid by what's coming. God wants to renew a right spirit within us that is ready to receive all He has for us. No matter what world events take place, our God is still in control. We can trust Him with our hopes, and with our brokenness. Give God the will to do on your life what He wants to do and you won't be disappointed.

If we are to impact our world for God we cannot be satisfied with only repentance. Repentance must be followed with renewal. *Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.* (Psa.51:10) There must be renewal in the way we think, what we desire and how we exercise our wills. It is a change we are personally pursued. *and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.* (Eph.4:22-24) The renewal of the mind involves the determination to pull down every stronghold that has been established in the thoughts, desires, captive of all thoughts and making them to the obedience of Christ. (2Co.10:3-5) The mind is the battlefield where we are confronted by the fiery darts of temptation. Pridelike thoughts, self-righteousness, negative thoughts, self-accusation often have their source from our adversary, devil. God wants us to be alert to enemy's wiles and resist them. Renewal is bringing our nature under discipline of God's truth. It can be accomplished by relying upon Holy Spirit. He guides us, enables us, transforms us as we cooperate with Him.

A definition of renewal would be something similar to "restore freshness, life, or to make spiritually new." *I shall be anointed with fresh oil.* (Psa.92:10) David is speaking about a fresh anointing; a renewal. While physical renewal of rest is important, there is another important type of renewal found in the Bible—spiritual renewal. Spiritual renewal is a fresh inflow of the life, love and power of God. People faint then, when help is brought, they revive. Flowers droop, and when placed in fresh water they revive. Christians and churches also hang down, faint and need reviving. A sick person may revive and then later be restored to full health and strength. *Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,* (Heb.12:12) Before we come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ, we are dead in our sins. But, when we choose to follow Christ, we die to sin, and our broken relationship with God is restored. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit" (Tit.3:5) Renewal is outflow of the Spirit of God through the regenerated spirit of man. (Joh.7:38) Now the Holy Spirit's presence and power residing in human spirits, our spirits are regenerated with a new, divine, spiritual life. As result of being born again, our spiritual life has been renewed.

Where does renewal come from? It comes from God; *That power belongs to God.* (Psa.62:11) In our own lives. How powerless we are! How frequently we fail, our testimony seems ineffective, and how little we pray! Renewal is our personal need. It is a continual process for the believer. It is important for renewal to become a constant practice as we seek to live lives that reflect Christ. Believers are called to be set apart from the worldly culture around us, not be of the world. (John 15:19) We are God's holy people (1 Peter 2:9) This is made possible by renewing of our minds: When we habitually focus our thoughts on Christ and "things above", our minds are aided in the process of renewal. (Rom.8:5) *"renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator"* (Col.3:10) If you are truly walking in newness of life, we are to live like resurrected beings. He has given us His Spirit and now we must use His power in overcoming sin.

The nation of Israel suffered a period of great distress politically as oppressive powers invaded and conquered their lands. God promises of redemption and deliverance from the suffering. "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God" (Isaiah 40:1) Israel had nearly given up hope, thinking God had abandoned them, yet prophet drives his point in Isaiah 40:27–31. Eagles symbolized freedom, strength, and power. Eagles carry their young eaglets to safety, away from the threat of predators. The Lord references eagles' wings in Exo.19:1–6, which is a recollection of how God delivered Israel from Egyptians. Lord had delivered them on eagles' wings with His great strength and power. *"You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself."* (v.4–5) Prophet uses wings like eagles in the same way, attributing the great characteristics of eagles to those who remain faithful to God and look forward to their heavenly reward. We can be reminded that the Creator who supplies the eagle's strength will also strengthen those who call upon His name. We can apply this principle by trusting in God's sovereignty and waiting faithfully for Him. *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day"* (2Co.4:16) God in His grace will provide power, strength, courage to the weary, and weak when they are willing to be patient and wait/tarry on Him. God will cause us to mount up on eagles' wings.

In Isaiah 40:31, promises for God's people *"those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not be weary; they will walk and not faint."* Even the young, strong men may stumble and fall, but those who hope in the Lord have strength. The word translated "wait" also means "hope for" The phrase mount up means "to go up, ascend." That God will provide renewed strength and courage to overcome obstacles, if only have patience and trust in the Lord's sovereign timing. Whenever we begin to tire spiritually, we should seek the Lord to strengthen and renew us, for it is His Spirit who will equip us to live for Him. *Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?* (Psa.85:6) Let us pray that we may become deeply burdened for God to send a full-scale Holy Spirit renewal, restoration and revival in our land, indeed throughout the world.

"And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new." (Rev.21:5) God's ultimate goal of renewal is to become perfectly united with His people, as things were in the Garden of Eden. The New Jerusalem will be the final and everlasting dwelling place of God with his chosen people. We shall behold Him, Face to face in all of His glory.

Revival is God's wake-up call!

- 10 -

"if My people who are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."(2 Chronicles 7:14) God's requirements for blessing require; humility, prayer, devotion and repentance. While this promise was originally given to Solomon regarding the people of Israel, it is certainly applicable to all who will call on the Lord in repentance and faith. We find similar words in James 4:8-10 *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the Lord's presence, and He will lift you up, and help you."*

"If My people" – This is the beginning of the conditions that God is looking to be met before He will act. It is clear that God is issuing a conditional promise to His people. God has an expectation of specific things before He brings revival and these promises are only for those who place their faith in God. The work of revival always begins with God's own people. God must first renew His people before the real work of restoration, blessings can take place.

"Who are called by my name" – In this passage, God calls a nation to pray. You have called upon the name of the Lord to be saved.(Rom.10:13) God is the one who calls us out from among the world. Being a Christian means that we are meant to stand out from the rest of the world. We must live differently than the world because we value an eternal promise, different lifestyle. We are called to be a holy priesthood, where every believer carries responsibility for ministry. We are called to be Christ's witnesses to the ends of earth to share His truth and boldly seek His anointing.

"Shall humble themselves"– The word humble means to be in submission, to live in a state of surrender. God's people must do remember who is Lord! When we humble ourselves to the Lord, we are acknowledging His Lordship in our lives. We are admitting our weakness and reaching out for His power. We are saying I can't, but you can! When we humble ourselves, we are literally saying to God, you are in control of my life. When we humble ourselves before God we are allowing Him to mold us to His will. When we understand that, it changes the way we look at life, the way we evaluate ourselves, and the way we treat other people, because we understand we are all created by God.

"And pray" – It is in essence, humility in action. The praying person sees his inability and recognizes God's ability. This causes him to come before the Lord to seek the help he needs. Prayer is an essential ingredient in the mystery of revival! When we pray we are bringing our lives to meet with God and in the moment that we meet with the Lord; He pours Himself into our lives. Prayer is the foundation of a growing relationship with God. We must have a deeper connection to God if we ever want to experience revival in our lives and in our churches. Each day we make a decision to cultivate and grow that relationship with God. It is the sincere prayer of a person who realizes his true condition. We will cry out to God, confessing how far short we fall of his divine standards. Revival is God stepping into His relationship with us and filling it with His presence and power in a fresh way. Our prayers will be filled with praise.

"And seek my face" – This word means to "desire something earnestly". This we come to the place where God is the priority and desire of our heart! To seek God's face is to hunger for a closer walk with him. To seek something from God is to first have the deep desire to see it happen and then to actively and persistently pursue it. We need to render ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit and then obey what the Spirit says. We will truly find God and His reviving power when we earnestly desire that which only He can give us. Once that desire is there, then we must pursue it.

"And turn from their wicked ways" – God wants His people to stop their sinning! Revival will never happen in our life until we let go of our sin. Sin is nothing more than bondage. We must repent ie. turn from your wicked ways. We are to examine our lives, identify anything that does not please the Lord and we are to eliminate that from our lives! Revival means turning from wicked ways to the ways that Please God. When we recognize our wrong doing and confess, we renew our relationship with God and sets free. Seeking God's face leads to turning from our wicked ways.

"What God will do, Hear from heaven"– when sin is taken care of, prayer can flow unhindered to and from the throne of God! There is no more powerful force in the world than an unhindered prayer life! Because God will hear us and is used by Him to accomplish His will upon the earth. God promises to forgive our sins. This means not only prayer life is restored; we can be in close fellowship with God Almighty! The ability to come into His presence, to worship Him, to sense His power, His peace, His joy and His grace is priceless! Heal our land – Our land is hurting and in deep need of God's divine healing. The critical fact is that the sin and wickedness in our life as a nation has direct and disastrous effects on our health as a nation and as a global community. God Will Heal Us –the Lord's promise is that repentance equals rain. He will in turn open the heavens. We will see of restoring the earth and for the glory of God. For whole creation is waiting for sons of God to be revealed, groaning, travailing now, creature shall be delivered from the curse and will regain the Eden order.(ROM8:20,17) voice of the creation as it groans in pain, in longing and in hope.

If we want our churches to see revival and our community to see a mighty outpouring of His power, today is the day to seek God. If God is prompting at our heart, we need to humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face, turn from our wicked ways and we will hear from heaven and God will forgive our sins and heal our lives, families, nation, and our land. *Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied by them;*(Joe2:19) The grain being grown for food represent God's word sends again: The new wine, joy of our Lord, which is our strength and the oil, represent presence and power of Spirit of God or anointing, bringing grace, transformation, empowerment. Revival begins with the person, inside our heart. And there can be once more a great revival. Time is short; Our Lord Jesus is coming soon!