



THE PRAYER CLOSET

*Transforming Lives Through Intercessory
Prayer And Fasting*

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PRAYING FOR REVIVAL

Revival is an experience in the life of the church when the Holy Spirit does an unusual work. He does this primarily among the members of the church. It is a reviving of the believers. You cannot revive something that has never had life. It is the reviving, or awakening, of a sleeping, lukewarm church. Renewed faith, power, and vigor are granted to the church by the Holy Spirit. This then leads to the conversion of lost people. When the Holy Spirit awakens the church, He then awakens careless and unconcerned sinners to their need of salvation through Jesus Christ. Revival therefore consists of the Holy Spirit granting new spiritual health to believers and new spiritual life to unbelievers. It is an invasion from heaven that brings change in the church and the surrounding community.

Unfortunately "revival" is a misunderstood and often abused term. As I drove home from a worship service the other day, I saw five church signs that stated that churches would be having "revival" at certain time in the month. We must come to understand that "revival" is not a series of worship services that churches hold during the summer. It is not stirring up religious excitement. It is not something that we work up, but something that comes down from heaven. It is an invasion by the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

This fresh and powerful invasion by the Holy Spirit will be revealed by certain characteristics. These characteristics are:

- (1) *A fresh and overwhelming awareness of God's presence.* Both believers and unbelievers become consciously aware that God Himself is present in a powerful way. The believer can know and experience the presence of God on a daily basis. Yet, when revival comes, people experience God's presence beyond the normal experience of the Christian life.
- (2) *An extraordinary readiness to hear God.* Revival brings a deep thirst for the Word of God. People long to read, study, and obey the Word of God. They especially desire to hear the Word of God preached by His servants.
- (3) *A deep conviction over one's sin.* When revival comes, people see their sin is utterly abominable. People can no longer be unconcerned about their sin. They experience deep distress over their sin. They see their sin as offensive to God.
- (4) *A heartfelt repentance.* In revival, people will confess and forsake their sin. They will mourn over it and turn away from it. There will be not attempts

to lessen their sin or make excuses for their sin. In revival, repentance is deep, heartfelt, and life-changing. **A true movement of the Holy Spirit brings brokenhearted confession of sin and repentance from it!**

(5) *An extraordinary concern for others.* When revival comes, the church will have a fresh concern for others. The believers will have a deep and agonizing burden for the lost. The church will seek to minister to its surrounding community in a fresh and new way.

(6) *A genuine change in peoples' lives.* Revival is not simply the experience of religious excitement. It brings profound changes in the lives of believers and unbelievers. It is an experience that brings radical and permanent change.

Revival is the desperate need of our churches. Our spiritual laziness and lukewarmness call for a fresh and powerful work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. **We will experience revival or we will face the judgment of the Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 2:5)!** This issue of *The Prayer Closet* will focus on praying for revival--for a powerful work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. If you desire revival in your church and across this nation, you must cry out to God. You must plead with God to send a genuine revival into our midst. There will not be genuine revival in our churches and across this land until God's people are broken and humble before God's throne of grace pleading for God to send genuine revival.

This issue will contain suggestions on how to seek God for revival. I plead with you to seek God for revival in the church and in the nation. Will you remain content in your condition? Can you be comfortable with the spiritual condition of your church and the nation? **Will you settle for anything less than true revival?** A person who experienced the revival in Scotland in 1949 put it this way, "You were brought into contact with the

powers of the world to come and you will never be content with anything less." If you long to see a fresh and powerful work of the Holy Spirit in your church and nation, then you must seek God with all your heart and strength. You must be committed to persistently crying out to God for this invasion of the Holy Spirit. You should give God no rest until He grants this revival (**Isaiah 62:7**).

Why Should I Pray For Revival?

The most basic reason to pray for revival is because this is God's appointed way of receiving revival. The Bible reveals that you are to ask God in order to receive from God (**James 4:2**). If you do not ask God for revival, you cannot expect to receive it. The Lord Jesus Christ reveals that you are to seek the Father with persistence about your concerns (**Matthew 7:7-8**). You must ask God to send revival. You must seek Him to grant revival. You must knock for the doors of heaven to be opened for an outpouring of God's presence and power in revival.

Too many times we simply desire to see a move of the Holy Spirit in our lives and churches. We long for God to do a fresh work in our midst. **However, good intentions and desires are not enough.** It is not enough to see the need of revival or even to long for it. This must drive you to cry out to God. This must move you to plead with God to grant revival. Seeing the need for and desiring revival should send you into God's presence broken and desperate, pleading for revival (**2 Chronicles 7:14**). You must ask God to send revival. This is His appointed way.

By praying, you are showing God that you are at the end of yourself. When you pray for

Revival, you are saying, "God, You must do a fresh and new work in our midst or there is no hope. You will either revive us or there will be a funeral for this church. We can't, but, O God, You can!" An attitude of humility and brokenness precedes revival. Revival only comes when there is a holy desperation and dependence on God. God is pleased with this type of attitude. God will not revive a self-sufficient, proud people. He revives the contrite and brokenhearted (**Isaiah 57:15**). He gives grace to the humble but resists the proud (**James 4:6**).

Praying for revival is an act of faith. By praying for revival, you are believing that God can and will do a fresh and powerful work in your midst. This is putting away all confidence in the flesh and looking to God's mercy and power. Through prayer, you are trusting God for the work that He alone can do. This pleases God and is the very attitude that He requires of those who come to Him (**Hebrews 11:6**). God will honor those who honor Him.

Prayer is the channel by which you receive the presence and power of God. You experience these things through prayer. In revival, you receive an extraordinary experience of His presence and power. It is not possible to experience these things in your life on a daily basis or even in the midst of a revival without prayer. Revival begins with and is received through prayer.

A final reason that you should pray for revival is because prayer is an instrument through which God works in your life. By praying for revival, God deals with you. Prayer makes you more sensitive to the Word of God and to the leading of the Holy Spirit. God will show you sins that must be confessed and removed from your life. He will reveal sinful habits that need to be acknowledged and rooted out of your life. He will open your eyes to areas that you need to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. When these things

start happening, you will be prepared to receive revival from God. This process takes place when you pray, especially when you are pleading with God to grant revival.

Ways To Seek God For Revival

The following are some suggestions on how you can seek God for revival. These suggestions are offered to you to help you plead with God for genuine revival in your church and across the nation. **I want to emphasize that these suggestions are not magical formulas.** They are simply ways that you can seek God for revival. Revival comes from God. Receiving revival calls for believers to seek God with faith and with the Word of God. These suggested starting points for your intercession for your church and the nation. You can use these suggestions, add more to them, or you can develop your own prayer requests and reasons from these. As you pray for revival, be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leadership. He may give you insights on how to pray for revival in your particular church. He also may give you more Scripture to pray through concerning revival. As you pray through these requests, start with yourself. Ask God to do these things in your life. Plead with Him for a fresh work of His grace and His power.

A. Specific Requests

(1) *Pray that God will create a spirit of humility and brokenness among the believers (**Isaiah 57:15; James 4:6**).* God will not revive those who are self-sufficient and proud. The believers must come to see their spiritual bankruptcy and utter dependence on God.

(2) *Pray that God would grant believers a deeper understanding and awareness of His holiness (Isaiah 6:1-5; 1 Peter 15-16).* The holiness of God is a neglected subject in the church today. Yet, it is essential to revival. We need to understand that God is utterly holy. He does not and cannot sin. He is not tempted nor is He tempted. He is pure and without the stain of sin. He always does what is right and good. Pray that believers would be gripped by the absolute holiness of God.

(3) *Ask God to reveal to believers the depth and the evil of their sin. Call on the Holy Spirit to move them to confess and repent of their sin (Psalm 19:12-14; 1 John 1:9).* The Holy Spirit is grieved when a believer cherishes sin and does not confess and repent of it (Psalm 66:18; Ephesians 4:30). When the Holy Spirit is grieved, He will not release His miraculous, life-transforming power into our midst. Sin has to be dealt with by believers. Believers must be honest about their sin and must come clean with God about these things.

(4) *Plead with God to grant the believers a hunger for the Word of God and a readiness to obey the Word of God (Psalm 119:97, 103; 1 John 2:3-6).* Plead with the Holy Spirit to stir within every believer a desire to search and to know the Word of God. Ask Him to remove any complacency toward the Word of God by the believers. Call on Him to stir the believers to be doers of the Word and not simply hearers of the Word (James 1:22-24).

(5) *Ask God to reveal any obstacles that could hinder your church from experiencing genuine revival. Then pray for its removal (Psalm 139:23).* Pray that God will reveal anything that is not pleasing to Him in your church. Call on Him to deal with these obstacles. Plead with Him to remove anything that is hindering the church to experience a genuine working of the Holy Spirit in revival.

(6) *Pray that your pastor will preach the Word of God with power, conviction, and authority (1 Corinthians 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4).* Revival usually comes when God gives His people bold, faithful, and fearless preachers of the Word of God. True and powerful preaching of the Word of God is used by God to revive His people. Plead that your pastor will powerfully preach the Word of God. Pray that He will proclaim the fundamental truths of the faith with great clarity, conviction, and power.

(7) *Ask God to deal with any unforgiveness or bitterness among the believers of the church (Ephesians 4:30-32).* Unconfessed sin grieves the Holy Spirit. Yet, in the context of Ephesians 4, the emphasis on right relationships in the church. When believers are at odds with each other, the Spirit is grieved. Nothing quenches the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit like broken relationships among believers. Pray that the broken relationships among believers would be healed. Ask Jesus Christ to bind Satan's work through the broken relationships (Ephesians 4:27). Call on God to deal with the unforgiveness or bitterness that is grieving the Holy Spirit.

(8) *Plead that God would convict and save any deceived, unregenerate church members (Matthew 7:21-23; 2 Corinthians 13:5-6).* There are times when deceived, unregenerate church members work against what God is doing in the church. They cause believers to stumble. Plead that God would deal with any members who may be deceived and are not truly saved. Call on God to strip their hope in themselves and reveal to them the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

(9) *Call on God to convict believers that they must give an account of their lives at the judgment seat of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:9-10).* Believers need to realize that they must give an account to God for their lives. There will be a day of judgment for the believer. Believers need to be gripped and motivated by the fact that they will give

account to the Lord Jesus Christ one day. Pray that believers will realize this and remember this.

(10) *Pray that God will grant the believers an agonizing burden for lost people and an unceasing desire to share the gospel with them (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 9:1-3).* Call on God to create within believers a burden to pray for and share the gospel of Jesus Christ with lost people. Plead with Him to grant this to every believer.

(11) *Plead that God will give the believers a deeper love for the Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 4:1-3).* The Spirit of God enables people to confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Revival is a powerful work of the Holy Spirit in which He draws believers closer to the Lord Jesus Christ. In revival, He leads believers to love and to confess Jesus Christ in a deeper, more faithful way than at other times. Pray that the Holy Spirit will deepen the believers' love for and confession of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Lord and Savior.

B. Prayer Arguments

The following are prayer arguments that you can use to plead with God for revival. These prayer arguments are biblical reasons that you can use to call on God to revive His people. Nehemiah provides an example of this kind of praying (**Nehemiah 1**). **Nehemiah 1** records Nehemiah's prayer for the restoration of Jerusalem. The city was in ruins and God's name and glory were at stake. Nehemiah prays to God and calls on Him to restore Jerusalem. In calling on God to restore Jerusalem, Nehemiah quotes from Deuteronomy. He gives scriptural reasons why God should restore Jerusalem. The following prayer arguments are scriptural reasons why God should grant genuine revival to His church. You can use these to plead with God to grant the revival that we

so desperately need. You can take these and develop other prayer arguments to use in pleading with God. The key issue is to plead with God's own Word. Call on God to be faithful to His own Word.

(1) Father, this church bears Your name. We are Your representatives in this world. We have dishonored You and Your name through our indifference, unconcern, and lack of holiness. How can You bear allowing us to continue as we are? Have mercy on us, O God! Grant revival to us that we might live lives worthy for Your name's sake (**2 Corinthians 5:20**).

(2) Father, we have become a reproach to the lost world around us. Our lack of holiness and failure to deal with sin has brought on us the contempt and ridicule of the world. How can You let Your church be ridiculed? How can You stand the fact that Your church lacks influence in this community? O God, have mercy on us! Revive Your church that we may exercise a righteous influence in the world. Cause Your presence and power to be displayed in this church so that believers and unbelievers will be in awe of You. Do this, O God, for the sake of Your Son, who bought and established the church with His own blood! For the sake of Jesus and His love for the church, grant revival to Your people (**Acts 20:28**).

(3) Father, You have commanded in Your Word that we must not grieve the Holy Spirit. Yet, I confess that we have grieved Your Holy Spirit. He is grieved because of our sin and unwillingness to deal with that sin. I plead that You would grant revival so that we would deal with our sin as never before in our relationship to You. Do this so that Your Holy Spirit will no longer be grieved. Do this so that Your Holy Spirit will be pleased to release His power into our midst (**Ephesians 4:30**).

(4) Father, I plead that You will grant revival in order to deal with our unbelief. Jesus will not work

in an atmosphere of unbelief. I believe, Lord; help my unbelief! I pray that You will grant revival and increase our faith in You as never before in our relationship to You. As you do this, I trust that Jesus will transform lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. O God, I plead that You would remove our unbelief. Have mercy on us! Forgive our lack of faith! Grant revival so that Your people will have a renewed faith so that we can experience the miraculous power of Jesus Christ in our midst (**Hebrews 11:6; James 1:5-8**).

(5) Father, Your gospel is the good news about Your Son, Jesus Christ. It is the glorious and gracious message that through His Person and His work, sinners can be brought into a right relationship with You. It is the power of God to salvation. It is the message that brings sinners into a right relationship to You. It is the greatest message ever given among people. Yet, we are not sharing this message. We have grown indifferent to this message. We have failed to proclaim this message on a continual basis to the lost who are in desperate need of it. Forgive us of this abominable sin! Have mercy on us, O God! Grant revival to us that we would share this message with the lost. Send genuine revival so that Your gospel will go forth in power from us! For the sake of Your gospel, I plead that You will grant revival (**Romans 1:16**).

(6) Father, You have declared in Your Word that if I call to You that You will show me great and mighty things which I do not know. I am calling to You, O God! I am pleading with You to grant revival to the believers of _____ Church. We desperately need it. You have the power to grant it. I am calling on You and am believing You for this. This is Your Word. I am calling to You, Father. Will You be true to Your Word? Are you going to be faithful to Your promise Father? For the sake of Your Word, I plead that You will grant revival to Your people (**Jeremiah 33:3**).

C. Scripture Prayers Concerning Revival

The following are Scripture prayers that you can use to plead with God for revival. These requests are based on the Word of God and are the revealed will of God for the church. Plead these Scripture prayers with confidence and persistence. As always, begin by praying for yourself and then move to interceding for the other believers concerning revival.

O God, revive the believers of _____ Church so that we may rejoice in You (**Psalms 85:6**).

Restore, O God, the believers of _____ Church; make Your face to shine on us that we may be delivered from our backsliding (**Psalms 80:7**).

Rise up and help the believers of _____ Church; restore us to Yourself because of Your redeeming love (**Psalms 44:8**).

Father, grant a spirit of brokenness and repentance to the believers of _____ Church (**Isaiah 57:15**).

Living God, give the believers of _____ Church a fresh and powerful vision of Your holiness (**Isaiah 6**).

Almighty God, create in the believers of _____ Church a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us (**Psalms 51:1**).

O Lord, do not take away the sense of Your presence from us and do not take away Your Holy Spirit from us (**Psalms 51:11; Revelation 2:5**).

Holy God, cause the believers of _____
_____ Church to acknowledge our transgressions

and to see that our sins are ever before You (**Psalm 51:3**).

Father, cause the believers of _____
_____ Church to be receptive to and responsive
to Your holy Word (**Nehemiah 8:8-9**).

Father, cause the believers of _____
_____ Church to be broken and humble,
trembling at Your Word (**Isaiah 66:2**).

Lord God, cause the believers of _____
_____ Church to call on Your name and to stir
ourselves to lay hold of You (**Isaiah 64:7**).

Father, stir the believers of _____
_____ Church to remove anything from our
lives or church that would hinder our experience of
revival (**Luke 3:4-6**).

God, convict the believers of _____
_____ Church of any unforgiveness and
bitterness. Give us no joy, peace, or rest until this is
dealt with (**Ephesians 4:30-32**).

Father, as the deer thirsts for the streams of water,
so cause the believers of _____
_____ Church to thirst for You (**Psalm 42:1-2**).

Lord, I plead that the Holy Spirit will work
powerfully among the believers of _____
_____ Church (**John 16:7**).

Revive us, O God, that the believers of _____
_____ Church will obey Your holy Word
(**Psalm 119:88**).

O Lord, heal our backsliding; love us freely; turn
Your anger away from us (**Hosea 14:4**).

Though our sins testify against us, restore the
believers of _____ Church for
Your great name's sake (**Jeremiah 14:7**).

Father, I plead that You will convict and save those
who belong to this church who have been deceived
about true salvation and are actually lost. Have
mercy on them and save them (**Matthew 23:27-28**)!

Lord Jesus, enable the believers of _____
_____ Church to return to You as our first
love (**Revelation 2:4**).

Father, convict the believers of _____
_____ Church of the sin of compromise. Cause
us to hate this sin and to deal immediately with it
(**Revelation 2-3**).

Lord Jesus, break the believers of _____
_____ Church from a spirit of self-sufficiency
and grant us a spirit of dependence on You
(**Revelation 2:17**).

Father, I plead that You will create a spirit of praise
among the believers of _____
_____ Church (**Psalm 150**).

Father, enable us to deal with anything in our lives
and our church that we have placed above You
(**Exodus 20:1-2**).

Have mercy on the believers of _____
_____ Church and restore us to a right
relationship to Yourself (**Psalm 51**).

O God, grant the believers of _____
_____ Church a burden for lost souls (**Romans 10:1**).

Father, create within the believers of _____
_____ Church a spirit of prayer and fasting
(**Colossians 4:2**).

Lord, reveal to the believers of _____
_____ Church what is not pleasing in Your

sight. Give us an unceasing burden about these things until they are dealt with (**Psalm 139:23**).

O God, cause Your people of _____
_____ Church to love You with all their heart,
soul, mind, and strength (**Matthew 22:37-38**).

Father, cause Your people of _____
_____ Church to love each other with all their
heart, soul, mind, and strength (**Matthew 22:39**).

D. Dealing With Your Idols

In **1 John 5:21**, the apostle John warns believers to keep themselves from idols. An idol is anything or anybody that you love more than God. It is anything or anybody in your life that receives greater priority in your life than God. This verse reveals that Christians are in danger of allowing things and people to become more important, to receive a greater priority in our lives, than God.

If the people of God are going to experience revival, our idols must be put away (**1 Samuel 7:3**). In order to return to the Lord and experience revival, you must deal with those things that receive a greater priority in your life than your relationship to God. The following prayer requests are offered to help you identify the idols in your life and then deal with them. These prayers are based on the Word of God and focus on the idolatrous loves that God despises and condemns. Your idolatry must be confessed and repented of. You can begin this process with the following prayer. Then you can pray through the other requests. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any idols that you have built in your life. Plead with Him to enable You to deal with these idolatrous loves and to remove them from your life. Pray that other believers will deal with the idols in their lives.

“Father, You have declared that I am to love You first of all, best of all, and most of all. You have

*said in **Matthew 22:37-38** that I am to love You with my entire being. This is Your Word. This is Your desire and command for me. I plead with You to grant me the grace and power to do this. Reveal to me the idols that I have erected in my life. Show me anything that I love more than You--anything that I have made a higher priority than You. I pray that Your Holy Spirit would convict me deeply and powerfully concerning the idols in my life. Enable me to deal with them. Amen.”*

Love of money: I pray that I would not love money more than You and that I would not have a sinful longing for it. Do not allow my pursuit of money to be greater or more important to me than my pursuit of knowing, loving, and obeying You (**1 Timothy 6:10**).

Love of self: I plead that I would not love myself more than You, Father. Deliver me from being self-centered and grant me the power and strength to deny myself (**2 Timothy 3:2**).

Love of approval: Father, I pray that I will love and seek Your approval above the approval of men. Cause me to pursue a lifestyle of pleasing You rather than men (**John 12:42**).

Love of power or control: Father, enable me to overcome the desire for power. I plead that You will create in me a servant's heart and willing to serve others (**3 John 9:10**).

Love of pleasure: I plead that I will not love pleasure more than You. Cause me to find my greatest delight and pleasure in You (**2 Timothy 3:4**).

Love of food: Father, I want You to be my God and not my stomach. Cause me to have the proper perspective when it comes to food (**Proverbs 21:17**).

Love of sleep: Enable me to get the proper rest, but deliver me from indulging in too much sleep and laziness (**Proverbs 20:13**).

Love of darkness (sin): I pray that I would not love my sin more than You. Cause me to hate sin and to love You with all my being (**John 3:19**).

Love of simplicity: Father, I ask that I would not prefer my own wisdom above Your Word (**Proverbs 1:22**).

Love of cursing: I pray that I would not love speaking profanity and filth above speaking words of love and encouragement (**Psalms 109:17**).

Love of abundance: I ask that the pursuit of my life would not be gaining material possessions. I ask that You would grant me the grace and power to love You and pursue You above all else (**Ecclesiastes 5:10**).

Love of the things of the world: Father, do not allow me to love the attitudes and actions of this world above You. Deliver me from the lust of the flesh and eyes and the pride of life. Cause me to love You and Your Word more than this world (**John 2:15**).

(2) Plead that God will enable believers to return to Jesus Christ as their first love, their top priority (**2:1-7**).

(3) Ask that believers will commit themselves to be faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ no matter what their circumstances are (**2:8-11**).

(4) Call on God to convict believers about the evil of tolerating sin and false doctrine in the midst of the church (**2:12-17**).

(5) Plead with God to deal with immorality in the church (**2:18-29**). Ask God to strengthen the marriages in your church and to strengthen the singles to live a life of sexual purity. Plead that your church will be an example marital faithfulness and sexual purity to the lost world around you.

(6) Pray that God will convict the believers of your church of simply going through the motions (**3:1-7**). Pray that God would create in the believers a desire to pursue holiness and obedience rather than being content with the appearance of spiritual life and vitality.

(7) Pray that God will mold the church into a body that He can powerfully use (**3:7-13**). Plead that God would deal with any hindrances that are keeping your church from providing a powerful witness and ministry to the world.

(8) Plead that God would destroy a self-sufficient, proud spirit from the believers who make up the church (**3:14-22**).

E. Revelation 2-3 Prayer Model

Revelation 2-3 are Christ's messages to the churches of Asia Minor in the first century. These messages speak to churches of all ages. By praying through these chapters, you can plead with God to bring revival and change to your church. The following are suggested prayer requests that you can pray concerning revival in your church:

(1) Pray that God will give the believers a fresh vision of the Lord Jesus Christ (**1:12-18**).

Prayer Buster #2: Unconfessed Sin

The Word of God declares in **Psalm 66:18**, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear." God has established some conditions to hearing and answering your prayers. Unconfessed sin deals a major blow to getting your prayers heard and answered. If you delight in what is sinful, while at the same time praying to God, God will not listen to or answer your prayers. God simply pays no attention to you when you harbor sin in your life and act as if it were not there.

The word "cherish" in **Psalm 66:18** means to approve or enjoy, to show respect to something. If you are enjoying sin and praying to God at the same time, you are showing more respect for the sin than for God. God is not under any obligation to listen to prayers from such a disrespectful heart. If you approve of something that is sinful and attempt to talk to God, you are wasting your breath.

God is not hard of hearing. There times when He refuses to hear. The Word of God states in **Isaiah 59:1-2**, "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear." You can never blame the failure of your prayers on God. When He chooses to listen, God has no difficulty hearing you. You can be sure that when God does not hear and answer, it is more often than not because of something in your life that keeps Him from answering.

Secret sins, cherished sins, have a devastating effect on your prayer life. When you cherish sin, you can remove the pronoun "I" from

Psalm 66:18 and write your name in its place. When you pray and delight in some sin, God is not impressed or inclined to hear or answer you. God is not impressed with a heart that would seek Him in prayer without surrendering sin in order to pray successfully.

The following are some practical suggestions to help you deal with this devastating prayer buster:

(1) *Do not assume that sin is always the problem when you have difficulty in your prayer life.* Unconfessed sin is one of numerous prayer busters. There are other barriers to God hearing and answering your prayers. Yet, you should never underestimate the power of sin to hinder your prayers. Be open and sensitive to this possibility when you are not receiving answers from God.

(2) *Do not stop praying.* Prayer is the vehicle to convey your deepest feelings and desires to God. There is nothing wrong with the vehicle of prayer. When you don't think you are being heard or you're not receiving answers from God, don't throw your hands up and say, "Prayer doesn't work. God isn't listening to me." God delights in hearing from His people. He wants to hear from His people. He does answer the prayers of His people. Yet, you may have other problems like unconfessed sin that may be hindering your prayers.

(3) *Do not blame God for unanswered prayer.* God has more than enough power to answer every prayer that pleases Him from those who please Him. **His power is not the issue, but pleasing Him is.**

(4) *Do examine yourself.* Look inside of yourself. See if you are cherishing sin. Ask yourself, "Is there something that I'm trying to hide from God that is hindering my prayers? Could it be that I am the problem?" Plead with the Holy Spirit to show you if cherished sin is the problem in having your prayers heard and answered.

(5) *Do be diligent to confess your sins.* When you identify what it is that is displeasing God in your life, don't try to cover it up or excuse it (**Proverbs 28:13**). You must remember that you cannot hide your sin from God (**Daniel 2:23; Deuteronomy 29:29; Luke 8:17; Hebrews 4:13**). Confess your sin to God and repent of it (**1 John 1:9**). Be honest and open with God about your sin.

(6) *Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a special sensitivity to your sin* (**John 16:7**). This is for the purpose of dealing with sin immediately and completely. You need to deal with your sin as quickly as possible. Do not be complacent when it comes to your sin. A powerful prayer life requires a lifestyle of continual confession and forsaking of sin.

News About The Ministry:

- Dr. Meador has developed a seminar called "**Prayer Revival**" that can be presented to your church or group. This seminar focuses on calling believers to a deeper, more intimate prayer life. Dr. Meador will teach and preach on prayer during the seminar. It is a time to challenge believers concerning their prayer lives and to launch or strengthen the prayer ministry of a church. This seminar or meeting can be done during a weekend or through the week. There are no fees or charges for this seminar. Dr. Meador will present this conference for a love offering. You can contact him through the address or phone number listed on the newsletter or through his personal e-mail: kmeador@intop.net.
- We have developed a key ring called "**Preparing For Revival**". It has been developed to help believers prepare themselves for revival to seek God for revival. If you

- would like to receive one of these for yourself or group, please contact us.
- Please pray that God will provide the finances for a computer system. We are in the process of developing a website. Yet, we need a computer system for this and for the ministry. Please join us in praying that God will provide this computer system so that we can reach more people and more effectively minister to people across the world.

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME PROBLEMS WITH THE EMAIL ADDRESSES ON THE BOTTOM OF THE FROM PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER. IF YOUR EMAIL MESSAGE IS RETURNED NOT DELIVERABLE WHEN YOU TRY TO EMAIL US OR WE DO NOT RESPOND PROMPTLY, PLEASE EITHER CALL THE PHONE NUMBER ON THE FRONT OR WRITE US AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN. YOU MAY ALSO USE DR. MEADOR'S PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS. IT IS AS FOLLOWS: kmeador@intop.net

The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc. has become a tax-exempt, charitable organization with the Internal Revenue Service. This means that any donations that you make to this ministry are tax-deductible. This ministry is just that - a ministry. We are so grateful to God in the way He has blessed this ministry and enabled us to provide for the needs as requests have been made. This has been accomplished as persons and groups have prayed for and given to this ministry. We would ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this ministry in these ways and see God work in His awesome way. We thank you for using the newsletter, sharing it with others, giving to and praying for this ministry.

The Beloved Unbeliever Network is a network of intercessors who pray for believers who have spouses that are not Christians. This network of intercessors pray daily for believers who are in this situation. These intercessors have been trained and are committed to praying for believers who find themselves in this type of marriage. If you would like to be added to this prayer list or if you know of someone who is in this situation and would like to place them on this prayer list, please contact Dr. Kevin Meador. Please provide the following information:

Name of the family members
Church affiliation
Any special requests

Any information that is submitted will be kept in strict confidence and the privacy of the individuals will be protected. Name codes will be given to each name submitted. The person sending in the name and myself will be the only ones who know the real name of the person being submitted.



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