

GOD'S HEART CRY TO HIS PEOPLE: REPENT CRY OUT AMERICA – SEPTEMBER PRAYER FOCUS

SCRIPTURE

"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, 'Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand'" (Matt. 4:17, KJV).

CONTEMPLATION

"If we don't understand how we need to repent, how in the world does the nation stand a chance of survival? I prayed much about this time . . . I felt in my own heart somehow I need to see this critical moment in the life of our nation from God's perspective, and so my theme for you, and we'll look at the scripture and hear what God has to say, when God sets a watchman on the walls of a nation, what's on the heart of God? God never sets watchmen on the walls of a nation unless it's in a critical moment in its history. And as I look into the scripture, there are several passages where God announced to His people, 'I have set watchmen on your walls.' And one of these is found in Jeremiah Chap. 6 and verse 17: 'I set watchmen over you saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet'." When God sets watchmen on the walls of a nation, God knows there's impending danger. The enemy is coming. And the watchman was designed to watch carefully, night and day. And whatever they saw they were to announce, so that God's people would know how to respond. Now I need to drop into your thinking what God says from Isaiah chapter 62 because in that passage God announces what the watchmen are supposed to do. He says, 'I have set watchmen on your walls' and here in the scripture it says "I've set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem.' What if God were saying -- and I believe He is -- 'I've set watchmen on your walls, O America'? Now I could ask you, 'Do you know where they are?' Do you know how to identify the spiritual watchmen that have been set on the walls of America? Because you need to hear when the trumpet blows or you need to hear what they're saying. But listen to what he says as to why He put the watchmen on the walls. He said, 'I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem. They shall never hold their peace, night or day.' In other words, a watchman is on a 24-hour alert, and whatever they see and whatever they hear, they're to immediately let the people of God know. And they can do it in the middle of the night. They can do it in the daytime. But the watchmen that God assigns to the walls of the nation are first hearing from Him. And then what He announces to them, they watch to see what God is doing next.

Now you understand that God set watchmen on the walls of Israel because their sin had reached a point in the mind and heart of God that he - God - was going to send an enemy against them and destroy them. There was a point when Israel refused to repent. And when God blows the trumpet and calls for repentance on the part of His people, if His people simply say, 'Lord, what do we need to repent of?' it means they're a long ways away from God. And God would say, 'If you don't even know what to repent of, you've not been listening.' You see, America is the result of the condition of God's people. We hold the condition of the nation in our hands. And when God brought judgment on Israel, it was God's people who never recognized that they had departed from the heart of God. They no longer heard the voice of God. And they'd turned away from God. And they would not return. So He set spiritual watchmen on the walls of the nation and they did blow the trumpet. The prophets spoke out but God's people killed the prophets. There's one way to stop hearing from God, and that's to kill the messenger. Don't listen to the messenger. And then He came to Jerusalem and Judah and He again sent prophets, but the people never heard.

Now I want you to hear it carefully, because our generation is no different than theirs. When God sounds a spiritual trumpet in the land, would you recognize that He was doing it? Do you not already hear the warnings of God? DO you not already hear that the enemy is coming in like a flood? And God is trying to raise up a standard against it, and you and I are the standard. And Jerusalem and Judah never heard either, and God destroyed them. And then God said, 'I'll send My Son. Surely they will hear Him.' And he became God's spiritual watchman. And when He spoke, He spoke a

warning from God. Do you remember the very first message that the Son of God preached to God's people? 'Repent.' We forget that. If the Lord Jesus stood in this arena here tonight, do you know what His first word would be to you and to me? 'Repent.' But the average child of God in our day would cry back to God: 'Wherein do I need to repent?' Folks, if we don't understand how we need to repent, how in the world does the nation stand a chance of survival? And God is trying to say to us: 'YOU need to stand before Me and let me tell you what I see and what I hear. And then when I tell you what I see and what I hear among God's people here in America' . . . Then we need immediately to turn around from the way we've been going and return to Him. We need to see this moment from God's perspective. He's setting in the midst of our nation spiritual watchmen. Some might call them intercessors. But let me suggest something to you: God is the only one who can set watchmen. He assigns them. He never asks for volunteers . . . I believe that God is saying to America: 'I set before you today life and blessing, death and cursing. If you obey Me . . . if you return to Me . . . if you take Me seriously . . . then you will live. But if you don't, you will die. I believe that God makes no exceptions, plays no favorites. And if you have any sensitivity to what's happening in America today, you would tremble, because God has never allowed a nation who had so much of the blessing of God and turned aside from it so thoroughly ever to survive. And I believe that we're standing on the edge of the future of the nation. And I believe that God's people hold the key to the future of the nation . . . We stand in the presence of God. We ask Him, "Watchman? What of the night? What's happening? Lord, what's happening? What's on Your agenda? How do we ensure the future?" And God would say as He did through His own Son: 'Repent and return to Me, or I will judge you' . . . Now, you and I have incredible potential for deciding the future of America. But we cannot do it 'business as usual.' Whatever we have been doing has brought our nation to the edge of destruction. Don't continue doing the same thing . . . Our nation, in the heart of God, is at a very critical point. If God's people will not return to an intense relationship to God on behalf of the nation, the nation doesn't stand a chance of avoiding the judgment of God. But we have a choice, do we not? You and I have a choice to hear God say, 'I have set you as a watchman on the wall. You are not to keep silent day or night' . . . One of the saddest verses in the Bible is that one which I read, because it said, in Jeremiah 6:7 'I set watchmen on your walls, O Israel, and you said, 'We will not listen to the voice of the watchman.'"- Dr. Henry T. Blackaby (Keynote Address at the National Day of Prayer event in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on Thursday, May 6, 2004; Internet address: <http://www.rogershermansociety.org/blackaby.htm>; accessed 25 July 2008)

PRAYER

O sovereign and holy God, in Jesus' name, we cry out for You to encounter us afresh by piercing our hearts for how our sin has affronted You and grieved Your Spirit. We ask You to pour out upon us the Spirit of grace and supplication and help us mourn over piercing our Savior with our sins. We understand that we can only be convicted of sin, righteousness, and judgment by the operation of Your Spirit upon our hearts. We ask for the conviction of sin that must come before cleansing can occur. Help us understand that confession of sin is not repentance and that once we understand that we have sinned that we must repent in order to be forgiveness. We ask for the repentance of sin that precedes forgiveness of sin. Incline our hearts toward repentance. We cry out for godly sorrow that would lead us to repentance. Lord, we seek forgiveness for presuming upon You and Your goodness by thinking we can repent any time we wish. For the glory of Your name, enable us to repent. And Lord, we cry out for the grace to cause men to repent who do not know they have need of it. Amen

DAY & DATE	SCRIPTURE
<p>SEPTEMBER 1 – “God is at work stirring the hearts of His people to pray and seek His face. Every mighty movement of God has been preceded by terrible conditions, a heart cry for revival, and a sweeping movement in united, concerted, extraordinary prayer . . . The primary reason we need revival is that we have forsaken our love relationship with God—our first love. God’s invitation is for us to realize we have fallen and to repent and return to our first love. His word to the church at Ephesus indicates that failure to repent is fatal. He said He would remove their lampstand if they refused to repent . . . You cannot love God and disobey Him. If you are not obeying Him, it is because you do not love Him as you should” (Henry Blackaby and Claude King, <i>Fresh Encounter: God’s Pattern for Revival and Spiritual Awakening</i>, p. 8-10). Cry out for God to penetrate our hearts with the truth that if we are not obeying God that the problem is a love problem, that we do not love Him as we think we do. Confess that all our failures, retarded spiritual progress, and inadequacies in our work are due to our failure to spend sufficient time in communion with God to cultivate our relationship and knowledge of God. Ask God to scrutinize how we are using our time. Implore God to give us undivided hearts. Ask God to grant us grace to see where we have departed from Him proving that we have left our first love. Beg Him to help us return to the love relationship with Him. Plead with Him to do as He has supernaturally done in days of old and begin a fresh work of stirring the hearts of His people to pray and seek His face for God-sent revival and awakening. Ask Him to pour out the Spirit of grace and supplication upon us. Plead for an outpouring of His Spirit among pastors, churches, and on college campus’ to stir us to united, concerted, extraordinary prayer. Cry out for Him to grant us the prayer that would guide us to the brokenness that leads to repentance. Ask the Lord to grant mercy and to grace us with a heart to sigh and groan over the abominations which are committed in our land. Implore the Lord to grant us understanding of the heinousness of our departing from Him and the biblical process of returning. Seek His grace to quicken us to repentance and to put the fear of God back into the church of our nation. Cry</p>	<p>“And I will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace or unmerited favor and supplication. And they shall look [earnestly] upon Me Whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him as one who is in bitterness for his firstborn” (Zech. 12:10, AMP). “But to the others He said in my hearing . . . put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst . . . you shall start at My sanctuary . . . He said to me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is very, very great, and the land is filled with blood and the city is full of perversion; for they say, the LORD has forsaken the land and the LORD does not see . . .” (Ezekiel 9:4-9, NASB). “They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters; To hew for themselves cisterns . . . that can hold no water . . . See that it is evil and bitter for you to forsake the LORD your God, and the dread of Me is not in you,’ declares the Lord God of hosts.” (Jer. 2:17, 19, NASB) “. . . If you return to the LORD with all your heart . . . and direct your hearts to the LORD and serve Him alone; and He will deliver you . . .” (1 Sam. 7:3, NASB). “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death” (2 Cor. 7:10, NIV).</p>

<p>out for God’s quickening through His Spirit to convict us of our sin, to help us repent, and to aid us to return to an intense whole hearted love relationship with Him.</p>	
<p>SEPTEMBER 2 – “In Scripture God uses the idea of a plumb line to describe what He is doing with His people (see Amos 7:7-8) . . . When we depart from Him, one of our problems is that we don’t realize how far we have departed. We often don’t understand how seriously we have strayed from Him. We may not realize how close we are to complete collapse or destruction. God holds a plumb line beside His people so they can see how far they have departed . . . Revival is God’s putting the plumb line of His Word right down the middle of His people . . . A right relationship with God is the requirement for genuine revival. Correct behavior comes because of the love relationship . . . Revival requires a change of heart . . . Revival is for God’s people who need a fresh encounter, a fresh relationship with Him” (Henry Blackaby and Claude King, <i>Fresh Encounter: God’s Pattern for Revival and Spiritual Awakening</i>, p. 9-10). Plead with God to help us return to the love relationship with Him. Ask Him to help us examine our lives with great seriousness in the light of the Scriptures. Entreat Him to overwhelm our hearts by how far we have departed from Him, His ways, and purposes. Beg Him to bring us face to face with the truth from His Word that would reveal our sinfulness and points of departure from Him, His ways, and His purposes. Implore Him to guide us to understand what He requires for us to return to Him and to grant us the willingness to go through the process of the steps He ordains for us to return to Him. Cry out for God to grant us a fresh encounter with Him that would totally change our hearts, minds, wills, and characters.</p>	<p>“Thus He showed me, and behold, the Lord stood upon a wall with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. And the Lord said to me, Amos, what do you see? And I said, A plumb line. Then said the Lord, Behold, I am setting a plumb line as a standard in the midst of My people Israel. I will not pass by and spare them any more [the door of mercy is shut]” (Amos 7:7-8, AMP). “ . . . If you return to the LORD with all your heart . . . and direct your hearts to the LORD and serve Him alone; and He will deliver you . . .” (1 Sam. 7:3, NASB).</p>

SEPTEMBER 3 – “In the Scripture God condemns those who went around saying, ‘Peace, peace’ when there was no peace . . . In the middle of a sinful church, some will say, ‘We are a great church. Nothing is wrong’ . . . Some will refuse to deal openly with sin in the church (past sins as well as present ones). To protect the church’s or a person’s reputation some may disobey the clear teaching of God on how to deal with the issue. They prefer to ‘forget about the past’ and move forward. To harbor or refuse to deal with open sin in God’s way is a sure way to shut down God’s activity in a church . . . Such a light treatment of sin can lead to open rebellion on the part of many. Sin can spread like a fast growing cancer if not thoroughly dealt with in repentance. Sometimes God requires that sin be dealt with openly in a congregation. To cover up such sins is corporate rebellion on the part of the church” (Henry Blackaby and Claude King, *Fresh Encounter: God’s Pattern for Revival and Spiritual Awakening*, p. 11). Seek forgiveness that in the middle of a sinful church where the members are warring with one another there are those who say that everything is okay when it is not. Ask God to forgive us for trying to sweep sin under the rug to save the reputation of people or our church instead of honoring God and being concerned that we are tarnishing His reputation among men by not dealing with sin biblically. Pray that God will do whatever is necessary to help us recognize His discipline because of our corporate sinning. Beg God to identify points of departure for you corporately as a church where you need to repent and seek His forgiveness. Ask God what you need to do in order to repent and be restored to Him and one another. Entreat the Lord to bring you and those in your church to a new level of repentance and prayer. Ask Him to return the hearts of His people again to repentance. Seek God to encounter us that we may recognize our sin and humble ourselves before His majesty. Ask God to renew the church(s) in your city and bring them into a renewed relationship with Him. Plead with God to bend and break open the unhumbled areas of our hearts. Ask Him to make His church as holy as sinners saved by His grace can be made that we would be holiness unto the Lord.

SEPTEMBER 4 – “The sobering truth is that the greatest hindrance to the growth of Christianity in today’s world is the absence of the manifest presence of God from the church. The Lord has been so deeply grieved by the

“They have healed also the wound of the daughter of My people lightly and neglectfully, saying, Peace, peace, when there is no peace” (Jer. 6:14, AMP). “O GOD, Thou hast rejected us . . . have broken us . . . have been angry; O, restore us” (Psa. 60:1, NASB). “I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:32, NASB). “If you will return, O Israel,’ declares the LORD, then you should return to Me . . . Break up your fallow ground, and do not sow among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to the LORD and remove the foreskins of your heart . . . ” (Jer. 4:1-4, NASB)

“Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return” (Mal. 3:7, KJV)? “Search me

refusal of the church to faithfully proclaim the whole counsel of His Word in the power of the Holy Spirit, that He has largely withdrawn from the church and left her to her own devices. The heart cry of God is most certainly, 'Return to Me, and I will return to you.' (Mal 3:7). The doctrine of repentance has suffered at the hands of the church's large-scale commitment to success. A focus on the love of God, the role of faith in human happiness, the benefits of holistic living and the upbeat elements of a well integrated human personality, are seen as much more helpful in building large churches than thundering against sin, insisting upon repentance, and issuing warnings about judgment and hell. Consequently, there is a noticeable absence of any vital convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit in these churches. (Jn 16:8-11) . . . The Bible provides evidence that God is against all those who stray from His ancient paths. It is not merely that God weeps over His wayward church; He stands against it and refuses to bless any and all who violate His will, His way, and His Word. In profoundly moving words Isaiah describes wayward Israel, saying, 'But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, and fought against them.' (Is 63:10) We frequently hear leaders ask, 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' But did you ever hear anyone ask, 'If God is against us, what does it matter who is for us?' This cannot be an idle question in a day like this when we have so largely abandoned God and God is Himself fighting against us. How could any disaster be greater than having God as our enemy" (Richard Owen Roberts, *Repentance The First Word of the Gospel*)? Seek grace to understand that repentance is the definition of what it means to return to God. Entreat the Lord to help us take to heart that scripture records many times over that the result of God's people failing to repent was calamity. Beg God to help us become better acquainted with what is on His heart concerning repentance. Ask God to help us take to heart that to fail to preach and stress the message of repentance is to violate the commands of Christ. Beg Him to cleanse us and enable us to preach His message of repentance to all nations. Implore the Lord to destroy the roots of national sin that rob Him of His glory and begin by searching your heart thoroughly and to show you your sins. Ask Him to show you everything in you and your church that is an offense to Him. Pray asking God to forgive

[thoroughly], O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there is any wicked or hurtful way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psa. 139:23-24, AMP). " . . . Rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination or stubbornness as iniquity and idolatry" (1 Sam. 15:23, NASB). " . . . This is the guilt of your sister Sodom, she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food, and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy. Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before Me . . ." (Eze. 16:49-50, NASB). "Bring forth fruit that is consistent with repentance [let your lives prove your change of heart] . . . And already the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire" (Matt. 3:8-10, AMP). "Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world" (Acts 17:30-31, NASB).

our sin of rebellion, pride, insubordination, stubbornness, idolatry, love of ease, and not caring for the poor and needy. Seek the Lord's grace to reveal any secret sin, any covered sin, or any sin that He sees in us, and to bring us to repentance. Beg God to help us understand that if we repent merely of the fruit of sin that the roots will simply produce more of the same sin later. Beg God to destroy all the roots of our sinning against Him and to deal thoroughly with our pride.

SEPTEMBER 5 – “We are being called on to ‘fast and pray . . . for revival!’ The emphasis is dangerously close to shifting from ‘repent and return to Me’ to fasting and praying for something—for revival. God knows we need a revival, or else we may perish. Saving non-Christians is crucial and right and good, but revival is a deliberate turning back to God, a returning to God by His people in repentance, brokenness, and grief over their sin and love of their love-relationship with Him. Are we grieving over having left our first love, over our broken relationship? The present focus in fasting and prayer—often just fasting—appears to have as its goal what God will do for us rather than to us. But God’s goal is for us to have a restored relationship with Him. While such a relationship will cause our lives and churches to become ‘highways of holiness’ over which He can again go in power to the lost, we are called only to ‘return.’ What happens as a result is all God’s doing . . . The ‘return’ of God’s people to a holy relationship with Him is vital. Any call that passes over lightly the ‘returning process’ can sideline or delay what we so desperately need and long for, the revival of God’s people, and the salvation of multitudes who are lost” (Henry Blackaby, *Return to Me: Authentic Prayer & Fasting*). Thank God for His readiness to pardon the sin of those who repent and His chastening when we sin that we may not be condemned to eternal punishment with the world. Cry out for God’s forgiveness for our passing over the returning process lightly and for our delays in returning to Him. Ask God to forgive our unfaithfulness to Him and His ways. Confess that we are all sinners by nature and much by practice who often excuse, justify, and vindicate ourselves in our sin. Pray for His grace to show us where we have departed from Him and to grant us a heart to return. Ask Him to help us do an honest heart search on personal and corporate sin as His people. Beg Him to send the affliction that

“ . . . ‘Return, faithless Israel . . . Only acknowledge your iniquity, that you have transgressed against the LORD your God and have scattered your favors to the strangers under every green tree, and you have not obeyed My voice . . . ’” (Jer. 3:12-13): “For if we searchingly examined ourselves [detecting our shortcomings and recognizing our own condition], we should not be judged and penalty decreed [by the divine judgment]. But when we [fall short and] are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined and chastened, so that we may not [finally] be condemned [to eternal punishment along] with the world” (1 Cor. 11:31-32, AMP).

will be a teacher to move us to repentance.

SEPTEMBER 6 - In the book of Judges, "A season of revival brings the people of God into a restored relationship with their Father. But when that people sin and will not repent, God Himself brings them under His righteous judgment. Surely that is where the Church in the western world is today. We have sinned grievously against God. Think of the terrible pride of evangelicalism! Consider the spirit of stubbornness and rebellion that mars so much of the work of the Church in the age of decadence! Ponder the terrible unbelief that marks both the conduct and the practice of the vast portions of professed believers. Realize that millions of people have been led to a false hope of salvation by the grievously distorted and paltry teaching and preaching so popular today. Surely these sins, not to mention innumerable others, are an affront to our holy God and sufficient to have brought the wrath of God upon an entire generation. But do the evidences of God's righteous judgments upon us-in the form of restraining the stirring of His heart and compassion toward us (Isaiah 63:15); the withdrawal of His manifest presence and the delivering us up to the power of our own iniquities (Isaiah 74:7); the forcing us to drink the wine of His wrath to the point of spiritual drunkenness (Jer. 13:12-14); the visitation of earthquakes, floods, fires, storms, and hosts of other indicators of His wrath-have the desired affect? Are we crying out to God for mercy? Does the groaning of our burdened hearts reach the throne of the Almighty? Apparently not yet! Oh . . . There are some individuals here and there who are under an immense burden of concern and imploring God to come among us in power. Infrequently one does learn of a local congregation somewhere that is weeping before the Lord as it seeks His face; but by-and-large the Church seems to indicate that things are not so bad but what one more committee, or one more new and innovative program, or some new approach not yet tried, will rescue us from our difficult circumstances. How much worse must things become before the whole Church begins to cry out to God . . . The judgments we are under are gracious and remedial! Will we heed them? Will we yet cry unto God for deliverance? Indeed, what will you personally do? Will you let the evidences of where we are as a nation move you to appropriate action? Will you, as a believing

"Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth. Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh stir up thy strength, and come and save us. Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved. O LORD God of hosts, how long wilt thou be angry against the prayer of thy people? Thou feedest them with the bread of tears; and givest them tears to drink in great measure. Thou makest us a strife unto our neighbours: and our enemies laugh among themselves. Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved . . . quicken us, and we will call upon thy name. Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved" (Psalm 80:1-7, 18-19, NASB).

individual, cry unto God day and night, 'Turn us again, Oh God, and cause Thy face to shine; and we shall be saved' (Psalm 80:3,7,19). Will you encourage your church to heed the call of II Chronicles 7:14 to humble itself, pray, seek his face, and turn from its wicked ways? Will you stand firmly with others who are calling the nation of churches to cry earnestly unto God in seasons of humiliating repentance, fasting and prayer" (Richard Owen Roberts, Sermon: *Cycles of Revival*)? Plead for God's grace to help us cry out for His mercy until our burdened hearts reach the throne of the Almighty. Cry out for understanding that nothing apart from repenting of our sins and returning to Him will rescue us from our declension. Beg God to help us heed the gracious remedial judgments that are in our land sent to call us back to God. Seek grace for God to help our spiritual leaders recognize and acknowledge the discipline and remedial judgments of God and to so confront them with His holiness that they would powerfully call all in our nation to repent. Ask God to guide us to know how to respond personally and corporately to Him and His remedial judgments in our land. Beg Him to help us heed them and be moved to respond in repentance to Him. Pray that the people will follow the spiritual leaders He appoints in returning to God and that He will permit the evidence of our departure from Him to move us to biblical appropriate action. Bid the LORD of hosts to quicken us to call upon His name and to strengthen us to call our churches to humble themselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways. Cry out for God, the Shepherd of Israel, to shine forth. Beg Him to stir up His strength, and come and save us. Plead with Him to turn us again and to cause His face to shine that we would be saved.

SEPTEMBER 7 – “. . . The clarion call of revival is, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' . . . Repentance by God's people is our only hope for any for this generation" (Henry Blackaby, *Repentance* by Richard Owen Roberts, p. 8). "Repentance makes the path straight between the Lord and the repenting person. Repentance is like clearing a highway of lioness to and from God" (Richard Owen Roberts, *Repentance*, p. 24). Ask forgiveness from God for our neglecting the doctrine of repentance. Beg forgiveness for being unfaithful to preach boldly the whole counsel

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matt. 7:13-14, KJV). "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17, KJV). "As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough

of God concerning repentance and for filling the church with people who neither understand biblical repentance nor have repented and turned from their sins. Cry out for God to restore us to the biblical doctrine of repentance. Beg God to grant us an understanding of the seriousness of our sin before a holy God. Seek forgiveness that the biblical perspective of sin has little or no appeal to us because we are such a sin loving society. Cry out for God to help us understand that sin is an affront to a holy God and He (God) has the right to punish us for every infraction of His word. Ask Him to lead us to life transforming repentance and a returning to Him on His terms. Plead with God to return the hearts of His people to repentance.

ways shall be made smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God" (Luke 3:4-6, KJV).

SEPTEMBER 8 – "Holiness cannot prevail in unrepentant persons who are still full of themselves. It does not take repentance to enjoy a form of religion, but repentance is mandatory for all who would live in the power of true godliness . . . Interest in theological questions does not constitute salvation . . . One can enthusiastically praise the Lord and be lost. When the master of the house gets up and shuts the door, no amount of knocking and clamoring from the outside is going to force it open . . . What could be more pathetic than arousing yourself to repentance, to seeking God, and trying to gain entrance into the kingdom of God after it is too late . . . Please do not let this happen to you" (Richard Owen Roberts, *Repentance*, p. 14). Ask God to help us understand that the description of people found in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 is of a people who have a form of godliness but deny its power or of a religious people who are filled with self and its manifestations and works. Seek forgiveness for walking in direct opposition to the scriptures by making our churches into places where those who have a form of godliness but deny its power are comfortable. Help us take to heart that the world is at enmity with God and His people. Ask God to help us see that the most disastrous thing we do is to rebel against Him and His commands and grieve His Holy Spirit until He becomes our enemy, fighting against us. Cry out for God to penetrate our hearts with the truth that He is not neutral, that He is either for you or against you and that He can become our enemy fighting against us because of impenitence. Plead with God to help us repent and return to biblical teaching on sin, repentance, and the

"BUT UNDERSTAND this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear]. For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane. [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good. They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God. For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession]. Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them]" (2 Tim. 3:1-5, AMP). "But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them" (Isa. 63:10, NASB). "Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you--O Israel, if you would listen to Me! There shall no strange god be among you, neither shall you worship any alien god. I am the Lord your God, Who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it. But My people would not hearken to My voice, and Israel would have none of Me. So I gave them up to their own hearts' lust and let them go after their own stubborn will, that they might follow their own counsels. Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways" (Psa. 81:8-13, AMP)! "And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their

<p>warnings of judgment and hell. Ask God to help us be as diligent as Jesus and the disciples to keep the message of repentance at the forefront of our teaching and preaching. Cry out for God to thrust into the harvest of our nation spiritual leaders who will preach in the fullness of the Holy Spirit against sin, insist on repentance, warn men of the judgment and hell to come to the unrepentant, and turn the hearts of many back to the LORD.</p>	<p>God" (Luke 1:16, NASB).</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 9 – "Repentance makes the paths straight between the Lord and the repenting person. Repentance is like clearing a highway of holiness to and from God . . . In granting us this repentance God clears His path to us" (Richard Owen Roberts, <i>Repentance</i>, p. 24). Ask God to clear His path to us by granting us repentance. Beg God to help us understand that repentance is one of the most positive things that can happen to us for it leads us to wholeness of life in relationship with God. Seek forgiveness that we want all the fruits and outcomes of revival without going down the pathway of holiness and repentance. Implore God to search our hearts to see and reveal to us our wicked ways. Invite Him to search your life to see if there are any attitudes, relationships, motives, or activities that need to be removed. Beg the Lord to help us get down to intensive heart searching, personal examination and to real diligence in repentance. Ask Him to nudge and stir us to get alone with Him and seek Him to show us everything that is offensive and sinful in His eyes. Pray that He will bring us into such a thorough and complete repentance that all that is sinful and offensive to Him may be cleansed out of our lives. Cry out for a movement of the Holy Spirit to stir us to times of corporate humbling, prayer and earnest repentance.</p>	<p>"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Matt. 3:1-3, KJV). "As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, The voice of one crying in the wilderness [shouting in the desert]: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His beaten paths straight. Every valley and ravine shall be filled up, and every mountain and hill shall be leveled; and the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough roads shall be made smooth; And all mankind shall see (behold and understand and at last acknowledge) the salvation of God (the deliverance from eternal death decreed by God)" (Luke 3:4-6, AMP). "Search me [thoroughly], O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there is any wicked or hurtful way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psa. 139:23-24, AMP). "Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it. Test and prove yourselves [not Christ]. Do you not yourselves realize and know [thoroughly by an ever-increasing experience] that Jesus Christ is in you--unless you are [counterfeits] disapproved on trial and rejected" (2 Cor. 13:5, AMP)? "For if we searchingly examined ourselves [detecting our shortcomings and recognizing our own condition], we should not be judged and penalty decreed [by the divine judgment]. But when we [fall short and] are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined and chastened, so that we may not [finally] be condemned [to eternal punishment along] with the world" (1 Cor. 11:31-32, AMP).</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 10 – "A movement of God among His people is characterized by a profound awareness of sin. Repentance of sin and revival are inseparable" (Richard Blackaby, Internet Sermon: <i>Corporate Hindrances to Revival</i>). Implore God to instill in our hearts that we are inclined to false, shallow, and superficial repentance. Beg Him to forgive us for downplaying repentance in</p>	<p>"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name . . . and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers'" (Matt. 7:21-23, NIV)! "Such [former] ages of ignorance God, it is true, ignored and allowed to pass</p>

order to appeal to men. Ask Him to bring us to repentance for preaching a message stripped of confrontation for sin, and devoid of Law, wrath, judgment and hell. Entreat the Lord to help us understand that the calling of sinners to repentance is at the foundation of the gospel. Lament our ignorance of the God of the Bible who will judge the world in righteousness and how He teaches us that in His sovereignty He has the right to make commands and judge those who refuse His right to rule them. Beg Him to help us turn from our ignorance and understand that today He expects men everywhere to repent. Ask Him to make us sensible to the fact that we will not be judged by men but by Almighty God and to understand the seriousness of His call to repent or perish. Cry out for a willingness to repent of our sins. Implore Him to grant us a repentance that issues a whole-hearted surrender to Jesus as LORD. Ask God to help us return and boldly preach the gospel of grace that calls sinners to repent and deal with sin in their lives. Pray that believers will embrace and walk in a lifestyle of daily repentance.

SEPTEMBER 11 – “When Jesus faced the most significant burden of His life, He called three friends to join Him . . . God was now moving His life with His disciples to that moment that would change the course of eternity . . . The intensity of carrying the load of a world was so heavy the Father brought His resources, but Jesus brought three of His disciples. There were three that He could take farther with Him than He could take some others. I wonder if today because of the burden of a broken world that is nearing the return of the Lord Jesus, the intensity of the heart of God is at such a point that He is looking for those that He could take aside with Him and be with Him while He carries the load of a broken world . . . He asks you simply to go with Him. You will never have the burden that equals His. But for each of us, there can be that intense moment when we realize Jesus is carrying the redemption of a world; that He is looking for those who have not been side tracked, whose hearts have developed where He can call them His friends. Those are the hearts that He takes just a little farther than the others . . . Would He invite you? Well, let me ask it even more significantly. Has He already invited you? He is going to go into the world where the redemption of people is at stake. It is as if He is taking you to the Mount and there the Father and the law and the prophets are saying, ‘I’m about to redeem and

unnoticed; but now He charges all people everywhere to repent (to change their minds for the better and heartily to amend their ways, with abhorrence of their past sins)” (Acts 17:30, AMP).

“Exclaiming, ‘Would that you had known personally, even at least in this your day, the things that make for peace (for freedom from all the distresses that are experienced as the result of sin and upon which your peace--your security, safety, prosperity, and happiness--depends)! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For a time is coming upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank [with pointed stakes] about you and surround you and shut you in on every side. And they will dash you down to the ground, you [Jerusalem] and your children within you; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, [all] because you did not come progressively to recognize and know and understand [from observation and experience] the time of your visitation [that is, when God was visiting you, the time in which God showed Himself gracious toward you and offered you salvation through Christ]” (Luke 19:42-44, AMP). “And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall round about. And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up. Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, the LORD

set loose people enslaved in sin. But I don't want to carry that load alone. Will you go with me?' Do you believe God wants to bring revival to America? There is a picture in the Old and New Testaments that you need to be aware of. In both the Old and New it says until the birth of a child there is sorrow and pain, but afterwards there is rejoicing. Many of us want to live in the realm of rejoicing before the birth of revival. Are there not some who will carry the pain and the sorrow required to bring it to birth? Will we not go with Him when He carries the load of a broken nation on His heart? Could He trust us to stay with Him just a little while; to go just a little farther than the others will go; to hear what others don't hear; and to experience what others will not experience? He needs us there because that is the moment when He gives birth to the redemption of the people. Are you God's friend" (Henry Blackaby, Internet Article: *A Friend of God's*)? Implore the Lord to penetrate our hearts with the truth that God had to lay His heart over Ezekiel's for him to see things from His perspective and that when God comes to His people He gives them a true indication of what is on His heart. Ask Him to take deeply into our hearts that when He looked over the city of Jerusalem knowing that they would be destroyed in just a few short years, that He wept while the people who were disoriented to Him were praising and celebrating. Beg for understanding that there is a time when praise is not what He is calling for but for weeping and that as He weeps over our cities, we should be weeping also. Cry out for God to help us understand that only by seeing what He sees and feeling what He feels as He looks over our lives, families, churches, cities, and nation can we sigh and groan for the abominations done in our land. Beg Him to open our eyes to see what He sees and to open our hearts to feel what He feels for our nation. Plead for grace to see the human heart and our spiritual condition as He sees it. Ask God to lay His heart over yours. Cry out for the Spirit of God to enable us look over our cities with the Lord Jesus and stand united in heart with Him as He weeps for them. Pray for grace to recognize the day of our visitation and the day of His coming to us. Confess to God that we do not know the Scriptures, His ways and purposes well enough to recognize His activity in our land, and how disoriented we are to Him and His activity in our cities. Ask Him to help us hear His word to us as He cries, "Unless you repent you will all likewise perish," and to help us return to the

seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth. He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them" (Eze. 8:9-18, NASB).

relationship with Him needed for revival to come to our cities. Plead with Him to do something in you and in us to cause us to recognize Him and make the thorough adjustments to Him needed to be what He is looking for in His purposes of revival and awakening. Ask Him to bring the refiner's fire and to refine you personally and us corporately. Pray for understanding from Him as to why He is not bringing revival as we cry out. Plead for Him to make you willing to ask Him to refine your life for whatever He's looking for in order to bring revival through you. Cry out for understanding that He responds to those who in His presence understand their spiritual condition and revives the heart of the contrite and humble ones. Ask Him to do in you what is needed to meet the heart conditions for the heart He revives. Then ask Him to do the same thing in all His people in our nation. Seek grace for us to yield everything in our being to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to help us be willing to release everything in our lives to expose what needs to be dealt with so we can become what He is looking for as instruments for His power and presence to be expressed through to bring a mighty sweeping revival across our cities and nation.

SEPTEMBER 12 - "For decades I have prayed for revival in the church in America in our lifetime. The western church has become an awful mess, but Jesus is not giving up on her and neither should we. The answer we desperately need is a fresh move of God. We need a renewed vision of God's exalted, infinite holiness. We need an overwhelming sense of our own pride and personal sinfulness. We need our eyes lifted from the bankruptcy of cultural reflection to the crucified, risen, glorified Christ. There must be a returning to the centrality of the unadorned Gospel and the power of God's Spirit to redeem, restore and rebuild broken lives. We need men and women on fire with passionate confidence in the power of God's Word proclaimed. In short, what we desperately need is a renewing work of God that will cut a swath of revival across our land like a tornado across a Kansas wheat field. Nothing else will do . . . If we want a real, growing dynamic relationship with God - we can't settle for anything less anymore. Revival is: *More of God in my life, experienced, and enjoyed*" (James MacDonald, *Heart Cry for Revival Conference: Speaker's Notes*). Seek forgiveness for making our worship services

"Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent" (Rev. 2:1-5, KJV). "But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality. So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth" (Rev. 2:14-16, NASB). "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this: I know your deeds, and your love and faith

evangelistic and palatable to the lost instead of helping God's people encounter God in His holiness and to meet Him to be transformed and adjusted to God and His ways from the world and its ways. Beg forgiveness for our being far more interested in how people respond to us than how God is responding to what we are doing. Implore the Lord to help us see what an affront it is to Him for us to baptize men who have never repented of their sins. Ask God to restore us to an understanding of how vital our relationship to Him is. Plead for an overwhelming sense of our pride and personal sinfulness before a holy God to be granted to us. Entreat the Lord to help us hear what He is saying to His church. Plead with God to lift our eyes from "the bankruptcy of cultural reflection to the crucified, risen, glorified Christ" and for a "return to the centrality of the gospel and the power of God's Spirit to redeem, restore and rebuild broken lives." Cry out for a fresh and renewing work of God upon our nation that will "cut a swath of revival across our land like a tornado." Seek a touch by the Refiner that would set men and women "on fire with passionate confidence" in the sufficiency of Scripture and "the power of God's Word proclaimed." Pray for God to show us His glory that we would experience and enjoy more of Him and His presence in our lives, in our churches, and in our land.

and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds" (Rev. 2:18-22, NASB). "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: `I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent'" (Rev. 3:14-19, NASB).

SEPTEMBER 13 – "In the fall of 1904 a revival broke out in Wales. During the next six months, 100,000 people were saved in a great spiritual awakening . . . God did a sovereign work that captured the attention of the world. When the Spirit of God fell on a people who were right with Him, things began to happen . . . God chose to use a young boy named Evan Roberts in a special way . . . For 13 years he prayed for an outpouring of God's Spirit . . . He kept praying, "O Lord, bend me" (Henry Blackaby and Claude King, *Fresh Encounter: God's Pattern for Revival and Spiritual Awakening*, p. 14). Pray that God would renew His works of old and do a sovereign widespread work of revival and awakening in our land. Plead for a fresh downpour of His Spirit. Ask Him to bend you and then ask Him to bend His people throughout the nation. Beg Him to surface, both individually and corporately, any unconfessed sins or doubtful habits that needs to be repented of and put away. Plead with Him to make known any requirements needed for you, your family, and your church to experience genuine revival. Invite Him to

"AND WHEN the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all assembled together in one place, when suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting . . . And they were all filled (diffused throughout their souls) with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other (different, foreign) languages (tongues), as the Spirit kept giving them clear and loud expression [in each tongue in appropriate words]. Now there were then residing in Jerusalem Jews, devout and God-fearing men from every country under heaven. And when this sound was heard, the multitude came together and they were astonished and bewildered, because each one heard them [the apostles] speaking in his own [particular] dialect. And they were beside themselves with amazement, saying, Are not all these who are talking Galileans? Then how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own (particular) dialect to which we were born . . . Cretans and Arabians too--we all hear them speaking in our own native tongues [and telling of] the mighty works of God? And all were beside themselves with amazement and were puzzled and bewildered, saying one to another, What can this mean" (Acts 2:1-2, 4-8, 11-12, AMP)?

reveal what changes you and your church need to make to be used in the spiritual awakening of your city and our nation. Ask Him to do whatever is necessary to bring us back to a rightly related and fully surrendered relationship with Him that we may experience the fullness of life that He intends for us. Plead for Him to so cleanse and fill us that we would boldly witness publicly and boldly of Christ and be used by God to draw the lost multitudes to Himself.

SEPTEMBER 14 - "The Bible does not treat repentance as an option. God commands all people everywhere to repent. Repentance is a duty imposed on each of us as well as on everyone everywhere by our Creator" (Richard Owen Roberts, *Repentance*, pp. 271)? Entreat the Lord to help us understand, take to heart, and respond to the gospel message that teaches us that repentance takes place out of the knowledge of the fear of divine wrath. Ask God to grant us a renewed fear of divine wrath in the United States. Seek the Lord's grace to help us see that abused goodness results in greater severity of judgment. Cry out for understanding in our land to the truth that our indifference and inattentiveness to God and His servants as He calls us to repentance causes His wrath to burn against us. Ask him to help us see that to pay no attention to the Lord as He speaks to us is seen by Him as despising and rejecting Him. Beg for God to help us understand that if we go on in willful sinning after He has placed the truth before us that the guilt of our rejection of Him is intensified immeasurably. Ask God in His mercy to deal with the pride in the hearts of His people, to help us thoroughly return to Him, to take away all iniquity, and to receive us graciously. Pray and ask the Lord's forgiveness for turning from His statutes and for denying, excusing, and trying to explain away our sin. Ask Him to search our hearts, reveal what is there, and help us repent of sin. Plead with the Lord to grant us messengers in the church of our nation who will faithfully proclaim the word that is needed to reclaim our hearts, and ask Him to give us ears to hear what His Spirit is saying. Ask God to open a highway of holiness for Himself in your heart and church.

SEPTEMBER 15 - "Our Christian culture has become much like the Laodiceans of Revelation chapter three. We are lukewarm and, in our self-estimation, 'rich . . . wealthy

... He will clear the way before Me And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple . . . But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears . . . I will draw near to you for judgment" (Mal 3:1-7, NASB). " . . . Being satisfied, their heart became proud...Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.' Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him, 'Take away all iniquity and receive us graciously.'" (Hos. 13:7, 14:1-2, NASB). "'From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you'...But you say, 'How shall we return?'" (Mal. 3:7, NASB): "For if we go on deliberately and willingly sinning after once acquiring the knowledge of the Truth, there is no longer any sacrifice left to atone for [our] sins [no further offering to which to look forward]. [There is nothing left for us then] but a kind of awful and fearful prospect and expectation of divine judgment and the fury of burning wrath and indignation which will consume those who put themselves in opposition [to God]. Any person who has violated and [thus] rejected and set at naught the Law of Moses is put to death without pity or mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse (sterner and heavier) punishment do you suppose he will be judged to deserve who has spurned and [thus] trampled underfoot the Son of God, and who has considered the covenant blood by which he was consecrated common and unhallowed, thus profaning it and insulting and outraging the [Holy] Spirit [Who imparts] grace (the unmerited favor and blessing of God)? For we know Him Who said, Vengeance is Mine [retribution and the meting out of full justice rest with Me]; I will repay [I will exact the compensation], says the Lord. And again, The Lord will judge and determine and solve and settle the cause and the cases of His people. It is a fearful (formidable and terrible) thing to incur the divine penalties and be cast into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:26-31, AMP).

"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish

and . . . in need of nothing.' We are blind to Christ's assessment that we are actually 'wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked' without a fresh experience of His presence. We are entrenched in self-sufficiency, evidenced by our reliance on human leadership, technology, methodology and programming -- coupled with our general disinterest in prayer. We need a holy outpouring of grace to repent, see our true condition and invite Christ into the midst of our corporate life as He is even now standing at the door and knocking, ready to revive His people with His holy presence . . . "To give His people a fresh passion for His person and presence, not just through teaching about revival, but through transformational moments of seeking Him together in the actual experience of prayer" (David Henderson, *Heart Cry for Revival Conference: Speaker's Notes*). Plead with God to help us repent of our lukewarm, self-confident and self-righteous attitudes that cause us to rest that we are "rich, wealthy, and in need of nothing." Ask God to help us see ourselves as He sees us in our lukewarmness as "wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked." Plead for forgiveness for being "entrenched in our self-sufficiency" and for being reliant "on human leadership, technology, methodology and programming—coupled with our general disinterest in prayer." Cry out for "a holy outpouring of grace to repent, see our true condition and invite Christ into the midst of our corporate life." Plead for our returning to the relationship with God evidenced by increased and fervent prayer in our lives and churches. Ask God "to give His people a fresh passion for His person and presence, not just through teaching about revival, but through transformational moments of seeking Him together in the actual experience of prayer." Ask God to help us see Him as He stands at the door of our churches and hearts knocking and seeking entrance ready to revive us with His presence if we will but invite Him in and sup with Him. Cry out for God to grant us a "holy outpouring of grace to repent, see our true condition and invite Christ into our corporate life." Invite Him in and ask Him to help you sup with Him in the level of prayer that He desires from you that He may use you He to bring revival and awakening to our nation. Beg God to grant us greater desire to meet and seek Him together that we may experience transformation

that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent" (Rev. 3:14-19, NASB).

<p>corporately. Ask God to move us to tire of our distance from Him and to call out for a special visitation of His Spirit that would bring us to a restored relationship of close fellowship with Him.</p>	
<p>SEPTEMBER 16 – “Though the damnation of all that perish will be intolerable, yet the damnation of those who had the fullest and clearest discoveries made to them of the power and grace of Christ, and yet repented not, will be of all others the most intolerable” (Matthew Henry, <i>Matthew Henry’s Commentary: Matthew to John</i>, p. 157). Ask God to enable us to understand that the refusal to repent is the incurable wound. Plead with God to help the truth grip our hearts that the stronger the inducements granted us by Him to call and lead us to repent, the greater the affront it is that we are impenitent and the greater and more severe will be our judgment because of the gracious and merciful work of God that we rejected. Seek understanding that the charge God made against men was not that they “believed not” but that they did not repent. Ask God to help return to the biblical pattern of repent, believe, and then be baptized. Plead with Him to thrust into the harvest of our nation those who will proclaim God’s merciful message today that a day of judgment is coming when those who refuse to repent will be called to account before a holy God and that the severity of punishment will be increased for those who have rejected His word.</p>	<p>“Then He began to censure and reproach the cities in which most of His mighty works had been performed, because they did not repent [and their hearts were not changed]. Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes [and their hearts would have been changed]. I tell you [further], it shall be more endurable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, are you to be lifted up to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades [the region of the dead]! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have continued until today. But I tell you, it shall be more endurable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you” (Matt. 11:20-24, AMP). “Paul said, ‘John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.’ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 19:4-5, NASB).</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 17 – “God Himself is grieved over the failure of His own people to repent, and He has issued many passionate calls for them to repent and turn back to Him . . . Repentance must include: seeking the Lord, calling upon Him, forsaking wicked ways, and returning again to Him . . . Failure in repentance guaranteed calamity” (Richard Owen Roberts, <i>Repentance</i>, p. 45). Cry out for understanding of the truth that repentance proceeds forgiveness of sin. Beg God to grant us the brokenness, contrition, humility and repentance that proceeds the infilling of the Spirit. Pray for God to bring us through a repentance that will make us servants unto Him who will refuse to amuse people but call men to change their minds and reform their lives through repentance. Plead with God to do such a work in us that there would be an army of judgment adverting intercessors raised up. Ask God to advance His kingdom by overwhelming masses of people in our nation with His presence.</p>	<p>“So they went out and preached that men should repent [that they should change their minds for the better and heartily amend their ways, with abhorrence of their past sins]” (Mark 6:12, AMP). ⁴John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness (desert), preaching a baptism [obligating] repentance (a change of one's mind for the better, heartily amending one's ways, with abhorrence of his past sins) in order to obtain forgiveness of and release from sins” (Mark 1:4, AMP).</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 18 - "As go the shepherds, so</p>	<p>“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye</p>

goes the flock. The church desperately needs leaders who are holy, Spirit-filled, prayerful, whole-hearted, anointed men of the Word and servants and lovers of Christ . . . I hope to see God revive our hearts, rekindle our love for Christ, refresh our vision, and restore our passion for prayer and for a movement of revival and spiritual awakening in our day" . . . "God is unchanging: He still insists that things be done His way. Revival is greatly needed when leaders forget that doing things God's way in the power of His Spirit is the only acceptable way . . . It is my earnest hope that God will so touch the hearts of all leaders . . . that the world will experience the tidal wave of the old-fashioned Holy Ghost power that accompanies full obedience to God." . . . "We need a revival among Christian leaders because many of us must return to the basic truths and practices that made the church great: personal repentance, evangelism and a radical commitment to holiness, for ourselves and our congregations . . . I would like to see God enlarge our vision of what is possible for us and our constituencies. We have grown too content with mediocrity, with maintaining our positions rather than taking ground for the cause of Christ. We need vision and motivation to pursue God both individually and corporately." (Nancy Leigh DeMoss, Richard Owen Roberts and Erwin Lutzer. *Heart Cry for Revival Conference: Speaker's Notes*). Seek forgiveness for our forgetting that God is unchanging (immutable) and how it has caused us to disregard that "He still insists that things be done His way" and His way alone! Ask God for a revival that would cause our leaders to return to doing things God's ways and to doing them "in the power of His Spirit." Seek forgiveness of our contentment "with mediocrity and with maintaining our positions rather than taking ground for the cause of Christ." Cry out for a mighty movement of His Spirit across our nation to bring a great renewal to the hearts of our spiritual leaders. Pray that God would grant them a greater desire and yearning for Him alone. Implore Him to grant them a renewed vision of Him as He is in the scriptures that they would have the vision of Him needed to motivate them personally to pursue Him and to promote that pursuit within the corporate body of believers. Ask God to grant them a fresh encounter with Him that would produce the change of character, heart, and will that would generate "holy, Spirit-filled, prayerful, whole-hearted, anointed men of the Word and servants and lovers of Christ." Beg Him for

sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Mal. 3:6, NASB). "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts'" (Isa. 55:8-9, NASB). "For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men. As a cage is full of birds, so are their houses full of deceit: therefore they are become great, and waxen rich. They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge. Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this? A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof" (Jer. 5:26-31, KJV)? "And many false prophets will rise up and deceive and lead many into error. And the love of the great body of people will grow cold because of the multiplied lawlessness and iniquity, but he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matt. 24:11-13, NASB). "Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 'Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.' But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD . . . And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, 'Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.' So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them." (Jonah 1:1-3, 3:1-5, NASB).

such revival of the spiritual leaders of our nation that they would "return to the basic truths and practices that made the church great: personal repentance, evangelism and a radical commitment to holiness for ourselves and our congregations." Invite God to "so touch the hearts of all leaders that the world will experience the tidal wave of the old-fashioned Holy Ghost power that accompanies full obedience to God." Plead for grace for God to strike us with the absence of an awareness of the presence of God in our midst, to grant us a deep conviction of sin, and renew us to a genuine love and passion for Christ. Beg God to "revive our hearts, rekindle our love for Christ, refresh our vision, and restore our passion for prayer and for a movement of revival and spiritual awakening in our day." Cry out for understanding that God has told us of a day that would come when many would fall away and many false prophets would arise and mislead many. Plead with God to help us understand that following false prophets is not an acceptable excuse to God for impenitence because He has warned us greatly of the multiplication of them in the last days and has given us instruction on how to identify them that we may avoid being carried away by their delusion. Ask God to help us understand that many are being kept from repentance because of disobedient preachers. Beg God to help the Jonah's of our day to repent and go and call their cities to repentance. Ask God to raise up and thrust into the harvest an army of faithful preachers to proclaim the message He has on His heart for the cities that are ripe for His judgment in our nation.

SEPTEMBER 19 – "If someone who loves you were to take you aside sometime this week and say to you, 'I know that you are guilty of this specific sin.' What would be your reaction: Would it be one of indignation toward yourself for being so unlike Christ, and such a grievous sinner that loving brothers and sisters must rebuke you . . . The third mark of true repentance is indignation. The repentant person is, in other words, so thoroughly aroused against all sin that he becomes forcefully indignant against sin and manifests a powerful grief and hatred of it . . . Any people who cannot tolerate reproof, rebuke, and instruction in righteousness are at heart an unrepentant people . . . People who have no appetite for correction and whose only capacity for indignation was against him (the preacher of righteousness) for calling them sinners and

" . . . Break up your fallow ground and do not sow among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to the LORD and remove the foreskins of your heart . . . lest My wrath go forth like fire and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds" (Jer. 4:3-4, NASB). "For [you can look back now and] observe what this same godly sorrow has done for you and has produced in you: what eagerness and earnest care to explain and clear yourselves . . . what indignation [at the sin], what alarm, what yearning, what zeal [to do justice to all concerned], what readiness to mete out punishment [to the offender]! At every point you have proved yourselves cleared and guiltless in the matter" (1 Cor. 7:11, AMP). "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:12-13, KJV).

urging them to repent" (Richard Owen Roberts, *Repentance*, p. 142-143). "We cannot control national revival, local revivals, nor church revivals - but we can pray from our hearts, 'Lord, start a revival. Begin with me' . . . I would love to see each of us acknowledge before Him, 'God, my heart has grown cold. I have allowed some of the truth of your Word to become fact-based to me and a little dry and a little hard. Lord, bring a fresh work of Your Spirit in my life" (James MacDonald, *Heart Cry for Revival Conference: Speaker's Notes*). Seek God's forgiveness for allowing our hearts to grow cold and for allowing His truth to become fact-based and a bit hardened. Cry out to God, "Lord, send a revival. Begin with me." Ask God to bring a fresh work of His Spirit into our lives. Plead for Him to encounter us in such a way that we would fear tolerating sin and allowing our hearts to be hardened by it. Pray that God will help us be indignant of our sin causing us to hate it as He does. Ask God to help us understand that He sends the curse of spiritual blindness upon people who remain impenitent where they continue with their religious practices but pervert the truth. Beg God to for a supernatural outpouring of the Holy Spirit on His people to overwhelm us with His holy presence granting such a reviving work in our hearts that a new level of true transformation through people being aware and overwhelmed by God's manifest presence would be evidenced by multitudes becoming followers of Jesus Christ in a short amount of time. Because revival is returning to God, ask God to help us pray earnestly for the repentance of God's people rather than for revival. Beg God to convict us of our need of repentance.

SEPTEMBER 20 – "Repentance is one of the most positive of all words. John the Baptist centered his preaching on repentance . . . Jesus also preached repentance, commanding His disciples to do likewise . . . To repent means to stop going one direction, to turn around completely, and to go the opposite way. Repentance involves a dramatic and decisive change of course. God urges us to repent when the path we are taking leads to destruction. Repentance will save us from disastrous consequences! What a wonderful word! How comforting that the Creator loves us enough to warn us of impending danger! Our problem is that we think of repentance as something negative. When we recognize our sin, we prefer to 'rededicate' our lives to God.

"Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel'" (Mark 1:14-15, NASB). ". . . A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth" (Luke 3:4-5, NIV). "What then? Are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that

We may even tell others we have resolved to be more faithful to God than we were before we failed Him. Yet the Bible does not speak of rededicating oneself. It speaks of repentance! Repentance indicates a decisive change, not merely a wishful resolution. We have not repented if we continue in our sin! Repentance involves a radical change of heart and mind in which we agree with God's evaluation of our sin and then take specific action to align ourselves with His will. A desire to change is not repentance. Repentance is always an active response to God's word. The evidence of repentance is not words of resolve, but a changed life" (Henry Blackaby, *Experiencing God Day by Day: The Devotional and Journal*, p. 155). Thank God for warning us of the dangers we will face as a nation if we do not repent. Ask God to enable us to change the way we think about repentance and to see that is as needful for God's people as for the world. Plead with God to lead us into a radical change of heart and mind where we agree with God's evaluation of our sin and willingly take action to align ourselves with His will. Ask Him to strengthen us to bear the fruit of repentance. Invite Him to make us sensible of our need to be more closely united with the Father that we may sense our need to repent and return to Him. Beg Him to help us see our sinning from His perspective. Pray for the illumination by the Holy Spirit to awaken our consciences to see what very great sinners we are and how we each need to repent for the immensity of our sins before the Lord.

SEPTEMBER 21 – "Revival movements are characterized by a deep conviction of sin and repentance. God has established an 'If . . . then' pattern in Scripture that gives a general principle. 2 Chronicles 7:14: 'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sins, and heal their land.' Malachi 3:7: 'Return to me and I will return to you.' James 4:8-10: 'Come near to God and He will come near to you.' A move of God should include a sober recognition of the holiness of God. Isaiah pretty much sums this up when he says in Isaiah 6:5: 'Woe to me!' I cried. 'I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.' If repentance, brokenness, and humility are not a part of it, then I find it suspect. Scripture indicates that God moves in response to obedience. If there is flamboyancy

doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood. Destruction and misery are in their ways and the way of peace have they not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes" (Rom. 3:9-18, KJV).

" . . . Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not . . . And he said to Him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. And he said, I tell thee . . . the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me" (Luke 22:31-34, KJV). "But [the time is coming when] the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2:14, AMP).

or prideful declarations, perhaps it is not from God. A true movement of God should also result in a deep hunger for the Word of God that penetrates the heart, brings conviction, and leads to transformation of the heart. It transcends the person preaching or the program. But a true move of God cannot help but have an impact on society. It's not something that happens just within the walls of the church. If people are continually being drawn to a church because unusual things are happening or they are experiencing emotional encounters, but nothing changes in society—then it is good to question of much of that can be attributed to a movement of God. It may or may not be—but you need to be discerning. Habakkuk 2:14 holds up a high standard for community transformation: 'For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.' The bottom line for a true movement of God is that Jesus' name is famous and God is glorified in the community. Let's believe and pray for nothing less" (Carol Madison, Internet Article: *Recognizing a True Movement of God*). Seek God's mercy and forgiveness for our being ashamed of and denying Christ in fear before the multitudes who stand opposed to truth. Ask God to bring each of us to such a thorough and deep repentance for denying Him that we will love people enough to confront them with truth and with His command to repent. Seek forgiveness for all the declarations of revival that have dishonored God that we have made when it obviously was not a transforming movement of God. Cry out for an encounter with God in His holiness that would work a movement in the church and nation characterized by a deep conviction of sin moving men to godly sorrow and repentance for sin. Plead for a mighty movement of God that would have a transforming impact on our society that would so reveal Christ that it would be an evidence of God's filling the earth with the knowledge of His glory! Cry out for God to fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

SEPTEMBER 22 – Revival has been describes as by Jonathan Edwards as "God breaking in and upon and over His church like ocean waves upon the shoreline rocks". . . Duncan Campbell said, "Revival is a community saturated with God" . . . and Andrew Murray defined it as, "A true revival means nothing less than a revolution, casting out the spirit of worldliness and selfishness, and making God and His love triumph in the heart and life" (*Massimo Lorenzini, Internet Article: Our*

"Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence" (Isa. 64:1, KJV). "Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You" (Psa. 85:6, AMP).

Need For Revival). Plead with God to “break in and upon and over His church like ocean waves upon the shoreline rocks.” Cry for Him to saturate us and our communities with His presence. Ask Him to send a Spirit initiated “revolution, casting out the spirit of worldiness and selfishness” in His church. Beg Him to do an extraordinary work of grace in our land that would make “God and His love triumph in the heart and life” of His people that our nation may be filled with His glory again.

SEPTEMBER 23 – “We have become almost completely internalized. We have turned on each other and lost our way. Our churches often simply mirror our leaders. Beginning with me, we need a renewal of love, humility, holiness, and deep compassion for the lost . . . I pray that God would awaken within us a renewed passion for the lost, resulting in real Spirit-led, Spirit-filled action to fulfill the Great Commission.” (John Avant, *Heart Cry for Revival Conference: Speaker’s Notes*). Cry out to God to search our hearts to see and reveal to us our wicked ways. Ask Him to help us do an honest heart search on personal and corporate sin as His people. Beg Him to send the affliction that will be a teacher to move us to repentance. Ask God to pinpoint our sins and make us sorrowful to the point of repentance. Call out to God for a touch from heaven that would bring a renewal of love, humility, holiness, and deep compassion for the lost. Pray that God would awaken within us a renewed passion for the lost, resulting in real Spirit-led, Spirit-filled action to fulfill the Great Commission.

SEPTEMBER 24 - “The biblical demand for repentance is in two separate and distinct areas: repentance from sin and repentance from dead works . . . Revival must emphasize repentance from every known form of dead works” (Richard Owen Roberts, Internet sermon: *Repentance From Dead Works*). Implore the Lord to teach us that Jesus never taught that men could be saved from hell and still retain control of their own lives. Ask the Lord to deliver us from the heresy of empty formalities of “accepting” Christ and to help us preach repentance. Ask God to convict us of and grant us repentance from all formal, empty, false, legal, self-invented, and lifeless observances to serve the living God. Cast yourself on God asking Him to send a wave of repentance over the church of the United States that will deliver false professors from dead works for without repentance there can be no real conversion. Ask God to help us

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way” (Psa. 139:23-24, NASB).

Jesus answered, ‘I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life . . .’ (John 6:26-27, NIV). “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Psa. 66:18, KJV). “Therefore repent and turn back, that your sins may be wiped out so that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19, HCSB). “. . . Cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God” (Heb. 9:14, NASB). “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21, KJV). “. . . I have more than enough of burnt offerings. . . Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me . . . I cannot bear your evil assemblies . . . They have

understand that unforsaken sin places a barrier between us and Him, rendering our prayers as dead works. Beg the Lord to help us understand what repenting of dead works involves and to help us loathe ourselves for the dead works He sees in us as we gather in worship with hearts that are often far from Him. Plead with the Lord to help His people in the United States grasp the difference between dead works and living faith. Ask Him to forgive us and cleanse us from every known form of dead works. Seek grace from the Lord to help us yield to His heart searching scrutiny to purge our consciences from all reliance on dead works.

become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them" (Isa. 1:11-14, NASB). ". . . 'What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?' Jesus answered . . . 'This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent'" (John 6:28-29, NASB). "How much more surely shall the blood of Christ, Who by virtue of [His] eternal Spirit [His own preexistent divine personality] has offered Himself as an unblemished sacrifice to God, purify our consciences from dead works and lifeless observances to serve the [ever] living God" (Heb. 9:14, AMP)?

SEPTEMBER 25 – "Revival tarries because God's people will not repent, and we see no reason to do so. So, even if we recognize that the times are urgent and the spiritual climate is dark, and even if we cry unto God for a mighty revival, without our repentance He will refuse to hear us because we keep iniquity in our hearts. We must, therefore, heed His call: "'Return to Me, and I will return to you,' says the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 3:7b). We must repent and return to Him in holiness, love and obedience, or the nation will surely perish under the judgment of our sin" (Henry Blackaby, *Why Revival Tarries*)! Beg God to help us take to heart that there comes a time when a people may put the infinite patience of God to the stretching of its limits and God will at that time cut off intercessory prayer, for He cuts off intercessory prayer when His work is judgment upon a people who are so far from returning to Him that neither His prophets nor His judgments can prevail upon them to repent. Ask God to penetrate our hearts with the truth that our sinning when we have no disposition towards repentance causes God to withdraw and set a limit when confession of sin and repentance can no longer bring deliverance from judgment. Cry out for loyalty to God and His word. Ask Him to help us understand that all men are sinners and must repent and that the specific purpose of God's goodness is to lead us to repentance not to allow us to go on in our sins. Beg God to help you personally become sensible of your need to repent. Cry out for the Holy Spirit to make the millions in our churches who know nothing of experiential repentance sensible of their need to repent. Plead for a mighty movement of God in waves of repentance to move across our nation and bring corporate

"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon" (Isa. 55:6-7, NIV). "The Lord said to me, Do not pray for this people for their good. Though they fast, I will not hear their cry; and though they offer burnt offering and cereal offering [without heartfelt surrender to Me, or by offering it too late], I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. . . . THEN THE Lord said to me, Though Moses and Samuel stood [interceding for them] before Me, yet My mind could not be turned with favor toward this people [Judah]. Send them out of My sight and let them go!" (Jer. 14:11-12, 15:1, AMP).

<p>repentance to the lost multitudes.</p>	
<p>SEPTEMBER 26 – “God . . . forced Job to compare himself with the Almighty . . . He was inwardly driven to abhor himself and to repent in dust and ashes” (Richard Owen Roberts, <i>Repentance</i>, p. 119). Seek forgiveness for the reigning arrogance in the church of our nation caused by our not having a high enough view of God to bring us low in our own estimation of our selves. Ask His forgiveness for the idolatry and blasphemy of His name done by our worshiping gods formed in our own likeness. Plead with the Lord to grant us a fresh revelation of His divine majesty, holiness, and authority and restore a right view of His character in and through us. Ask God to draw near and humble us and bring us to a deep sense of our sins, weakness and inability. Entreat God to humble us in our own sight by granting us a Job like encounter with Him that would bring us to such an experience of repentance that nothing in our lives would remain untouched. Ask God for special dealings with Himself that would drive us to abhor ourselves in His sight and repent in dust and ashes.</p>	<p>“You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?’ Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak’ . . . My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:3-6, NIV). “Then the LORD said to Job, ‘Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it.’ Then Job answered the LORD and said, ‘Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth’” (Job 40:1-4, NASB). “The LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil’ . . . I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes” (Job 1:8, 42:6, NASB). “Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6, KJV).</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 27 - “True repentance calls for honest reflection on personal sin. It calls for recognition of divine wrath. It calls for a rejection of any religious ritual as a means of salvation and the renouncing of any ancestral hope” (John MacArthur, Internet sermon: <i>True Repentance: God’s Highway to the Heart</i>). Implore the Lord to help us see that as He contends with us that it is impossible for both God and us to be right in the conflict. Ask God to strip us of all our self-justification and to help us face the reality of the pride in us that keeps us justifying ourselves while He contends with us. Beseech the Lord to help us grasp that repentance results when Holy God encounters sinners. Beg God to bring us into such a humbling confrontation with Himself that we would have a high and just view of His character and be reduced to see the foolishness of our wisdom compared to His. Ask God to awaken us to the elements of an encounter with Him which includes confessing and expressing shame over sin, agreeing with Him that He is just in disciplining us, and thanking Him for grace expressed in not totally judging us. Ask Him to help us put action to our words of confession and repentance. Beg God to help us see that He revives those who ask and are willing to pay the price. Ask Him to help</p>	<p>“Will you also annul (set aside and render void) My judgment? Will you condemn Me [your God], that you may [appear] righteous and justified” (Job 40:8, AMP)? “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones” (Isa. 57:15, KJV). “. . . I saw the Lord . . . Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone and ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts” (Isa. 6:1-5, AMP)! “We have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame . . . because of our unfaithfulness to you . . . O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive” (Dan. 9:5-7, 19, NIV). “Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent” (Rev. 3:19, NIV).</p>

us accept His discipline as His work of bringing us to repentance. Beg Him to grant His church in the United States the heart conditions for seeing Him and to provide us a deep cleansing encounter with Himself. Ask the Lord to help us turn away from sin and to guide us to return to Him.

SEPTEMBER 28 - "Delaying repentance for any reason whatsoever is the most dangerous thing you can possibly do . . . Stop where you are and carefully consider the tremendous dangers you face in delayed repentance" (Richard Owen Roberts, *Repentance*, pg. 238). Entreat the Lord to forgive us for presuming that we can repent any time we desire. Plead His help to understand the dangers of delaying repentance. Ask Him to soften our hearts and to help us repent immediately of our sin. Beg the Lord to help us understand the terrible consequences that face a people when they do not recognize their day of visitation. Ask God to help us take to heart that opportunities for repentance can be removed as He sees fit. Plead with the Lord to help us recognize our day of mercy and to help us respond to the Lord obediently while His gift of repentance is available to us. Plead with the Lord to instill deeply in our hearts that we may so grieve the Lord by delayed repentance that He brings some hindering circumstances upon us that remove all hope for repentance. Implore God to help us see that every time we hear a call to repent and do not obey that we harden our hearts against repentance. Petition the Lord to help us take to heart that every time we allow pride to keep us from repentance that it becomes more difficult to repent. Beg the Lord to grant us the humility of heart appropriate for the confession of sin and true repentance. Ask God to deliver us from the presumption of thinking we have the opportunity to repent today so it will also be available tomorrow. Beg Him to help us know that we may actually be hearing His call to repent for the final time. Ask Him for sensitivity to His call for repentance. Beg God to help us experience Him and His glory as Isaiah did. Implore God to grip our hearts with an exalted view of Him and His glory that would empty us and annihilate our sin, and fill us with undivided love for Him and His glory. Ask Him to help us experience Him for who He really is that we may see ourselves from His perspective.

"Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, 'TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS'" (Heb. 3:7-8, NASB). . . 'If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will . . . encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you'" (Luke 19:41-44, NIV). " . . . No man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them" (Ecc. 9:12, NIV). "Why, O LORD, do you make us wander from your ways and harden our hearts so we do not revere you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your inheritance" (Isa. 63:17, NIV). " . . . For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see . . . and hear . . . and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them" (Acts 28:26-27, KJV). "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation)" (2 Cor. 6:1-2, KJV). "And when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came . . . They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance . . ." (2 Chron. 12:7, KJV). ". . . I pray You, show me Your glory" (Ex. 33:18, NASB)! "For I desire and delight in dutiful steadfast love and goodness, not sacrifice, and the knowledge of and acquaintance with God more than burnt offerings" (Hos. 6:6, AMP). ". . . I saw the Lord . . . I said, 'Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King . . ." (Isa. 6:1-5, NASB). "Submit therefore to God . . . Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble

	yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you" (James 4:7-10, NASB).
<p>SEPTEMBER 29 - "This was a gracious call to repentance. This was the Lord's voice crying in the city, the voice of the rod, the voice of the sword, and the voice of the prophets interpreting the judgment." (Ron Owens and Henry Blackaby, <i>Worship: Believers Experiencing God</i>, pages 8-9). Thank God that His discipline causes loving leaders to intercede which may delay or reduce judgment upon a sinful nation. Ask Him to raise up more intercessors and to mold you into such an interceding leader. Thank God that before He judges He warns us calling us to repent and return to Him. Ask Him to grant us leaders who recognize and understand the severity of His judgments in our land and to grant them the courage to call us to repentance. Pray asking God to give us a spirit of revelation and wisdom in the knowledge of the truth that His ways of disciplining His people may include natural disasters such as earthquakes, tornados, floods, fire, hail, and famine. Ask God to help us see what is happening in our day in the light of scriptures and to help us return to the love relationship with Him. Entreat God to shake us from our fleshly confidences and the flattering of ourselves that we are right with Him when His judgments are breaking out all around us. Beg God to enable us to understand that when we provoke Him by our sin how utterly consuming His judgments are. Ask Him to help us lay to heart the calamities of our country and churches due to our sin. Implore the Lord to grant us ministers who will preach God's message and not just what people want to hear. Ask God to gift them with discernment to understand and correctly interpret His discipline. Invite the Lord to teach us that His discipline may remove His word, presence, and His people from us. Beg God to incline our hearts towards repentance. Pray that God would revive His work in the midst of the years and in wrath to remember mercy.</p>	<p>"Return to Him you have so greatly revolted against . . ." (Isa. 31:6). "I have listened and heard, but they have not spoken aright; no man repents of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? Everyone turns to his [individual] course, as the horse rushes like a torrent into battle" (Jer. 8:6, AMP). "Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence . . . So God said . . . I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth . . . I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens . . . Everything on earth will perish" (Gen. 6:11-17, NASB). "When I would comfort myself against sorrow, my heart is faint in me . . . Why have they provoked me to anger with their graven images, and with strange vanities" (Jer. 8:18-19, KJV). "How can you say, We are wise, and we have the written law of the Lord [and are learned in its language and teachings]? Behold, the truth is, the lying pen of the scribes has made of the law a falsehood . . ." (Jer. 8:8, AMP). ". . . I will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city . . . and cast you out of my presence" (Jer. 23:39, KVJ). "When I would comfort myself against sorrow, my heart is faint in me . . . Why have they provoked me to anger with their graven images, and with strange vanities" (Jer. 8:18-19, KJV). "Lord, revive Thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy" (Hab. 3:2, NIV).</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 30 - "Conviction of sin is one of the rarest things that ever strikes a man. It is the threshold of an understanding of God. Jesus Christ said that when the Holy Spirit came He would convict of sin, and when the Holy Spirit rouses a man's conscience and brings him into the presence of God, it is not his relationship with men that bothers him, but his relationship with God - 'against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight.' The marvels of conviction of sin, forgiveness, and holiness are so interwoven</p>	<p>"And I will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace or unmerited favor and supplication. And they shall look [earnestly] upon Me Whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him as one who is in bitterness for his firstborn" (Zech. 12:10, AMP). "Oh, that Thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down that the mountains might quake at Thy presence" (Isa. 64: 1, NASB).</p>

that it is only the forgiven man who is the holy man, he proves he is forgiven by being the opposite to what he was, by God's grace. Repentance always brings a man to this point: 'I have sinned.' The surest sign that God is at work is when a man says that and means it. Anything less than this is remorse for having made blunders, the reflex action of disgust at himself" (Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost For His Highest*, Dec. 7). Ask God to rend the heavens and come down that all may quake at His presence. Plead with Him to overwhelm us with anguish, despair, remorse, and guilt of sinning against a holy God and to help us seek desperately for the way to make right what we have done to Him by our sinning. Pray for the conviction of sin that must come before cleansing of it can take place. Cry out for God to pour out the Spirit of grace and supplication upon us and help us mourn over our piercing of our Savior by our sins. Ask God for such an encounter with Himself that we would dread sin itself and hate it by seeing it as an affront to God.

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