

"Re"wording Our Prayers
For
Spiritual Change



*A Month-long Workbook
for
Serious Christians*

By
Shirley W. Wilson

Introduction

This booklet is designed to help you pray for a moving of God in our nation, our world, our churches, our homes. In times past, God has moved through His Holy Spirit in response to the prayers of His people. This kind of movement is defined as *Revival*, a coming to life again, God-breathed change, a regaining of spiritual consciousness. Does your heart crave this kind of spiritual renewal for yourself, your family, or your church? Perhaps this workbook will help you pray for such a move of God.

As I prayed one day, God kept bringing me word after word that begins with the prefix “re.” I decided to use these words as a springboard for prayer, and to see how God would direct me as I meditated from various perspectives on the great subject of revival.

Each of the 31 days of the month will underscore a different word, arranged alphabetically. After a brief definition, and a scriptural or other reference, a prayer will be offered for you to follow. The questions included may help you get started meditating on the word and writing your own prayer. Extra lines have been added for you to do so. If you miss a day or two, don’t fret or give up. Simply resume on the day of the month where you find yourself. Over several months, you should cover all the words.

This outline can serve to guide you beyond these 31 days, because other “re” words may ignite you to pray more specifically for needs you see. A section at the end of the booklet allows you room to add your own words for prayer.

Although I wrote the prayers in this book from a corporate perspective, I encourage you to make your own prayers more personal. By doing this, you should gain the most from this study.

This booklet can be used by individuals or small prayer groups. For small groups, the words can be divided into 2s or 3s or however many will be helpful for you in any one session. May God kindle a flame for *revival* in your heart, which will spread like the tongues of fire on Pentecost.

Shirley W. Wilson
2011

O Breath of Life

*O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,
Revive Thy church with life and pow'r;
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,
And fit Thy Church to meet this hour.*

*O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
Till humbly we confess our need;
Then, in Thy tenderness remake us,
Revive, restore, for this we plead.*

*O Breath of Love, come breathe within us,
Renewing thought and will and heart;
Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,
Revive Thy Church in every part*

*O Heart of Christ, once broken for us,
'Tis there we find our strength and rest;
Our broken, contrite hearts now solace,
And let Thy waiting Church be blest.*

*Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
While harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
Equip Thy Church to spread the light. Amen.*

—Bessie P. Head

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**Words inside brackets [] are placed there by the author in an attempt
to clarify the scripture passages quoted.**

1

Reaffirm

Reaffirm—to validate again; to state positively again; to express dedication to again; assert; to repeat a solemn declaration.

1 Samuel 20:17 “And Jonathan had David *reaffirm* his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.”

2 Corinthians 2:8 “I urge you, therefore, to *reaffirm* your love for him [the forgiven sinner].”

Prayer:

Lord, you who have made us and called us, hear the *reaffirmation* of our love and commitment to you. We want to continue to walk with you, but as your church, we have left our first love. Our passion and our devotion have grown cold. We have allowed sin to take us ever increasingly away from your presence. We bring to you our word of intention. We *reaffirm* our love for you and your church. Mark us as those who seriously dedicate ourselves anew to you with your Holy Spirit. We *reaffirm* our promises to you. Help us by your power to continue in this pathway. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Can you think of a time when you needed **reaffirmation** from someone?

Explain: _____

2. What people that you know might need **reaffirmation**?

Why? _____

2 *Realign*

Realign—to reorganize; to straighten; get into line

Psalm 27:11 “Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.”

Proverbs 3:6 “In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 4:11-12 “I guide you in the ways of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run; you will not stumble.”

2 Peter 2:15 “They [false prophets] have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam, son of Beor, who loved the ways of wickedness.”

Prayer:

Lord, it’s easy for us as individuals to wander off the path. Sometimes we are drawn away by our own evil desires and imaginations. Other times our culture and our sinful neighbors call us from the path. More dangerous still, even religious leaders and teachers blindfold us and lead us from your way. *Realign* us today. Help us to stay close to the guidance of your word, and to hear your Spirit say to us, “This is the way; walk in it.” Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. What kind of ordinary objects need **realignment**?

_____ Why do they need

it? _____

What is the process?

2. What needs to happen in order to **realign** a local church? _____

3. Were there any churches in Revelation 2 and 3 that needed **realignment**?

Notes:

3

Reassure

Reassure—to restore to confidence, security, satisfaction, safety; to repeat a guarantee, a certainty, a truth.

Deuteronomy 9:3 “But be *assured* today that the Lord your God is the one who goes across ahead of you like a devouring fire.”

Psalm 71:5 “For you have been my hope, O Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my birth.”

Isaiah 32:17 “The effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.”

Colossians 4:12 “He [Epaphras] is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature, and fully *assured*.”

Hebrews 10:35 “So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.”

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

From *Blessed Assurance* by Fanny Crosby

Prayer:

Lord, how easily we lose our way, and doubt your call. We lose heart and faith when the storms and darkness descend and lock us in. We struggle as Elijah did in the wilderness, thinking we stand for you alone. Come, *reassure* us of our place in your plan, of your sovereign, wise eye that guides us and holds us. Revive our confidence and our faith while we dwell in Enemy territory. Cause us to rise in strength and effectiveness for your glory. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. When God **reassures** you, what feelings do you have?

What do these feelings prompt you to do? _____

2. Study Barnabas from Acts 4: 36, 37; 9: 26-27; 11: 21-26; 15: 36-39. What five ways did God use him to **reaffirm** and **reassure** other Christians he knew?

What name was given to Barnabas? (4:36) _____

Notes:

4 *Reawaken*

Reawaken—to become aroused or active again; to become conscious; to stir up again, make aware again.

Isaiah 29:10 “The Lord has brought over you a deep sleep: He has sealed your eyes (the prophets); he has covered your heads (the seers).”

Isaiah 51:9 “*Awake, awake!* Clothe yourself with strength, O arm of the Lord; awake as in days gone by, as in generations of old.”

Isaiah 51:17 “*Awake, awake!* Rise up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord the cup of his wrath.”

Joel 2:1 “Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming.”

Revelation 16:15 “Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays *awake* and keeps his clothes with him.”

Prayer:

Lord, your church appears asleep, or at best, very drowsy. We have allowed our eyelids to get heavy, rather than stood to move at your command. Send us watchmen to warn us. Sound “Reveille” and *reawaken* your church. Alert us to dangers that have intruded our bed chambers and wait to kill us in our sleep. Stir us up. As you awoke our churches in times past, come again, and *reawaken* your people for your glory. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. What does a **reawakening**, a rebirth, a rebuilding produce in a group of people? _____

2. Can you give an example of someone or a church which has been

reawakened to the things of God? _____

3. Read Revelation 3:1-6. What would give a dead church a reputation for being alive?

What action words does Christ use to speak to this sleeping church?

Notes:

5
Rebirth

Rebirth—a new or second birth; regeneration; to bring forth again, producing young, new life, adding to the population, replenishing.

Titus 3:5b “He saved us through the washing of *rebirth* and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us.”

Acts 2:47b “And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
From O Little Town of Bethlehem by Phillips Brooks*

Prayer:

O Lord, just as babies bring celebration, joy, liveliness to a family, and just as little ones give hope for growth and continuance in a church, we need spiritual babies being born again in our churches. The Holy Spirit of God can alone bring life. Come, amid the deadness and sleepiness and dullness. Bring to our churches those newly alive in Christ, and bring back the Spirit of new life in those who long ago experienced a second birth. Cause your children to bear the resemblance of their heavenly Parent just as human babes do. Come again, O Lord, and produce a lively, holy congregation with youthful energy and new life. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Does it seem that many people who call themselves Christians have never really had a **rebirth**, even in our churches? Yes No What do they need in order to see their need of this new birth? _____

6 *Rebuild*

Rebuild—to make extensive repairs or changes; to reconstruct; to restore to a previous state.

Isaiah 44:28 “[I am the Lord] who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd, and will accomplish all that I please;’ he will say of Jerusalem, ‘Let it be *rebuilt*,’ and of the temple, ‘Let its foundations be laid.’”

Isaiah 58:12 “Your people will *rebuild* the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations.”

Isaiah 61:4 “They will *rebuild* the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated.”

Ezekiel 36:33 “On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be *rebuilt*.”

Prayer:

Oh, Lord, just as we appoint caretakers for our church buildings and spend time and money to *rebuild* our sacred structures, help us to *rebuild* the spiritual structure of our churches. If we need to raze the spiritual building down to its foundation, help us to see the need. Guide us to see the ruination of the years of sin. Help us to start over and *rebuild* carefully for your glory. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. What kind of ordinary objects do we often **rebuild**? _____

Why? _____

2. Do you know of something that was so ruined it couldn't be **rebuilt**? _____

3. Does God ever see persons or churches that have fallen too far into disrepair so that he can't **rebuild** them? _____

4. What process often happens in the **rebuilding** of a person or church? _____

Notes:

7
Rebuke

Rebuke—to criticize sharply; reprimand

Proverbs 3:11-12 “Do not resent [the Lord’s] *rebuke*, because the Lord disciplines those he loves.”

Psalm 39:11 “You *rebuke* and discipline men for their sin.”

Jeremiah 2:19 To Judah: “Your wickedness will punish you; your backsliding will *rebuke* you.”

Prayer:

Father, we may *rebuke* those under us; children, employees, even friends, but you alone can *rebuke* those over us. *Rebuke* us as dear children to teach us to follow you more closely. Even more, *rebuke* those over us, especially in our churches, who go their own ways, who carry out evil, who lead congregations astray with false teaching and self-seeking power. We wait for you to set straight all who have followed Satan’s ways. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Consider Peter. How did Jesus **rebuke** him in Matthew 16: 21-23; Luke 22:

54-62 _____

What was different about these two **rebukes**? _____

Why were they effective? _____

2. How does God **rebuke** us? _____

Does it depend on how well we know him?

Notes:

8 *Reclaim*

Reclaim—to demand the return of; to recall, to rescue from an undesirable state; to make useful by changing the condition of a product.

Isaiah 11:11 “In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to *reclaim* the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea.”

Isaiah 43:1 “But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.’”

Malachi 3:17 “‘They [those who feared the Lord] will be mine,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him.’”

Prayer:

Lord, you claimed us as your people, set your seal and blessing on us. Yet, over time the Enemy has come and set a counter-claim, false and untenable. We have taken on the trappings of this Enemy while still calling to you and practicing a functional Christian walk. Come, *reclaim* us (though you never let us go), in a way that we can see you again wanting us. Speak to us the words of life and power, that we once more can know that we are yours alone. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Have you ever been able to **reclaim** something you thought you had lost?

While it was lost, was it still yours? _____

2. State the difference between **reclaiming** something and redeeming it.

3. How does God **reclaim** us? _____

What happens that he needs to **reclaim** us? _____

How do we get lost or stolen? _____

Notes:

9 *Recover*

Recover—to bring back to normal position or condition; to find or identify again; to save from loss and restore to usefulness.

Ezra 9:9 “Though we are slaves, our God has not deserted us in our bondage. He has shown us kindness in the sight of the kings of Persia: He has granted us new life to rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins, and he has given us a wall of protection in Judah and Jerusalem.”

Luke 4:18 “He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and *recovery* of sight for the blind.”

Romans 11:11 “Again I ask: Did [Israel] stumble so as to fall beyond *recovery*? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.”

Prayer:

Oh, Lord, you see the sickness sin has brought on your people; the poisons of wrong thinking, the plague of evil leadership, the sleep of death. Can we *recover*? Not without your healing word and powerful touch. Lift us up again. Watch over us and give us intensive care. Allow us to *recover*, to be people living in health for your glory. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. When you hear the word “**recover**” what images does it bring to mind?

2. Talk about the “**recovery**” process. How does God help individuals and churches **recover**? _____

10 *Recreate*

Recreate—to create again; to form anew in the imagination; to give new life or freshness to bodies and spirits after work.

Psalm 51:10 “*Create* in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Isaiah 65:18 “But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will *create*, for I will *create* [New] Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new *creation*; the old has gone, the new has come.”

*Lord, to my heart bring back the springtime,
Take away the cold and dark of sin;
O return to me, sweet Holy Spirit,
May I warm and tender be again.
From Bring Back the Springtime by Kurt Kaiser*

Prayer:

Lord, as your people, we bring to you various reasons for our need for *recreation*. Some of us have allowed sin to stain the hearts which you have died to cleanse. *Create* in us a new purity, a new hatred for sin, and new discernment to know when it tempts us. Others of us feel extreme weariness from spiritual warfare, from demanding service, from relentless affliction. *Recreate* us. Give us newness for continued service. Come, Creator God, and make us new with your life-giving Spirit. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Discuss our modern day word “recreation” and the word “**rē-create**.” How are they the same? _____

11

Rectify

Rectify—to set right; to correct by removing errors; adjust.

Genesis 18:25 “Will not the judge of all the earth do right?”

Hosea 14:9 “The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.”

Prayer:

Lord, we know that on the Final Day, you will set right all wrongs. We honor you as the Righteous Judge over all. There is so much wrong in our present world and in our churches. Come in power, this day. Give right judgment. *Rectify* wrongs perpetrated against your people, against the poor, against the weak. Help us to *rectify* those things we have done. Come, Almighty Sovereign. Begin your righteous judgments in our time. We wait for you. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. How do people **rectify** wrongs? _____

2. Can you give an example of someone you know who has **rectified** a wrong?

12 *Redeem*

Redeem—to buy back; to free from distress or harm; to release from blame or debt; to reform, repair, restore; to remove the obligation of payment; to convert into something of value; to atone for; retrieve, rescue.

Exodus 6:6 “Say to the Israelites, ‘I am the Lord...I will free you from being slaves to [the Egyptians] and I will *redeem* you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.’”

Psalm 44:25-26 “We are brought down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground. Rise up and help us; *redeem* us because of your unfailing love.”

Psalm 103:1-4 “Praise the Lord, O my soul...who *redeems* your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.”

Prayer:

Lord, you have *redeemed* us from eternal damnation due to our sin. Yet, we find ourselves in need of your restoration. *Redeem* us again, from our Enemy, who relentlessly brings us down, snares us and imprisons us. Send out your truth and your mighty arm to *redeem* us again from his power. Rescue and restore us because of the price you have already paid for our *redemption*. You who have begun a good work in us, continue your work in us for your glory. Help us to carry the signs of your *redemption* into our world. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. What is the difference between reclaiming and

redeeming? _____

Which costs more? _____

13 *Refine*

Refine—to reduce to a pure state; to free from imperfections; to improve by pruning or polishing; to free from what is coarse, vulgar or uncouth; to make improvement by introducing subtleties or distinctions.

Isaiah 48:10 “See, I have *refined* you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.”

Zechariah 13:9 “This third I will bring into the fire; I will *refine* them like silver and test them like gold.”

Malachi 3:3 “He will sit as a *refiner* and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and *refine* them like gold and silver.”

*I've been through the fire that has deepened my desire
to know the living God more and more;
It hasn't been much fun, but the work that it has done
in my life has made it worth the hurt.*

From *The Fire* by Debby Jackson

Prayer:

Lord, those disciples you bring near to you and assign sacred duties, you also *refine*. The fire and pain are intense, but necessary. Yet there remain many who claim you as Lord but continue in their impurity. They reject the idea of submission to suffering. Others suffer and bitterness grows instead of beauty. Gracious Lord, in love and compassion, *refine* us, your church, the people of your kingdom. Make us pure vessels fit to carry your powerful Holy Spirit. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. What kind of impurities and coarse features does God take from us in the **refining** process? _____

2. Can we see the improvement? _____ Do you know someone who has experienced a dramatic **refining** moment in their life?

3. Read Malachi 3:3-4. Note the expressions, “as in days gone by” and “as in former years.” What does God intend for the outcome of his **refinement**? ____

Notes:

14

Reform

Reform—to amend or improve by removal of faults and abuses; to put an end to an evil by enforcing or introducing a better course of action; to form again.

Jeremiah 18:4 “But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter *formed* it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.”

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.*
Adelaide Pollard

Prayer:

Heavenly Potter, mold us into the people you wish. *Reform* those who have pliable hearts and make them into useful vessels. *Reform* our gifts and energies for your glory. *Reform* our church, our desires, and our plans. Help us to allow you the freedom to *form* us anew according to your good purpose and grace. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Consider a potter “**re-forming**” a pot. In what condition must the clay be?

What condition would keep the potter from having the ability to “**re-form**” it?

15 *Refresh*

Refresh--invigorate; energize; give new strength

Psalm 68:9 “You gave abundant showers, O God; you *refreshed* your weary inheritance.”

Jeremiah 31:23f “This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel says: ‘When I bring them back from captivity...I will *refresh* the weary and satisfy the faint.’”

Acts 3:19 “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of *refreshing* may come from the Lord.”

*Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine;
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine. Amen.*
from *God of Our Fathers* by Daniel C. Roberts

Prayer:

Life-giving God, our weary lives need the *refreshment* that only you can give. We have fallen into mundane patterns of worship and prayer. Our lives do not pour out the living waters that come abundantly from you. Help us to thirst until you *refresh* us again. *Refresh* us so that we can in turn *refresh* others. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Discuss the way water **refreshes** us.
-

2. How does God **refresh** the earth? _____

3. Sometimes times of revival are called “times of **refreshment** from the Lord.”

What would a time of **refreshment** look like in a church?

4. Humanly speaking, when do we benefit the most from **refreshment**?

5. What conditions would a church have for which God could send

refreshment? _____

6. Are conditions ripe in our church; in America’s churches in general?

Notes:

16 *Rekindle*

Rekindle—ignite anew; to stir up, to arouse; to cause to glow and illuminate; to catch fire again.

Acts 2:2-4 “Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

*Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all Thy quickening powers;
Kindle a flame of sacred love
in these cold hearts of ours.*

From *Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove* by Isaac Watts

Prayer:

Lord, your word speaks of you as fire. You can consume us, but also ignite us. You have called us to bear your light in the world, but our flame as your church has nearly gone out. We neither bring that light as we should to our world, or burn with your passion. *Rekindle* in us the fire that you gave your first disciples at Pentecost. Fan the flames into a conflagration that spreads through our lives and our churches and across our land. Come, Holy Spirit, *rekindle* us for your glory. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Sometimes God uses fire to refine, other times to consume, and sometimes to **rekindle**. What kind of conditions, elements, or catalysts does He use to **rekindle**? _____

17 *Release*

Release—to set free from restraint, confinement, servitude; to relieve from something that confines, burdens, oppresses; give a new opportunity for continuance; to deliver from sorrow, suffering, trouble.

Psalm 25:15 “My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only he will *release* my feet from the snare.”

Isaiah 40:1-2 “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”

Isaiah 42:7 “I, the Lord have called you...to free captives from prison and to *release* from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.”

Malachi 4:2 “But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves *released* from the stall.”

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.*

From *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* by Charles Wesley

Prayer:

Lord, sin takes us captive, both as individuals and as churches. We find ourselves bound up, unable to get loose from the cultural norms around us. The schemes and powers of our Enemy also oppress and hold us prisoner. Free us. *Release* us from the snares, the pits, and the prisons assigned us by this Enemy and all his principalities and powers. Give us power to call out to you. See our weaknesses, and in compassion come to us and *release* us. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Have you ever felt the relief from being **released** from something? If so, please describe it. _____

2. Read Psalm 126. Describe the situation of this psalm and how the people felt **release**. _____

Notes:

18

Relent

Relent—to become less severe, harsh; to soften; yielding through pity or mercy by the one holding the upper hand; defer.

Psalm 90:13 “*Relent*, O LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.”

Psalm 106:44-45 “But he took note of their distress when he heard their cry; for their sake he remembered his covenant and out of his great love he *relented*.”

Jonah 3:9 “Who knows? God may yet *relent* and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

*Father-like, He tends and spares us.
Well our feeble frame He knows.
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.*

From *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* by Henry Lyte

Prayer:

Our Father, have compassion on your servants in distress. We deserve judgment, but cry for mercy. Our churches stand in sin and go on as though we have every right to your favor. In pride we ignore your word, conform to the world around us and yet carry your holy Name. Tend and spare us. We fear that your vision for us has been so marred that you will turn your back on us, and regret calling us into your service. *Relent*, O Lord, from sending us the destruction we deserve. But destroy the evil influences, break the strong arm of the enemy, and dismantle every weapon formed against your church. Turn us and cause us to return to you. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Does “mercy” or “grace” **relent**? Please explain. _____

19

Relieve

Relieve—to free from a burden; to set free from an obligation, condition or restriction; to bring about the removal of; to release from a duty; to remove or lessen the monotony of; to lighten, assuage; to make less grievous or more tolerable.

Psalm 4:1 “Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Give me *relief* from my distress.”

Psalm 94:12-13 “Blessed is the man you discipline, O Lord, the man you teach from your law; you grant him *relief* from days of trouble, til a pit is dug for the wicked.”

Lamentations 3:49-50 “My eyes will flow unceasingly without *relief* until the Lord looks down from heaven and sees.”

1 Thessalonians 1:6-7 “God is just. He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give *relief* to you who are troubled.”

*Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come!*
From *Just As I Am* by Charlotte Elliott

Prayer:

Lord, when sin holds us captive, either at our own hands, or at the hands of others, we grow weary and long for *relief*. We labor over long days, weeks, months. *Relieve* us from the grip of the Enemy. Set us free from the constant blast of his breath, the noise of his words, the terror of his relentless control. Lord Jesus, who experienced the worst of Satan’s forces, overpower these monsters and *relieve* your people at last. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Does the length or severity of a trial determine the amount of **relief** a person feels when it is over? _____

Please explain why. _____

2. Consider the **relief** Jesus felt after his trials. Read Isaiah 53:11. Note the word “after.” What word is used for the **relief** He felt?

Notes:

20

Remember

Remember—to bring to mind; to bring an image or idea from the past to mind; to give attention to in order to give a gift to; commemorate; recollect, recall, reminisce.

1 Samuel 1:19-20 “...the Lord *remembered* her. So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son.”

Psalms 25:6 “*Remember*, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.”

Psalms 103:14 “He knows how we are formed, he *remembers* that we are dust.”

Isaiah 38:3 “*Remember*, O Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.”

[God] is mindful that He made the covenant, and never acts as if He regretted it. He is mindful of it when we provoke Him to destroy us. He is mindful to love us, keep us, and comfort us, even as He engaged to do. He is mindful of every jot and tittle of His engagements, never suffering one of His words to fall to the ground.

From *Faith's Checkbook* by Charles Spurgeon, Oct. 1

Prayer:

O Lord, *remember* your people—those you have purchased, delivered and claimed. *Remember* our devotion, though flawed with sin. *Remember* our service to you, our prayers and pleas for help. *Remember* your promises to us, and the way we cling to them, waiting for the reward. *Remember* your sacrifice for us and come to us and deliver us again. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. How is the word “**remember**” useful in prayer? Can you think of people in scripture whom God “**remembered**?” _____

2. Read Nehemiah 5:19; 13:14, 22. What kind of “**remembrance**” did Nehemiah want from God? _____

3. Can we ask God to **remember** what he has promised us? Is this kind of prayer effective? _____

Notes:

21

Remove

Remove—to change the location or position of; to move by lifting, pushing aside, or taking away; to dismiss from office; eliminate; to go away.

Psalm 30:11 “You turned my wailing into dancing; you *removed* my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.”

Psalm 103:12 “As far as the east is from the west, so far has he *removed* our transgressions from us.”

Isaiah 1:25 “I will turn my hand against you; I will thoroughly purge away your dross and *remove* all your impurities.”

Ezekiel 11:19 “I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will *remove* from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.”

Acts 13:22 “After *removing* Saul, he made David their king.”

Revelation 2:5 [To the church of Ephesus] “If you do not repent, I will come to you and *remove* your lampstand from its place.”

Prayer:

Almighty Lord, you alone have power to *remove* sin. As you *remove* our sin, help us to replace it with righteous deeds of love offered to you in gratitude. You also have power to set up leaders and to *remove* others. Have pity on your people and give them leaders after your heart who will guide and protect your people. *Remove* those who lead your people astray, by your power and for your glory. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Read Revelation 2:5. What do you think Jesus means when he says, “I will *remove* your lampstand from its place?” _____

22

Renew

Renew—to restore to freshness, vigor or perfection; to restore to existence; to make extensive changes in.

Psalm 51:10 “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and *renew* a steadfast spirit within me.”

Isaiah 40:31 “Those who hope in the Lord, will *renew* their strength.”

Lamentations 5:21 “Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may return; *renew* our days as of old.”

Habakkuk 3:2 “Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. *Renew* them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.”

Romans 12:2 “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the *renewing* of your mind.”

*O Breath of Love, come breathe within us,
Renewing thought and will and heart;
Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,
Revive Thy church in ev'ry part.
From O Breath of Life by Bessie Porter Head*

Prayer:

Lord, our faith has become perfunctory, based on old experiences, old learning. *Renew* our faith for all you want to do in us and for us. Our service to you goes on, but often feels like a duty, rather than fresh joy. *Renew* our hearts that all we do for you may burst forth with your life. Our churches go on and on, and over time we have lost sight of the invisible, the holy, the powerful in you. *Renew* us as we come to meet with you. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. What common objects do we **renew**? _____

2. What enables our bodies to be **renewed**? _____

3. What processes do we use for **renewal**? _____

4. How can this be applied spiritually? _____

Notes:

23
Repair

Repair—to replace a part or put together what is torn or broken; to restore to a sound or healthy state.

Ezra 4:12 “The king should know that the Jews...are restoring the walls and *repairing* the foundations.”

Isaiah 58:12 “You will be called *Repairer* of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.”

Amos 9:11 “In that day I will restore David’s fallen tent. I will *repair* its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be.”

Prayer:

Lord, our lives and your church crumble in disrepair. Stop the decay and shout again, “Build up! Build up!” *Repair* the breach in the wall which lets in false teaching. *Repair* the connection that maintains unity among brothers. *Repair* torn down pillars and lives destroyed by oppressive leaders. *Repair* windows through which we should see you and your truth. *Repair* our damaged hearts so they can beat faithfully and with strength for you. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. What is the difference between a **repair** and a restoration?

2. Can parts of a church be **repaired** without having to tear the whole thing down?

24

Repay

Repay—to refund; to give or inflict in return; recompense;

Ruth 2:12 “May the Lord *repay* you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord.”

1 Kings 2:44 “The king said to Shimei, ‘You know in your heart all the wrong you did to my father David. Now the Lord will *repay* you for your wrongdoing.’”

Psalm 103:10 “He does not treat us as our sins deserve or *repay* us according to our iniquities.”

Jeremiah 51:24 “‘Before your eyes I will *repay* Babylon...for all the wrong they have done in Zion,’ declares the Lord.”

Joel 2:25 “I will *repay* you for the years the locusts have eaten.”

Romans 12:17, 19 “Do not *repay* anyone evil for evil...’It is mine to avenge; I will *repay*,’ says the Lord.”

Prayer:

O Lord, our sinful nature allows us to desire revenge, to hate, and want to make the evildoers suffer like we have suffered. Lord, help us to drop our weapons of evil, pick up your weapons of prayer, and allow you the time you desire to *repay* the evil, and the “years the locusts have eaten.” Help us to “leave room for wrath.” Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Read Psalm 103:10; Ruth 2:12; 4:14. How would you describe the quality and quantity of the good that God **repays**? _____

25 *Replant*

Replant—to plant again or anew; to provide with new plants.

Isaiah 51:3 “The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord.”

Isaiah 61:3 “They will be called oaks of righteousness, a *planting* of the Lord for the display of his splendor.”

Ezekiel 36:36 “Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the Lord have rebuilt what was destroyed and have *replanted* what was desolate.”

Prayer:

Lord, the Enemy of our souls and the Enemy of your church has spread seeds of evil. These seeds have grown into a thick underbrush, crowding out your word and the work of your Spirit. Come and plow under, destroy the weeds that choke us and *replant* within us your holy seed. Bring to our churches young seedlings full of faith and promise, and transplant in our midst sturdy plants full of your grace. Come and make us a plentiful garden producing fruit for you. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. When do we need to **replant** flowers, trees, other plants? _____

2. Do we always **replant** in the same location? _____

Why or Why not? _____

26

Rescue

Rescue—to free from confinement, danger or evil; save; deliver; to recover by force; ransom.

Psalm 69:14 “*Rescue* me from the mire, do not let me sink; deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep waters.”

Psalm 91:14 “‘Because he loves me,’ says the Lord, ‘I will *rescue* him.’”

Romans 7:24 “What a wretched man I am! Who will *rescue* me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

Colossians 1:13 “For he has *rescued* us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.”

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you suffered the punishment of the cross in order to *rescue* our souls from death. You continue to *rescue* us from sin as we live in your power. Yet, we see many of your people, who claim your name, who have allowed themselves to go back into captivity to sin. Our churches overlook egregious sins in your people and in their leaders. *Rescue* us as the church bearing your name. Send your word to warn us of the horrible dangers, and *rescue* us for the kingdom of God. Wrestle us from the power of the Enemy and set us free to live in your power. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. What is the difference between a **rescue** and a retrieval?

2. What kind of power does the person needing a **rescue** have?

3. Read Psalm 18: 1-19. Now, please tell a story about a **rescue**.

4. Using verbs and adjectives from Psalm 18, contrast the **rescuer** and the **rescued**.

Notes:

27
Respond

Respond—to promise in return; answer; to show favorable reaction.

Psalm 102:17 “He will *respond* to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.”

Proverbs 1:23 Wisdom: “If you had *responded* to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you.”

Isaiah 19:22 “They [Egypt] will turn to the Lord, and he will *respond* to their pleas and heal them.”

Jeremiah 2:30 “In vain I punished your people; they did not *respond* to correction.”

Prayer:

Lord, when we read your word and hear your Spirit speak, help us to *respond* in love and obedience. Give us hearts of love that wait to obey. Yet, we also long to experience your *response* to our prayers. Out of your compassion, *respond* to our prayers of need. Out of your holiness, *respond* to our prayers for cleansing. Out of your righteousness, *respond* to our cries for justice. As King over us, *respond* to your people under sinful oppression and evil leadership. To us as your people who have lost our way, *respond* with clear direction and wise counsel. Hear us, we cry. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. What are the steps a “**responder**” must take? _____

2. Read Hebrews 4: 14-16. Does knowing the living God make a difference when asking for a **response**? _____

28

Restore

Restore—to bring back into existence or use; to bring back to an original state; reestablish or replace.

Psalm 23:3 “He *restores* my soul.”

Psalm 52:12 “*Restore* to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”

Psalm 80:3 “*Restore* us, O God; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.”

Psalm 126:4 “*Restore* our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negev.”

Joel 2:25 NKJV “I will *restore* to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten.”

Nahum 2:2 “The Lord will *restore* the splendor of Jacob like the splendor of Israel.”

1 Peter 5:10 “And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself *restore* you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”

Prayer:

Almighty God, You remember the purpose for which you created us in the beginning. You recreated us in Christ, but we have lost that splendor. We have been worn by sin and the light of our hearts has been dulled. You created us in Christ for joy and usefulness, but we have lost our way. Only your power can bring us back to what once was. *Restore* us. Send Your Holy Spirit and refurbish us to your intended purposes, we pray. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Consider what kind of objects people **restore**. Make a list. Give at least two aspects of the **restoration** project? _____

2. What are the intended outcomes of a **restoration** process? _____

Notes:

29

Return

Return—come back; to put back in a former place; to restore to a former or normal state.

Isaiah 35:10 “The ransomed of the Lord will *return*. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.”

Isaiah 52:8 “Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord *returns* to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.”

Lamentations 3:40 “Let us examine our ways and test them and let us *return* to the Lord.”

Hosea 6:1 “Come, let us *return* to the LORD, He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us.”

*Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Never more Thy temples leave.*
From the hymn *Love Divine* by Charles Wesley

Prayer:

Lord, have we sent you away by ignoring your word? By proudly denouncing our need of you? By making decisions for your church based on our sinful human calculations? By cowering before the Enemy when you remain available to conquer him? *Return*, O Lord, to your people. Send us your light and your power. *Return* with words sent by your Spirit of truth. *Return* and rescue us from ourselves and from our Enemy. *Return* before we are swept away. We watch at the windows and doors for the first sign of your approach to us. Amen.

30

Reveal

Reveal—to uncover; to make something that’s hidden known; to open up to view; display.

Deuteronomy 29:29 “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things *revealed* belong to us and to our children forever.”

1 Samuel 3:7 “Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been *revealed* to him.”

Psalm 98:2 “The Lord has made his salvation known and *revealed* his righteousness to the nations.”

Isaiah 40:5 “And the glory of the Lord will be *revealed*, and all mankind together will see it.”

Daniel 2:28 “There is a God in heaven who *reveals* mysteries.”

Romans 8:18 “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be *revealed* in us.”

Prayer:

Lord, we are like blind people living only by what we can hear and feel. Unless by your Spirit you come to us with your truth made plain, we don’t see you. *Reveal* yourself to us anew through your word. *Reveal* to us your hidden treasures for us. *Reveal* to us the way in which you want us to walk. *Reveal* yourself to us in new ways that call us to a new understanding of your greatness. *Reveal* to us your unbelievable love that we may love you with a deeper and a more committed passion. Amen.

31

Revive

Revive—to live again; to become active or flourishing again; to restore from a depressed, inactive, or unused state.

Psalm 80:18 “*Revive* us, and we will call on your name.”

Psalm 85:6 “Will you not *revive* us again, that your people may rejoice in you?”

Isaiah 57:15 “I [the Holy One] live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to *revive* the Spirit of the lowly and to *revive* the heart of the contrite.”

People:

Lord, our “life” as your people resembles death more often than not. Our spiritual interest, our passion, our love has the stench of sin which carries in it death. You are the Resurrection and the Life. You alone can bring your church back to life. Your word from the creation spoke life and we need you to speak again. Your people, whom you have appointed as your body in this world, need your touch. *Revive* us; those who are long dead, those who have fainted, those who have been struck down, those with deadly spiritual injuries. *Revive* us, O God, that we may live before you. Amen.

Questions for meditation or small group discussion:

1. Read about the **revival** during Hezekiah’s reign in Jerusalem from 2 Chronicles

29-32. What did the people do under his leadership? _____

What wonderful things happened during this **revival**? _____

Who was the opposition? _____

What did they do? _____

How did Hezekiah respond? _____

2. Has your opinion of **revival** changed during this study? _____

How? _____

5. Can we, as God's people, schedule **revival**? _____

Why or why not? _____

6. What can we do to make **revival** happen here and now?

Notes:

Books on Revival

Some of these books are historical accounts, some are biographic, and some are philosophical and even prophetic.

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