

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Pet. 2:9).

Turn to the inside back cover and read Phases 1 and 7. Notice in the diagram that God chose a people who were not a people and made them His people to work through them.

In Christ God established a new covenant. This new relationship was based on faith and not the keeping of the law. God chose and called out a new people (both Jews and Gentiles) who responded to His offer of salvation through faith in His Son. Through Peter, God said the church is a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people belonging to God. God chose His people in mercy and love. His purpose for them was that they declare His praises to people living in spiritual darkness. His purpose for the church was a continuation of what He began with Israel. God wants to redeem a lost world.

Chosen Generation. As God’s people, we are chosen to be God’s special treasures. We are special because we are related to Him. We belong to Him. We are not our own. We belong to another, but what a wonderful privilege we have to belong to the family of the Almighty God. Because we belong to Him, He deserves and expects our obedience.

Royal Priesthood. God did not say that they were a kingdom with a priesthood—a select few that can relate to Him. He said, “You are... a royal priesthood.” Every single believer is a priest unto God. “Royal” means each one has direct access to the King of Kings and is a part of the royal family by adoption. The role of the priest was primarily to bring a word from God to the people. The priest also represented the people before God. We have that assignment and privilege: represent God to humanity and humanity to God.

Holy Nation. We also are to be a holy nation. The word holy means “set apart for God’s exclusive use.” We are to be separated from the common and separated from the ways of the world. We are different than the world. We are to reflect God, His nature, and His ways. We are commanded to be holy as He is holy (See 1 Pet. 1:16.) and “abstain from sinful desires.... Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us” (1 Pet. 2:11-12).

**If God were to evaluate your life or your church, how well do you measure up to the standards described in the last paragraph?
Write your answer in the margin.**

Workers Together with God

God has a people, and He is at work through His people to accomplish His redemptive work. His goal is to exalt Jesus and draw a lost world to faith in Christ. This is summarized in Phases 1 and 7 of God's Pattern. In 2 Corinthians Paul described this worker relationship with God:

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:18-20).

Reconciled means “restored to a right relationship.” God is the One reconciling the world to Himself through Christ. Yet, He has given the ministry and message of reconciliation to the church. In that ministry we are Christ's ambassadors and God's fellow workers (See 2 Cor. 6:1.). Our motivation for this work is the love of Christ—“Christ's love compels us” (2 Cor. 5:14).

God is the One who is on a redemptive mission. The mission is His. In His love He has chosen the church to work together with Him in His mission. The mission is not one we can accomplish—we can do nothing apart from Him (See John 15:5.). God does the work through us. When God works through us, however, we will bear much fruit for the Kingdom—fruit that will last (See John 15:8,16.). With God at work through His church, the church will accomplish greater things than Jesus did in His earthly ministry. He said: “anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father” (John 14:12).

When humanity sinned and broke fellowship with God, God began to prepare a people through which He would work to redeem a lost world. He provided for redemption through the death of His Son. Now, when God has a people rightly related to Him, He can work in mighty ways to significantly impact a lost world. When that happens spiritual awakening is happening. Spiritual awakening is a natural by-product of people and churches being rightly related to God.

SEEKING GOD FOR REVIVAL IN THE LAND



- Confess to the Lord any ways you are not holy as He is holy. Pray that you and your church will become the kind of people He can use mightily.
- Ask God to so reveal the love of Christ to you that you will be a faithful ambassador to implore others to be reconciled to God.

GOD'S PEOPLE TEND TO DEPART

"If your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them..." (Deut. 30:17)

**Turn to the inside back cover and read Phase 2 in God's Pattern.
Notice in the diagram how God's people leave the place where
God uses them on mission for Him.**

God has "blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ" (Eph. 1:3). "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3). With all that God has done for us, God's people still tend to depart from Him. How do you move away from God? How does a church move away from God?

Read Deuteronomy 30:17 at the top of the page. How do we begin to turn away from the Lord and obedience to Him?

Moving away from God does not begin with wrong activity. It begins with a radical shift in your heart. Departing from God follows a progression. It begins with a shift of your heart away from Him. You do not love Him like you used to love Him. That may be such a gradual shift that you do not realize it is happening until you are a long way from Him. Once your heart has shifted, you do not obey Him. You choose not to keep His commands thinking "this is not all that bad" or "God doesn't really care if I don't do this." Next you turn to substitutes for Him and you "bow down to other gods and worship them." Here is a summary of how a person, a family, a church, a denomination, or even a nation can depart from God.

Departing from God

1. The heart shifts away from loving God fully.
2. The will no longer chooses to obey God.
3. The life turns away to follow substitutes for God's presence, purposes and ways.

God knew that His people would tend to depart from Him, so He gave them a stern warning:

"If your heart turns away... I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before

you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life” (Deut. 30:17-20).

This passage was a warning to God’s people. In love He wanted them to choose life and prosperity not death and destruction. God only gave two options. There is no compromise position in the middle. God wants a love relationship with you and with His people. You are to love Him with all your heart. With your will choose to obey Him fully. And with your life, cling to Him. This Scripture doesn’t promise that the Lord will give you life. The Lord IS your life! He gives you Himself. He wants to take up residence in you and live through you.

Some people have a tendency to say, “but that is Old Testament.” They have a tendency to think that God changed in the New Testament and no longer brings consequences on His people for sin. Look, however, at what Jesus Himself had to say to the church at Ephesus:

“I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand [church (See Rev. 1:20.))] from its place” (Rev. 2:4-5).

The departure of your heart from your first love for Christ is serious. In fact it can be fatal for a church. Today many churches are disbanding and dying. One reason may be this: they have refused to repent and return to their first love for Christ. Just as sad are those churches that are still going through the motions of church; but, because of their departure, they are of no usefulness to Christ and His Kingdom. Departing from God is serious. We need to be able to identify the heart shift so that we can deal with it like it is a fatal cancer that can destroy our life and vitality.

SEEKING GOD FOR REVIVAL IN THE LAND



- Think about your own heart and your love relationship with God. Has your heart departed from loving Him with all your heart? Are you lacking in your obedience? Have you turned to substitutes for Him? If so, remember the high points in your life with Him. Ask Him to draw you back to your first love.
- Ask God to show you the things that have captured too much of your love and attention. If He reveals something, confess (agree with Him about) it.

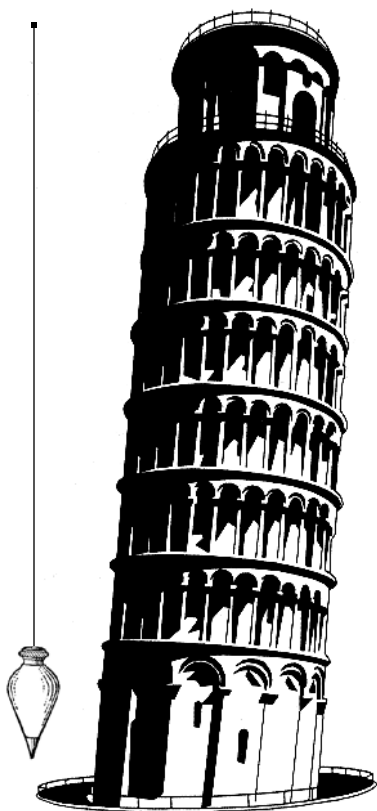
This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD asked me, "What do you see, Amos?"

"A plumb line," I replied.

Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer (Amos 7:7–8).

In Scripture God uses the idea of a plumb line to describe what He does with His rebellious people. A plumb line is a weight on the end of a string, and it is used to make sure a wall is straight (perpendicular to the ground). God had built His people like a straight wall—true to plumb. But in Amos' day they had departed from His standard and didn't realize how far they had departed. God was preparing to send judgment on them, and He wanted them to understand why.

When we depart from Him, we often do not realize how far we have departed. When we compare ourselves with other people or churches that have departed from God, we may look okay. We may not realize how close we are to complete collapse or destruction. In order to help His people, God holds a plumb line beside them so they can see how far they have departed.



The Leaning Tower of Pisa is a physical example of this spiritual truth. A bell tower was built in Pisa, Italy. The tower is 179 feet tall and made from marble. The ground beneath the tower was not solid enough to support the weight of the tower, and it began to sink on one side. Now the tower leans more than seventeen feet off center. The walls are straight, but the whole building leans. The problem is with the foundation. If the foundation were firm and in line, the walls would be in line as well. Even if we had a huge crane that could pull the walls to plumb again, the problem would return just as soon as we let the tower loose. Without a solid foundation, the tower will sink and be crooked again.

In a similar way, your spiritual life has its foundation in a love relationship with God. The way you live your life, your practice of your faith, and your obedience to God's commands can be represented by the tower. If your life (or your church) is out of line with God's plan, that is merely a visible symptom of a root problem. The problem is in your love relationship. Jesus

said, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching” (John 14:23).

God’s Word reveals God Himself, His purposes, and His ways. The Scriptures serve as God’s plumb line for us. When we can see that we have departed from His Word to us, we can know clearly that we have a problem. The problem is that we have left our love relationship with Him. You cannot love God correctly and not obey Him fully. It is spiritually impossible. If you are disobeying God, it is because you do not love Him. Jesus said, “He who does not love me will not obey my teaching” (John 14:24).

If your obedience to the Lord’s commands is the clear indicator of whether you love Him or not, what would your obedience have to say about your love for Christ? What would your church’s obedience have to say about their love for Christ?

In His first letter to the churches in Revelation, the risen Christ invited the church in Ephesus to hear and respond to him. Jesus commended their hard work, perseverance, and intolerance of evil. Yet they had a fatal flaw. Jesus set a “plumb line” alongside their church so they would clearly know what was wrong. You read that “plumb line” yesterday in Revelation 2:4-5. They had departed from their first love, and they needed to return or suffer the consequences.

The primary reason we need revival is that we have forsaken our love relationship with God—our first love. God invites us to repent and return to our first love. His word to the church at Ephesus indicates that failure to repent can be fatal. To the extent that we fail to return to our first love, we will miss out on the abundant life He intends for His people, and a lost world will continue its march into a lost eternity.

As you continue to read these daily devotions, let the Lord begin to set the plumb line of Scriptures alongside your life, your family, your church, your denomination, and even your nation. Let Him show you any place you have departed. When you see the signs of departure, remember that restoration must begin in the heart. You need to let God bring you to a place of experiencing a broken heart over your broken relationship. “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret” (2 Cor. 7:10).

SEEKING GOD FOR REVIVAL IN THE LAND



- Ask God to reveal His plumb line along side your life so that you can see where you are in your relationship to Him and His standards.
- Pray for those in your small group that they too will understand their relationship with the Lord and respond to Him.

SYMPTOM 1: LACKING OBEDIENCE

“If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching” (John 14:23-24).

In departing from God we follow a progression from a shift of the heart, to lack of obedience, to turning to substitutes for God. Usually by the time God gets our attention, we have been going that way for a long time. Just like a divorce that begins when two people begin to grow apart gradually, so we don't jump away from God suddenly. It usually takes time—a period of neglect, carelessness, or rebellious choices. The symptoms may have been present in our lives or churches for a long time, but somehow we fail to pay attention until we are far away from Him. We just take small steps away from God. Then suddenly we realize we have departed and are far from Him.

How do you know if your heart has shifted as an individual or as a church? Two signs are clear indicators. Lack of obedience and turning to substitutes for God. Like a doctor looks for symptoms of the real problem, you can look for these symptoms as indications of a problem with your love for God. Today let's look for lacking obedience or disobedience.

Read again John 14:23-24 at the beginning of the day and see the connection between love and obedience.

Do you see the connection between the heart and obedience? Jesus says that it is spiritually impossible to love Him and not obey Him. The problem is not obedience; the problem is love. If you do not obey, it is because your heart has shifted. Love will always obey. But, we protest strongly and say, “Lord, it's not a matter that I don't love you, it's that I'm having difficulty obeying you.”

And God would say, “If you are having difficulty obeying Me, it is because you do not love Me.” If you do not understand that, you will always be trying to get right with God. You will try to reform your behavior and you will fail. Like the Leaning Tower of Pisa. You can try to straighten out the walls, but if you don't fix the faulty foundation the repairs will be short-lived. We have a tendency to treat the symptoms instead of the cause. Do you know how to solve the problem of disobedience? Return to your first love for God. If you want to correct your behavior of disobedience or lack of obedience the place to begin is the heart. If you return to your first love—a love relationship with God, you will resolve the obedience problems in your life. “Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh” (Gal. 5:16, NKJV).

Is there something that God asks of you that you have done without any question, but now you question it? When Christ gives a command in His Word and you start to argue with Him, you give evidence that your heart has shifted. Are there things Christ has commanded that you or those in your church no

longer choose to obey? This is not a push toward legalism. It's a call to return to your love for the Lord. Obedience is not a problem for a lover of the Lord.

Look over the brief list below to see how well your church measures up to obedience in these few areas.

- Do you love one another as Christ loves you? (See John 13:34.)
- Do you forgive others so that you may be forgiven? (See Mark 11:25.)
- Are you known as a people that pray? (See Luke 19:46.)
- Do you tithe and practice justice, mercy, and faith? (See Matt. 23:23.)
- Are you actively going to make disciples of the nations? even those around your community? Are you teaching them to practice all Christ has commanded? (See Matt. 28:19-20.)
- Are you witnessing about Christ to the world in the power of His Spirit? (See Acts 1:8.)
- Are you displaying unity with other believers in your church? with other churches and Christians in other denominations? (See John 17:23.)

Based on these few commands of the Lord, would you say that your church is obeying all that He commanded? If you see that your church is no longer obeying the clear commands of the Lord, this is one clear sign that you have departed from God. A church may sincerely seek the will of God. A great number of members clearly sense a direction from God. Some in the church, however, may raise such a storm of protest that they decide not to do what God directed. This would indicate that the heart of the church had begun to shift. The next time the church senses God's directions, they may choose again not to obey. The heart of the church has begun to harden.

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness (Heb. 3:12-13).

SEEKING GOD FOR REVIVAL IN THE LAND



- If today, you've come to realize that your heart has turned away or that your church's heart has turned away from the Lord, ask the Lord to show you how to begin returning to your first love for Him.
- We love Him because He first loved us and gave His life for us. Pray that God will use your next observance of the Lord's Supper to rekindle a deep love for Him as you remember the sacrifice of love He paid for you. Think about His love and thank Him now.

SYMPTOM 2: SUBSTITUTES FOR GOD

Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God (Deut. 8:11-14).

Every time a believer moves away from God, he puts a substitute in His place. When we no longer turn to God, we replace Him, His purposes, and His ways with something from the world. A major tragedy of the Christian community is that individuals and churches are filled with substitutes we have chosen for God. We have often substituted work, ritual or traditional religious activity, relationships with others, or a love for the things for a love relationship with God.

A pastor from the United States was in China talking with Christian leaders. One said, “Christians in China are praying for our Christian brothers and sisters in America. We believe we are handling our persecution better than you are handling your prosperity.” Have we allowed our prosperity and materialism to become a substitute for God? God warned us against this substitute in Deuteronomy 8:11-14 at the beginning of today’s devotional. The danger of prosperity, like any other substitute, is that it can cause us to forget God. This may be a good way to determine things that have become substitutes for God—ask yourself if anything is causing you to forget God.

In the case of prosperity, pride in the heart exalts self and claims credit for wealth. Jesus said, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15). Material things are not the only substitutes we turn to in place of God.

Read the following Scriptures and lists and underline some possible substitutes for God:

- “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God” (Psalm 20:7).
- “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (Prov. 3:5-6).
- “‘Woe to the obstinate children,’ declares the LORD, ‘to those who carry out plans that are not mine, forming an alliance, but not by my Spirit’” (Isa. 30:1).
- “Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel, or seek help from the LORD” (Isa. 31:1).

Substitutes for His Presence

- We may place our trust in methods, programs, or people to accomplish spiritual growth and church growth rather than trusting Him.
- We may substitute emotional hype, pageantry, entertainment, or ritual for the reality of His intimate presence in worship.

Substitutes for His Purposes

- We may conduct baptism and the Lord's Supper as tradition or ritual when He intended them to be times of public testimony, remembrance of Him, personal examination, and renewal of fellowship with Him.
- We may spend much of our time and resources on selfish pleasures and ignore justice for the oppressed or meeting the needs of the poor.
- We may conduct “evangelistic” visits primarily to ask people to come to church for an attendance goal when God wants them to come to Him for redemption.

Substitutes for His Ways

- We walk by sight, when God says walk by faith.
- We affirm self and give self first consideration, when God says deny self.
- We exalt self, when God says humble yourself.
- We try to save our lives—hold on to what we have, when God says lose your life—give away what you have for the Kingdom sake.
- We try to manipulate people to serve, when God says pray for Him to call forth laborers.

God warns us about forgetting Him: “If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed” (Deut. 8:19). You may think that God's promise of destruction for going after other gods is pretty severe. It is. That reveals how seriously God treats sin and rebellion. The Scripture says God is jealous of our love. He created us and deserves our love and life.

SEEKING GOD FOR REVIVAL IN THE LAND



- Have you recognized some ways you have turned to substitutes for God? Confess them to the Lord and put away the substitute. Return to your love relationship with Him.
- Pray that God will help your church identify ways you may have turned to substitutes for God, His purposes, or His ways.
- Ask the Lord to reveal to you any actions you need to take to put away idols of the heart that hinder your love for Him.

Your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I (Isa. 58:8-9).

The First Great Awakening in the American colonies is often dated 1740–43. Like other great revivals, the spiritual climate of the churches had reached a low point. Practices like the Half-Way Covenant brought many into church membership without requiring any indication of saving faith. Consequently, churches were a mixture of believers and unbelievers. The Christian testimony had been watered down, and the church was mixed with the world.

Traveling evangelists like George Whitefield and Gilbert Tennent were used of God to quicken the spirits of His people. Under their preaching, many church members and even preachers came under the conviction of the Holy Spirit that they had never been converted. They were greatly distressed until they had made their salvation sure. Historians estimate that 25,000 to 50,000 persons were added to the churches in New England alone, amounting to 7 to 14 percent of the population. New churches were started in record numbers, and colleges like Dartmouth and Princeton were started to train missionaries and ministers to carry the gospel to the lost world. This revival also laid the foundation of cooperative relationships between denominations. The religious liberties guaranteed in the new republic had their birth in this revival.

Sometime around 1734 revival began to occur in several locations in New England. God used these early revivals and awakenings to prepare the soil for the sowing of the gospel that would follow.

Northampton, Massachusetts, was the site of a citywide awakening in 1734–35. Jonathan Edwards was pastor of the Congregational church. Prior to the revival the town experienced a “degenerate time” with a “dullness of religion.” According to Edwards, the young people were addicted to night walking, tavern drinking, lewd practices, and frolics among the sexes the greater part of the night. “Family government did too much fail in the town.” And for a long period the town was sharply divided between two parties who jealously opposed one another in all public affairs.

In a nearby village two young people died in the spring of 1734. People began to think soberly about spiritual and eternal matters. In answer to the prayers of His people, God began to move. In the fall Edwards preached on justification by faith alone. In December 1734, five or six persons were converted. One of them was a young woman who was “one of the greatest company keepers in the whole town.” Her life was so radically changed that everyone could tell it was a work of God’s grace. The tide had turned. During the following six months, three hundred persons were “hopefully converted” in this town of eleven hundred—that’s 27%! Edwards said:

God has also seemed to have gone out of his usual way in the quickness of his work, and the swift progress his Spirit has made in his operation, on the hearts of many.... There was scarcely a single person in the town, either old or young, that was left unconcerned about the great things of the eternal world.... The town seemed to be full of the presence of God: it never was so full of love, nor so full of joy.... It was a time of joy in families on the account of salvation's being brought unto them.... Our public assemblies were then beautiful; the congregation was alive in God's service, every one earnestly intent on the public worship.... Our public praises were then greatly enlivened; God was then served... in the beauty of holiness.¹

Look again at the fruits of this revival in Northampton:

- Nearly everyone was concerned about eternal things
- The town was full of the presence of God.
- The town was full of love and joy.
- Families were joyful because loved ones had experienced salvation.
- Church services were beautiful.
- Members were active in God's service.
- Every one was earnest in attending worship.
- Praise in worship was greatly enlivened.
- God was served in the beauty of holiness!

When that kind of experience began to spread throughout the colonies, Godly foundations began to be laid for the birth of our nation.

SEEKING GOD FOR REVIVAL IN THE LAND



- Thank God that He is willing and able to change a city and a nation in this way. Ask Him to increase your faith to believe Him for a mighty movement of His Spirit in our day.
- Ask the Lord to use circumstances in your community (like the unexpected deaths of the two young people near Northampton) to cause people to begin thinking about eternal matters.
- Pray that God will energize your pastor's preaching with Holy Spirit power to bring conviction of sin.
- Pray that those who are Christian in name only and have never really been born again will recognize their need for the Savior and come to genuine faith in Him.

1. Adapted from Jonathan Edwards, "Narrative of Surprising Conversions," *The Works of President Edwards* (New York: Leavitt & Allen, 1857), 231-72; and Frank Grenville Beardsley, *The History of American Revivals*, 2nd ed., rev. and enl. (New York: American Tract Society, 1912), 20-83.

**SEEKING GOD
TOGETHER
FOR REVIVAL
IN THE LAND****SESSION TWO**

Call on a volunteer to open your session with prayer.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11–6:2.

Discuss the ministry and mission assignment we have as Christ's ambassadors. What do we need to be doing to obey Christ in carrying out this assignment?

Review what God has been saying to you through His Word and His Spirit.

1. What Scripture, statement, idea, testimony, or illustration that you read this week was most significant or meaningful to you and why?
2. What truth has God revealed this week that seems to have the greatest significance for revival in our nation?

Respond to the Lord in prayer.

Ask the Spirit to guide your prayers according to the will of the Father. Pray conversationally focusing on one subject at a time. Respond to the Lord about the things He has been revealing in your devotions this week.

Talk Together. Discuss some of the following questions or raise questions of your own.

1. What do we need to do individually or as a group in response to what God is saying through His Word, prayer, circumstances, and other believers?
2. How did you respond to the activity at the bottom of page 20 regarding your church?
3. What is the process through which God's people depart from Him? Where does it begin and what are the symptoms of the departure?
4. What are some of the things, people, or activities that can capture our attention and draw us away from our first love for Christ?
5. How does the Leaning Tower of Piza illustrate the spiritual condition in churches today? What is the spiritual solution to correcting a life or church that is leaning away from the Lord?
6. How does God's Word serve as a plumb line for our lives?
7. How does a church return to its first love?

Testify to what God has done.

If God has done something special in your prayer times this week or in your personal walk with Him, share a brief testimony with a focus on what God has done.

Seek God Together for Revival in the Land

Spend the remainder of your time in prayer for a fresh encounter with God in revival in your lives, churches, communities, and in our land. Pray about one topic at a time. Let the Spirit guide your prayers. You may want to consider some of the following directions for your prayers. Take notes if God reveals things as you pray.

1. Confess to the Lord ways you are not holy as He is holy. Pray that you and your church will become the kind of people He can use mightily.
2. Ask the Lord to reveal the truth about your church's symptoms of departure, if there are any. Pray that the Lord will guide your church to return to your first love, restore obedience, and put away all substitutes for God.
3. Pray that God will guide the spiritual leaders in our nation to be able to communicate God's perspective on our departure from Him and guide us as God's people in returning to Him.

NOTES