



In Support of a Pastors' Prayer Gathering

September 27–28, 2023

Wednesday Evening – Thursday Morning

TO THE PRAYER LEADER

The following is a guide to help you lead your church's prayer time as your pastor is joining with other pastors and leaders across the state for the Multi-State Baptist Pastors Prayer Gathering in Tennessee. This guide follows the same basic "flow" that they will be praying through on September 27–28. Feel free to use all or part of this prayer guide.

The pattern is taken from "*Reflections on Spiritual Awakening*"¹ by Bill Elliff, which was written from his firsthand observations of the Asbury Awakening in February and movements of heightened spiritual awareness around the country in the days following.

BEFORE THE MEETING:

1. Ask God to prepare your heart as you lead this prayer time.
2. Print out the "Repentance Worksheet" at the end. Make sure you have enough for everyone and enough pencils/pens for everyone. You can hand these out as people come into the prayer meeting.
3. Read through this prayer guide, making sure you understand each section. Feel free to read the enclosed words or summarize them.
4. It would be good to have someone play some music quietly as people are praying if possible, as background music.

Introduction

Tonight we're going to pray for spiritual awakening in our own lives, our church, our city, and our nation. Our pastor is joining with other leaders across Tennessee and surrounding states to join together in a united cry for authentic awakening. And tonight, we're going to join them in our prayers here!

We're going to pray through a few sections of prayer. God deeply moved among college campuses and churches this past spring, beginning with the Asbury Awakening. A normal chapel service at Asbury extended 16 days, 24 hours a day! What began there spread to other campuses across the nation. God did some amazing things.

Henry Blackaby and Claude King, in their historic study *Experiencing God*, said that we must "find out where God is moving and join Him." Aggressive cooperation with God is the daily recipe for a godly life, but in days of God's extraordinary movement, our spiritual ears should be even more highly attuned to His activity. What is God doing, and how can we join Him? We're going to pray in line with some of the things we see God doing.

¹ "*Reflections on Spiritual Awakening*," Bill Elliff, TruthINK Publications, 2022

Our first season of prayer will be around this thought:

1. LORD, REVEAL YOURSELF TO US!

Revival is nothing more nor less than God making Himself known. We refer to this as His manifest presence. In days of revival, He chooses to do this in ways that even the unbelieving can see.

The headline of the Denver Post during the 1857–58 nationwide revival that was marked by tens of thousands stopping everywhere to unite in prayer daily and 1 million people coming to Christ in one year read:

ENTIRE CITY PAUSES TO PRAY EVEN AT THE HIGH TIDE OF BUSINESS AS THE SOUL RISES ABOVE SORDID THOUGHTS

Remarkable Outburst of Gospel Sentiment Provoked by Revival

In days of His extraordinary movements, He shows Himself with stunning clarity, and a nationwide awakening flows from millions of fresh encounters with the Author and Finisher of our faith. It seems that the pathway to this fresh revelation of God is to tarry, to wait on Him, and to look to Him. Don't look to a method or formula. Look to Jesus and settle for nothing less than a fresh, life-changing encounter with Him.

Do you long to know Him? Is your soul thirsty for His presence in such ways that you will do anything to experience Him? To fall in love with Him all over again?²

PRAYER TIME: *For the next few minutes would you turn to 3–4 other people in prayer. Spend a few minutes focusing your eyes on the Father and then finishing this prayer: "Lord, you are so _____!" Thank Him for who He is and what He's done. Now, let's gather in groups and begin to pray.*

(allow 3–5 minutes for prayer, interrupt them with the next prayer prompt, even if they're not through)

Now, for a minute in your groups, would you ask God to make Himself known to us and our church? That He would come in power and make Himself known to us afresh?

Our second season of prayer centers around this cry:

2. LORD, REVIVE US!

To "revive" means to "bring to life again." In the light of God's manifest presence, we see (just as the students experienced at Asbury) the astounding beauty of the Lord. We are in awe of his glory and humbled by His holiness. When this occurs, we will find ourselves gladly repenting. Repentance becomes a glad delight, not a duty. And such an encounter with God brings repentance without regrets.³

All we have to do is look around us and see the dramatic rise of sin and ungodliness in our nation. We need to repent and it needs to begin with the church. But the church is US! So tonight, we're going to take a few minutes in silent prayer to examine our hearts and seek His cleansing.

We're going to ask you to take the "REPENTANCE WORKSHEET" and work through it carefully. Take your time, read the instructions at the top, and ask God to help us come to fresh repentance before Him.

PRAYERTIME: *Make enough copies of the Repentance Worksheet that's at the end of this guide and hand out to everyone, making sure they have a pen. As music plays, give them a good amount of time to work through it. As they finish, have one person pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the blood of Christ that cleanses us from all sin!*

For our final time of prayer, we're going to roll up our sleeves and really pray for something that is dear to our hearts.

3. LORD, REDEEM THE NEXT GENERATION

The next generation is marked by incredible confusion and anxiety. The Gen Z generation (17–27 year olds) are so confused, they do not know if they are boys or girls. There seem to be more addictions than at any time in history. Even unbelievers are astounded by the level of "mental health" issues in homes and schools. All of our best education and medical solutions are not touching the acceleration of suicide and self-harm.

² *Ibid*

³ *Ibid*

Revival changes that. During the Asbury revival, day after day, there was testimony after testimony of radically, instantly changed lives by the power of God. It didn't take decades, but students were transformed instantly in the manifest presence of God!

Every pastor, missionary, educator, politician, medical worker, mom, dad, and businessman this world needs is coming out of this next generation. They are worse than ill-prepared to lead with their current emotional and spiritual dysfunction. But a nationwide movement of revival could bring healing in an instant. It can (and has) redeemed not only individuals in the past but whole segments of society. God wants to change a generation for their sake and for the generation that will follow them.

God has sent five nationwide spiritual awakenings that have transformed society in our history. They have happened every 40–60 years. 40 years is a GENERATION! God has graciously, mercifully sent a nationwide movement to redeem a generation to lead the movement of God across the nation ... and He seems to be doing it again!

Are you interested—really passionate about—the next generation? Do you see how critical it is to pray unceasingly for them and for the kind of spiritual movements that would redeem them, heal them, and propel them to Jesus and fervent ministry with Him? And are you willing to live with their weaknesses (as they have lived with yours and mine since birth) and help them to greater godliness? And are we ready to release ministry into their hands so they can learn and grow just as we did?⁴

PRAYERTIME: *For the next few minutes, let's pray for a mighty revival that would sweep across our nation. Would you turn in small groups of 3–4 and let's pray first for our schools. Call out the name of every school in our city and ask God to send a mighty revival there. Let's pray for administrators, and teachers, and that God would raise up key students to start a movement of revival on their campuses.*

After you've prayed for our schools by name, would you pray for every college you can think of that God would bring revival to that campus this fall.

And finally, would you pray for our kids and students in our church and for our church as a whole that God would send a mighty revival to our church!

(Give them 10–12 minutes to pray)

CLOSING: *As we close tonight, let's spend a final moment praying for our pastor and the pastors and leaders that are gathered in Nashville tonight, that God would descend upon that meeting and begin a mighty revival in each pastor's heart!*

(Have them turn in groups and pray for pastors and then have someone close the prayertime in prayer.)



Repentance Worksheet

"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9 NASB).

Begin with a prayer like this:

Father, search my heart and show me my sin and need. I will agree with You and ask You to cleanse from me the sin of . . . (**underline** all that apply):

- Pride, bragging, making sure I'm "known"; taking credit for my success; love of human praise; a secret fondness to be noticed; love of supremacy; love of reputation; a desire to achieve regardless of the methods; drawing attention to myself in conversations
- Anger, impatience; a touchy, sensitive spirit; resentment and retaliation when I am disapproved of or contradicted; sharp, harsh words; rudeness; sarcasm; a stubborn, unteachable spirit; an arguing, talkative spirit; contention; an unyielding, headstrong disposition; a driving, commanding spirit; a desire to control most circumstances and people; a drive to win every argument; a desire to always be seen as "right" or come out on top; inflexibility (things have to go my way); unapproachableness; resenting or resisting the authorities God has placed over me; resisting or rebelling against God's providence or ways as He seeks to develop my life
- A desire to criticize and point out flaws when I'm set aside or unnoticed; gossip, criticism; focusing on the failures of others; unkind responses; spreading strife; being envious or jealous of others; withdrawing or ignoring others out of a secret desire to retaliate; lack of real love; treating people as objects
- Dishonesty, lying; exaggeration; evading and covering the truth; leaving a better impression of myself than is strictly true; covering up my real faults; defensiveness; an unwillingness to accept responsibility for my sin; pitching blame on others
- Fear; a man-fearing, man-pleasing spirit; shrinking from duty; passivity; worry about whether every-thing will come out all right; lack of quiet confidence in God; lack of gratitude; unbelief; doubting God's goodness; worry and complaining in the midst of difficulty
- Laziness; wasting time (often with the Internet, television, games, etc.); gluttony; overindulgence; drunkenness; being a stumbling block to others because of my habits; abuse of drugs (including prescription drugs); a tendency to trust medication more than God; lust, pornography, adultery, fornication, incest, abortion, sodomy
- Materialism; loving things more than loving God or others; always wanting more; buying things I don't need; not giving; robbing God of His tithes and offerings; stinginess; worry over my finances; living beyond what God has provided; excessive debt; an unwillingness to admit and correct my misuse of God's money
- Unforgiveness; bitterness and hatred toward those who have hurt me; an unwillingness to clear my conscience with others; intolerance of others; bigotry, prejudice; harbored hurt
- Deadness and formality; lack of concern for lost people; not sharing my faith with others; dryness and indifference; lukewarmness and apathy; insensitivity toward others; unwillingness to serve (a consumer mentality); a desire to be served; self-centeredness; hypocrisy; disobedience to God's promptings; lack of time with God in His Word; little interest in intimacy with God; prayerlessness; unwillingness to let God have control
- Also (list anything else God brings to mind): _____

After you have agreed with God and confessed these sins:

- **CLAIM** God's promise at the top and thank Him for His forgiveness, made possible by the cross!
- **TURN** in full repentance and a desire for Christ's complete lordship in your life.
- **CLEAR YOUR CONSCIENCE** by seeking forgiveness from any people you've wronged... *and do it now!*