

# REBUILDING PRACTICES FOR RENEWAL AND REVIVAL

## A ONE-HOUR PRAYER GUIDE -- NOVEMBER 2020

### FIRST TEN MINUTES

#### “B” Be Still

**READ:** Psalm 46:1-10

**REVIVE QUESTIONS:** Being still is more than being quiet. It is the stillness of heart that comes from the ceasing of striving. It comes when we surrender control. Where do I need to surrender control? What worry or anxiety, what fear, what burden or battle do I need to give to God?

**PONDER REVIVAL QUOTE:** *I've always felt that every encounter with God is a moment of judgment. Because the moment God encounters you, you either say yes or no...and nothing is the same. It either moves you into the will of God and the excitement of His presence because you said yes, or it moves you away from the withdrawal of the activity and the presence and blessing of God because you said no.* Henry Blackaby

**PRAY:** This is where it all starts. “Be still and know that I am God.” Ask the Spirit to bring to mind anything placed above Christ in your heart. Surrender it. Release every worry, every battle and barrier. Give it to God. Give Him the election, acknowledge that He is your King!

**MEDITATE:** Exodus 14:13-14: Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today... The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

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### SECOND TEN MINUTES

#### “L” Look for the Rubble

**READ:** Nehemiah 1:1-11, Colossians 3:1-17,

**REVIVE QUESTIONS:** What sins, what brokenness, what rubble do I need to confess to God today? On what is my heart set? What is keeping me from laying hold of Christ? What brokenness is breaking my heart?

**PONDER REVIVAL QUOTE:** *Revival begins when you draw a circle around yourself and make sure everything in that circle is right with God.* Anne Graham Lotz

**PRAY:** Ask the Spirit of God to use the Word of God to reveal your heart. Draw a circle around your life and make sure that everything in the circle is right with God. Confess all your own sin, every heart-distraction, every word spoken that demeaned another. Then ask God to show you the brokenness, rubble and sin around you; in our country, our community, and our families. Ask God to forgive and revive.

**SING OR MEDITATE:** *Come Alive* by Lauren Daigle

*Through the eyes of men it seems there's so much we have lost.  
As we look down the road where all the prodigals have walked.  
One by one the enemy has whispered lies, and led them off as slaves.  
But we know that you are God, yours is the victory. We know there is more to come,  
That we may not yet see. So with the faith you've given us, we'll step into the valley unafraid.  
As we call out to dry bones come alive, come alive. We call out to dead hearts come alive, come alive.  
Up out of the ashes let us see an army rise. We call out to dry bones, come alive  
God of endless mercy god of unrelenting love, rescue every daughter bring us back the wayward son  
And by your spirit breathe upon them show the world that you alone can save. You alone can save.  
So breathe, oh breath of God. Now breathe, oh breath of God.*

## THIRD TEN MINUTES

### “E” Engage with Expectancy

**READ:** Nehemiah 2:8 Ephesians 3:13-21, Romans 8:18-27

**REVIVE QUESTIONS:** What impossible prayer am I praying? Where am I groaning in expectancy for glory in our story? Am I asking God to do more than I can imagine? Where do I need God’s gracious hand upon me?

**PONDER:** *No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere.* Leonard Ravenhill

**PRAY:** Ask God give you hope for an impossible battle, or a beyond-imagination answer. Spend time praying about some of the bigger national issues. Ask the Spirit of God to give you a spirit of travailing prayer that would give birth to revival. Imagine, actually stop for a moment and develop a picture in your mind of what could happen in your neighborhood, in our church, in your family, in our country, when revival comes. Pray for God to bring that picture to reality! God is daring you to out-dream Him!

**SING OR MEDITATE:** *Do it Again*, by Elevation Worship

*Walking around these walls, I thought by now they'd fall, but You have never failed me yet.  
Waiting for change to come, knowing the battle's won, for You have never failed me yet.*

*Your promise still stands, great is Your faithfulness, faithfulness.  
I'm still in Your hands, This is my confidence, You've never failed me yet.*

*I know the night won't last, Your Word will come to pass, my heart will sing Your praise again.  
Jesus, You're still enough, keep me within Your love, my heart will sing Your praise again.*

*I've seen You move, come move the mountains, and I believe, I'll see You do it again.  
You made a way, where there was no way and I believe, I'll see You do it again*

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## FOURTH TEN MINUTES

### “S” – Share Your Life

**READ:** Luke 10:1-37

**QUESTION:** Two moments in Jesus’ life, sending out of His apprentices to prepare the neighborhoods to which He was about to come, and a story about loving our neighbors. Who is on your hashtag list? Who is in your front-yard mission? Are you loving your neighbors, asking God to transform them into Jesus-apprentices?

**PONDER REVIVAL QUOTES:** *Often our idea of revival is extremely self-serving, and thus, unbiblical. A revival that fails to bring the lost to Jesus is a self-serving revival, centered on man's needs and wants, and not on God's glory. Many times our cry for revival has the implicit hope that if revival comes, our pews will fill up, finances will abound, counseling will no longer be so demanding and the ministry in general will be more enjoyable. We tend to confine the "healing of the land" promised in 2 Chronicles 7:14 to the healing of the Church. But the healing of the land requires primarily the healing of the lost...The greater number of them who come to Christ and live the Christian life in all godliness and dignity, the greater the scope of the healing of the land. The ultimate expression of revival is the conversion of the unsaved.* Ed Silvano

**PRAY:** For those on your hashtag list. Pray specifically for each one by name. Pray for the needs they have shared with you. Ask to God to give you an opportunity to love someone who is an enemy, an opportunity to serve them and show them how very much God loves them.

## FIFTH TEN MINUTES

### “S” – Stand and Cheer

**READ:** Psalm 139

**QUESTION:** The practice of standing and cheering has two dimensions, vertical and horizontal. The vertical dimension is to give God a standing ovation for all the good He has and is doing. The horizontal dimension is to encourage someone else by letting them know you believe in them, cheering them on. What is the Psalmist cheering in Psalm 139? What can you use from Psalm 139 to cheer on someone else?

**PONDER REVIVAL QUOTE:** *A revival, then, really means days of heaven upon earth.* D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

**PRAY:** Spend time cheering God for all the good He has done and is doing in and through your life, your family, your church and neighborhood. Ask Him to give you a word of encouragement, a word of hope for someone else, a specific person. It might be a verse, or a promise, or a story, or something you see in them. Share that.

**SING OR MEDITATE:** *To God be the Glory*, by Fanny Crosby

*To God be the glory, great things He hath done; so loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, and opened the life gate that all may go in.  
Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done & great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be, our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.*

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## SIXTH TEN MINUTES

### A Closing Time of Prayer

- 1. Read through the 10 Voting Guides (next pages) and choose one or two to pray through. Pray it for yourself, but also more broadly for the church.**
- 2. Close by praying through the “Do It Again” prayer and realize that you are joining hundreds of people in prayer.**

The Do-It Again Prayer

God of revival, would you do it again? See us in the midst of our rubble and hear our cries to do it again. We confess our sins, the dryness of our bones, the rubble of our church, and the brokenness of our families and neighborhoods. O God, we need your gracious hand upon us, please do it again.

Like the amazing rebuilding of Nehemiah’s day...

Like your promise to Ezekiel to breathe life into dry bones...

Like the power of your Spirit that turned a ragtag group of Jesus-apprentices into those who turned the world upside down...would you do it again!

What you have done throughout history, would you do now?

What you are doing globally, would you do here?

What you have done through others, would you do through us? Lord, do it again.

Stir our hearts with holy fire. Breathe new life into dry bones. Fill our valleys with the knowledge of your glory. Revive your church and renew your people. Pour out your fierce, sacrificial love through us. We are your family and one day we will sit around your table, but for now, we are desperate for your hand upon us. We surrender to chase you with all our hearts. Hear our prayers Lord. Do it again and do it through us. Amen.

**2020 VOTING GUIDE**  
**10 THOUGHTS AS YOU VOTE OR DISCUSS THE ELECTION THIS WEEK**

**1. KNOW WHO YOUR LEADER IS BEFORE YOU VOTE FOR YOUR PRESIDENT.** In his book, “Follow Me” Jan Hetta, writes, “The ultimate issue in the universe is leadership. Who you follow and what directs your life is the single most important thing about you.” Regardless of your vote, please, before you vote, make sure you can name your leader. Because if your leader is Christ and you have embraced the gospel; if you are a Jesus-apprentice, surrendered to the King of Kings; if Christ is your King, then you have a deep, unshakeable hope in this fact. In December, your King will still be in control of who is in control.

**2. VOTING IS NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU WILL DO ON TUESDAY.** Or at least I hope it isn't. Start with that perspective. I've gone through enough elections—each one labeled as the most important election we have ever faced—to wonder what difference was made. I know, we are passionate about important issues, racism, refugees, abortion, poverty, and religious freedom. I'm just not convinced that politics/government is the solution to any issue. I'm not convinced that government will transform your life, family or neighborhood. But I do believe that Christ-followers loving Christ and loving others with all their hearts can change the world. As you go through the week, keep repeating Paul's words to yourself from Philippians 3:8 “I count everything else as rubbish compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ.”

**3. SEEK THE GRACIOUS HAND OF GOD ABOVE THE IMPERFECT HAND OF GOVERNMENT.** Politics is not better than the gracious hand of God. As you vote and discuss and pray, realize with humility that in the very best of cases, our government is imperfectly led by imperfect people and this is probably not the best of cases. But if God is the author of our story...He's also the hero of our story. And if God's the hero of our story, hope is the story of our life.

**4. SO REMEMBER THE SOURCE OF YOUR HOPE.** Regardless of how you vote, if our hope is in anything politics can deliver, our hope will crash. Next month we celebrate the birth of a baby born in poverty, who changed the world. Four months later, when Easter rolls around, you will not hear the words, “The government has risen, it is risen indeed.” You will not hear the words, “The economy has risen, it has risen indeed.” You will not hear the words, “A vaccination is risen, it is risen indeed.” You will hear the words, “He has risen. He is risen indeed.” Our hope is in the King and his Kingdom. Every kingdom outside of His Kingdom is short-term, temporary and in the process of dying.

**5. YOU ARE AN IMMIGRANT AND A REFUGEE.** This is not your home. Your primary citizenship is not here. No one says it more clearly than Paul, “Our citizenship is in heaven.” (Philippians 3:20). In 2 Corinthians 5:20, Paul calls us ambassadors for Christ, which indicates an elsewhere-allegiance. In fact, if we are truly ambassadors, then our kids aren't even eligible for birthright citizenship. I realize that the U.S. government doesn't consider heaven a real country, but if you do, vote as an immigrant who is planning on one day going to a better home.

**6. VOTE WITH HUMILITY.** I can't tell you how many people on both sides of the divide have told me that without a doubt, they have heard from God and the other side is deceived, immoral or stupid. (Yep even stupid. From both sides.) This year as we have walked through issues of racial injustice and racial unity, I was convicted of the reality that for decades, a significant majority of black Christians (like our friends at Unity Church) have voted democratic and a significant majority of white Christians have voted republican. Are we really willing to say that white Republican Christians have heard from God and black Democrat Christians have not? Or might other factors be shaping our political views? In humility, realize that as Jesus-apprentices, we are on the same team, in the same family, and that family is forever. Stop with the all-or-nothing language, the either-you-are-with-me or you-don't-matter choices. You simply don't know enough to judge the person who

voted differently from you. You don't know their heart or their mind. Have a conversation, you may gain a friendship that lasts for eternity.

**7. DON'T LOSE YOUR FOCUS ON THE CENTER OF CHRIST'S ATTENTION.** Christ's great interest in the world today is the church. It's His body and His bride, the dwelling place of His Spirit. When Jesus is seen in the opening pages of the biblical finale, he is not seen walking through the halls of the great universities or sitting on the thrones of political power. He is seen walking in the midst of His church. If you want to be where the action is in the days when eternity is on the line, invest in the church. In all our mess and imperfections, because of Christ, the church is still the hope of the world.

**8. BUT THE CHURCH IS ALSO A MESS, FILLED WITH RUBBLE AND BROKENNESS.** That may seem like a strange voting principle, but it may also be the most important. When I vote this year, it will be with a heart of repentance. We have sought comfort and control when we should have sacrificially loved others. We have been far too cozy with power. When the church gets cozy with the power of government, it rarely goes well for the world. One day Christ will bring His government; until that day He calls us to lead through servanthood. He calls us to live by dying. He calls us to gain by giving. He calls us to love and serve the powerless, those in the margins of life. He calls us to the cross. Perhaps the reason we have lost our ability to call out the brokenness in our government is because we have been unwilling to own our own. Character matters, but repentance must start with the people of God.

**9. VOTE FOR LIFE.** All Life. From the unborn to the 94 year-old who died from covid-19. From the refugee to the international student, from caravans to mini-vans, from the illegal to the legal, from students to retirees, every race, every gender, every label, every culture, every country, Jesus loves them all, died for them all, and has a place at his table for them all. I realize our government cannot love them all. But we should not vote without realizing that Jesus loves them all and came to bring them all life.

**10. FINALLY VOTE WITH JOY RATHER THAN ANXIETY.** For many of us this election feels heavy, momentous, country-changing. But I want to encourage you to hold joy hand in hand with the heaviness. You live in a country where you can vote; a country where Christians can run for office. Meanwhile if you are a Christ-follower, you are a citizen of a Kingdom that will never be shaken. Not only are you a citizen of that Kingdom, you are a member of the King's family. That King is so full of life-shaping, world-changing love, that no one, no one, no one is beyond his pursuit. On November 4th, these truths will be just as true as they were on November 3rd. So vote like they are true...with joy!

That's it. There is more. But that's enough.