

HEART-SEARCHING, FOR PRAYER PREPARATION AND PERSONAL REVIVAL

Questions by Dr. Charles R. Sanders

Psalms 139:23,24 - *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."*

CONFESSION OF SIN IS NECESSARY FOR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD, AND REVIVAL AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE. Prayerfully consider the following questions. Go through these questions one by one, looking up the Scripture references. Answer truthfully. Every "yes" answer means sin in your life.

BE SURE TO NAME YOUR SIN TO GOD, AS... "Lord, I have not put Thee first in my plans", or "I have neglected Thy word and prayer." **DO NOT MAKE THIS THE LEAST EXCUSE FOR SIN OF ANY KIND IN YOUR LIFE.** Proverbs 28:13, *"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."*

NO matter what others do, or not do, Christian, leave nothing undone on your part. God wants to work through you to bring about a great spiritual awakening. He can begin by your fulfilling every requirement shown by the Lord through the Holy Spirit and His Word. A revival from the presence of the Lord begins today. If you desire it. Give a truthful answer---

1. ____ YES ____ NO *Mathew 6:14-15.* Is there anyone against whom you hold a grudge? Anyone you haven't forgiven? Any one you hate? Anyone you do not love? Are there any misunderstandings that you are unwilling to forget? Is there any person against whom you are harboring bitterness, resentment, or jealousy? Anyone you dislike to hear praised or well spoken of? Do you allow anything to justify a wrong attitude toward another? *Mark 11:25, I John 4:7-12, Matt. 5:23-24 Eph. 4:31-32, Heb. 10:30, Heb. 12:14*
2. ____ YES ____ NO *Matthew 6:33.* Is there anything in which you have failed to put God first? Have your decisions been made after your wisdom and desires, rather than seeking your surrender and service to God: Ambition, pleasures, loved ones, friendships, desire for recognition, money, your own plans? *Matt. 6:19-21, I Tim. 6:7-11, Heb. 13:5-6, Luke 16:13*
3. ____ YES ____ NO *Mark 16:15 and Romans 1:16, II Tim 1:8, II Tim. 4:2, Prov. 11:30.* Have you failed to seek the lost for Christ? Has your life not revealed to the lost the Lord Jesus?
4. ____ YES ____ NO *John 13:35.* Are you secretly pleased over the misfortunes of another? Are you secretly annoyed over the accomplishments or advancements of another? Are you guilty of any contention or strife? Do you quarrel, argue or engage in heated discussions? Are you a partaker in any divisions, or party spirit? Are there people whom you deliberately slight? *I Cor. 3:1-3, Prov. 14:30, Prov. 6:16, Rom. 14:10. James 3:6-17, I Peter 4:8.*
5. ____ YES ____ NO *Acts 20:35.* Have you robbed God by withholding His due of time, talents and money? Have you given less than one tenth of your income for God's work? Have you failed to support your church, God's work, either in prayer or in offering? *II Cor. 9:6-8, Luke 6:38, Prov. 19:17, Mal. 3:10, Prov. 22:9, Phil. 4:19.*
6. ____ YES ____ NO *I Corinthians 4:2.* Are you undependable so that you cannot be trusted with responsibilities in the Lord's work? Are you allowing your emotions to be stirred for things of the Lord but doing nothing about it? *Rom. 5:4-5, Eph. 4:13, James 1:2.*

7. ____YES ____NO *I Corinthians 10:31.* Do you take the slightest credit for anything good about you, rather than of what Christ has done? Are your statements mostly about "I"? Are your feelings easily hurt? Have you made a pretense of being something that you are not? *Gal. 2:20, Phil. 1:21:2:5, Titus 3:5, Prov. 3:5-6.*

8. ____YES ____NO *I Corinthians 6:19-20.* Are you in any way careless with your body? Do you fail to care for it as the temple of the Holy Spirit? Are you guilty of intemperance in eating or drinking? Do you have any habits which are defiling to the body? *John 7:4, Gal. 6:7-8, Prov. 23:21, Rom. 16:18, Phil. 3:19.*

9. ____YES ____NO *Ephesians 3:20.* Are you self-conscious rather than Christ-conscious? Do you allow feelings of inferiority to keep you from attempting things you should do in serving God? *Phil. 4:6, II Tim. 1:7-8.*

10. ____YES ____NO *Ephesians 4:28.* Do you underpay? Do you do very little in your work? Have you been careless in the payment of your debts? Have you sought to evade payment of your debts? Do you waste time? Do you waste time for others?

11. ____YES ____NO *Ephesians 4:31* Do you complain? Do you find fault? Do you have a critical attitude towards any person or anything? Are you irritable or cranky? Do you ever carry hidden anger? Do you become impatient with others? Are you ever harsh or unkind?

12. ____YES ____NO *Ephesians 5:16.* Do you listen to unedifying radio or television programs? Do you read unworthy magazines? Do you partake in worldly amusements? Do you find it necessary to seek satisfaction from any questionable source? Are you doing certain things that show that you are not satisfied in the Lord Jesus Christ?

13. ____YES ____NO *Ephesians 5:20.* Have you neglected to thank Him for all things, the seemingly bad as well as the good? Have you virtually called God a liar by doubting His Word? Do you worry? Is your spiritual temperature based on your feelings instead of on the facts of God's Word? *Thess. 5:18, Eph. 5:20, Phil. 4:6, I Peter 5:7, Col. 3:17, Heb. 13:6.*

14. ____YES ____NO *Philippians 1:21.* Are you taken up with the cares of this life? Does your conversation of heart joy over "things" rather than the Lord and His Word? Does anything mean more to you than living for and pleasing Christ? *Prov. 8:19, Col. 3:1-3.*

15. ____YES ____NO *Philippians 2:14.* Do you ever by word or deed seek to hurt someone? Do you gossip? Do you speak unkindly concerning people when they are not present? Do you carry prejudice against true Christians because they are of some different group than yours, or because they do not see everything exactly like you? *Gal. 6:2.*

16. ____YES ____NO *Philippians 4:4.* Have you neglected to seek to be pleasing to Him in all things? Do you carry any bitterness toward God? Have you complained against Him in any way? Have you been dissatisfied with His provision for you? Is there in your heart any unwillingness to obey God fully? Do you have any reservations as to what you would or would not do concerning anything that might be His will? Have you disobeyed some direct leading from Him? *Prov. 16:33, I Cor. 10:10-11, Xol. 3:15, I Thess. 5:24, II Cor. 4:2.*

A Self-Examination Test For Continual Revival

These are 22 Questions John Wesley's Holy Club asked themselves each day in their private devotional life over 200 years ago. I wonder what God might do if some of us would begin to do the same?!

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
4. Can I be trusted?
5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?
6. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
7. Did the Bible live in me today?
8. Do I give it time to speak to me every day?
9. Am I enjoying the prayer?
10. When did I last speak to someone else of my faith?
11. Do I pray about the money I spend?
12. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
13. Do I disobey God in anything?
14. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
15. Am I defeated in any part of life?
16. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
17. How do I spend my spare time?
18. Am I proud?
19. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisee who despised the publican?
20. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold resentment toward, or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
21. Do I grumble or complain constantly?
22. Is Christ real to me?

Jonathan Edwards

13 Resolutions to Live By

1. Resolved, That I will do whatsoever I think to be most to the Glory of God, and my own good, profit, and pleasure, in the whole of my duration; myriads of ages hence.
Resolved, to do whatever I think to be my duty, and most for the good and advantage of mankind in general.
2. Resolved, Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can.
3. Resolved, To live with all my might, while I do live.
4. Resolved, Never to do anything, which I would be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.
5. Resolved, Never to do anything out of revenge.
6. Resolved, Never to speak evil of any one, so that it shall tend to his dishonor, more or less, upon no account except for some real good.
7. Resolved, To study the Scriptures steadily, constantly, and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive, myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.
8. Resolved, Never to count that a prayer, nor to let that pass as a prayer, nor that as a petition of prayer, which is so made, that I cannot hope that God will answer it; nor that as a confession which I cannot hope God will accept.
9. Resolved, To ask myself, at the end of every day, week, month, and year, wherein I could possibly, in any respect have done better.
10. Resolved, Never to give over, nor in the least to slacken, my fight with my corruptions, however unsuccessful I may be.
11. Resolved, After afflictions, to inquire, what I am the better for them; what good I have got by them; and, what I might have got by them.
12. Resolved, Always to do that, which I shall wish I had done when I see others do it.
13. Let there be something of benevolence in that I speak.