

'SOAKING' in the Presence of God

"How To Meditate on God's Word"

(Adapted from Awakening: 14 Days To Revolutionize Your Relationship With God, By Stovall Weems)

The SOAK method works like this:

- **S for Scripture.** The Scripture passage has been selected each day by the Devotional writer. Read it intentionally and prayerfully. Take notice of which verses in the passage catch your attention and mark it in your Bible. Reading the daily passage in a different Bible translation or paraphrase enhances understanding.
- **O for Observation.** Focusing on the passage, tune in and listen to what God is saying to you through His Word. What is it about this passage that specifically stands out? What does God want to reveal to you or teach you? Ask the Holy Spirit to be your guide and show you what God is saying.
- **A for Application.** Read the Devotional 'nugget' prepared by the Devotional writer. This helps you apply the passage to your life right now. Ask God how He wants you to apply it, and to what areas in your life. Journal how this Scripture applies to you today.
- **K for Kneel in Prayer.** Wrap up your SOAK time in prayer. Talk to God about what you've just read. This can be as simple as thanking Him for revealing a truth from the Scripture. Then, **PRAY** concerning the "**Prayer Points**" for that designated day. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say.

That's it! SOAK, it's as simple or deep as you want it to be.



Church of Christ
(Holiness) USA

2020

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Devotional Guide

"God's Rx

For Troubled Times:

14 Days of 2 Chronicles 7:14"

- Repentance
- Renewal
- Recovery

Monday, July 13, 2020 to Sunday, July 26, 2020

*"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and **pray** and **seek My face**, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land"*

-2 Chronicles 7:14



2020
“*God’s Rx For Troubled Times*”
Devotional Guide

Welcome to this **2020 National Devotional Guide**. It is sponsored by the Board of Bishops of the Church of Christ (Holiness) USA. It is designed for seeking spiritual renewal during the *14 Days of this year’s Virtual National Consecration & Jubilation*. This year’s Devotional Guide Theme is: “*God’s Rx For Troubled Times: 14 Days of 2 Chronicles 7:14*” Certainly, we lived in troubled times! God’s elixir for these tumultuous times is: ***Repentance, Renewal & Recovery***”

First, you will find daily “**Prayer Focuses**” to lift up to God in prayer. The aim is to seek God’s hand to be upon those specific areas. We thank National Prayer Coordinator, Bishop Dale L. Cudjoe for identifying our general and specific prayer targets.

Second, are daily “**Devotionals**” to encourage you to seek God’s face for the fullness of His spirit in your life. We praise God for nine (9) CO-CHUSA leaders who provided them. (Their respective **initials** will appear at the end of each devotional authored.) Our contributors are:

- Bishop Vernon E. Kennebrew (*VEK*) Days 1 & 8
- Bishop Lindsay E. Jones (*LEJ*) Days 2 & 9
- Bishop Dale L. Cudjoe (*DLC*) Day 3
- Bishop H. Vonzell Castilla (*HVC*) Days 4 & 11
- Bishop Maurice Nicholson (*MN*) Days 6 & 14
- Bishop Joseph R. Campbell, Jr. (*JRC*) Days 7 & 13
- Bishop Emery Lindsay (*EL*) Day 12
- Elder James E. Harper (*JEH*) Day 5
- Missionary Gwen Hudson (*GH*) Day 10

Third, on the back page is the “**SOAK**” method for spending time in the presence of God, as you daily use the 2020 National Devotional and Prayer for “*God’s Rx For Troubled Times: 14 Days of 2 Chronicles 7:14*”

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Lindsay E. Jones, National President
Bishop Vernon E. Kennebrew, Senior Bishop

Read: Psalm 23:1-6

The Lord Is My Shepherd

“*The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.*”
Psalms 23:1

This passage of Scripture is simple, profound and universally known. While serving as a shepherd, David learned the role, responsibility, and requirement of shepherds well. Consequently, in this poetic writing he is able to describe the attributes of God in this light.

David opens by proclaiming the *Abiding Presence of God*, by saying :”The Lord Is” (vs. 1-3). The good shepherd is always there to meet whatever needs that we might have. Indeed, “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.” (Hebrews 13:8) He is always available to guide, guard and govern our pathway of life.

Next, David exalts the *Absolute Protection of God* : “for thy art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me” (vs. 4). We have the comfort and consolation that the Shepherd is with us no matter how challenging the test or deep the valley. The God of our praise is the same God of our sorrows.

Finally, David declares the *Abundant Provisions of God* : “my cup runneth over” (vs. 5-6). From the valley to the palace, our shepherd goes before us to lead us to something better. We are additionally blessed to have the goodness and mercy of God to accompany us as we dwell in his fellowship forever.

Have you been sensing the “*Abiding Presence of God*” in your life? Have you been depending on the “*Absolute Protection of God*” for your life? Where do you need the “*Abundant Provisions of God*” for your Life?

Allow **God** to be your shepherd! -VEK

Seeking the Hand of God

Pray ... that God will send His Spirit upon the Board of Bishops, National Parent Body National Executive Board and National Boards, Auxiliaries and Ministries during the upcoming 2020-2021 Convention Year!

Read: Psalm 66:8-19

Deep Cleaning

“If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, my Lord would not have listened. But God did listen! He paid attention to my prayer.”

Psalm 66:18-19 (LB)

Sometimes, it’s discovered in a workplace that an employee has unknowingly been a carrier of the coronavirus. Deep cleaning then becomes standard protocol. A church setting where an attender was unknowingly present with COVID 19, also was later deep-cleaned.

But there’s another kind of deep cleaning that God wants to do. No, not in church buildings. (*Though it seems as if He has run us out of our church buildings!*) But rather, God wants to do deep cleaning in the lives of church members. Psalm 66 reminds us of the kind of deep cleaning that is needed, and that comes only through confession of sin. But it can lead to true joy and real happiness!

Says, Gregory R. Frizzell, in one of the best books I’ve read on personal holiness: “Unfortunately, in today’s highly-programmed church, deep spiritual cleansing is either ignored entirely or quickly glossed over in a surface manner. As a result, God’s people are largely unaware of the subtle unconfessed sins that daily quench Christ’s full power in their lives. Only cleansed hearts have mighty power with God.” Then says Frizzell, “Remember, you can only be filled with God as you are willing to be emptied of yourself. If you are completely honest and thorough in your confession, God will completely cleanse and transform your life.”

During these 14 days, ask God to show you sins of *thought*, sins of *attitude*, sins of *speech*, sins of *relationships*, sins of *commission*, sins of *omission* and sins of *self-rule* and *self-reliance*. Though rather uncomfortable, let’s seek God for “deep cleaning!” - LEJ

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart today
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray
See if there be some wicked way in me
Cleanse me from every sin, and set me free”*

Seeking the Hand of God

Pray ... that the National Brotherhood Ministries, United Christian Women’s Ministries; National Sunday School and Holiness Youth Ministries, Daughters of Esther and Deacons Ministries will experience the power and presence of God in 2020-2021 – despite the pandemic this year!

Read: Joel 2:18-27

Rebounding To Victory!

“Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing ... Rejoice in the Lord your God! for He has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful.” Joel 2:14,23 (NIV)

Did you know that an entire nation can be brought to its knees by forces beyond its control? Well, that’s what Bill Elliff reminds us in, “*How Should We Deal With Our National Tragedy.*” It’s an excellent article brought to us by Department of Religious Education.

In Joel 2:18-27, we are reminded that our national response to this season of disaster should be “*kneeling down*” in prayer -- and not just “*sheltering in.*” Joel proclaimed, as the author points out, that if we would turn to God in repentance and cry out to Him, God would not only stop the advancing herd of devastation, but also “*leave a blessing behind!*” We can rebound to victory!

What blessing are you needing God to “leave behind” in the midst of this pandemic and social unrest? Healing, power, rejoicing? Restored relationships, confidence in life, a sense of God’s will for your future? When we return to our compassionate Heavenly Father, He waits to give us the victory!

-DLC

*“Oh victory in Jesus, my Savior forever
He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood
He loved me ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood!”*

E. M. Bartlett

Prayer: “*Father, thank for being the compassionate God you are. Thank for the joy we have by faith now. And the victory we will experience by sight in the future, as we return to you with all our heart! In Jesus’ Name We Prayer, Amen!*”

Seeking the Hand of God

Pray ... that the leadership of the Board of Pensions & Benefits, National Evangelism and Mission Board, National Publishing Board and World Mission Board would be open to a supernatural move of God in 2020-2021 – despite the social unrest and upheaval this year!

Read: Nehemiah 8:1-12

Words of Life

“And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.” Nehemiah 8: 12

“That’s it. I’m done.”
Things were not going well for me or the rest of the C.M.& I. Crusaders, so I was ready to “*throw in the towel.*” My jump shot wasn’t falling, my passes were off target and the other point guard was scoring at will. We were a half step slow and the other team seemed to know our playbook. Nothing was going well for me or the team. So, after committing a particularly egregious foul I raised my hand to signal that I was the culprit and to coach Sanders that I wanted out of the game. Coach called a time out and “*encouraged*” us, telling us the game wasn’t over and calling for a “*full court press*”. His words prompted us to stage a miraculous rally.

Like the Mighty Crusaders, the people of God in Nehemiah were ready to throw in the towel. The fragile remnant in Jerusalem had struggled mightily until God sent holy men to rebuild. Nehemiah led the effort to rebuild the temple while Ezra led the rebuilding of the temple. Realizing the need for revival, Ezra called a solemn assembly for the reading of God’s Word. The reaction of God’s people is notable for how they *reverenced, received* [took to heart] and *responded* to the Word of God. The law showed the people their spiritual condition, causing them to weep; but it also sowed the seeds of revival, prompting them to rejoice. What happened then can happen now. When we reverence, receive and respond to God’s Word, we too can experience true revival. -HVC

Seeking the Hand of God

Pray for ...

Healing for COVID-19 Victims

Strength for Medical Workers

Victims of Social Injustice and Crime

Financial Casualties of COVID-19

(Unemployed and Underemployed)

Schools, Students and Educators

Leaders at Local and National Leaders

(Civil & Spiritual)

Churches (Role, Resources, and Responsibilities)

Read: Psalm 51: 9-13

A Prayer for Recovery

“Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.” Psalm 51:12-13)

“If you have fallen by the way in life and your dreams and visions are shattered. If you are all broken inside, you don’t have to stay in the shape that you’re in. The Potter wants to put you back together again.”

In this Psalm addressed to God, David presents himself as a guilty man before his Creator. David’s prayer is for purity, cleansing, and restoration. He initiates his prayer by entreating God for mercy. He then confesses his need to be washed, cleansed, and purged of all his sins. David wants to begin again. He desires to once again be in fellowship with God. He understands there can be no restoration without repentance.

David wants the power and the joy that can only be received through the presence of the Holy Spirit residing within. David’s prayer turns from “pleading to promising.” If God will grant his petitions and renew his spiritual life, then he offers this solemn promise. He will teach transgressors God’s way so that sinners will be converted. David promises to bring others to a saving knowledge of the loving-kindness of our God.

Do you feel the need for a fresh start in your walk with God? If so, there is good news! What God did for David he is willing to do for you – and all who come in repentance and faith. And whoever our Lord restores, he replenishes and they become tools that are available for the task of reaching the lost for the kingdom of God.

There is no greater joy than to share with others the Word that leads to life eternal. God uses all who come with clean hands and a clean heart. It pleases God to use us as his vessels to accomplish his purpose in the earth. -JEH

Seeking the Hand of God

Pray ... that the Holy Spirit will take charge of all aspects of the “National Consecration and Jubilation” emphasis this month, including the culminating “*National Worship Service of Encouragement*” on Sunday July 26, 2020. And that attendees will experience ‘ease of access’ to all events and activities, as we engage through ‘virtual’ portals.

Read: 2 Kings 5:1-10

You Can Recover!

“Then he went down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.” 2 Kings 5:14

What does it mean to experience a ‘recovery’? One definition is “a return to a normal state of health, mind, or strength.” Or, it can be the restoration of lost things.” In this passage, we have a man who experienced an amazing recovery!

First, Naaman received a **reward** for his effort in doing as the man of God asked him. We may not always see or understand the why and what God is asking us to do, but there is a reward in our obedience.

Second, Naaman was **blessed** to receive a miracle of healing from what was known as an incurable disease. We may receive a miracle from God if we believe and be obedient to the voice of the Lord.

Third, Naaman experienced **growth through trial**. Trials that we go through are to help us grow in our relationship with God. Naaman was persuaded that there was a prophet in Israel. God does the unthinkable sometimes, just to reveal to someone that He is God.

Prayer: “Father, help me to realize that no matter where I am in life, that I can **recover** and receive the **reward** that you have for me. And that I will be blessed to experience **growth through the trials** you take me through. In Jesus’ name, Amen!” -MN

Seeking the Hand of God

Pray ... for all Youth & Children’s Activities during this time of change in the life of the church and society. That the use of technology in ministry would be leveraged to God’s glory!

Read: Acts 3:11-19

The Joy of Spring And Fall

“When the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord...” Acts 3:19c

After a harsh winter comes a delightful spring. After a particularly hot summer comes a beautiful fall. Over the last few years, we have experienced the deaths of close family members and the close family members of our friends and church members, which reminds me of the Fall. When the beautiful green leaves turn to various colorful shades of brown as they fade, reminds me of those passing from this life. Then comes the birth of a child, grandchild and as in a number of our cases a great-grandchild, which reminds me of Spring, when barren trees start to bud and put on various shades of beautiful green leaves.

These changes in seasons readily reminds me of Ecclesiastes 3:2a. “A time to be born, and a time to die.” And Ecclesiastes 3:4a reminds us: “A time to weep, and a time to laugh.” The passing of loved ones brings sadness, and it is amazing that when a little one is born it eases the sadness as it is replaced with joy.

My prayer is that we be aware, that as we are in the midst of the horror of COVID 19, God will bring Springtime. And we will celebrate that we are set free to enjoy the fellowship of each other again. -JRC

Seeking the Hand of God

Pray... that God will meet and exceed the financial needs of our churches! And for the removal of fear or challenges in giving of tithes and offerings through electronic means as much as possible.

Read: Luke 15:12-22

Returning To The Father

“And he arose, and came to his father.....” Luke 15:20

God the Father created all mankind after his own image and imparted within man the ability or capacity to make choices. Of course we recognize that God’s way is always the best way and leads to a better outcome.

However, many of us are tempted to go our own way and risk the security of God’s way. In the scripture under consideration, a young man decided to choose his personal way over the counsel of his father. For a while, it seemed that it really didn’t matter whether he lived his life his way or God’s way. Then the realities of life in an evil world revealed to him that “There is a way that which seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (Proverbs 14:12) While facing the consequences of his wrong choices, “he came to himself” (vs. 17). This is the first step in repentance, that is to recognize that you are headed the wrong way. Secondly, make up your mind to turn around, “I will arise and go (back) to my father” (vs. 18). Thirdly, do it, “he arose, and came to his father” (vs. 20).

We all have made and will make wrong decisions in life, but we are blessed to have a Father who will forgive and restore us back into the family. John Wesley wrote: ‘Repentance is a change of heart and a change in mind that leads to a change in action’.

God is always willing to receive you, if you are willing to return.

-VEK

Seeking the Hand of God

Pray ... that God will unleash His power in our lives for victory over “strongholds.” That all strongholds would be broken -- whether Mental, Emotional, Psychological or Financial. And that healing and full **Recovery** will take place!

Read: 1 Samuel 30:1-10

Recovering All!

“And the Lord told him, Yes, go after them. You will surely recover everything that was taken from you!” 1 Samuel 30:8 (LB)

While waiting as an Uber driver in an airport queue, a beloved brother’s unattended vehicle was stolen. In addition to the inconvenience and hassle of it all, it was painful and frustrating. But a week or so later, his car was found -- less than a mile away and largely unvandalized. We rejoiced. He recovered all!

During an unguarded moment, David and his men were devastated by the unexpected loss of loved ones, possessions, peace of mind and that which was important to them. But God encouraged David and ensured him that they would “recover all.” And they did!

It’s always painful, isn’t it, to lose that which is near, dear or important to us? But the same loving God who allows loss in our lives, is the same God who specializes in restoring that which has been taken from us.

What have these troubled times ‘stolen’ from you? Your health, job or finances? Maybe loved ones, a valued relationship or simply peace of mind? Possibly, it’s separation from others, as a result of isolation or ‘sheltering in’? Has it been a while since you’ve felt happy or known joy, because discouragement or depression have devastated you? If so, be encouraged in the Lord! That King-in-waiting would one day write, *“Weeping may endure for a night...”* But be assured, *“joy is coming in the morning!”* -LEJ

*“O we’ll not doubt the Saviour,
But all His Word believe!
Confiding in His favor,
We’ll ever perfect live!”* -C. P. Jones

Seeking the Hand of God

Pray ... that God’s anointing will be poured out upon every local church as we seek **Repentance** and **Renewal**.

Pray ... for **Recovery** and victory in the lives all members of COCHUSA, including every household’s protection, health and safety in the coming 2020-2021 year.

Read: Revelation 2:1-7

Purpose Realigned / Passion Renewed

“He that hath an ear, let him hear...” Revelation 2:7

Shhhhhh. Slow down. Listen...

I know. I know your works. I know how hard you’ve worked. I see all of that. I am aware of your patience and I am equally aware of your intolerance. Yes, I know. In fact, I know you. Yet, I have some measure of concern with you. I need for you to know why. You left Me. You veered off course. While there are some things you hate as I hate that are commendable, I need to be very clear. You have left Me. I AM YOUR FIRST LOVE. I need you to settle down; quiet yourself long enough to hear Me. When I call you to remember ‘*where you derailed*,’ I am calling you to Me--Your first love; unobstructed by service to Me or for Me. I fuel your passion FOR ME; remember? When I tell you to ‘repent, I am calling you to prayer.

Notice: My words: ‘...DO THE FIRST WORKS...’ I do not add ‘*over*,’ do I? I am clear. Your passion is (in) Me. My holiness reveals it as you ‘*do the first works---the ‘love’ works*; ready? Let’s do this--DAILY!

“Remember, your *dutiful* service for Me is less important than passionate *devotion* to Me. Do not let church activity and performance become a priority above intimate fellowship with Me. So repent and return to Me — YOUR FIRST LOVE” - GH

Question: How is God calling YOU to recapture your FIRST LOVE?

Seeking the Hand of God

Pray ... that God will reveal and manifest Himself through Children’s and Youth ministries in our churches. And that God-inspired creativity will impact their lives.

Read: Jonah 3:1-10

Sackcloth and Ashes

“So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For the Word came unto the king o Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.” Jonah 3: 5-6

“You’ll serve thirty days in the county jail and pay a fine of \$1000”. I was stunned when Judge Thompson lowered his gavel and pronounced the relatively harsh sentence. The young man before him had “thrown himself on the mercy of the court” and promised to never shoplift again. But Judge Thompson wasn’t buying it, telling the young man that “you’re just sorry you got caught.” Apparently Judge Thompson knew something I didn’t, as the young man had to appear in the same courtroom a few months later to receive an even harsher sentence.

Like the young man before Judge Thompson, the people of Nineveh had been “caught red-handed” in their sins. They were a vicious, corrupt people who relished their evil reputation. But unlike the young man before Judge Thompson, the king of Nineveh was truly repentant and lead a revival that stayed God’s hand of judgment. To Jonah’s dismay, the whole nation modeled true repentance, characterized by Godly sorrow, confession of sins and a “turning away” from their evil ways. Because they repented, God relented.

Jonah is usually given top billing in this story. But the true “star of the story” is God, whose loving character is put on full display. He loved the sinful people of Nineveh so much that he wouldn’t let Jonah dodge his assignment to preach to them, and when they repented, he forgave. Likewise, when we show true repentance, he is faithful and just to forgive, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Thank God for his love and mercy! -HVC

Seeking the Hand of God

Pray ... for the
Healing for COVID-19 Victims
Strength for Medical Workers
Victims of Social Injustice and Crime

Financial Casualties of COVID-19
(Unemployed and Underemployed)
Schools, Students and Educators
Leaders at Local and National Leaders
(Civil & Spiritual)
Churches (Role, Resources, and Responsibilities)

Read: Acts 1: 4-8

Where Is the Power?

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Recently, Pearl, my wife, mentioned as we were about to begin the day, “The clothes dryer is not working.” She went on to explain how old it was. I began to think a new dryer is needed. Moments later, it was brought to my attention, “The burners on the stove are not working.” But our predicament continued. Then I learned, “The water is not hot and the hot water tank is not working.”

At that point, something began to click in my mind. All three appliances -- natural gas-based -- are not working. Perhaps the problem is not the appliances but the source of energy is not flowing. So I went outside to check, and sure enough I discovered the problem. A simple twist of the gas valve and all three appliances were working properly!

We often hear about what’s wrong with the church. The preaching is not working. The singing is not working. The giving is not working. The church just seems to be on her last legs. But I did some checking. I went back to the book of Acts – the birth of the Church. It didn’t take long to be reminded that the church cannot function when the source of its energy is cut off.

Perhaps we need to check the connection to the source of our power, the Person of the Holy Spirit. If we sense there’s a disconnection, let us humble ourselves and rediscover the reality of the power of the Holy Ghost.

The Church will work when the power is flowing! Pray that during this time of seeking His Face, that God would *“Fire our zeal anew, through the power of His Spirit!” -EL*

Seeking the Hand of God

Pray ... that our churches will be innovative in trying new ideas through media, as we move into a new church year. And that we will experience a banner year, as lost are *saved*, backsliders are *reclaimed* and spiritually-mature believers are *renewed!*

Read: Luke 23:39 – 43

The Chance

“And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.” Luke 23:42

The thief on a cross near Jesus saw his sinfulness, and in his own way, repented and requested to be forgiven. Can you remember the point in your own life, where you recognized that you were out of fellowship with God and asked Him for His forgiveness?

I will never forget the fourth Sunday in January 1972, when I was brought face to face with my sinful life. The Holy Spirit simply posed the question to me, “Now what are you going to do?” That day I had my “on-a-cross” moment. I repented of my sins and I asked Jesus to come into my heart and to cleanse me.

I periodically tell my salvation story so that others will know that I to was once lost in sin; and that Jesus not only forgave me, but He began to use me in His service. I know the reality of Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” -JRC

Remember: “No one is too bad to be saved, anymore than anyone is too good to need a Saviour.”

*“Wonderful life of grace!
Wonderful joy and peace!
Cleansed by the blood, and
Filled with God. Wonderful holiness!”*

Seeking the Hand of God

Pray ... for the presence and anointing of God upon the ‘virtual’ *National UCWM Session*” and *National NBM Sessions* today. And for the ‘livestreamed’ *National Congress “Celebration of COCHUSA’s Musical Heritage”* tonight.

Read: Colossians 3:8-10

Real Renewal

“And put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.” Colossians 3:10

Renewal has been defined as “an instance of resuming an activity or state after an interruption. “ When a person becomes a believer in Jesus Christ, their *spiritual* passion changes. The old man dies and the new man comes to life. The new man views things through the eyes of the Spirit, therefore their spiritual *passion* changes to that which is like God, or holy.

It is necessary that *prayer* becomes a vital part of our existence. Our communication is talking to, and hearing from God. All those deeds of the old man are put away in our lives, and we are *renewed* in the spirit of our mind.

We are put off all these; “anger, wrath, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another. Seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds.” (Colossians 3:8-9)

Overall, real renewal is a commitment to personal holiness. For Hebrews 12:14 declares, “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”

The life of mankind was interrupted by sin, and we could no longer live a life acceptable to God. But God, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, made it possible so that we could be cleansed from sin and made to live holy before him.

Are the marks of real renewal evident in your life?

Prayer: *“Father, give me a constant renewal that my spiritual passion will change, and my prayer life will be pleasing to you, and holiness may be the lifestyle that I live, in Jesus’ name, Amen.” -MN*

Seeking the Hand of God

Pray ... for today’s culminating “*National Worship Service of Encouragement.*” That God will be in the midst of this ‘livestreamed’ Worship experience. And for God’s anointing, as Senior Bishop Vernon E. Kennebrew declares the Word of God!