

Spiritual Inventory

Many ministers seem to be living at the edge of the cliff, not far from a great fall into the abyss of sin. How did they get so close to dangerously falling?

As I counsel with pastors who have had their ministries come to a screeching halt because of sexual immorality, or emotional burnout, without exception they trace their fall to a common cause.

They all said that they could remember when their spiritual life began to deteriorate. Their devotional life at best was shallow and many times non-existent.

This results in a spiritual disconnection from the very power source that prevents and protect us from sin. The flesh, worldly temptations and devil are alive and well! The following Scriptures remind us that without Christ, even the strongest Christian will become prey to the devil. And its no secret that pastors are his favorite targets. (Jer. 17:9, Isa. 53:6, Gen. 3:1-6, Rom. 7:14-25, Col 1:27)

This self-awareness guide has been written to provide a minister with a preventative tool for self-accountability to maintain a meaningful intimate devotional life, and keep the “God power” connection intact!

How would you describe your spiritual temperature in your walk with the Lord?


____hot ____lukewarm ____cool ____cold

Evaluate your time alone with the Lord. Circle the quality that you most lean toward lately.

unhurried / hurried
satisfactory / unsatisfactory
stimulating / boring
fresh / stale
more talking / more listening
can't wait / can wait
high priority / low priority
undivided attention / distracted
systematic / haphazard
sense of awe / lackadaisical
much time in confession / little time
renewed spirit / troubled spirit
engaged / aloof
read the Bible for my edification / other's edification
hunger to be with God / driven to do more for God

Priorities/Balance Self-Check

Detail your last week's daily schedule of time usage. Work backwards, starting with yesterday, or begin today and record the next seven days.

Activity	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	*Daily Average
Sleep								
Meals								
House/Yard Work								
Recreation/Leisure								
Family Activities								
Personal Devotions								
Bible Study for Ministry								
Ministry								
Total Hours Each Day	24 hrs.	24 hrs.	24 hrs.	24 hrs.	24 hrs.	24 hrs.	24 hrs.	

*Add the hours of days 1-7 and divide by 7 = daily average

Questions to Ponder:

1) What area(s) are out of balance and need a higher priority?

2) What did you discover that you were not fully aware of?

This prayer experience is intended to teach you the discipline of listening to the Lord in prayer. The longer you pause to listen, the more the Lord will reveal. The specific focus is on confessing the sins that God reveals to you.

Pray the Scriptures:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.” Psalm 139:23-24

Pray from your heart:

“Lord, in Your intimate knowledge of every detail of my life, please reveal to me all the areas of sin where I need to receive cleansing. Amen.”

Confessional Prayer Work

The following questions are categorized and intended to help you identify sins of commission and omission. Every “yes” answer indicates a sin to be confessed for cleansing.

Ask the Lord each self-examining question. Listen for His response. If there is silence or peace in your spirit, proceed slowly to the next question. If there is conviction, confess it immediately to the Lord.

You may consider going through the list of questions twice.

Relationships:

John 13:34-35; Eph. 4:31-32; Col. 3:8-15; I Jn. 4:7-11

- € Is there anyone against whom you hold a grudge?
- € Anyone you haven't forgiven?
- € Anyone you hate?
- € Anyone you refuse to 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?
- € Do you allow anything to justify wrong attitudes toward others?
- € Are there any relationships that need to be reconciled?
- € Are you secretly pleased over the misfortune of another?
- € Are you secretly annoyed over the accomplishments or advancement of another?
- € Are you guilty of any unresolved contentions or strife?
- € Do you quarrel, argue or engage in heated discussions?
- € Are you engaged in any divisions or party spirit?
- € Do you complain or find fault?
- € Do you have a critical spirit toward any person or thing?
- € Are you irritable or cranky?
- € Do you ever carry hidden anger?
- € Do you have outbursts of anger?
- € Do you become impatient with others?
- € Are you harsh, unkind, or sarcastic?
- € Do you grumble or gossip?
- € Do you speak unkindly concerning people when they are not present?

- € Are you prejudiced against other Christians because they are of some other group or because they do not see everything as you do?
- € Do you lie?
- € Do you exaggerate or stretch the truth?

Personal Life:

Matt. 5:8, 6:33; I Cor. 6:19-20; Gal. 15:16-24; II Tim. 2:19-22

- € Is there anything in which you have failed to put God first?
- € Have your decisions been made after your own wisdom and desires, rather than seeking and following God's will?
- € Do any of the following interfere with your surrender and service to God: ambitions, pleasures, loved ones, friendships, desire for recognition, money, your own plans?
- € Are you careless with your body?
- € Do you fail to care for it as the temple of the Holy Spirit?
- € Are you guilty of overindulgence in eating or drinking?
- € Do you have any habits that are defiling to the body?
- € Do you take the slightest credit for anything good about you, rather than give all the glory to God?
- € Do you talk of what you have done rather than what Christ has done?
- € Do most of your sentences start with, contain, or reflect upon "I"?
- € Have you made a pretense of being something that you are not?
- € Are you self-conscious rather than Christ-conscious?
- € Do you allow feelings of inferiority to keep you from attempting things in serving God?
- € Do you underpay?
- € Do you put forth little effort in your work?
- € Have you been careless in the payment of your debts?
- € Do you waste time?
- € Do you waste time for others?
- € Do you listen to unedifying radio or music programs?
- € Do you read unworthy magazines?
- € Do you find it necessary to seek satisfaction from any questionable source?
- € Are you doing anything that shows you are not satisfied in the Christian walk?
- € Have you neglected to thank Him for all things and in all circumstances?
- € Have you virtually called God a liar by doubting His Word?
- € Do you worry?
- € Is your spiritual temperature based on feelings instead of God's Word?
- € Are you occupied with the cares of this life?
- € Is your conversation or joy over "things" rather than the Lord and His Word?
- € Does anything mean more to you than living for and pleasing God?
- € Do you have personal habits that are not pure?
- € Do you allow impure thoughts about the opposite sex to stay in your mind?
- € Do you read material which is impure or suggest unholy things?
- € Do you indulge in entertainment that is unclean?
- € Are you guilty of the lustful look?
- € Have you allowed yourself to become "spotted" by the world?
- € Is your manner of dress pleasing to God?
- € Do you neglect to pray about things before you buy them?

Christian Service:

Acts: 1:8; I Cor. 10:31; II Tim. 2:15; Heb. 13:17; I Per. 4:10

- € Have you failed to seek the lost for Christ?
- € Have you failed to witness consistently?
- € Is your life failing to reveal Jesus to your friends and neighbors?
- € Have you robbed God by withholding your time, talents, and tithe?
- € Have you failed to support mission work either in prayer or offerings?
- € Are you undependable so you cannot be trusted with responsibilities in the Lord's work?
- € Are you allowing your emotions to be stirred for the things of the Lord, but doing little about it?
- € Do you stay away from the preaching of the Word?
- € Do you whisper or think about other things during the preaching?
- € Are you irregular in attending Bible study?
- € Do you fail to attend prayer meetings?
- € Have you neglected or slighted your daily private prayer time?
- € Have you neglected God's Word?
- € Have you neglected thanksgiving at meals?
- € Have you neglected family devotions?
- € Do you fail to submit to leaders in the church or elsewhere?
- € Do you rebel at requests given to you to help in the work of the Gospel?
- € Do you have a stubborn or unteachable spirit?
- € Are you lazy or irresponsible?
- € Have you dishonored Him and hindered His work by criticizing His servants?
- € Have you failed to pray regularly for your pastor or other spiritual leaders?
- € Do you find it hard to be corrected?
- € Is there rebellion toward one who wants to restore you?
- € Are you more concerned about what people will think, than what will be pleasing to God?

If the sin is against God, confess it to God, and accept His cleansing. If the sin is against another person, confess it to God, and accept His cleansing. However, the Holy Spirit may require you to confess it to the other person before you receive a complete healing of the soul.

If the sin is against a group, confess it to God, and His cleansing. However, the Holy Spirit may require you to confess it to the group before you receive a complete healing of the soul.

If there is full confession, there will be full cleansing, and the joy of the Lord will fill one's heart. Then there can be testimony and prayer in the power of the Holy Spirit.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will be converted to Thee.” Psalm 51:10, 12-13