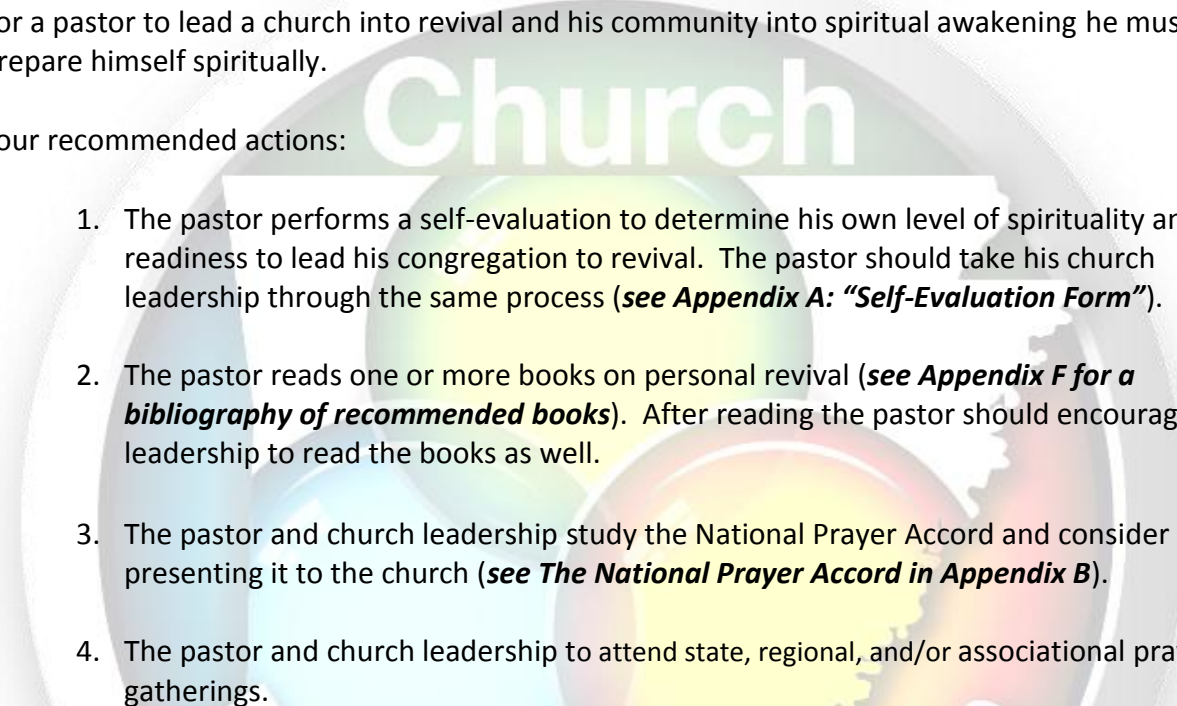


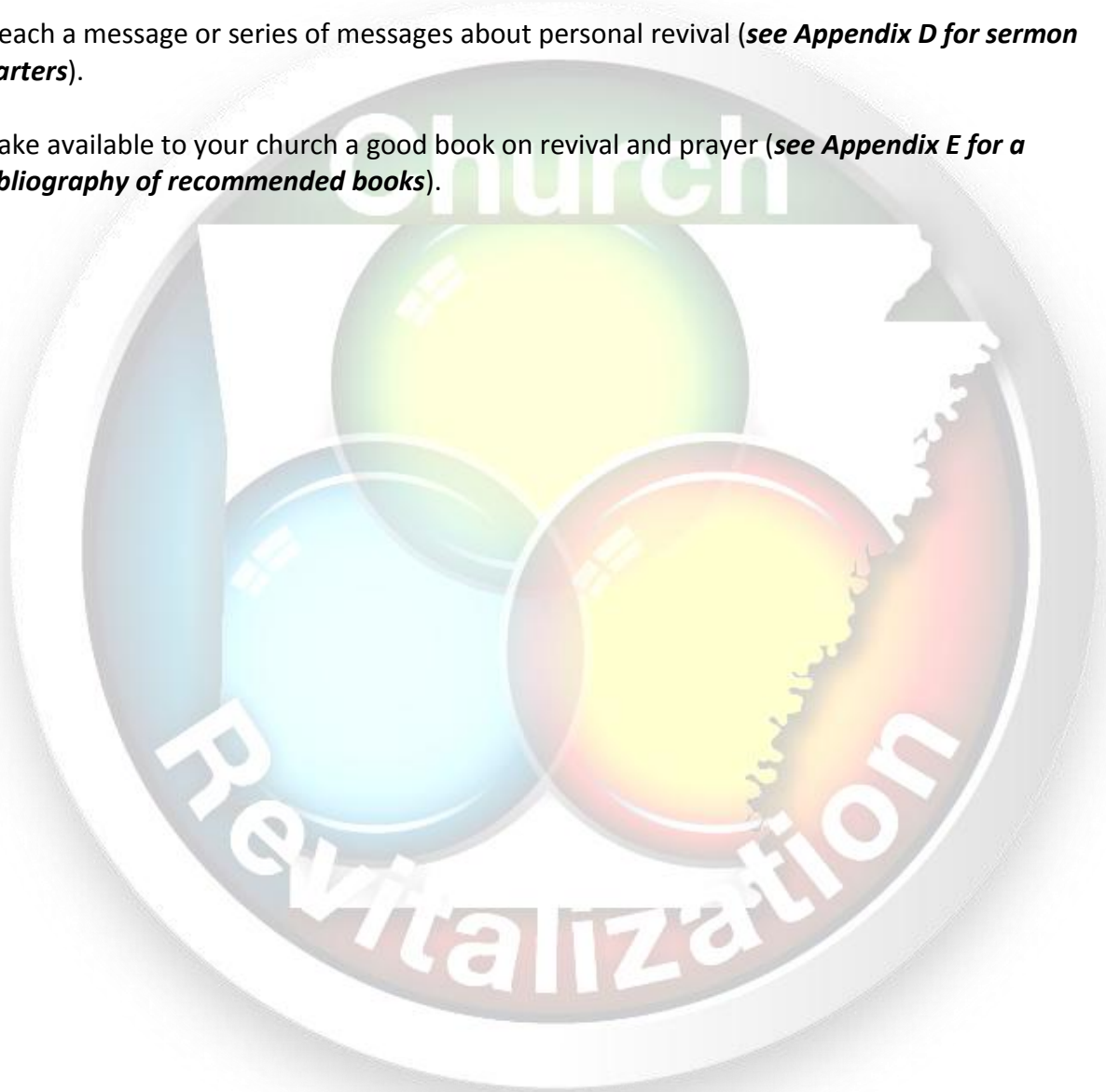
# Prayer, Revival & Spiritual Awakening

## Level 1: Personal Commitment by Pastors and Church Leaders

- 
- For a pastor to lead a church into revival and his community into spiritual awakening he must first prepare himself spiritually.
  - Four recommended actions:
    1. The pastor performs a self-evaluation to determine his own level of spirituality and readiness to lead his congregation to revival. The pastor should take his church leadership through the same process (***see Appendix A: "Self-Evaluation Form"***).
    2. The pastor reads one or more books on personal revival (***see Appendix F for a bibliography of recommended books***). After reading the pastor should encourage his leadership to read the books as well.
    3. The pastor and church leadership study the National Prayer Accord and consider presenting it to the church (***see The National Prayer Accord in Appendix B***).
    4. The pastor and church leadership to attend state, regional, and/or associational prayer gatherings.

## Level 2: Personal Commitment by Church Members

- Preach a message or series of messages about personal prayer (*see Appendix C for sermon starters*).
- Show Jim Cymbala's *My House Shall be Called a House of Prayer* to the congregation.
- Preach a message or series of messages about personal revival (*see Appendix D for sermon starters*).
- Make available to your church a good book on revival and prayer (*see Appendix E for a bibliography of recommended books*).



## Level 3: Church Engagement

***Start a small pastor's weekly or monthly prayer gathering specifically designed to pray for revival and spiritual awakening.***

- **Plan before you announce.** God's people want to pray, but they are tired of ineffective, boring prayer meetings. A good prayer meeting requires as much or more preparation as a worship service. Know **what** you are going to do, **how** you are going to do it, and most of all, **why** you are doing it, before you announce it.
- **Use a descriptive name.** Do not call it a prayer meeting. That name has all the wrong connotations for most Baptists. After you have figured out the *what, how, and why* from above, give it a name that reflects the purpose. If nothing else comes to mind, announce it as a Call to Prayer for Spiritual Awakening.
- **Begin with one-time events.** This kind of event is new for many so do not ask them to commit until they are sold on its value. The focus is getting in touch with God for revival and spiritual awakening – not getting another perpetual event on the calendar.
- **A good prayer meeting has motion.** Sitting in one place for an hour while others pray is a guaranteed cure for insomnia. An hour long prayer meeting should have at least three segments. Between segments, have them divide into different size groups or just stand and stretch if nothing else.
- **Use group prayer techniques.** Use silent guided prayer with the whole group, conversational prayer when you divide them into groups of six to eight, and monologue prayer in huddle groups of two or three.
- **Become the prayer guide.** Like a fishing guide who takes you to the place where you are most likely to find fish and then shows you how to catch them, you can become a prayer guide and lead your congregation to the spiritual place where they are most likely to encounter God and have an authentic encounter with Him. This is a skill most ministers and church leaders have never been taught. Get your hands on some good resources and do the hard work of prayer preparation.

***Develop an increased and deliberate prayer time on Sunday morning or evening.***

- **The heart of worship is congregational prayer.** Baptists have forgotten that biblical principle. It is time to remember.
- **Let God speak first.** After you ask the congregation to bow for prayer, begin with an easily understood scripture or short passage.
- **Involve the congregation.** Most people will not be praying while you pray a monologue prayer, so have a guided silent prayer time. If you will do this regularly, it will help your people learn to pray more effectively.
- **Use a biblical progression.** As you guide the silent prayer, use a progression like Jesus used in the model prayer. Many find the ACTS acrostic helpful:
  - A – Adoration
  - C – Confession
  - T – Thanksgiving
  - S – Supplication

- **Plan the prayer time.** As the pastor studies for his message, he may wish to write down ideas for the Scripture, silent prayer time, and benediction. Preparing prayer time alongside the sermon allows it to become spiritual preparation for the sermon.
- **Do not abandon the pastoral prayer.** The congregation needs to hear their pastor pray for them each week. They do not have to hear their individual names, but they need to hear his heart call out to the Lord on their behalf. Do not pray around the world and neglect those gathered around you.

***Embrace, as a church, the National Prayer Accord (see The National Prayer Accord in Appendix B and see page 145 in OneCry).***

- **There will never be revival apart from prayer.** This rhythm of prayer, characterized by the consistent, united, and passionate prayers of God's people, was used to ignite great movements of revival in our nation's past.
- **The accord** is to pray:
  - DAILY as individuals
  - WEEKLY as households
  - MONTHLY as a church or small group
  - QUARTERLY in multi-church prayer events
  - ANNUALLY as a nation (e.g. National Day of Prayer)
- **Start with the leadership.** Asking the church to vote to do this is not helpful unless the church leadership is committed to providing support in all five areas.
- **Start where you are.** If doing all five parts of the accord is not possible, use it as a goal in long range planning and make commitments now in areas most appropriate to your congregation.

***Consider leading the church to participate in the Church Renewal Journey.***

- The Church Renewal Journey is a series of lay-led weekend gatherings that take the church on a biblically-based, spiritual journey to becoming on mission with God.
- For more information, visit [www.churchrenewaljourney.net](http://www.churchrenewaljourney.net).



# Level 4: Community Impact

***Invite churches in your area to go through the OneCry Church Experience simultaneously.***

## **Practical Help**

The *OneCry Church Experience* is designed to be an eight-week whole church experience, incorporating eight sermons, eight small group or Sunday school studies, and special prayer meetings for revival and spiritual awakening. The impact of this in your community could be tremendously enhanced, however, if you would invite other pastors and their churches to go through this simultaneously with your church. You could approach this by...

- Talking to your associational missionary about association-wide cooperation.
- Crossing denominational lines with other pastors in your town who have a kindred burden for revival. All across America, churches are coming together as they realize the desperate need for revival in our day.
- Showing other pastors your *OneCry Church Experience* kit and explain to them the simple plan. All that you will need to know to run the eight-week emphasis is in the *OneCry Pastor's Guide*.

***Plan and conduct a Saturday One-Day Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Rally in your city.***

## **Practical Help**

Many cities and towns across the country are uniting together for a one-day rally for the purpose of raising awareness of the need for revival and awakening and joining together in united prayer. Here are some suggestions:

- Talk to your associational missionary or other pastors in your area about a one-night or one-day rally.
- Enlist churches to join together and set a date.
- Invite one or more speakers to speak on the themes of personal, church, and national revival. If you feel the need, you could also enlist a gifted pastor to facilitate the prayer times during the day. Some men are more gifted at this than others. The Arkansas Baptist State Convention office can provide you names of men who are gifted in this area.
- Enlist an effective worship leader.
- A good potential outline could be a 9:00-12:00 rally or 9:00-2:00 with the following flow:
  - 9:00** Worship
  - 9:15** Explanation of the day and prayer in small groups that God would descend
  - 9:30** Worship
  - 9:35** Brief message about the desperate need for personal revival
  - 10:00** Guided prayer time for personal revival. You could also have the people go through the "Personal Revival Checklist" that is available at the ASBC office or is in the appendix of the *OneCry* book.
  - 10:15** Worship
  - 10:30** Message about the need for extraordinary prayer for revival and awakening
  - 10:50** Guided prayer time in small groups for corporate revival
  - 11:15** Message about the need for nationwide revival
  - 11:35** Guided prayer time for nationwide revival
  - 12:00** Close

# Appendix A: Self-Evaluation Form

This exhibit for self-evaluation was selected from *Preparation for Personal Revival* (see **Appendix E**).

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test my thoughts. Point out anything in me that makes you sad, and lead me along the path of everlasting life” (Psalm 139:23-24 TLB).*

**Confession of sin is necessary for fellowship with God and revival among God’s people.** The word ‘confess’ has as its root meaning, ‘to say the same as.’ Confession, then, is agreeing with God about your sin.

**Below you will find a series of questions to help you think through areas of your life that may need cleansing.** Upon reading these questions, as you are convicted of sin, confess it at once to God. Be willing to make it right. Then you can claim cleansing and forgiveness. 1 John 1:9 says: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness”* (NIV).

Be sure to name your sin to God: “Lord, I have not put You first in my plans,” or “I have neglected Your Word and prayer.” Do not make the least excuse for sin of any kind in your life. Proverbs 28:13 says: *“He [or she] who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy”* (NIV).

You may wish to write down the specific sins that come to mind as you read the questions. Then, when you are finished confessing, tear the paper into bits and throw it away as a reminder that God does indeed cleanse you from *“all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9b). Embrace the promise of Psalm 103:12: *“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”*

**Personal revival from the presence of the Lord begins today if you desire it:**

## **Matthew 6:12-15**

- Is there anyone against whom you hold a grudge?
- Anyone you have not forgiven? Anyone you hate? Anyone you do not love?
- Are there 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?

## **Matthew 6:33**

- 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, in any way, interfere with your surrender and service to God: ambition, pleasures, loved ones, friendships, desire for recognition, money or your plans?

#### **Mark 16:15**

- Have you failed to seek the lost for Christ?
- Have you failed to witness consistently with your mouth for the Lord Jesus Christ?
- Has your life not shown the Lord Jesus to the lost?

#### **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 division or party spirit?
- Are there people whom you deliberately slight?

#### **Acts 20:35**

- Have you robbed God by withholding His due of your time, talents, and treasure?
- Have you failed to support Kingdom work either by service, prayer, or giving?

#### **1 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?

#### **1 Corinthians 6:19, 20**

- Are you careless in any way 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 defile the body?

#### **1 Corinthians 10:31**

- Do you take the slightest credit for anything good about yourself, rather than give all the glory to God?
- Do you talk of what you have done rather than of what Christ has done?
- Do your statements begin mostly with "I"?
- Are your feelings easily hurt?
- Have you made a pretense of being something that you are not?

#### **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 in serving God?

#### **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 debts?
- Do you waste time? Do you waste time for others?

#### **Ephesians 4:31**

- Do you complain?
- Do you find fault?
- Do you have a critical attitude towards any person or thing?
- Are you irritable or cranky?
- Do you ever carry hidden anger?
- Do you become impatient with others?
- Are you ever harsh or unkind?

#### **Ephesians 5:16**

- Do you listen to unedifying radio or TV programs?
- Do you read unworthy magazines or websites?
- Do you find it necessary to seek satisfaction from any questionable source?
- Are you doing certain things that show you are not satisfied in the Lord Jesus Christ?

#### **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?

#### **Philippians 1:21**

- Are you taken up with the cares of this life?
- Is your conversation or heart joy over 'things' rather than the Lord and His Word?
- Does anything mean more to you than living for and pleasing Christ?

#### **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 as you do?

#### **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 any unwillingness in your heart 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?



### Colossians 3:9

- Do you engage in empty and unprofitable conversation?
- Do you ever lie?
- Do you ever exaggerate? Cheat? Steal?
- Do you overcharge?

### 2 Timothy 2:22

- Do you have any personal habits that are not pure?
- Do you allow impure thoughts about the opposite sex to stay in your mind?
- Do you read that which is impure or suggests unholy things?
- Do you indulge in any entertainment that is unclean?
- Are you guilty of the lustful look?

**If you are looking for a deeply satisfying relationship with God, I encourage you to pray by faith and ask the Holy Spirit to fill you.** If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, God has given you His Holy Spirit to help you live life according to His perfect plan. Why not pray this simple prayer and by faith invite Him to fill you with His Spirit:

*Dear Father, I need You. I acknowledge that I have sinned against You by directing my own life. I thank You that You have forgiven my sins through Christ's death on the cross for me. I now invite Christ to again take His place on the throne of my life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit as You commanded me to be filled, and as You promised in Your Word that You would do if I asked in faith. I pray this in the name of Jesus. As an expression of my faith, I thank You for directing my life and for filling me with the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## Appendix B: National Prayer Accord

### In recognition of:

- Our absolute dependence on God
- The moral and spiritual challenges facing our nation
- Our national need for repentance and divine intervention
- Our great hope for a general awakening to the lordship of Christ, the unity of His Body, and the sovereignty of His Kingdom

We strongly urge all churches and all Christians of America to unite in seeking the face of God through prayer and fasting, persistently asking our Father to send revival to the Church and spiritual awakening to our nation so that Christ's Great Commission might be fulfilled worldwide in our generation.

### We resolve to promote as an ongoing prayer rhythm...

Weekly . . . . . 30 to 60 minute Private or Small Group Prayer

Monthly . . . . . 60 to 120 minute Individual Church Prayer Gatherings

Quarterly . . . . . 60 to 120 minute Local, Multiple Church Prayer Gatherings

Annually . . . . . The National Day of Prayer (first Thursday of May) and Cry Out America Prayer Gatherings (September 11)



## Appendix C: Personal Prayer Sermon Starters

### A Definition of Revival:

“Revival is that strange and sovereign work of God in which He visits His own people – restoring, reanimating, and releasing them into the fullness of His blessing.” – Stephen Olford

- James 5:16 “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”
- 1 Samuel 12:23 “God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”
- 2 Chronicles 7:14-15 (If) “My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.”
- A PRAYER FOR REVIVAL: PSALM 85:4-9  
“Restore us, O God of our salvation,  
And cause Your anger toward us to cease.  
Will You be angry with us forever?  
Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?  
Will You not revive us again,  
That your people may rejoice in You?  
Show us Your mercy, LORD,  
And grant us Your salvation.  
I will hear what God the LORD will speak,  
For He will speak peace  
To His people and to His saints;  
But let them not turn back to folly.  
Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,  
That glory may dwell in our land.”

## Appendix D: Personal Revival Sermon Starters

- Psalm 69:32b “You who seek God, let your heart revive.”
- Psalm 119:25 “My soul cleaves to the dust; revive me according to Your word.”
- Psalm 119:37 “Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, and revive me in Your ways.”
- Psalm 119:40 “Behold, I long for Your precepts; revive me through Your righteousness.”
- Psalm 51:7 “Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”
- Psalm 51:10-12  
“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit.”
- Psalm 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”
- 2 Chronicles 7:14-15 (If) “My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.”



## Appendix E: Bibliography

- *Fresh Encounters* (Henry Blackaby)
- *What the Spirit Is Saying to the Churches* (Henry Blackaby)
- *The Laws of Revival* (James Burns)
- *The Great Evangelical Recession* (John Dickerson)
- *The Awakening That Must Come* (Lewis Drummond)
- *The Power of Prayer and Fasting* (Ronnie Floyd)
- *God's Divine Work* (Lewis Drummond)
- *Revival* (Richard Owen)
- *Prayer Guide, A Manual for Leading Prayer* (Lowell Snow)
- *Returning for Personal Revival* (Larry W. White)
- *A 40 –Day Prayer Guide for Revival and Spiritual Awakening* (The Arkansas Baptist State Convention at [http://absc.org/images/ministries/prayerministry/40\\_days\\_of\\_prayer\\_booklet.pdf](http://absc.org/images/ministries/prayerministry/40_days_of_prayer_booklet.pdf))
- *One Cry Experience Kit*
- *Preparation for Personal Revival*. A series of helpful questions at the following link: <http://powertochange.com/experience/spiritual-growth/revival/>

