**PRAYING FOR REVIVAL**

**The following are 15, one-page devotions. They exist for the sole purpose of helping believers pray earnestly, wisely, biblically and intensely for Revival, a revival that will sweep across our land in wave after wave of salvation, with intimacy and passion for God.**

**Please use these prayer tools anyway that God leads you. They are free to download and share, or to print out, copy, and handout. I wrote them for this purpose.**

**Sincerely in Christ**

**Pastor Charlie Clark**

**Praying for Revival**

1. **Praying with right motives**

Before we begin, check your motives at the door**.** Most of them are not welcome on the floor before the altar of revival prayer.

I hope I’m wrong. I hope I’m the only one who thinks how a great revival could have a desirable political impact, solve the raging social issues of our time, and fill the pews in my church. This is my self-serving agenda. These are the worldly benefits I would like to get from a revival. Yours may be similar or quite different, but these must be set aside rather forcefully if we are to persevere in prayer for a move of God leading to revival. I’m not saying that what we want for our country, or region, or church, is wrong, but much of it may not be God’s primary purpose for revival.

* [**James 4:3**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+4:3&version=NIV) *When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with* ***wrong******motive****s, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

Inside each of us is also the right motive. It is the strongest of motives because God breathes it into us. It is an unselfish motive and we pray for it simply because we know it’s what the Father wants.

* **1 Timothy 2:3-*6*** *3This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6who gave himself as a ransom for all people…*

God wants a family of people who choose Him, out of all the other tempting things in the world, to love and to follow. We want God’s family to grow mightily, right here, where he planted us to pray.

This great motive unites us in prayer – to see God receive His people. And so we give ourselves in prayer and beseech God to bring revival to our region, in our time, for His sake, for His Kingdom, for His glory, to grow His family.

1. **Praying with Desperation**

The last great awakening/revival in Europe and North America was in the early 1900’s. Andrew Murray (1828 – 1917) was one of the great voices of that time. He makes this point,”It is God who gives revival. It is absolute dependence upon God, giving him the honor and the glory that will prepare us for it.” We must be desperate for God, and desperate for his revival.

No doubt we must plan and prepare for revival, and do all of the practical things that will help bring it about, but spiritually, our dependence on God must be complete.

* [**Psalm 79:8**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+79:8&version=NIVUK)  *Do not hold against us the sins of past generations; may your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in* ***desperate*** *need.*

Yes, our desperation is clear to us, so let us embrace it. After all, God doesn’t promise to revive those who deserve it, but rather to revive those who are desperately broken and contrite.

### Isaiah 57:*15 ‘I live in a high and holy place,     but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly     and to revive the heart of the contrite.*

Again Murray coaches us, “Out of death, acknowledged as the wages of sin, and confession of utter helplessness, God revives.”

Certainly in our time we have reason to acknowledge our helplessness in a nation filled with dead and dying people who mistrust, ridicule, and avoid God’s truth, while embracing every new wave of popular, fell-good philosophy. Our faith is being attacked and marginalized from many directions at once. Some churches have compensated by compromising, the rest struggle to present God’s truth in a life-giving way. Some statistics indicate that this is the last generation in which the church will play a significant role.

We are broken, contrite, helpless…and like the psalmist, “we are in desperate need.”

Let us pray like it, and claim God’s promise of revival.

1. **The Holy Spirit must convict**

Just before he went to the cross, Jesus explained to his disciples that the Holy Spirit would soon come to them. Jesus also explained part of the Holy Spirit’s new job description. In the OT he only filled a select few. Now he would fill all believers. But most importantly, the Holy Spirit would have the job of convincing non-believers that they need Jesus! (…and you thought that was our job.)

### John 16:8-11 Amplified Bible (AMP) *8And when He (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about sin and about righteousness and about judgment:*

* *9About sin, because they do not believe in Me [trust in, rely on, and adhere to Me];10About righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God), because I go to My Father, and you will see Me no longer;11About judgment, because the ruler (evil genius, prince) of this world [Satan] is judged and condemned and sentence already is passed upon him.*

Our job just got a lot easier. This clearly worked well for the first century church. The disciples were eleven common, unremarkable men, plus one misguided, out-of-control genius (Paul). Yet in their generation, they were able to spread this new faith to most of the known world. Clearly the Spirit did the heavy lifting. On the day the Spirit came, Peter preached and 3,000 came to Jesus. How much was that the Spirit moving in Peter, and how much was it the Spirit convicting people?

However we answer that question, the good news is that we still have the Holy Spirit today. We’ve seen this same thing with Billy Graham, and several others in our generation. But we need it to move outside of the stadium and to sweep through the streets and towns and fields of our land.

So, how do we pray for this to happen? The disciples weren’t praying for revival, they were just waiting for the promised Spirit. Therefore let us set aside time in our prayers to wait with eager anticipation for the convicting/convincing power of the Holy Spirit to fall afresh upon our generation. May he move in us and through us and around us to convict the lost. May he go before us and prepare hearts for the harvest. Even as we witness, let us watch for his move of conviction in the hearts of those we approach. Without the Spirit, we can never sell the concept of sin, with the Spirit, we don’t have to.

1. **Signs and Wonders** (if you are uncomfortable with this prayer point, it may help you to know that I’m a Baptist)

Some people come to the Lord because God does a miracle in their lives. One person sees a vision, another is healed. One walks away from a car wreck, and another prays and a check shows up in the mail to cover the rent. It seems that signs and wonders have always followed the presentation of the Gospel. Certainly Jesus performed them, and so did the disciples.

* [**Acts 14:3**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+14:3&version=NIVUK) *So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform* ***signs*** *and* ***wonders***.

### Romans 15:18-19 *18I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done – 19by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God.*

Okay, so if all goes well, our revival will have some miracles associated with it. But is that something we should pray for?

Habakkuk lived in a time when Judah was so backslidden that he knew God’s judgment would come in the form of the Babylonian army. He had a hard time accepting this from God, but once he understood, he became the prophet for the remnant. He realized “the righteous shall live by faith”. Even as his nation was conquered, He prayed for revival for the survivors, and he prayed for them to see signs and wonders!

### Habakkuk 3:2 *2Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.*

Every generation needs to experience the love and power of God for themselves. Every family needs to celebrate the stories of how God has moved in their lives. Let us also remember that the parting of the Red Sea, while awesome, failed to change the hearts of the Israelites. They balked at entering the promised-land.

Let us pray earnestly for those unabashed miracles that capture people’s imaginations and draw them to Jesus, and let us pray even more for the miracles that take place in a person’s heart when He enters.

1. **Confessing the Sins of our Nation**

Daniel knew the time was near for the nation of Israel to come out of captivity and return home so they could again be a nation of God’s people. So Daniel prayed for his nation, but most of his prayer was not a get-us-out-of-here prayer. It was mostly a confession that even during his nation’s time of punishment in captivity, Israel had sinned mightily. Daniel listed those sins before God in some detail.

### Daniel 9:5-6 *5we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. 6We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.*

Daniel understood that before God would revive his nation, he would need to forgive that nation, and forgiveness doesn’t happen until there is confession. The same is no doubt true for us today. As Christians, we are in a unique position to recognize the sins of our nation, and to go to God in repentance for those sins. If we are honest, we realize that most of the sins of our nation are also the sins of the church.

Daniel also fasted and put on sackcloth and ashes – a practice that Paul also used. I went to a garden shop and bought some burlap (sack cloth) and made myself an outfit. I put some ashes on my face and went to a prayer meeting to confess the sins of my nation. It was embarrassing. I guess that’s the point.

Part of revival prayer is interceding on behalf of our nation or region or town or church in order that God’s forgiveness might precede revival.

1. **Revival for the sake of God’s name**

Maybe you remember this line from the 23rd Psalm; *“He leadeth me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”* David here says that God makes him righteous because David is associated with God’s name and when God makes him righteous, it establishes God’s name among all who meet David.

This may seem odd, but there are many successful prayers in the Bible where the person praying says to God, in effect, “God, you need to answer my prayer for the sake of your name. Your name is tied to me and your name will look bad if you don’t answer my prayer!”

Moses was worried about God looking bad.

* **Exodus 32:12** *12Why should the Egyptians say, “It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth”? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people.*

Here are some examples from the Bible.

* **Psalm 79:9** *Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake.*
* **Psalm 109:21** *But you, O Sovereign LORD, deal well with me for your name's sake; out of the goodness of your love, deliver me.*

*For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life; in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.*

Nowhere in scripture is this idea used more than in Daniel’s prayer for the promised revival of the nation of Israel

## Daniel 9:17-19  *17 "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. 18 Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. 19 O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."*

We too bear His name, and we care. We are wounded when His name is disrespected. Certainly God’s name needs to be revered again in our time. Could it be that God is waiting for us to ask?

1. **Tearing Down a Stronghold**

Biblical revivals often revolved around the tearing down of a spiritual stronghold which also had a very physical presence.

* Through Moses God humbled Egypt and her gods.
* Through Elijah God brought down Jezebel and her god Baal.
* Daniel prayed against the rebellion towards God in the hearts of his countrymen who were being punished for it under the domination of foreign Kings.
* The NT church battled persecution from the Jewish faith, the Roman Government, and heresy from within.

All of these strongholds looked impenetrable, and yet through his people, God defeated them, each time giving way to vast numbers of people stepping into the freedom of initial or increased relationship with God.

So what stronghold do we face? Has any other place in the world seen tortured gunmen shoot people as much as the Front Range of Colorado? My church is about a mile from the Aurora Theatre shootings. It seems to us that people have lost all reason. Their thinking is grotesquely distorted, and they have no sense or desire to work out their grievances under the law. Instead they pursue the most destructive possible course. Life is becoming cheaper all the time – even their own!

### In sharing about end times, and the coming of the anti-christ, Paul shares this nugget of understanding; 2 Thessalonians 2:7&10 *7For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work…* And here’s how he describes the working of this secret power, *10and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing.*

I suggest that this is the secret stronghold at work in our region. It’s a secret power. The people have no idea of it’s influence, but they do sense that they are victims. (remember the 99% movement, and the anarchist movement) So they crusade against anything more powerful than themselves.

The secret power of lawlessness must be dynamically and powerfully restrained if people are to hear and see clearly the Gospel message. Come against it in revival prayer regularly. Loose it off of our region in the name of Jesus. Set the people free!

1. **Will You not Revive us?**

The “Sons of Korah”, who wrote this psalm, knew something about revival. Korah had died leading a revolt in an attempt to be allowed to do ministry in the tabernacle against God’s will. Centuries later, under David, his line was revived and his sons eventually became musicians and composers in the temple.

Here, they plead with God for their nation;

* **Psalm 85:4-7** *4Restore us again, God our Savior,  
      and put away your displeasure towards us.  
  5Will you be angry with us for ever?  
      Will you prolong your anger through all generations?  
  6Will you not revive us again,  
      that your people may rejoice in you?  
  7Show us your unfailing love, Lord,  
      and grant us your salvation.*

This is the straight forward longing prayer of revival. It is innocent and transparent. God’s people just want to rejoice that He is declaring himself and presenting himself again for all to see.

Now, we pray this prayer for the unsaved of our nation, and also for the church. What will God do when his people cry out to him, not just on a day of prayer, but constantly over time?

Andrew Murray (see pt. #2) says this about revival, “ *Those who know anything of the history of revivals will remember how often both widespread and local revivals have been distinctly traced to specific prayer. An extraordinary spirit of prayer, urging believers to private as well as united prayer, motivating them to labor fervently in their supplications, will be one of the surest signs of approaching showers and floods of blessing*.”

Will we unite in both individual and corporate prayer for revival? Are any of us, in fact, called to this moment in time. Are we willing to “swipe the card” for the next generation of the church?

Revival begins when the first person says, “Let it begin with me.”

1. **Praying for National/Regional Brokenness**

Soon after the attacks of 911, we saw a great spike in church attendance. Congress prayed to God. The President and congressmen quoted scripture. It only lasted a few weeks. What will it take for genuine lasting National Brokenness? The kind we need for revival.

When the front range saw 100 year flooding last August (2013), a pastor friend of mine in Boulder was leading a team of church members who were helping to clean mud and debris out of a flooded basement when about forty young twenty-somethings came by to help. They wanted to make it clear that they were not Christians, so as to defeat the idea that only Christians lend help. There was no brokenness. What will it take?

* **Ezekiel 22:30-31** *30‘I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so that I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one. 31So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign Lord.’*

Today there are still many of us who would stand in the gap for America, but we want more than just to avoid God’s wrath. We want revival. But hearts are so hard in our land, that some don’t even want us praying for them. It’s hard to stand in the gap for people who detest the idea. What will it take to open them to God?

* [**Hebrews 12:6**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+12:6&version=NIVUK) *because the Lord* ***discipline****s the one he* ***love****s, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.’*
* **John 3:16** *16For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Good news, it appears that God loves everyone, and therefore His discipline may well be the catalyst that will bring sincere, lasting brokenness to our land. So, do we pray for God’s chastening? My “gap prayers” lately take the form of praising God for caring enough to bring correction to our nation, and the fear of God into our region. You know what they say; “Be careful what you pray for!”

1. **Praying for More Revival Help**

When God brings revival, and the hundreds of thousands stand gathered and saved, what will we do with them next? Jesus has an idea!

* **Matthew 9:37-38** *37Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’*

Immediately after saying this, Jesus sent the twelve out to begin to use His authority to heal, and cast out demons, and to act and speak in His name.

Not only should we be praying for more workers, but we also need to step out in His authority along with everyone we’ve got.

I believe that we lose whoever we fail to empower. I know that some people are more comfortable than others, but remember, Jesus also sent Judas out in His name.

As we pray for workers in this harvest, it makes sense that we would also pray for their walk, their giftedness, their success, and that God would be pleased with them – even before we know who they are. Remember Moses’ prayer for the Levites? He even includes some nasty spiritual warfare on their behalf.

### Deuteronomy 33:11 *11Lord, bless his (their) skills,[*[*a*](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+33%3A11&version=HCSB#fen-HCSB-5822a)*] and be pleased with the work of his (their) hands. Smash the loins of his (their) adversaries and enemies, so that they cannot rise again.*

If you’ve ever been smashed in the loins, then you know how powerfully Moses was praying for his workers. God honored this prayer. He never abandoned his “covenant with Levi” throughout the OT.

It has been a long time since the harvest has been plentiful so as to tax our abilities to manage it. But if we will pray for revival, then failing to pray for the human resources to manage that revival would mean that we have a lack of faith in the first prayer being fulfilled.

1. **The Sound of Heavy Rain**

This last prayer may not be for everyone. I’m not sure who I’m writing to.

When Elijah called down the fire and God defeated Baal, a spiritual dam broke, and the people burst forth from darkness into the light of God. Even as they carried the message of God’s redemption from that mountain to their nation, Elijah heard something.

* **1 Kings 18:41-42** *41And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain.” 42So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.*

For three years Israel had no rain. It was a physical parallel to their spiritual drought. And now, as the awakening broke forth, Elijah could hear the physical reality of rain. But there was no rain, there wasn’t a cloud in the sky. What he heard was not yet of this world. He was hearing what was unseen. So he didn’t celebrate, he set himself to praying for rain.

* [**Hebrews 11:1**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+11:1&version=NIVUK) *Now* ***faith*** *is confidence in what we hope for and* ***assurance*** *about what we do not see.*

This is where the prayer of faith comes from, when we know it exists where we cannot see it or hear it. But with spiritual senses we can! So we pray with complete faith.

* [**Matthew 21:21**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21:21&version=NIVUK) *Jesus replied, ‘Truly I tell you, if you have* ***faith*** *and do not* ***doubt****, not only can you do what was done to the fig-tree, but also you can say to this mountain, “Go, throw yourself into the sea,” and it will be done.*

Elijah prayed this kind of faith-prayer persistently until they saw that first wisp of a cloud, and then he knew it was upon them, as surely as he knew the fire of God would come down on the Mountain. Some of us pray with wisdom, some pray from need. Some pray in the fear of God and others pray with heart-felt good intentions. Does anyone hear the sound of heavy rain? Do any of us hear this revival coming? Can we see it or taste it? Can we feel it?

Have you been given an understanding from God that this is what He will do? If so, you must pray the prayer of faith for us. Pray it in from the unseen, where you KNOW it exists, and into the here-and-now. This faith-prayer, along with all the other forms of prayer, unite us towards revival.

12. All Revival is Personal

[**Isaiah 57:15**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+57:15&version=NIV)*“I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is****contrite****and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the* ***heart****of the****contrite****.*

What makes a heart contrite before God? It is when we see the damage our sin has done to ourselves and the people we love. Contrition is brokenness.

And, a crushed spirit, a poor and lowly spirit, is one that has failed to listen to and follow God’s Spirit. So, if this is the condition necessary for revival to come to us – a broken heart and a crushed spirit – then revival is a very personal thing. We must arrive at this broken place so that God will live with us in this way and revive us. This is the brokenness of all who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

I asked God once in prayer, “When does revival start?” He answered me quickly, “Revival starts when the first person says, ‘Let it begin with me.’”

If you will pray for revival, then you must first have revival in you, personally. So go to that place of brokenness and pray like King David.

[**Psalm 51:17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+51:17&version=NIV)*My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and****contrite******heart****you, God, will not despise.***Psalm 51:10** *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

Now it makes sense when Jesus promised – **(**[**Matthew 5:3**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5:3&version=NIV)**)** “Blessed are the **poor** in **spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

To be revived with God’s life inside of us is to find a new level of unshakeable joy and peace that belongs to us regardless of what the world brings, and a new level obedience to God which flows, not from intellectual conviction, but directly from our heart’s desire. This joy, peace and newfound obedience is the essence of personal revival.

# Psalm 37:3-6 3*Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. 4Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

***5****Commit your way to the Lord;  trust in him and he will do this:****6****He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.*

**13. The Anointing of Boldness** (for Terry)

**Acts 4:29** *Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.*

These brand new Christians were praying one of their first prayers together in a congregation that had only existed for a handful of days. They had just been threatened with their lives if they continued to promote this new faith. What they didn’t ask for was safety, protection, or security. They asked for **boldness** in the face of these threats! They would continue to meet in the courts of the temple and present Jesus to all. There would be arrests and persecution and executions, and still they marched on in this boldness that God himself gave them that day.

# How do we know that God loved this prayer and answered immediately? Because the word tells us;

# Acts 4:31 *After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

# The early church was in revival, and they would have nothing less than all of Jesus, and they would give nothing less than all of themselves to Him.

How badly do we want revival today? Will we today want boldness to risk our lives, our families, our finances, and our worldly security, so that God will make us bold enough to share faith where it is unpopular, unwanted, and even forbidden? We must be careful what we pray for, because God will be good to give it. But can we honestly pray this prayer?

We must, and we can, because we share the same Spirit that those brothers and sisters had some 2,000 years ago.

[**2 Corinthians 4:13**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians+4:13&version=NIV)*It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” Since we have that****same******spirit****of faith, we also believe and therefore speak*, (or in this case, pray)

We can honestly pray for this anointing of boldness, because we have that same Spirit, and as we do our lives will be “shaken”.

And who among us wants to go home to the Father having less said about us than what was said about Paul in the last verse of the Book of Acts?

[**Acts 28:31**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+28:31&version=NIV)*He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all****boldness*** *and without hindrance!*

**14. Don’t get Knocked Out!** (for Greg)

Many believers have recognized that the devil attacks harder as we venture deeper into serving God. Certainly revival prayer brings on these attacks. Many get beat up, knocked around, and wind up ineffective. Paul understood it, as he led revival in the early church.

# 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 *Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.*

In light of his experience, how did Paul coach the church? Read all of 2 Corinthians, Chapter 4, but here is a sample.

# 2 Corinthians 4:8-18 *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.10We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body…All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.* (sounds like revival)  *16Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*

Our only hope for survival, as prayer warriors under attack, is God’s armor. So, every day walk in the truth of who God says you are (belt). Claim again the righteousness of Jesus that he pins on you (breastplate). Know that you are at peace with God, and his love for you is unconditional (shoes). Have faith that God can and does protect you from the hate of the devil (shield). Remember it’s a spiritual battle with heavenly goals and rewards, and let go of worldly measurements (helmet). And, use specific scriptures to combat specific attacks (sword).

# It’s not like you’re an unarmed whimp! 1 John 4:4 (NASB)*You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*

**15. Hell and Judgment as Motivation** (for Steve)

In the “Great Commission” at the end of the gospels of Matthew and Mark, Jesus sends the disciples (and all Christians) into “all the world” to share salvation through Christ. Jesus doesn’t mention that hell is the alternative for “all the world”, it was understood. But today, do we have that same sense of the terrible destination that awaits the unsaved? Do we ever think much about eternal damnation, or how we will be judged by our inaction?

[**Revelation 20:15**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+20:15&version=NIV)*Anyone whose name was not found written in the book****of****life was thrown into the****lake******of fire****.*

When this happens, we who are in the book of life will be so grateful that we have made it, but will we also shudder as we see people who we know, people we have met, headed into eternal torment and completely cut off from God and everything good?

If we live in such a selfish time that we seldom give this a thought, then let us consider hell.

[**Matthew 13:42**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+13:42&version=NIV)*They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and****gnashing****of teeth.*

When Jesus teaches about the kingdom of God, the teaching often ends like this for non-believers. But we who believe will also be judged by Jesus on that “Day” when he returns, and that judgment will be frightful for believers who wasted their time on themselves. In this next passage, we see Jesus judge our work for Him during our time on earth.

# 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 *their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. 14If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. 15If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.*

Working for Jesus has 3 catagories; our love and actions in our relationship towards God, our love and actions in building up other believers as the church, and our love and actions in reaching the lost. Everything else burns up!

Will you and I receive much of a reward? Or will we barely be saved while escaping the flames of our burned-up wasted lives? Anyone with Christ and a conscience will pray for revival, and take action!