

GO CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Date: 05 Sep 2021

Service: Go Church Centurion

Message: Resetting your relationship with God

Introduction:

Spiritual health audit. What to do.

Years ago, when I became a Christian, I was introduced to what is called an **Individual Spiritual Health Audit**. This is basically a 360-degree assessment of key issues in a believer's life that help them gauge their progress across a spectrum of personal dynamics. These range from historical issues, devotion, stewardship, purity, relationships, marital relations, personal development and outreach.

These questions, when answered honestly and humbly really help us ascertain what we need to do to rise to our next level in our holistic spiritual journey.

As I begin this message, I would like to pose a few questions to you, some of which have been adapted from the Spiritual Health Audit. As I pose these questions, I would like to encourage you to assess the status of your relationship with God. Yours, not your spouse's, or sibling or child or colleague's.

- How are you really feeling about God in this season?
- Do you feel close to Him?
- Are you carrying any anger toward God?
- Are you having your quiet times with God?
- Are you reading the Bible?
- Are you praying?
- What is God talking to you about?
- Are you feeling fulfilled in God?
- Is there unrepented sin in your life?
- What have you stopped doing regarding your relationship with God that you should not have?
- What do you need to do to take your relationship with God to its next level?

Now I don't know where you are. My heart is that as you listen to this message, something would shift in your heart, that you would be recharged, your passion for God would be rekindled, that you would be encouraged to rise from every slumber, sloth, inaction regarding your relationship with God. That you would be reinvigorated to RESET YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD in areas that you need to.

We will also discuss a practical tool.

Colossians 1:1-14

¹Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; ⁵because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ⁷as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

KEYS TO RESETTING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. Do not cease to pray for others.

Praying for others changes you.

V9. Do not cease to pray for you

This means that we pray for you consistently. You are forever on our hearts. We think about you. We are concerned for your spiritual, physical and social welfare. How many people do you consistently pray for? Do you wait for crisis situations? Would it make a difference if we consistently prayed for each other? How about in the work environment? Do you consistently pray for that boss? Difficult stakeholder? Service providers? What would your Church, family, work environment look like if we never ceased to pray for those around us. Often we like people to pray for us but we are never ready to do that for others. Do not demand from others what you are not willing to be to others.

Practical tools:

How about practically in a Church context? Choose to pray for a family for even once a week. The following week select another. Or even in your family? Pray for a sibling, cousin, aunt, uncle, even those you don't quite like.

Crafted Prayer:

Father God, I ask that you forgive me for where I have been too self-centred that I have forsaken the habit of praying for others. I ask that you would give me a heart for those in my Church family, that I may pray for them and speak your Word over their lives. Give a heart for those in my family some of whom I don't really get along with, show me your heart for them that I may see them the way you see them. Give me a revelation of what it really looks like to pray for others without ceasing. In Jesus name I pray.

2. Be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

V9. And to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Filled – this means we don't want you to have this knowledge in half measures but in its fullness. Optimal levels of the knowledge of His will. Fulfilling levels of His will. Meaningful dimensions.

His Will – His design for you. His plan for you, His purpose for you.

Psalm 139:13-16

¹³For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.
¹⁴I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.
¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.
¹⁶Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them

The outworking of His will for your life. Fearfully and wonderfully made for a reason. Made in the secret place for God's agenda. Skillfully wrought to advance God's purposes. Designed for God's pleasure. Every day of your life has been fashioned fulfil nothing but God's will for your life whether you believe it or not.

Practical tools:

- We need ask God to fill us with the knowledge of His will.

James 4:2-3

²Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

- We need to seek God to know His will for our life. His will for each season of life. Seek Him in prayer, set aside time to seek Him not just present requests.
- Learn to be quiet in His presence that we may hear him.
- We need to immerse ourselves in His word. For His word is His perfect will for us.
- We need to revisit and call out the prophecies He has given us. Scriptures/Words He has given us that we can really stand on and use them to encourage us. We need to wage war according to these prophecies:

1 Timothy 1:18

This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

Crafted Prayer:

Father God, we pray that you may fill us with the knowledge of your will in wisdom and spiritual understanding. Father that we may develop in us a hunger for the things of heaven. That we may be attracted to your vision for our lives. That your will for us may become your will for our lives. That we may be aligned to your mind all the days of our lives. In Jesus name we pray.

3. In all wisdom and spiritual understanding

V10. in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

All wisdom and understanding.

Isaiah 11:1-3

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

Ephesians 1:11-12

¹¹In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹²that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Wisdom and understanding for all of life. Imagine someone praying this for you consistently. Wisdom and understanding for every circumstance, for every season, for mountains and the valleys in your life. Wisdom and understanding in the things of God, His Word, His Spirit, His Ways. His virtues. Wisdom and understanding concerning the work of your hands – your ministry, your trade, your career, your business.

Practical tools:

- Develop a lifestyle of always making decisions with God.
- Ask for the wisdom of God to dwell in you. King Solomon did.

James 1:5-8

⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- Live in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Crafted Prayer:

Father God I pray that I may be filled with the knowledge of your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. I ask that I may walk in the spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and your fear. Father I pray that I may desire to fully comprehend the knowledge of your will for me, my family, my Church, my city and my nation. That I may know your will for me for the season I am, having an understanding of the times that I may know what to do in every occasion. In Jesus name I pray.

4. Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him.

V10. that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him,

Worthy of the Lord – this is when people look at your life and see Jesus, they look at your conduct and become attracted to Christ.

Acts 17:28

²⁸for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.

In Christ we derive our thinking, our words, our disposition/demeanour, our character and our behaviour. Walking worthy of the Lord is fully living in Him, completely moving in Him as per His guidance and having our being, our existence in Him.

Romans 8:29

²⁹For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Walking worthy of the Lord is having the revelation that you have been conformed to the image of His Son, the nature of Jesus, the person of Jesus

Practical tools:

- Find out the things that are attractive to Jesus and ask Him to be those. Ask Him to show you areas in your life that are out of alignment with Him, repent and begin a journey of alignment to Him:

Matthew 5:3-10

³Blessed are the poor in spirit.

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn,

For they shall be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek.

For they shall inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

For they shall be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful,

For they shall obtain mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart.

For they shall see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers.

For they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven

- Fully pleasing Him. How do you please your loved one? Find out what pleases them and do those things.

Psalms 147:11

The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy.

Isaiah 66:2

But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Crafted Prayer:

Father God, help us to walk a life worthy of the Lord and fully pleasing Him. That we may seek to please Christ in all that we are and do. Father may that be our everyday focus. May our lifestyle be to be conformed to the image of Christ. May we live, move and have our being in Him. We present our lives to you and we ask that you shape them in a manner that honours Christ your Son.

5. Be fruitful in every good work.**V10. being fruitful in every good work**

Fruitfulness talks of life, flourishing, thriving, blossoming, prosperous in every good work. Every good work.

Galatians 6:9

⁹And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Good work is not only towards those who can return the favour – else it becomes a transaction. Good deeds should also be toward those who will never be able to return the favour to us.

Proverbs 19:17

He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord,
And He will pay back what he has given.

Practical tools:

Ask the Lord whom to help and support in this season. Now this can be prayer support, just checking in on them and finding out how they are doing. Taking a few things from your pantry and dropping off at their gate. Taking a meal. Small practical ways. No matter where you are there is some good and kindness you are able to show to someone.

(Faith and GOP)

Crafted Prayer:

Father may we flourish in every good work. Help us to be a generous generation concerned over the needs of others. Help us do this with cheerful hearts. May we not hold back in our giving or in any good work. In Jesus name we pray.

6. Increase in the knowledge of God**V10. and increasing in the knowledge of God**

Knowledge of His nature, person, mind, embracing the fullness of what is encapsulated in His names:

- ELOHIM. My Creator.
- JEHOVAH. My Lord God.
- EL SHADDAI. My Supplier.
- ADONAI. My Master.
- JEHOVAH JIREH. My Provider.
- JEHOVAH ROPHE. My Healer.
- JEHOVAH NISSI. My Banner.
- JEHOVAH MAKADESH. My Sanctifier

Deuteronomy 32:27

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

Psalms 119:11

Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You.

Psalms 91:1

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Most High.

To know His Spirit. His Son.

Practical tools:

- There are disciplines that have to be maintained if you want to achieve anything in life and this includes your relationship with God:
- To grow in the knowledge of God you also need to grow in certain disciplines.
- Ask for the grace for discipline – it is a grace
- Discipline: To pray. Read the Word. Listen to God. Discipline to be disciplined.

Crafted Prayer:

Father God, help us to increase in the knowledge of you. Father to increase in the knowledge of your Word, that your Word may be our guide our lead. That we may increase in the knowledge of your Son, the knowledge of your Holy Spirit. The knowledge of your person. That we may know you experientially. That we may find fulfilment in you and your pleasure in us. In Jesus name we pray.

7. Ask the Lord to strengthen you with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

V11. strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

Strengthened with all might. All might – might, power, strength for every need. Might in our inner man/person, might in our mind, will emotions, intellect and your imagination. Might in our words. Might in our actions –

Mark 16:17-18

¹⁷And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Operating in His might in signs, wonders and miracles.

All this according to His glorious power, for all patience longsuffering with joy.

Practical tools:

- Allow yourself to be supple before God and recognise that it is him who gives power to the weak.

Isaiah 40:29-31

²⁹He gives power to the weak,
And to those who have no might He increases strength.
³⁰Even the youths shall faint and be weary,
And the young men shall utterly fall,
³¹But those who wait on the Lord
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint

- Step out in boldness and walk in the power that God has vested in you. Pray for people, lay hands on the sick, raise the dead. Believe God for the impossible.

Crafted Prayer:

Father God, we ask that you would strengthen us in all might. We pray that you would encourage to step out and walk in your power. Your power released Lord in signs, wonders and miracles. Strengthen us with might in our inner man. May we walk in the revelation that we are partakers of the same power that raised Christ from the dead. In Jesus name we pray.

Conclusion:

I would like to encourage us that God has never stopped believing in us.

As you live in the Spirit, you will live in the process of God's mind and act according to His divine will.

Want to exhort you to develop the stamina to ascend to levels in God that you have never experienced.

That the Holy Spirit would open you channels of you spirit that you may fully receive Him and allow to flow you.

Power in the kingdom of God is about hunger for the presence of God.

When you pray you transcend into a realm where flesh does not survive. Push yourself to go up.

Exchange human strength for God's strength. Tap into God.

Cause me to pick signals from the realm of Zion.

When your priesthood come alive that's when the presence becomes your habitation and you rule the world.

I want to service the altar of prayer.

Is 37:31

And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah Shall again take root downward, And bear fruit upward.

James 4:8a

⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Colossians 1:9-14

Therefore my prayer for you is that you would reset your relationship with God in areas you need, I pray that:

⁹For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.