

TEN PRAYERS FOR RENEWAL OF THE HOLINESS MESSAGE IN THE HEART OF OUR PASTORS AND CHURCHES

The Pastor's Priority

“What is our specific work? For what purpose are we raised up? The one reason for our church's life is that holiness may be preached and conserved in the earth. Any great continuous movement depends quite largely upon its preachers. Ordinary preachers cannot do this work. They must be men [and women] burning with holy fire, ... who have come to their Pentecost, who live under the anointing glory of the Holy Ghost, whose vision is so clear – looking through pure hearts – that God in Christ redeeming the world means salvation from all sin. ...who preach so that whatever their subject and whatever they say, people realize they are being led to the bosom of God, into the abundance of His life and fullness of His love.

“There is no place in the Church of the Nazarene for ordinary preaching. It is not learning nor eloquence nor education; it is only lofty thought with climaxes of intellectual power, but God speaking through His servant beseeching men to be reconciled to God.

For him to preach anything less than the transforming fullness of God is to quit the heights and shut his eyes to the vision of God.” Phineas Bresee

1. Ask the Father to sensitize and convict the hearts of Pastors and People living in conscious sin.

“Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.... 7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.” 1 Timothy 3:2-7 NIV

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9 NIV

2. Pray for a renewed understanding of the Holiness of God.

“But the LORD Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will show himself holy by his righteousness.” Isaiah 5:16 NIV

“Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?” Habakkuk 1:13 NIV

“Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders.... 8 Day and night they never stop saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.’ 9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks

to him who sits on the throne and who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: 11 'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.'" Revelation 4:4, 8-11 NIV

3. Ask God for a renewed awareness among clergy and people that Holiness is His will and provision for all people: youth, young adults, middle adults, and seniors.

"And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way;" Isaiah 35:8 NIV

"It is God's will that you should be sanctified.... 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 8 Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit." 1 Thessalonians 4: 3, 7-8 NIV

4. Pray for a reclaimed urgency in pastors and people to encourage one another to seek the Holy Life.

"10 ...God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. 12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 13 "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. 14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." Hebrews 12:1-15 NIV

5. Pray for pastors and people to experience the joy of leading one another into the transforming experience of entire sanctification.

"He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 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.' 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'" Acts 1:7-11 NIV

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 NIV

6. Pray for a renewed understanding of the meaning of the Sanctified life among our pastors and people.

“Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.... 12 May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. 13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.” 1 Thessalonians 3:10, 12-13 NIV

“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.” 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NIV

7. Pray that our pastors and people will embrace the fact that holiness is a transformational act of God’s grace.

“For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.” Ezekiel 36:24-27 NIV

8. Prayer that pastors and people will join in celebrating and embracing the Pentecostal power of Holiness.

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” Acts 2:1-4 NIV

9. Pray that pastors and people will desperately seek the anointing presence and power of the Holy Spirit as they proclaim God’s Word to one another.

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.” Psalm 23:5 NIV

“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners....” Isaiah 61:1 NIV

“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.” 1 John 2:20 NIV

“As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit — just as it has taught you, remain in him.” 1 John 2:27 NIV

10. Pray that all clergy and people will proclaim the Word of God with power, conviction and authority.

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.” Matthew 9:35 NIV

“As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’” Matthew 10:7 NIV

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” Romans 10:14 NIV

What would the Church of the Nazarene look like in 12 months if the 10 prayers you have prayed were answered? What would it look like in: *Congregations? Pastors’ Families? Youth Ministries? Children’s Ministries? The Global Church?*