

# Returning To Holiness

**Psa. 139:23 through Psa. 139:24 (NIV)**

<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

<sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

## ***SINS OF THOUGHT***

**Matt. 7:22-23(NIV)** <sup>22</sup>Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup>Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

**John 17:3 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup>Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

**Rom. 8:16 (NIV)** <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

1. Do you have nagging thoughts about whether you have been saved?
2. Do you often sense God speaking to your heart or does that idea seem foreign to you?
3. Do you have a personal relationship with Christ or do you just know facts about him?
4. Can you remember a time you were deeply convicted of your lostness?
5. Can you remember a time when you truly turned from sin and personally surrendered your life to Jesus?
6. When you made your profession of faith, did you experience a noticeable change in your life?
7. Do you have absolute peace that you are forgiven and going to heaven?
8. Do you have a significant desire for Bible reading and prayer?
9. Do you have a longing to be in church and with God's people?
10. Are you known as a person of kindness and love?

**2 Cor. 10:5 (NIV)** <sup>5</sup>We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

1. Is your mind filled with thoughts of Christ or consumed with earthly issues?
2. Do you think far more about work or recreation than spiritual growth and serving Christ?
3. Are you often filled with unclean thoughts?
4. Are you plagued with fearful or angry thoughts?

**Matt. 5:28 (NIV)** <sup>28</sup>But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

1. Do lustful, unclean thoughts frequently occupy your mind?
2. Do you watch programs or movies that stimulate improper thoughts and feelings?
3. Are you conscious of unclean thoughts or motives?
4. Do you often have thoughts you would be ashamed of others to know?
5. Do you have wondering eyes?

**Col. 3:1-3 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

1. Do your affections and priorities often revolve around people and things more than Jesus?
2. Are you more passionate about earthly things rather than spiritual things?
3. Do you honestly get more excited about work, sports or recreation than about God's kingdom?
4. Is Christ central in all your priorities, or does he occupy only a small corner of your thoughts and plans?

**Psa. 1:2 (NIV)** <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

**Psa. 119:15-16 (NIV)** <sup>15</sup>I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. <sup>16</sup>I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

1. Is it your habit to seriously read and study God's word daily?
2. Do you meditate on key verses or does God's word have little place in your thoughts?
3. Have you failed to write down key verses that speak to special needs in your life?

**James 4:3 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup>When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

1. Are you guilty of seeking God more for what he can do for you than out of genuine love for him?
2. Do you sense your thoughts are mixed with selfish desires rather than seeking God's glory?
3. Are you aware of the desire to be noted and praised by people rather than mainly seeking God's pleasure?
4. Are you willing to pray for God's will, when it does not fit your plan?
5. Does your love and worship decrease when things don't go your way?
6. When you get disappointed do you "cool off" toward God and church?

**Matt. 15:8-9 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup>"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. <sup>9</sup>They worship me in vain;

**Amos 5:21-23 (NIV)** <sup>21</sup>"I hate, I despise your religious feasts;  
I cannot stand your assemblies.

<sup>22</sup> Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them.

Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,  
I will have no regard for them.

<sup>23</sup> Away with the noise of your songs!  
I will not listen to the music of your harps.

1. In coming to worship is your primary purpose to bow before God in utter repentance and obedience?
2. Is your mind filled with holy fear and reverence for God?
3. Do you really love and reverence God or mostly just seek his benefits?
4. Do you set aside all of Sunday for God or merely tip your hat for an hour before doing your own thing?
5. Have you taken the Lord's Supper without deep examination and personal repentance?
6. Do you frequently sing the worship hymns without deeply reflecting on the words?
7. Do you listen to sermons with little thought of immediate obedience to God's instruction?

**Heb. 12:14 (NIV)** <sup>14</sup>Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

**1 John 3:3 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup>Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

1. Is your mind filled with thoughts of how to experience greater holiness?
2. Do you often say, "I wish I was more like Jesus" and then do little to pursue spiritual cleansing?
3. Do you consistently make time to allow God to search every area of your life?

### ***Sins Of Attitude***

**Rev. 3:15-16 (NIV)** <sup>15</sup>I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! <sup>16</sup>So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

1. Can you truly categorize your love and service to God as passionate?
2. Is God and his service the burning priority in your life?
3. On a scale of 1-10 how would you rate your zeal for Christ?
4. Are you on fire for Christ?
5. Are you deeply excited about Bible study, witnessing and serving God?
6. Was there a time you loved and served God more fervently than now?

**1 Pet. 5:5 (NIV)** <sup>5</sup>Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

**Psa. 51:17 (NIV)** <sup>17</sup>The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

1. Do you think yourself quite spiritual?
2. Do you often criticize and judge others?
3. Are you frequently trying to set others straight?
4. Do you spend daily time allowing God to deeply search your life or do you feel little need for cleansing?
5. Are you truly broken and contrite over your shortcomings or do you think "oh well, no one is perfect"?
6. Are you desperately hungry to see a mighty move of God or are you somewhat complacent?
7. Do you come off as having a "holier than thou attitude"?

**Phil. 2:3-4 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in

humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

1. Do you tend to draw attention to yourself?
2. Do you often promote yourself and put others down?
3. Are you highly competitive and desire to win and be number one at all costs?
4. Do you seek to be the center of attention?
5. Do you usually think mostly in terms of your own needs and desires?
6. Is your attitude such that you feel you are better and smarter than others?
7. Do you have an inordinate need to be noticed and praised by people?
8. Do you tend to surround yourself with "status symbols" that flaunt wealth or appearance?

**James 2:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism.

**James 2:4 (NIV)** <sup>4</sup>have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

1. Do you associate only with those very similar to yourself?
2. Do you tend to look down on people who are not as financially affluent?
3. Conversely, do you resent those who have more monetarily?
4. Do you closely associate only with your own race or culture?
5. Are you suspicious of those from a different race, culture or background?
6. Do you think you are too good to befriend someone who is physically unattractive?
7. Do you tend to resent people more physically attractive or gifted than yourself?
8. Have you sought to reach out to other culture groups or have you settled into a social "comfort zone"?
9. Has your church placed too high a premium on reaching certain classes of people?

**Heb. 11:6 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

1. Are you often filled with more doubt than faith?
2. Do you tend to worry and fret rather than trust God?
3. Are you fully resting in God's promises or are you frequently anxious?
4. Have you excused the sin of unbelief by claiming to be a "born worrier"?
5. Do you excuse your doubt by saying, "I have good reason to worry"?
6. Have you let disappointments weaken your faith and prayer life?
7. Do you need to confess the sin of unbelief and worry?

**Eph. 4:2 (NIV)** <sup>2</sup>Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

1. Do you have a kind, gentle spirit or are you argumentative and contentious?
2. Are you often critical and harsh with people?
3. Are you often insensitive to the feelings and needs of others?
4. Do you tend to look for reasons to pick people apart?
5. Are you quick to get angry and speak your mind?
6. Do others characterize you as having a gentle and quiet spirit?
7. Are you quick to point out the weaknesses of others?
8. Do you make excuses by saying, "I can't help it, that's just my personality?"

**1 Cor. 13:4 (NIV)** <sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

**1 Cor. 13:7 (NIV)** <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

**Matt. 5:44 (NIV)** <sup>44</sup>But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

1. Do you respond with forgiveness and love when someone hurts you?
2. Do you make a point of actively doing good to those who have done you evil?
3. Are you carrying an internal catalogue of grievances against friends or family members? Do you brood on the ways a spouse or child has disappointed you?
4. Do you withhold your kindness because they don't "deserve" it?
5. Do you give loved ones the "silent treatment"?
6. Have you determined to love family and friends with Christ's unconditional love?

**1 Tim. 6:6 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup>But godliness with contentment is great gain.

**1 John 2:15 through 1 John 2:17 (NIV)** <sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup>The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

1. Do you barely tithe and yet pay enormous interest to creditors?

2. In purchases, have you been motivated more by greed than seeking God's direction? Does your financial history reflect biblical principles of low debt and modest living?
3. Has your debt caused you to miss payments and thus damage your witness?
4. Do you lust for things?
5. Would you be willing to live with less in order to embrace more God-centered patterns for your money?
6. Is high debt straining your marriage?
7. Can you truly say, "Jesus is in control of my desires and finances"?
8. Have you fervently prayed about financial decisions or simply gone with the materialism of the world?

### ***Sins of Speech***

**Eph. 4:29 (NIV)** <sup>29</sup>Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

**Eph. 5:4 (NIV)** <sup>4</sup>Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

1. Do you ever speak slang words that are crude and inappropriate?
2. Do you use God's name in any way other than worship, honor and praise?
3. Have you engaged in off-color jokes or conversation?
4. Has the filthiness of our society crept into your speech?
5. Do you use any slang to add emphasis to what you're saying?

**Col. 3:9 (NIV)** <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

1. Do you ever lie?
2. Do you exaggerate to make yourself look better?
3. Are you guilty of any form of cheating?
4. Do you mislead people or institutions?
5. Are you careful to follow through with promises, vows and commitments you make to God and others?
6. Is your word your bond or are you somewhat unreliable?
7. Do you frequently fall short in things you said you would do?

**1 Cor. 10:10 (NIV)** <sup>10</sup>And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

**1 Thess. 5:18 (NIV)** <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1. Do you often gripe and complain about situations in your life?
2. Do you fail to give thanks in all things and at all times?
3. Are you filled with an attitude of gratefulness and praise or grumbling and complaining? Do you make excuses for your grumbling by saying, "I have good reason to complain? Are you always looking on the dark sides of things?
4. Do you trust God for supernatural joy or do you give into murmuring and complaining?

**Eph. 4:31 (NIV)** <sup>31</sup>Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

1. Are you guilty of critical, angry speech?
2. Do you argue and fight with others?
3. Do you tend to be irritable and cranky?
4. Are you quick to raise your voice?
5. Does your speech reflect an underlying anger and impatience with those around you?
6. Do you speak unkindly to those in your family?
7. Are you guilty of any form of gossip or slander of others?
8. Do you speak evil of people behind their back?

**1 Cor. 1:10 (NIV)** <sup>10</sup>I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

1. Are you known as a peacemaker who strengthens church unity or, are you often part of some contentious argument?
2. Do you act like a "self-appointed" critic and judge to set everyone else straight?
3. Are you quick to talk about the shortcomings of others?
4. Do you increase the faith of your church by a positive attitude or, do you tear it down by focusing on its imperfections?
5. Are you quick to divide up and "take sides"?
6. Do you tend to be a part of church cliques?
7. Are you known as complainer and one who is easily upset?
8. Have you been critical and condemning of those with different tastes in music and worship style?

**1 Tim. 5:17 (NIV)** <sup>17</sup>The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

1. Have you been critical or slanderous of Christian leaders?
2. Do you fail to respect and honor those called to lead the church?
3. Do you undermine their authority?
4. Do you tend to "pick them apart" rather than give consistent encouragement and prayer support?
5. Are there leaders or other believers with whom you've parted on angry terms?
6. Do you tend to slander or mock other denominational groups, ministries or leaders who may not agree with you on every point?

### ***Sins of Relationships***

**Matt. 5:23 through Matt. 5:24 (NIV)** <sup>23</sup>“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

**Matt. 6:14 through Matt. 6:15 (NIV)** <sup>14</sup>For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

**Matt. 18:35 (NIV)** <sup>35</sup>“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

Can you think of people you may have hurt or offended in some manner?  
Are you bitter or holding grudges against people who have offended you?

1. Is there anyone or any situation about which you harbor the slightest bitterness or resentment?
2. Have you secretly resented God for allowing some painful situation in your life?
3. Have you "cooled off" toward God because He disappointed you in some manner?

**Heb. 10:25 (NIV)** <sup>25</sup>Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Are you involved in any improper relationships?

Do you neglect regular fellowship and meaningful service through your church?

1. Are you a spectator rather than a participant in God's work?
2. Do you consistently receive, but seldom give?
3. Have you become a permanent visitor who never seems to plug in and serve God?

**Eph. 5:23 (NIV)** <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

**Eph. 5:25 (NIV)** <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

**1 Pet. 3:7 (NIV)** <sup>7</sup>Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

**Eph. 6:4 (NIV)** <sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Are your family relationships consistent with God's word?

1. Husband, have you taken responsibility to lead your family in devotions and prayer?
2. Do you set a loving atmosphere of spiritual nurture and training?
3. Do you put your wife's needs and desires ahead of your own?
4. Do you study to understand and meet the unique emotional needs of your wife?
5. Have you made use of today's excellent books and videos on marriage?
6. Are you providing wise financial guidance and stewardship for the security of your family?
7. Are you guiding your children in spiritual growth and training?
8. Do you discipline your children with consistency and love?
9. Do you consistently talk to your children about spiritual values?

**1 Pet. 3:3 through 1 Pet. 3:4 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup>Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. <sup>4</sup>Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

**Eph. 5:24 (NIV)** <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

**Eph. 5:33 (NIV)** <sup>33</sup>However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

1. Wives, do you ever treat your husband with dishonor and disrespect?
2. Do you often point out his weaknesses and faults?
3. Do you patiently forgive and treat him kindly in spite of his shortcomings?
4. Do you ignore his needs and desires?
5. Have you grown careless with your health and appearance?
6. Do you have a rebellious spirit toward him?
7. Have you done all you can do to bring your attitude in line with the pattern God has set for you in Scripture?
8. Is your attitude one of thanksgiving and love or complaining and anger?

**Matt. 18:6 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup>But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

1. Parent, do you model excitement and joy about worshipping God?
2. Do you consistently express love for Christ's Church or a negative complaining attitude?
3. Parents do you lovingly and consistently communicate with each other?
4. Do you consistently take time to talk to your children?
5. Do you really listen when your children talk to you?
6. Do you respond with love and understanding or quickly become angry?
7. Parent, do you model moral purity by the things you talk about?
8. Have you demonstrated holiness by the things you watch or read?
9. Have you consistently communicated God's standards concerning sex and marriage to your children?
10. Do you communicate in a way that reveals understanding about their temptations and struggles?
11. Have you been approachable and loving?

**Eph. 6:1-3 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.  
<sup>2</sup>"Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—<sup>3</sup>"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

*As adults, we too must ask whether we are honoring our elderly parents.*

1. Do you neglect to call and visit your aged parents?
2. Do you neglect your Mother and Father by failing to give them consistent time and attention?
3. Are you neglecting them emotionally or financially?
4. Do you fail to help them with needs around their home?
5. Are there unresolved harsh words or feelings between you and your parents?
6. Have you truly sought to make it right?

## ***Sins of Commission***

**Eph. 5:5 (NIV)** <sup>5</sup>For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

**Eph. 5:12 (NIV)** <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

1. Have you committed any form of sexual immorality, uncleanness or perversion?
2. Do you ever watch television or movies that feature immorality and violence?
3. Do you make excuses by saying "There's nothing else to watch"?
4. Do you dress in ways designed to incite lust in the opposite sex?
5. Are you in the habit of reading things that are suggestive or unclean?
6. Do you watch today's filthy talk shows that regularly joke about immorality and perversion?
7. Do you fund Hollywood's poison by going to questionable movies or purchasing videos?

**1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NIV)** <sup>16</sup>Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? <sup>17</sup>If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

1. Have you abused your body through any form of immorality or excess?
2. Do you sin against God's temple by harmful habits such as alcohol, smoking or overeating?
3. Is any form of drug abuse a part of your life?
4. Have you been so enslaved to food that fasting is something you make excuses to avoid?

**Ex. 20:2-3 (NIV)** <sup>2</sup>"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>3</sup>"You shall have no other gods before me.

**Matt. 6:24 (NIV)** <sup>24</sup>"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

1. Have you transgressed God's first commandment by placing other things ahead of God?
2. Have other things or people crowded out your worship and service to God.
3. Do you worship and serve God only if everything else is done first?

4. Has your work and financial gain actually become your god?
5. Have you voted for politicians who promote ungodly principles just because they're in your political party?
6. Do you spend far more time on the Internet or watching television than in Bible reading and prayer?
7. Have you placed your family ahead of God?
8. Does recreation or some hobby take precedence over God's service? If all church members followed your example of service, how strong would be the ministry of your church?
9. Would there be a Sunday or Wednesday evening service if everyone attended like you?
10. Would there be an outreach or prayer ministry?
11. Who or what is *really* number one in your life?

**Mal. 3:8-10 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup>“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’

“In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup>You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup>Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

1. Have you been honest to fully tithe your time and talents to God?
2. Have you been honest in calculating your tithe or have you tithed from the leftovers rather than the first fruits of your income? (Do you give God what's left over after everyone else gets theirs?)
3. Have you figured the tithe to the penny but been stingy with any offerings beyond the tithe?
4. Would you be willing to give far more than a tithe if God leads you?

**Prov. 13:11 (NIV)** <sup>11</sup>Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.

1. If gambling is a good personal investment, why are the casinos getting rich?
2. If gambling is a healthy practice, why do countless thousands become addicted to it?
3. If gambling is good, why do bankruptcies explode in cities where gaming takes root?
4. Have you been deceived into thinking gambling is just a harmless recreational activity?

**Lev. 19:31 (NIV)** <sup>31</sup>“Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.

1. Do you ever consult horoscopes, psychics or any other form of occultic guidance? Have you allowed new age philosophy to slip into your mind by reading self-help books that exalt self rather than Christ?
2. Do you read materials that promote self-exaltation rather than humble surrender to Jesus Christ?
3. Do you have books in your home that promote humanism or new age philosophy?
4. Do you allow your children to watch programs that promote new age ideas?

**Rev. 2:14-15 (NIV)** <sup>14</sup>Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup>Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

1. Are you prepared to stand for God's truth no matter what the cost?
2. Do you rationalize and make excuses for rejecting biblical standards?
3. When the pressure is on, do you ignore Scripture and go with the crowd?

**Rom. 14:23 (NIV)** <sup>23</sup>But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

1. Is there something in your life about which you have to constantly work to convince yourself it's right?
2. Is there something about which you know you don't have peace, yet you still haven't made any changes?
3. Do you lack perfect peace about the amount of time and energy you are giving to work or recreation? To financial gain? To personal appearance? To the opinions of others?

### ***Sins of Omission***

**John 15:4 through John 15:5 (NIV)** <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup>"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

1. Do you spend significant time in daily Bible reading and prayer?

2. Have you been too "busy" to give God significant time?
3. Have you neglected to abide in a close relationship with Christ?

**Acts 1:8 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup>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."

1. Have you made a prayer list of people you consistently encounter in your daily course of life?
2. Do you pray for them on a regular basis? Do you seek to show them special kindness?
3. Do you witness to them about Christ? Do you leave gospel tracts in places you frequent?
4. Have you failed to enroll in one of today's excellent witness training strategies?

**Eph. 4:8 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup>This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."

1. Do you continually look for ways to serve God or are you content to sit and be served?
2. Do you make excuses why you cannot serve God through your church?
3. Do you refuse to serve unless it is a high profile job?
4. Have you been willing for everyone else to do the work while you remain a spectator and receive the ministry of others?
5. Are you lazy and irresponsible in the jobs you have taken?
6. Have you failed to exercise your gift with all *diligence*?
7. Does God convict you of the need to discover and use your spiritual gifts?
8. Have you been spiritually lazy?
9. Do you sense the need to become a productive member of Christ's church?

**Romans 6:14 (NIV)** <sup>14</sup>For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

**Hebrews 4:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.

1. Have you identified your spiritual strongholds and claimed God's full victory?
2. Have you determined to overcome the sins that keep cropping up or do you *put up* with them?

3. Do you make excuses for sin by calling it a "weakness" or a "Personality trait"?
4. Has Satan deceived you to believe you cannot be free?
5. Have you failed to fully resist Satan until you experience complete spiritual victory?
6. Are you too complacent and spiritually lazy to push forward into full victory?

**James 3:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

1. Have you grown lax in the exercise of your responsibility in Christian service?
2. Do you preach and teach the whole council of God or focus only in a narrow range? Have you preached boldly against all sin or become timid through fear of men?
3. Are you afraid to preach about controversial issues such as abortion, divorce and homosexuality?
4. Do you diligently study God's Word or have you grown lazy?
5. Are you doing your very best or have you begun to cut corners?
6. Have you harbored any competition or jealousy toward other pastors?
7. Have you harbored any bitterness or resentment toward your church members?
8. Do you resent low pay or lack of appreciation?
9. Do you consistently practice what you preach and teach?
10. Was there a time you were more dedicated and zealous in your calling than now?
11. Are you steadfast and immovable or do you tend to be inconsistent?
12. Are you instant "in and out of season" or do you become easily discouraged?
13. Have you failed to lead your church in aggressive soul winning and missions involvement?
14. Do you fail to serve with diligence because your position is not as glamorous as the position of others?
15. Have you in any way viewed your church as a stepping-stone to a "better position"?
16. Are you a true shepherd or are you a hireling?

**Jer. 29:13 (NIV)** <sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

**James 5:16 (NIV)** <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

1. Are *you fervently* seeking God for more of His daily presence and power?
2. Have you failed to embrace deepening levels of prayer and fasting?
3. Do you resist the idea of any type of prayer that is costly or protracted?

**James 1:23-24 (NIV)** <sup>23</sup>Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup>and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

1. Do you often sense God speaking, yet you tend to delay obedience?
2. You don't actually tell God no, but you put off your obedience.
3. Do you consistently fail God in the same old ways?
4. Are there specific areas in which you never seem to make any progress?

### ***Sins of Self-Rule and Self-Reliance***

**Matt. 16:24-25 (NIV)** <sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

**Rom. 6:6 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup>For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

1. Has God told you to do something and yet you've tried to ignore Him?
2. Has God told you to do something you've yet to do?
3. Is God telling you to stop something you're still doing?
4. Is there some point you know you are resisting God's voice?
5. Have you been unwilling to fully lay family, relationships or work on the altar of surrender?
6. Has God asked you to let go of something that's really not an overt sin, but it is a hindrance?

**John 12:24 (NIV)** <sup>24</sup>I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

**Proverbs 17:3 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup>The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart.

1. Do you become defensive and run from God's conviction and breaking?
2. Have you settled into a spiritual "coast" zone?

3. Do you resent physical or emotional hardships rather than embrace them as opportunities to more fully experience Christ?
4. Have you been wasting your sorrows by not seeking God's lessons within them?

**2 Corinthians 12:9 through 2 Corinthians 12:10 (NIV)** <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. <sup>10</sup>That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**Galatians 2:20 (NIV)** <sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

1. Have you actually placed greater focus on your training or natural abilities than deep daily cleansing and fullness of the Holy Spirit?
2. Are you often guilty of being prepared mentally but not spiritually?
3. By comparison, does your church put more focus on strategies, methods and programs than fervent prayer and deep repentance?