

SeekingHim

Experiencing the Joy
of Personal Revival

A 12-Week Study for Individual and Group Use

"You who seek God, let your hearts revive."

PSALM 69:32b

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MOODY PUBLISHERS
CHICAGO

Lesson

3



Honesty:

Silence Is Not Always Golden

Seeking God for personal revival requires a level of honesty that, at first, may seem quite threatening. Covering up our faults and failures is an involuntary reflex. At first glance, it often seems like the best option. We want others to think the best of us. However, humility—one of the first prerequisites for revival—requires the willingness to be honest with God and others about our true spiritual condition.



**MEMORY
VERSE**

“Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.”
(Proverbs 28:13)

Going Deeper
in the **Word**

Genesis 3:6–13
Proverbs 30:7–9
Acts 5:1–11



Day 5: Making It Personal

As a Christian seeking personal revival, you have an enemy in this ongoing struggle with deception. Jesus called him “a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44). Dr. Bill Elliff observes:

[The devil] has successfully taught us that lying will produce some benefit.... We will be more respected, more appreciated, live more comfortably if we will just cover the truth. At all costs, we must never admit who we really are (“Think of how it would ruin our reputation!”).

The enemy is lying about lying! His very nature keeps him from telling the truth about the benefits of truthfulness. In reality, the wellspring of truthfulness yields a river of redemptive results. Honesty is as refreshing as a mountain stream and is God’s intended means to wash and purify our hypocritical lives.²

! Key Point

The longer we live a lie, the harder it is to come clean. The time to deal with it is now.

Yes, we have a strong enemy, but Christ’s power is stronger still! Take time to meditate on the following Scriptures and to prayerfully respond to the questions below. As you do, allow the Holy Spirit to examine your heart. Ask God to show you any areas where you are not walking in the light with Him, with yourself, or with others. Thank Him for His grace and power to cleanse and revive honest hearts.

Honesty with God

Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts. (Psalm 51:6 NKJV)

- Do I often participate in corporate praise and prayer while my heart is cold, indifferent, or resistant to the Lord?
- Are my prayers honest? Do I say words that I think will impress God, or do I honestly communicate my real feelings and desires to Him?
- Do I honor Him with my lips when my mind and heart are far away? What am I really thinking about when I pray?
- When called upon to pray in public, am I more aware of God’s presence or the fact that others are listening to what I say?
- Do I serve God out of a heart of genuine love and devotion, or do I have a subtle, secret desire to be noticed and applauded?
- Do I volunteer for service and good works to glorify God (Matthew 5:16) or to impress others?
- Am I quick to agree with God when His Spirit convicts me of sin, or do I tend to rationalize, justify, and defend myself?

- Do I see my sin as God sees it, or do I tend to think in terms of “weaknesses,” “problems,” “slip-ups,” or “personality quirks”?
- Do I love the truth so much that I actively and regularly ask God to search my heart and to reveal anything that is displeasing to Him?

Honesty with Myself

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
(James 1:22)

- Are there truths in God’s Word that I know in my head or that I “preach” to others but am not practicing in my life?

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8)

- Do I ignore, resist, or deny the conviction of God’s Spirit or His Word in relation to my sin?

If anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. (Galatians 6:3)

- Do I think more highly of myself than what God knows me to be? Do I have an inflated view of my gifts and my value to God and others?

Honesty with Others

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor; for we are members one of another.
(Ephesians 4:25)

- Do I sometimes seek to create a better impression of myself than is honestly true?
- Do I often leave others with the impression that I am more spiritually mature and committed than is actually true?
- Am I allowing my mate to believe that I am morally pure and faithful when I have failed morally?
- Am I covering up sins of my past rather than dealing with them biblically?
- Am I hiding specific sins or failures from my mate, a parent, a teacher, or an employer?
- Am I guilty of speaking graciously to others while harboring hatred or bitterness in my heart toward them?

“Nothing can enter heaven which is not real; nothing erroneous, mistaken, conceited, hollow, professional, pretentious, insubstantial, can be smuggled through the gates. Only truth can dwell with the God of truth.”

—C. H. Spurgeon

“The only basis
for real fellowship
with God and
man is to live
out in the open
with both.”

—Roy Hession

- Do I put up walls to keep people from seeing the “real me”? Am I willing to let others into my life—to be honest about my spiritual needs, to ask for prayer about those needs, and to be accountable to others for areas where I need to grow or change?

¹ The Faith-Builder story in Lesson 3 is adapted from “The Great Pretender,” *Spirit of Revival*, vol. 25, no. 2, September 1995, published by Life Action Ministries, pp. 7-9.

² Bill Elliff, “When I Kept Silent,” *Spirit of Revival*, vol. 25, no. 2, September 1995, published by Life Action Ministries, p. 20.