

Samuel was tasked with anointing God's replacement for King Saul. Samuel's only hint about the identity of the new king was to check out the sons of a man named Jesse. At first glance, Samuel thought surely Eliab was perfect for the role.

But God immediately corrected Samuel by telling him not to judge by height or appearance: "The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

The first seven of Jesse's sons were rejected as king. It finally came down to David, who was away in the fields, tending the sheep. God chose a man after His own heart.

Revival does not come because of stature, position, or ministry. Revival is birthed from humble hearts of people who surrender everything to seek God. A prepared heart is ripe for personal revival.

This month, as we enter the Lenten season and pray toward the glory of the resurrection, invite God to examine and prepare your heart.

1 As soon as Samuel anointed David with oil as Israel's new king, "the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David." Pray that as you prepare your heart for revival, God will give you a vision for the power of the Spirit at work in your life (1 Samuel 16:13).

2 God testifies that David is "a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do." Ask God to make your heart soft to His commands with a desire for immediate obedience (Acts 13:22).

3 In David's desperation for deliverance from his enemies, he acknowledged it is "you, the righteous God, who probes minds and hearts." Invite the Lord to probe your heart and reveal your need for Him. Respond with the same desperation for God to show Himself powerful to you (Psalm 7:9).

4 David also acknowledged the "God Most High" as his shield "who saves the upright in heart." Pray that your heart will align with God as you seek Him as your help in all things (Psalm 7:10).

5 Today starts the Lenten season leading up to Easter. Let this be the posture of your heart: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).

6 Lent is a time of heart examination, especially through repentance. Commit to the Lord that you will "return to [Him] with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Let sin grieve you. But also let joy in Christ revive you (Joel 2:12).

7 Praise God that as you return to Him, He "is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love." Express your gratitude for His endless mercy (Joel 2:13).

8 Pray that in your heart posture of humility, God "may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing." Pray that His response to your prayers will be a fresh outpouring of His reviving Spirit in your life (Joel 2:14).

9 Invite the Lord to test, try, and examine your heart and the hearts and minds of His people. Pray for an openness in your church to seek God for cleansing and realigning with His commands and purposes (Psalm 26:2).

10 The Lord invites those with clean hands and a pure heart to "ascend the mountain of the LORD." Ask God to show you ways that you need the power of the Spirit's cleansing through forgiveness of sin (Psalm 24:3-4).

11 The Lord "is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Pray for the healing and restoring of broken hearts of people you love. Ask God to flood them with His comfort (Psalm 34:18).

12 The Lord blesses and reveals Himself to those who are pure in heart. Pray for a reviving work of God that purifies the hearts of fellow believers and invites His manifest presence in your church (Matthew 5:8).

13 The Lord blesses “those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD.” Invite the Spirit to deepen your love for God’s Word and your desire to radically obey its truths (Psalm 119:1).

14 A revived heart gives thanks to the Lord and tells of all His wonderful deeds. Pray that your heart is filled with gratitude for the mighty works He has done in your life and in your family (Psalm 9:1).

15 Although turmoil may swirl around you, “the peace of God, which transcends understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Pray that your God-given peace will impact others for Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

16 Invite God to transform your heart and mind into whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy! Reflect the heart of Christ by allowing the Spirit to fill you with His truth (Philippians 4:8).

17 A revived heart is fully devoted to praising God and glorifying His name forever. Praise God that He has rescued you, healed you, and restored you both now and forever (Psalm 86:12).

18 Ask Christ to create within you a confident heart that fully believes “I can do all this through him who gives me strength.” Pray that you will live out that confidence before others (Philippians 4:13).

19 Jesus instructs us to live in His peace and to not let our hearts be troubled. Confess your fears and doubts—and declare that in Christ you need not be afraid (John 14:27).

20 Pray that your words and the thoughts of your heart are pleasing to the Lord. Speak those things that will introduce others to the love and compassion of Christ (Psalm 19:14).

21 Pray that as God creates in you a “pure heart” and “renews a steadfast spirit” in you, He will do the same in believers in your church. Pray that this renewal invites a refreshing move of God’s Spirit (Psalm 51:10).

22 Pray for God’s Spirit to bring a wave of repentant hearts in your church, with a longing for sins to be wiped out so that “times of refreshing may come from the Lord.” Pray for a renewed joy in Jesus as Messiah (Acts 3:19-20).

23 Ask God to stir your congregation to be receptive to His truth that “those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.” Pray that fellow believers are eager to have their hearts reconciled with God (Revelation 3:19).

24 Pray for your church to have a renewed awareness of God as “the high and exalted One” who “lives forever, whose name is holy.” Pray that this high view of God reminds fellow believers to embrace humble hearts before the Lord (Isaiah 57:15a).

25 Ask God to revive His Church across our nation by convicting His people to welcome hearts that are “contrite and lowly in spirit.” Ask Him to revive the “spirit of the lowly” and the “heart of the contrite” (Isaiah 57:15b).

26 Powerful preaching of God’s Word will refresh the soul. Pray for your pastor to be Spirit-filled and anointed in proclaiming the heart-transforming truths of Scripture. Pray that people will hear and respond (Psalm 19:7a).

27 Pray for churches across this nation to stand firm in believing that “the statutes of the Lord are trustworthy” and will bring wisdom to all who allow God to transform their hearts with His truth (Psalm 19:7b).

28 Pray that God transforms your heart, preserves your life, and brings you out of trouble—so that you might glorify His name (Psalm 143:11).

29 Invite the Lord to show you those places in your heart that need healing. Embrace His promise that “I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security.” Pray that through His healing, you will reflect His glory (Jeremiah 33:6).

30 Praise God that He revives and restores even a heart that feels lifeless. Declare Him to be “the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not” (Romans 4:17).

31 Pray that God will refresh the faith of His followers and deepen their trust in Him. As He declares, “Return, faithless people,” may their response be, “Yes, we will come to you, for you are the LORD our God” (Jeremiah 3:22).