

## 1. I'm heartbroken over what I see in the country I love

- A. The anger, the violence, the politicians who are only out to pad their own wallets  
The corruption, dissolution of the family, embrace of sin at every level, insanity of law makers
- B. I also think we as believer's can get it wrong when we think of what should be done
  - 1). It is so easy to look at our society that is unraveling at a breakneck speed
    - a). And blame a race – an organization – it's the blacks – it's the cops  
It's the immigrants – it's the white taking advantage of everybody else  
It's the politicians – it's the Hispanic – it's the homosexual
- C. Can I ask a question that might not make me popular – that may shock you
  - 1). Could it be us too? Could the church have some blame in all of this?
    - a). Is it because of our sin? Our indifference? Our apathy?
    - b). Is it because we don't care what God is saying to us – living like we want too!
    - c). Is it because the church looks like the world?  
"I went looking for the church in the world and found the world in the church"

**Thought:** Am I saying that all the blame is on the church? Of course not!

- A. I am saying that we must look in the mirror and see our part in this problem  
And I am saying we must see that we have a big role to play in the solution
  - 1). I believe if we (church corporate) become what we are supposed to be  
We will begin to see a change in this land
  - 2). When we start caring about truth – caring about honoring God with holy lives
    - a). Then I think God will start to move in this nation again – bring some healing
- B. I am suggesting that the church must stop pointing our fingers at everybody else  
And see we have a responsibility in the healing of this nation

**Question:** Where would I get such a radical thought?

Is it scriptural or just emotional ramblings caused by the recent events I watched live in Dallas

**2 Ch 7:14 (ESV)** if *my people* who are *called by my name* humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then *I will hear from heaven* and will forgive their sin *and heal their land*.

- A. There you have God calling His people to certain actions
- B. And you have God promising when those actions are taken there will be benefits in the nation
  - 1). God is willing to move in the land – but there are conditions
    - a). Four things – Humble ourselves, pray, return to the Word, repent
- C. If the church corporate becomes who the church is supposed to be – I believe we'll see God move
  - 1). But if the church keeps mocking God with its carnality – I have little hope for this nation
    - a). *Until those who represent God repent – why would we expect the world to repent*
    - b). *Until we are willing to follow God why would we expect the world to follow Him*

**Transition:** We will start out with the responsibility of God's people in the healing of a sick country

## I. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### God says: Healing will follow humility

**2 Ch 7:14 (ESV)** if my people who are called by my name *humble themselves*... I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

### 1. It must start with humility – a bowing to Him

- A. A removing ourselves from the throne of our life to follow Him – go His way
- B. It starts with exalting Him and not man – not Pastor's – not worship leaders

- 1). It starts with leaders in the church pointing to Him and refusing the adulation

## 2. Humility always precedes blessing

**Matt 23:12 (ESV)** Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

**James 4:10 (NIV)** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

- A. Being lifted up again starts with bowing down before Him!

**1 Pe 5:6 (NIV)** Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

- A. I fear that the church age we live in is like the church in Laodicea

**TURN: Re 3:14–16 (ESV)** “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. <sup>(15)</sup> “ ‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! <sup>(16)</sup> So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

- 1). Their condition – **lukewarm** – a spiritual condition that makes God sick

**Revelation 3:16 (NKJV)** So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, ***I will vomit you out of My mouth.***

- a). You really think God doesn't mind us being lukewarm – indifferent - apathetic

- B. Jesus says you're spiritual condition is sickening – but look at how they viewed themselves

**Re 3:17 (ESV)** For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

- 1). Rich in the things that mean so little – poor in the things that mean so much

- C. God's solution

**Re 3:18 (ESV)** I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

- 1). **Gold refined in the fire** = they are to live by faith in God – true faith – dependent faith

**1 Pe 1:7 (ESV)** so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is ***tested by fire...***

- a). Not faith that demands everything from God – to pad your bank account

Make you even more addicted to the things of the world – creating idols in your heart

- b). Real faith trusts God – whatever you want! I choose your will – I trust that it is best

- 2). **White garments** = Refers to doing good works for God's glory

**Re 19:8 (ESV)** it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

- a). Here is how true faith is seen – by actions in our life

1a). What James says “You say you have faith. I'll prove I have faith by what I do”

- b). Faith linked to humble service will help ignite your heart

1a). Service makes us master our flesh – you won't control me – it breathes life in

- 3). **Salve to anoint your eyes** = so that you can see your true spiritual state

- a). So you can stop deceiving yourself that your alive when your spiritually dead

That you're alive when you're not living for God at all

- b). You need to open your eyes to see how God sees your life

Then humble yourself before Him – by faith go His way – start to serve Him

**Point:** Humility is opening our eyes and seeing who we really are

- 1). It is seeing how desperate we are for God in our life

- a). So that we stop living out our Christianity in our own power and strength

So that we stop thinking our clever little techniques are clever enough to do His work

- 2). I fear the church is moving in man's power not God's – and we're settling for that
  - a). And we are losing the war – losing ground – losing America
  - b). 100,000 churches will close in the next 10 years in this country
  - c). We live in a country that doesn't care about the church any longer
    - 1a). Is that because the church has stopped really caring about God - carnal
    - 2a). Where's the zeal for Him? The joy in knowing Him?

**The blessing: Re 3:19–20 (NIV)** Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. <sup>(20)</sup> Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. **(they think they're fine spiritually. He's locked outside. Not a part of their life at all)** If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, *I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*

- 1). If you'll live out true faith – be zealous for good works (service) – see you're true condition so you'll become desperate for Him
  - a). That soul killing distance from God will end – You'll experience intimacy with Him
  - b). Now your life will be spiritually healed
 

What will happen if the majority of the church does that – it will spread
- 2). It is the church that needs revival – the nation needs regeneration
  - a). But when the church is revived it will affect those around us
  - b). Please listen: *As long as we live carnal – indifferent lives – look like them*  
*We don't matter one bit – we are part of the problem not the solution*
- 3). You see the necessity of living differently all throughout the Scriptures
 

**Philippians 2:14-16 (NIV)** Do everything without complaining or arguing, <sup>(15)</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, *in which you shine like stars in the universe* <sup>(16)</sup> *as you hold out the word of life...*

  - a). We are to live lives that shine brightly in the darkness – look so different
 

Then when we hold out the word of life it will have power

    - 1a). Truth proclaimed backed by truth lived is a powerful combination
    - 2a). *Truth proclaimed linked to carnality makes Christianity look like a joke*

**Transition:** As God's people humble themselves – healing will start to occur – at least in them

- A. Then there is a chance it will flow out to others!
- B. When we see how desperate we are for God – how weak we are without Him – leads to the next stop

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## Healing Follows Prayer

**2 Ch 7:14 (NIV)** if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves *and pray* ...then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

### 1. Prayerlessness is one of the greatest signs we lack humility

- A. We think we can live out our Christianity on our own – do ministry in our own strength
- B. If you know the history of revivals – usually they are linked back to prayer
  - 1). A handful of people crying out to God – *God move amongst us we need you again*
    - a). As long as the prayer meetings are empty the church will be weak
- C. This is true not only in the church at large but in the individual's life
  - 1). Personal revival flows out of prayer – prayerlessness always brings in lukewarmness

**Thought:** The way it usually starts in a church is with a few – they begin to feel desperate  
They stop acting like the church at Laodicea – we're fine – when they're not

- A. God begins to touch them – restore them – ignite them – then it spreads to another and another
  - 1). I'm asking you to be that ember – make your life count for the kingdom
- B. I think of Moses – after Israel sinned – golden calf – and God removed His presence from the camp

- 1). Moses refused to live without God in his life – so he set up a tent outside of the camp  
*“Lord if you’re not going to visit the camp – I’ll visit you outside of the camp!”* Right on!  
**Ex 33:7 (ESV)** Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp.
    - a). The camp has sinned – God has left – the people are devastated – now what!
  - 2). As the camp watches you have this one man who refused to settle for mediocrity
    - a). AND Day after day they watch him walk to that tent to be with his God  
**Ex 33:8 (ESV)** Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent.
  - 3). What does it say happened to Moses – great intimacy – God blessed this desire  
**Ex 33:11 (ESV)** Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend...
  - 4). Watch how it affected others  
**Ex 33:11 (ESV)** Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, *his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.*
    - a). Moses was a fire starter – as others watched – they were affected  
 I pray God will fill this church with igniters
    - b). Those who don’t care how others are living – if nobody is seeking God they will  
 People like Moses - God was what was important to him
      - 1a). He made the decision – I am going to seek Him no matter what
      - 2a). And it started to affect others  
 People who pray have spiritual influence – people who don’t don’t
- C. As Moses affected others – as others started to seek the Lord – *healing spread*

## Healing Follows a Return to the Word

**2 Ch 7:14 (NIV)** if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and *seek my face*...then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

### 1. Notice: Prayer AND seek His face (separates this out from prayer)

- A. How do we seek His face? Through His Word!
- B. Again the history of revival shows when God moves – the Word is exalted
  - 1). The church returns to truth - those great doctrines that tell us about God & what He has done
  - 2). Preaching becomes important again
    - a). Many times in revival the preachers couldn’t preach enough
    - b). Instead of getting mad - it’s almost 11:30 buddy - the congregation demanded another sermon and another – they wore the preachers out!
    - c). They wanted meat – not cotton candy fluff! “Tell us how cute we are to God again”
      - 1a). Tell us how God wants us to be rich again!
      - 2a). No! Tell us who God is! What He has done! Tell us about Him!
      - 3a). Isn’t that what it says “Seek His face!” – Seek Him!

**Point:** Those who don’t read their Bible regularly will be weak and carnal – their life will have no impact

**Transition:** We’ve seen the way to healing in the land that we are responsible for

- A. We are to be humble – we are to seek God in prayer and through His Word
  - 1). Now the author of 2 Chronicles adds one more condition

## Healing Follows a Surrender to God's Will in Repentance

**2 Ch 7:14 (NIV)** if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face *and turn from their wicked ways*, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

### 1. The people called by God's name must get serious about sin

- A. Begin to see it as God sees it – See it as something that dishonors Him – put His son on the cross
- B. Listen to this – again before a time of God moving in restoring Israel

**Ezek 36:29-32 (NCV)** So I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will command the grain to come and grow; I will not allow a time of hunger to hurt you. (30) I will increase the harvest of the field so you will never again suffer shame among the nations because of hunger. (31) **(Now listen to the results as God brings them back to life)** Then you will remember your evil ways and actions that were not good, and you will *hate yourselves because of your sins* and your terrible acts that I hate. (32) I want you to know that I am not going to do this for your sake, says the Lord GOD. *Be ashamed and embarrassed about your ways, Israel.*

- 1). This really rubs us the wrong way in this age that can't take any hint of negativism - criticism
  - a). We need a safe place from what God says – Pastor water it down!
- 2). There is a shame and embarrassment that is healthy – we should be ashamed of our sin
  - a). The church should be ashamed of its carnality – how ungodly it is – look like the world
- 3). There is a shame that helps us heal – helps us stay away from the destruction of sin
  - a). A shame that drives us to God in confession and repentance so we are truly changed

**2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV)** *Godly sorrow brings repentance* that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

**Thought:** I think this is a natural pattern – we humble ourselves – pray – dig into the Word

- A. God starts to heal us – we come alive spiritually – and our eyes are open to our sin isn't it?

- 1). Asaph – Ps. 73 – living at a distance from God – was complaining and murmuring  
Got into God's presence – intimacy – Felt ashamed – "I was like a brute beast before you"

**Thought:** If our sin doesn't bother us – we don't understand sin

- A. My fear – if our sin doesn't bother us we will never stop sinning – God won't hear our prayers

**Is 59:1–2 (NIV)** Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. <sup>(2)</sup> But your iniquities have separated you from your God; *your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*

- 1). These times are too serious to close the door to any chance of answered prayer
- 2). But as long as we cling to sin our prayers will never reach Him! That cost is to great!

**Mic 3:4 (NIV)** Then they will cry out to the LORD, but he will not answer them. *At that time he will hide his face from them because of the evil they have done.*

- B. Our nation needs the church to rise up and be what the church is supposed to be

- 1). And to stop thinking we are going to heal this land through politics
  - a). I'm glad there are Christians working with those who make laws etc.
  - b). But I have no hope that they will make a bit of difference if there is no repentance
    - 1a). Do we really think any law can overcome what sin has done and is doing to this land  
The only solution is repentance and that starts with the church

**Thought:** May God give us a vision of His holiness that will rock us – shake us – change us

- A. So that we will humble ourselves before Him – cry out to Him in repentance and become usable
- B. What you see in Isaiah 6

**TURN: Is 6:1–4 (ESV)** In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>(2)</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>(3)</sup> And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" <sup>(4)</sup>

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

- 1). How does he react – He is humbled – His eyes are opened to his true condition  
He sees the reality of his sin – and prays - crying out in confession (repentance)

**Is 6:5 (ESV)** And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

- 2). Result: He is cleansed from his sin

**Is 6:6–7 (ESV)** Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>(7)</sup> And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

- 3). Now he has become useful - a man who can't be sent to affect others

**Is 6:8 (ESV)** And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

- a). The Lord doesn't ask whom shall I send? Until he humbles himself and repents  
Now he is a clean vessel fit for the master's use

- C. This is what the church needs – men and women who see who God is

- 1). And cry out “Woe is me” and truly confess their sin so they can be cleansed and sent
  - a). But so many are trying to bypass true repentance and be used anyway  
No wonder so much of our service is so ineffective

**Point:** Until there is repentance in the church there will be no revival in the church

- A. Until there is repentance in the individual there will be no revival in the individual
- B. Until the church and its individuals are revived I have little hope for our nation

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## CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION

Just some thoughts running through my head in light of recent events in our country

### 1. For our country to have any hope – the church must be who it is supposed to be

- A. We are to be the light that points to God and His ways  
Paul called the church “The pillar and foundation of the truth”
  - 1). But if we look like the rest of the world – we have no passion for God – no desire to obey Him  
Then who cares! The church is just a joke to the watching world - hypocrites

### 2. The author of 2 Chronicles clearly lays out the way for a land to be healed

- A. It begins with God's people being what they are supposed to be like – this is our part in it
  - 1). They are willing to humble themselves – bow to Him as Lord
  - 2). They are people who give themselves to Him in prayer
  - 3). People who seek His face through His Word – He becomes the main event
  - 4). People who turn away from sin in repentance
- B. The promise – when my people – those called by my name - truly begin to follow me
  - 1). Then I will heal their land – I will pour myself upon that land in power

**Question:** Where do we start? We start with us individually

- A. It seems like a monumental task  
World vision: “How do you stop world hunger? One child at a time”
  - 1). How does a church nationally get ignited – starts individually - one Christian at a time
    - a). I see my responsibility – you see yours – one after another we respond
- B. Then as we move amongst the people – we become fire starters!

### 3. I honestly believe if the church becomes who the church is supposed to be

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- A. This nation would change – how could it stay the same?
- 1). All we can do is do our part – obeying what God has shown us in His Word