

** The following notes are in reference to Dr. Mike Whitson's sermon titled A Prayer of Sanctification on January 24, 2021.*

Reflections on Personal Sins & Forgiveness

When they sin against you, for there is no one who does not sin and you become angry with them and give them over to the enemy, who takes them captive to a land far away or near; and if they have a change of heart in the land where they are held captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captivity and say, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong and acted wickedly;' and if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their captivity where they were taken, and pray...then from heaven, your dwelling place, hear their prayer and their pleas, and uphold their cause. And forgive your people who have sinned against you.

2 Chronicles 6:36-39.

Signs of Spiritual Coldness

Please check the box beside the statements that describe your current spiritual condition.

- ☐ Absence of passion about my faith and my worship.
- ☐ Bible reading is hard, perhaps even neglected. There is no real delight in reading the Bible.
- ☐ Comfortable in the world.
- ☐ Church attendance is out of duty, or for the kids or the spouse, rather than a hunger to seek God and grow in grace.
- ☐ Doubts and frustrations cloud my thinking about God and my faith.
- ☐ Entertain thoughts that I know are sinful, and I am not fighting them. Sometimes, I am inviting them.
- ☐ Enjoyment in life is unrelated to my faith and my relationship with God. It is rooted in fishing, hunting, swimming, golfing, tennis, hobbies, wealth and so forth.
- ☐ Faith has become more of a burden than a liberating adventure with God.
- ☐ Fearful of becoming a religious fanatic. I value church attendance but have no intention of becoming a radical Christian.
- ☐ Feel like something is wrong spiritually or that something is missing from my life.
- ☐ Gifts of the Holy Spirit that once operated in my life are no longer active.
- ☐ Give offerings but not with joy.
- ☐ Guarded in my relationship with other Christians. I try to maintain the Christian image when I am with them, but that is sometimes difficult.
- ☐ Have a problem trusting Christian leaders, pastors and ministers. I am

increasingly suspicious of them.

- ☐ Have increasing doubts about the credibility of the Bible.
- ☐ Have hurts that have not healed, wounds from bad experiences with other Christians that seem to take the life out of me. The Holy Spirit is no longer real to me. I can't sense His presence. I feel far away from God.
- ☐ Indifferent to the lost, even to family members whom I know are not Christians. I do not regularly pray for their salvation or watch for opportunities to witness to them or influence them toward Christ and godliness.
- ☐ Just going through the Sunday-to-Sunday motions.
- ☐ Kindness to others, sensitivity in relationships and general Christian graces are increasingly easy to ignore.
- ☐ Missing church or prayer times more frequently and more easily.
- ☐ Not hungry for God, His Word or for a fresh encounter with the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ Not looking for the Lord to return today. I am not praying, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus."
- ☐ Operating my life in less than a Christ-centered way.
- ☐ Prayerlessness. It is uncomfortable to talk with God for more than a few moments.
- ☐ Prayers are not being answered, at least that is how I feel. As a result, I am disappointed with God.
- ☐ Powerless over sin and the will of the flesh. I find yielding to temptation easier and easier.
- ☐ Quite a while since I had a good cry over my faith, my love for the Lord or some new insight I have gained.
- ☐ Rationalization reigns over repentance.
- ☐ Recent tragedy has made me doubt God's goodness or even His existence.
- ☐ Relationships are conflict and anger infested. I can't seem to resolve conflicts and settle differences. I am increasingly defensive and self-protecting.
- ☐ I remember a time when my relationship with God was better, fresher, newer and more exciting.
Something is missing. Even though I know that, I am not making any effort to get back to where I once was with God.
- ☐ Sacrificial giving is not where my heart is. My giving is sporadic or out of duty.
- ☐ Turn to God as a last resort rather than a first resort in times of crisis.
- ☐ Turned off by invitations to attend religious seminars, read Christian books, listen to tapes or watch Christian television.
- ☐ Unmoved by most church services, reading the Bible or talking with other Christians.

- Uncomfortable around Christians that are on fire for the Lord.
- Unclear about what God's will is for me or my life.
- Worship is ritualistic, empty and joyless.