

1. **Intro** - Torrey’s Prescription For Revival

“I can give a prescription that will bring a revival to any church or community or any city on earth.

“First, let a few Christians (they need not be many) get thoroughly right with God themselves. This is the prime essential. If this is not done, the rest that I am to say will come to nothing.

“Second, let them bind themselves together in a prayer group to pray for a revival until God opens the heavens and comes down.

“Third, let them put themselves at the disposal of God for Him to use as He sees fit in winning others to Christ. That is all!

“This is sure to bring a revival to any church or community. I have given this prescription around the world. It has been taken by many churches and many communities, and in no instance has it ever failed; and it cannot fail!” - Tan, P. L. (1996, c1979). Encyclopedia of 7700 illustrations : A treasury of illustrations, anecdotes, facts and quotations for pastors, teachers and Christian workers. Garland TX: Bible Communications.

2. **Key Text** - “For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

3. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND

OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 2:10–16 NAS95)

4. **Three Basic Attitudes Towards God** -

1. **No relationship** – the Bible calls this **the natural man**.
Full, real relationship – the Bible calls this **the spiritual person**
Divided or feigned relationship – the Bible describes this as **a person of the flesh or carnal**.

5. **Concept** - These attitudes cross lines of culture, age, sex, and religion.

1. **Text** - ““This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.“For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.“But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”” (John 3:19–21 NAS95)
2. **Attitude 1:** The Natural Person - Cold according to Laodicea
3. **Illustration** - “Excepting Ingersoll
 1. Some years ago, Bishop Phillips Brooks became quite ill and would see no visitors. When Robert Ingersoll, the agnostic, heard that his friend was sick, he called at his home to see him and was admitted at once. “I appreciate this very much,” said Mr. Ingersoll, “but why do you see me when you deny yourself to all your friends?” “It’s this way,” answered the bishop. “I feel confident of seeing my other friends in the next world, but this may be my last chance to see you.” — Emery G. Young
 2. **Quote** - “The heart must be open to the Spirit’s influence, or God’s blessing cannot be received.” - Steps to Christ pg. 69
 3. **Concept** - “Some people think this group only consists of people, who live in blatant sin. But that is only one of the many shades within this group. I

want to stress again that there are a lot of differences within each of these groups.”

4. **Key Question** - What can reconcile that relationship with no intentions on behalf of the person?
 1. “And do you think, whoever you are, when you judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself, that you will escape God’s judgment? Or do you have contempt for the wealth of his kindness, forbearance, and patience, and yet do not know that God’s kindness leads you to repentance?” (Romans 2:3–4 NET)
 2. Quote - “A spirit contrary to the spirit of Christ would deny Him, whatever the profession. Men may deny Christ by evilspeaking, by foolish talking, by words that are untruthful or unkind. They may deny Him by shunning life’s burdens, by the pursuit of sinful pleasure. They may deny Him by conforming to the world, by uncourteous behavior, by the love of their own opinions, by justifying self, by cherishing doubt, borrowing trouble, and dwelling in darkness. In all these ways they declare that Christ is not in them.” - Desire of Ages pg. 349
 - 3.
 4. **Illustration** - Start With Individual Problems
In the year 1939, just before the Second World War broke upon the world, a woman visited Dr. C. G. Jung of Switzerland and began to tell him of her personal difficulties and problems; then she paused and said, “Dr. Jung, I can’t understand how a man like you has time to listen to our petty problems. An individual seems so insignificant with the whole world sliding toward an abyss.” Dr. Jung paused a moment thoughtfully and then said, “But you see, the world’s problems begin with the individual.” —N.A.S.S.P. Bulletin - Tan, P. L. (1996, c1979). Encyclopedia of 7700 illustrations : A treasury of illustrations,

anecdotes, facts and quotations for pastors, teachers and Christian workers. Garland TX: Bible Communications.

5. **Attitude 2: The Spiritual Person** -
 1. **Key Text** - “These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete. This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.” (1 John 1:4–10 NAS95)
 2. **Illustration** - Khaled Abu Ras was a very brave twenty-six-year-old Arabic teacher from Nazareth who looked ten years older. In 2001 he and ten other Muslims founded the Prophetic Tradition Helpers Association, a moderate Muslim attempt to oppose Muslim militancy and extremism. As one rabbi, who was familiar with the group, told the Jerusalem Post, this effort by Muslim moderates to speak publicly against Muslim extremists was “very impressive, very brave, and very dangerous.” When I asked Khaled if he was afraid, he replied with a smile, “Every one of us will die at the time God decides and not one day before.” I was glad to see that he was still alive in the spring of 2007. - McDermott, Gerald R. World Religions (Nelson's Quick Guides) (pp. 128-129). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

6. **Text** - ““Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3 NAS95)
 1. **Quote** - “Here *ptōchos* refers to those who are in dire spiritual poverty and sense keenly their need of the things the kingdom of heaven has to offer (cf. Acts 3:6; see on Isa. 55:1). Those who do not feel their spiritual need, who think themselves “rich, and increased with goods” and in “need of nothing,” are, in the sight of Heaven, “wretched, and miserable, and poor” (Rev. 3:17). None but the “poor in spirit” will ever enter the kingdom of divine grace; all others feel no need of heaven’s riches, and decline its blessings.” - SDABC
 2. **Text** - ““Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.” (Isaiah 55:1 NAS95)
 3. **Concept** - This is a key appeal to respond to in the laodicean condition that the majority of the church is in today!
 4. **Illustration** - Whitefield’s Conversion
 5. George Whitefield at the age of 16 became deeply convicted of sin. He tried everything possible to erase his guilt through religious activity. He wrote, “I fasted for 36 hours twice a week. I prayed formal prayers several times a day and almost starved myself to death during Lent, but only felt more miserable. Then by God’s grace I met Charles Wesley who put a book in my hand which showed me from the Scriptures that I must be “born again” or be eternally lost.”
 6. Finally, by the work of the Holy Spirit in his heart, Whitefield came to understand Jesus’ words in John 3. He believed and was gloriously saved. After he became a preacher, he spoke at least a thousand times on the subject, “Ye must be born again.” He fervently desired that all who heard him might experience the transforming power of God’s grace. —Our Daily Bread
7. **Attitude 3: The Carnal Person**
 1. **Concept** - “Since a carnal person’s life is filled with “religion”, he often doesn’t realize that he is missing something vital: an intimate and saving relationship with God.” - Haubeil
 2. **Text** - “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.” (Romans 8:6–7 NKJV)
 3. **Questions** - “Does a carnal attitude have something to do with the fact that we only have weak church growth in many places? Do many of the serious problems in many areas come from carnal attitudes?” - Haubeil
8. **Concept** - “This shows us that the main problem in carnal Christianity is that it is a life solely in human strength. We can’t do God’s will alone in our own strength.” - Haubeil
9. **Text** - ““Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake that I am about to act, O house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy reputation which you profaned among the nations where you went. I will magnify my great name that has been profaned among the nations, that you have profaned among them. The nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the sovereign LORD, when I magnify myself among you in their sight.
10. ““I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries; then I will bring you to your land. I will sprinkle you with pure water and you will be clean from all your impurities. I will purify you from all your idols. I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart

of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you; I will take the initiative and you will obey my statutes and carefully observe my regulations. Then you will live in the land I gave to your fathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God.” (Ezekiel 36:22–28 NET)

11. **Answers:** -

1. **Quote** - “Paul differentiates between spiritual and carnal Christians, between those who are filled with the Holy Spirit and those who have no room for the Holy Spirit in their lives: baptized with the Holy Ghost, but not filled with the Holy Ghost.” - Johannes Mager quoted in Haubeil pg. 35

12. **Appeal Close** In Jesus’ letter to Laodicea, He encourages them to be open to His entrance into their hearts as He does the asking, the seeking, & the knocking:

1. ““Here’s what I want you to do: Buy your gold from me, gold that’s been through the refiner’s fire. Then you’ll be rich. Buy your clothes from me, clothes designed in Heaven. You’ve gone around half-naked long enough. And buy medicine for your eyes from me so you can see, really see.
2. “The people I love, I call to account—prod and correct and guide so that they’ll live at their best. Up on your feet, then! About face! Run after God!
3. “Look at me. I stand at the door. I knock. If you hear me call and open the door, I’ll come right in and sit down to supper with you. Conquerors will sit alongside me at the head table, just as I, having conquered, took the place of honor at the side of my Father. That’s my gift to the conquerors!

4. “Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches.”” (Revelation 3:18–22 MESSAGE)

13. **Story** - “Christ Knocking At Door”

1. In Holman Hunt’s great picture, called “The Light of the World”, we see one with patient, gentle face standing at a door which is ivy-covered, as if long closed. He is girthed with the priestly breastplate. He bears in his hand the lamp of truth. He stands and knocks. There is no answer, and he still stands and knocks. His eye tells of love, his face beams with yearning. You look closely, and you perceive that there is no knob or latch on the outside of the door. It can be opened only from within. Do you see the meaning?
2. The Spirit of God comes to your heart’s door and knocks. He stands there, while storms gather and break upon his unsheltered head, while the sun declines and night comes on with its chills and its heavy dews. He waits and knocks, but you must open the door yourself. The only latch is inside. —J. R. Miller