



Elections do not make us spiritually healthier or less so, but they reveal the spiritual health, or lack thereof, and the condition of our nation. That isn't cause for distress because the first step toward a solution is a good diagnosis. We now understand a bit better the objectives before us. Now, a *reform* is a "correction of abuses" and a part of staying healthy. But a revolution is something different—it is a transfer of power. We are presently witnessing an attempted revolution, and there are several components that make this evident: lawlessness, attacks on authority, limiting free speech, increased dependence upon government. The short-term goal is to create confusion, division, discouragement, and victim status by consolidating power through our pain. But Christianity takes a different perspective. We are invited toward a power through God's grace. As Christ-followers, we are not victims. We're overcomers, and we overcome evil with good.

I. SEEK THE LORD

1. ***God can and will use us in miraculous ways when we follow and pursue Him. In what ways can you be more deliberate in seeking the Lord in your day-to-day life?***
2. ***One way to seek the Lord is through fasting, which can be done in various forms—from food to social media, etc. How can you more intentionally incorporate fasting into your routine?***
3. ***When was a time you stepped outside of your comfort zone to do or say something for the Lord? How was your life changed?***

Psalm 34:10 *The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.*

1 Chronicles 16:8-12 ⁸ *Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.* ⁹ *Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.* ¹⁰ *Glory in his holy name; **let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.*** ¹¹ *Look to the LORD and his strength; **seek his face always.*** ¹² *Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.*

A. In Practice

Ezra 6:19-21 ¹⁹ *On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles celebrated the Passover.* ²⁰ *The priests and Levites had purified themselves and were all ceremonially clean. The Levites slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the exiles, for their brothers the priests and for themselves.* ²¹ *So the Israelites who had returned from the exile ate it, together with all who had separated themselves from the unclean practices of their Gentile neighbors **in order to seek the LORD, the God of Israel.***

Esther 4:15-16 ¹⁵ *Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:* ¹⁶ *"Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."*

B. NT Instruction

Hebrews 4:14, 16 ¹⁴ *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. . . .* ¹⁶ ***Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.***

Revelation 1:9-10 ⁹ *I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.* ¹⁰ ***On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit,*** and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet.

Acts 13:2-3 ² ***While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting,*** the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ *So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.*

C. Envisioned with Renewal

Hosea 3:4-5 ⁴ For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. ⁵ Afterward **the Israelites will return and seek the LORD** their God and David their king. **They will come trembling to the LORD** and to his blessings in the last days.

Zephaniah 2:1-3 ¹ Gather together, gather together, O shameful nation, ² before the appointed time arrives and that day sweeps on like chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD comes upon you, before the day of the LORD's wrath comes upon you. ³ **Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands.** Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

II. JESUS' LIFE

- 4. What misconceptions do you have about what it means to fully serve the Lord? How does Jesus show us what that should look like in scripture?**
- 5. In what ways have you set aside time to purposefully seek and pursue the Lord through scripture and prayer? How does Jesus model this for us throughout his life?**

Matthew 3:13-15 ¹³ Then **Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.** ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness."

Luke 4:1-2, ¹⁴ ¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. . . . ¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

Luke 6:12-13 ¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray and **spent the night praying to God.** ¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

Luke 5:15-16 ¹⁵ Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ **But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.**

Luke 9:28-31 ²⁸ About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and **went up onto a mountain to pray.** ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Two men, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

Luke 9:51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

Mark 8:31-33 ³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. **"You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."**

Matthew 26:36-38 ³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. **Stay here and keep watch with me.**

Prayer

O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of love with all who love Him and obey His commands, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from Your commands and laws. We have not listened to Your direction. Now, O Lord our God, hear the prayers and petitions of Your servants. For Your sake, O Lord, look with favor on Your people. Give ear and hear; open Your eyes and see the desolation of our day. We do not make requests because we are righteous, but because of Your great mercy. O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For Your sake, do not delay, because Your people bear Your name. Amen.