

# Guide to SPIRITUAL RENEWAL: The Playlist (Trevor's Mix)

This list is divided into 4 sections (plus the intro track & anthem).

Listen to them in section order- from Worm to Kaleidescope (which is a family of butterflies).

Listen to them in 4s- (1 worm, then a Chrysalis, then a Wings, then Kaleidoscope)

Or just push shuffle.

Whatever you do, don't stand in judgment over whether you "like" them or not. We all have different tastes. Hopefully- the themes will bring other songs to mind and you can add to or delete-in order to make a playlist that helps you cycle through these categories of renewal.

Let the messages of the songs move you. In this guide- I've pointed you to a key lyric for each song, and with some- a description of the song and why its included.

Just don't spend your time judging the list.

If you don't like a particular style- go to Genius Lyrics website and search for the song lyrics to read them and better understand. Music is a major part of a song-but a reflection on the lyrics is also helpful.

Note to parents - I've done my best to offer songs without explicitly offensive lyrics. Though a couple may slip here and there- "False Alarms" comes to mind. Where they are very noticeable-I've offered a "clean" version. So these songs are safe for listening with your kids in some sense. But they are not safe at all in other senses. There are mentions of drugs, sex, abandonment- some of them pretty raw. I want the music to be as honest about sin and false saviors as our Bible is.

#### Introduction

# The Revival- Common Hymnal

Key Lyric: You shouted and cried, and ran around pleadin' with Heaven to give us something amazin'/ And now amazing is startin' to look more and more within our grasp/ But wait, it doesn't like what you expected (Nah)/ It's not popular like we anticipated (Uh-huh), but maybe that's the point / Maybe we didn't need another big moment, maybe we'll get something better/ Maybe we'll get revival instead, the revival we're lookin' for

# City Church Spiritual Renewal Anthem 2023-

# Walk- Lecrae, Hulvey

Key Lyric- I feel the Spirit moving through the City, Walking with Christ, moving where its gritty

Three things about this song make it the Spiritual Renewal Song of the Year for us.

- 1- "Spirit moving through the City"- I'm not even going to explain why this is relevant.
- 2- "Walking with Christ"- One of our Pathway statements is "Jesus Walks"- He's slow, deliberate, on a mission, but not in a hurry. That's us.
- 3- "Moving where its gritty"- A person I deeply respect called us a "gritty church". Meaning- not afraid of getting our hands dirty. Engaging people in the hard places of life. Jesus is walking there, the Spirit is moving there. As the young folk say "LETS GO!"...and as the lifeguards and hall monitors say- "WALK!"...and as Jesus says "WITH ME".

# **WORM-** Weakness, desperation, longing

# Midnight City- M83

Key Lyric- Waiting for a word, looking at the milky skyline, The City is my church

This song is about waiting in the darkness for the light- and the lights of the City- give hope and comfort. If the metaphor isn't obvious to you at this point, please see the name of our church - and Matthew 5:14

## False Alarms- Lawerence/Jon Bellion

Key Lyric- Keep one foot in the future and the other in the living room

This song is all about a band waiting to "hit it big" while they want to remain true to who they are and their art.

I resonate with it because it touches on the way I've felt about Spiritual Renewal for our church. I want to stay true to who God has called us to be- yet I want more people to connect with and follow Jesus. Every time it seems like the Spirit is doing something extraordinary- it settles down into status quo. Jon Bellion comes in at the end with advice. I love his big brotherly mentorship here. Much like the church is called to operate (sorry for a couple of profanities at this part of the song). That Key Lyric is his advice to not forget where they came from. Remember your

roots...while you also take a risk to step into the future. In other words- keep going- it will happen- but don't compromise on who God has made our church to be.

# Irreplaceable- Beyonce

Key Lyric- Don't you ever for a second get to thinking you're irreplaceable

Read Ezekiel 16. Then listen to this. This is what God should say to me. And yet- there is grace. When you have not yet come to the end of yourself- sometimes the Lord will confront you with the realization that nothing you have is yours- and all the gifts he has given to you have only been used to cheat on him with other Gods. This is the confrontation before the repentance.

# Love Again- The Kid LAROI

Key Lyric- Tell me, how many more tears will drop/Till you hit me with "Can we talk?"/And try love again

Ok, ok- I know all the aversion to "Jesus is my boyfriend" songs. But the Scripture draws a close relationship between friendship/family love/and marital love to understanding his love. Which means- every song like this- where someone does something stupid- that brings separation in a relationship- then they wonder- "Will that person love me again? Can we try again?" is a reflection of what we think of God. Many people are afraid to approach God for a relationship because they think the answer to this question is "no". That's it. I won't have you anymore. But Jesus taught us to forgive like the Father forgives us. 7 times 70. He taught us to love our enemies. As long as it's up to us, live in peace. He taught about a Father that opened his arms to a wasteful son- to embrace him- to love again. Hear that longing in this song. And the truth is-God is always "hitting" us with "Can we talk?"

## Human (acoustic)- Jon Bellion

Key Lyric- See I got GPS on my phone/And I can follow it to get home/If my location's never unknown/Then tell me why I still feel lost

One of the best songs that I've ever heard about coming to the end of oneself and all of one's self-salvation projects. No sex, no beauty, no money, no technology, no drug, no party- can possibly complete me.

# **Lonely- Justin Bieber**

Key Lyric- I've had everything/But no one's listening/ That's just Lonely

When you hit the desperation of having had the money, the sex, the success- and still find yourself empty— you are ripe for renewal.

# **Higher Love- James Vincent McMorrow**

Key Lyric- Bring me a higher love/Where's that higher love I keep thinking of?

This song represents the longing that every human being has for higher love. There is a dissatisfaction here of all the broken versions of love that he's experienced, that leaves him asking for something better. Cue God's Hesed Covenant love.

# Wing\$- Macklemore, Ryan Lewis

Key Lyric- This dream that they sold to you/For a hundred dollars and some change/Consumption in the veins/And now I see it's just another pair of shoes

A parable about the let down of consumption. Another false savior- "if I buy what they tell me to buy, wear what they say I should wear, then I'll finally be successful, respected- loved. The children's choir really brings home the lie we've given to our children- the preying on the innocent for the sake of some money. The end of this song is exactly the spot where Renewal can come in.

# **Heartbreak Dreamer- Mat Kearney**

Key Lyric- This one's for Mike still waiting for his wife/This one's for grandma losing the love of her life/This one's for those first prayers to heaven on a road that seems never ending

#### Stupid Deep- Jon Bellion

Key Lyric- What if all the things I've done/ Were just attempts at earning love/ Because the hole inside my heart/ Is stupid deep

A song of desperate searching. "Have I wasted my time trying to earn love- when someone is offering it as a gift?"

## Mansion- NF, Fleurie

Key Lyric- Fear came to my house years ago, I let him in / Maybe that's the problem, 'cause I've been dealing with this ever since I thought that he would leave, but it's obvious, he never did / He must have picked a room and got comfortable and settled in / Now I'm in a position, it's either sit here and let 'em win / Or put him back outside where he came from, but I never can / 'Cause in order to do that, I'd have to open the doors / Is that me or the fear talking? I don't know anymore

# How Could you Leave Us?- NF

Key Lyric- I got this picture in my room and it kills me/But I don't need a picture of my mom, I need the real thing

A raw, difficult expression about an addict parent from the perspective of the son. Difficult emotionally to listen to, but we are incarnate people- we are called to compassion. This song helps you feel the desperation of so many of the children of this community.

# **Change-Lecrae**

Key Lyric- You can't find hope in cars / Hope in money, or people / Only hope in God he can change you / Jesus felt the pain, he was hated, hurt / Slandered and slain his death brought change

This is a confrontational song for the person who continues in their efforts to change- by only continually serving themselves. This is a wake up song.

# Pompeii- Bastille

Key Lyric- Oh where do we begin? The rubble or our sins?

The metaphor here is the ancient Greek volcanic disaster in Pompeii. The volcano erupted suddenly- and froze (burned?) everyone in the poses of ordinary life. We tend to ignore the lack of meaning in our ordinary lives- we ignore the pain that our sin and self-pursuits have caused us. It's easier to "close our eyes" and act like we're fine- even as the Volcano is about to erupt. The question in the Key Lyric is an ancient one- as old as Pompeii itself. It is at the fulcrum of healing. Should I focus on the rubble (rebuilding my life) or the root of the explosion (my sins). If you rebuild without understanding what blew your life up- it will just keep happening again. Open your eyes. Look at your sin. Don't blame. Own it. This is the start of change.

# **CHRYSALIS-** Confession/Change

## Open Letter (Battlefield)- KB, Trip Lee, Swoope, Jai

Key Lyric- There's a war inside my heart and mind every day I fight it / So make me align to the truth and rely on your Spirit inside me

While the chorus contains the Key Lyric- I absolutely love Trip Lee's prayer as the last verse. I tear up almost every time. It's an outward focused prayer, particularly about people wrestling with sexuality. Fits right in with SG/SR.

## Sticks & Stones- Kings Kaleidoscope

Key Lyric- A truth-less gun, A dying Son to turn the tables we flipped. Paint the beauty we split ... Longing to give and taste forgiveness/Dying to live a pure religion/Settle the rush to chase a mission/Open my eyes and soul to listen

I know what you're thinking. "Rise and Fall of Mars Hill". And you should. This is a band that came from Mars Hill Church, and this is the song about coming out of that spiritually abusive environment. Lots to love about this song. First- is the belief that Jesus is going to take the evil they made church into, and paint it with his blood. Making the church beautiful. And I love the 2nd Key Lyric here- the non-cynical hope. The willingness to give himself to Jesus' church-recognizing the counterfeit he participated in at Mars Hill.

#### Hand of God- Jon Bellion

Key Lyric- Tears at a funeral/I might break/Angry at all the things/I can't change/When you're lost in the universe/don't lose faith/My mother said, "Your whole life's in the hand of God"

This is the final track to Jon's album "The Human Condition". In some ways- this is the answer to the human condition- when you realize that death seems to have the last word- when all your attempts at change have fallen flat- when you feel small and lost in the universe- only faith in the God who is in control of everything- in whole we move, live and have our being. Acts 17:28

# Unstable- Justin Bieber & The Kid LAROI)

Key Lyric- You loved me when I was unstable

We change when we receive the Covenant (Hesed/Agape) love of God. This comes to us before we ever can do anything to earn it. This song is about experiencing love that comes to us in our instability.

# As I Am- Justin Bieber & Khalid

Key Lyric- Sometimes, I don't know why you love me/ Sometimes, I don't know why you care/ Take me, with the good and the ugly/ Say, "I'm not going anywhere"

We change when we receive the Covenant (Hesed/Agape) love of God. This comes to us before we ever can do anything to earn it. This song is about experiencing love that meets our longing for someone who "won't go anywhere" even in the face of our sin.

#### 8:28- Lecrae

Key Lyric- Let it all work out, that pain gon' make you stronger/That hurt gon' make you a leader, don't let that make you a monster/ In the middle of the darkest heart is heartless tarnished carnage/The Master Artist makes your mess a masterpiece regardless

An imaginative expansion & application of Romans 8:28- All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose. A turning point song about suffering working out for change.

Where Do I Fit In- Justin Bieber, Tori Kelly, Chandler Moore, Judah Smith

Key Lyric- I know You're not a God out there hiding on mountains, oh, no/You come right where I am, lost my way, but You found me

Judah Smith's quoting God's promises at the end that lead us to rest- will minister to you in the middle of scary repentance.

#### **Garden- Needtobreathe**

Key Lyric- So give me strength to die myself/ So love can live to tell the tale

This song is written from the perspective of Jesus in the Garden. This is Jesus' moment with the Father, just before he is arrested. It's a deep and beautiful moment of Jesus' deepest desires - and the desire that he shares with us.

# **Aftermath- Hillsong UNITED**

Key Lyric- And in that moment of glorious surrender/Was the moment You broke the chains in me/Lifted out of the ashes/I am found in the aftermath

# Lay 'Em Down- NEEDTOBREATHE

Key Lyric- All you rich men/And the high above/All of those with/And without love/All you burdened/And broken down / Bring all of your troubles/Come lay 'em down

What an invitation to all those who wrote the songs of longing...looking for hope.

## **Something Beautiful- NEEDTOBREATHE**

Key Lyric- This is my desire/Consume me like a fire/Cause I just want something beautiful to touch me

A song about being so desperate for something beautiful, that you become completely yielded to whatever God wants to do. A song of longing for the presence of God.

#### Hold Me Jesus- Rich Mullins

Key Lyric- Surrender don't come natural to me/l'd rather fight you for things I don't really want/ Than to take what you give that I need

If you can get past the early 90s CCM vibe- this is a spectacularly beautiful song. I probably sing this song in my head more than any other song. What a song of surrender!

#### Stupid Deep/Sinking Deep- Mass Anthem

Key Lyric- I'm wide awake/Drawing close, stirred by grace/ All my heart is Yours/ All fear removed/ I breathe you in, I lean into Your love

This is a mashup of a worship song that beautifully answers the searching questions of Jon Bellion's original Stupid Deep. The love he's looking for is found in God.

# I'll Keep On- NF, Jeremiah Carlson

Key Lyric- I give you everything, God, not just a little bit/Take it from me, I am nothing but a hypocrite/'I hate sin, but I built a house and I still live in it/ Afraid to open up the door to you and let you into it

#### Oh Lord- NF

Key Lyric- everyone will sleep in the pews / Then blame God for our problems like He sleeping on you / We turn our backs on Him, what do you expect Him to do?It's hard to answer prayers when nobody's praying to you

A song of corporate repentance. That both cries out looking for the Lord to act, while seeing our own sin and lack of faith as a reason we don't see him acting.

# Change- NF

Key Lyric - And everyone around me kinda thinks I'm a great guy / But I don't ever think it so I think I'm a fake liar / Change, it's somethin' that I know I should do / I'm a little uncomfortable to tell you the truth / But to be honest with you lately, I got nothin' to lose / See, I've always been full of pain, but now I'm makin' some room

## Caedmon's Call- Shifting Sand

Key Lyric - Waters rose as my doubts resigned / My sand-castle faith, it slipped away / Found my self standing on Your grace / It'd been there all the time

Follow this song from the doubting opening lines- to the realization in the key lyric. It starts with the feeling that she is not a "real Christian" because of her wavering faith and actions. And yet, when all her efforts were swept away, she found that salvation is a gift of God- grace... its rock solid and it had been there all along.

#### In the Light- DC Talk

Key Lyric- Tell me what's going on inside of me / I despise my own behavior / This only serves to confirm my suspicions / That I'm still a man in need of a Savior

Ok- I know- mid 90s CCM. But hold on- DC Talk's Jesus Freak album was very influential on my life. And I'd argue- quite groundbreaking- especially for Christian music. This is an album that instead of singing either about a "safe, positive, and encouraging" Christian faith...or pointing outside of myself for blame- actually spends the majority of the album in confession,

repentance, and getting into the down and dirty. This song was one of the catchier- and has some really beautiful lyrics of repentance.

#### What If I Stumble?- DC Talk

Key Lyric - Father, please forgive me/ For I cannot compose/ The fear that lives within me/ Or the rate at which it grows /If struggle has a purpose/ On the narrow road You carved/ Why do I dread my trespasses will leave a deadly scar?

Another bobby dazzler from the Jesus Freak album. This song naturally expresses some of our fears in repentance and faith in Jesus. "What if I mess this up? What if my sins while claiming to be a Christian cause other people to walk away from Jesus?"

## Hope- NF

Key Lyric- Don't lose faith in me/ I know you've been waiting/ I know you've been praying for my soul.

A complicated song that really only makes full sense if you track NF's story through his previous albums. I've given you many of his songs here that hopefully shed some light. This is a concept song- between his hopeful 30 year old self- and his past self that has focused on the hurt/pain/abandonment. While there are a few "self-help" Oprah-bombs in here, the overall message and metaphor of the song is powerful. Especially given the breakthrough that turning 30 can often have on giving you new eyes. As well as becoming a parent. For the visuals, look up the video on the information superhighway.

## Jon Bellion's One Way to San Diego- QuESt

Key Lyric- Stay, oh stay, your course young man/ there's light at the end of the tunnel that you're digging/ Angels carry you to lands/ Past what you see, what you know, and what you're living

A simple song about perseverance. There are repetitive Psalms...this song is repetitive. But its repetition is also a part of its message. To persevere into the things unseen (2 Cor 4:18), it takes over and over and over having the truth repeated over you. Encouragement is necessary. An ongoing re-orienting to the light- the unseen- over the darkness that you do "see".

**WINGS** - Strengthened/Ready to fight the Battle

Watch, Pray, Live Holy- Gospel Gangstaz

Key lyric - The title

#### Manolo- Trip Lee, Lecrae

Key Lyric- Them lies are sicker than poison while the truth that is sweeter than honey

(Explanation from Trip Lee- "Manolo means God is With Us. One of the main ways God shows he's with us is through his Word. he gives us truth—about who he is, and how we should live in the world. "Got a cabin in manolo is an abstract way of saying God is with me and I'm with him."-Think John 15 "abide" or "make your home" in the vine. Also- the gun references in this song are a reference to Scripture's reference to the Word of God as a sword, or weapon.)

# Gangsta'd Up- Gospel Gangstaz

Key Lyric: "Stay Gangsta'd up, thats from Head to Shoe, Red or Blue, we ain't scared we don't care what you think about us."

Ok skip it if you want to- this one is def a guilty pleasure for me. But in a holy way. Think Ephesians 6 armor of God here & Spiritual preparedness. While the "Red & Blue" here refers to gang colors- in other words "we're not loyal to a gang, but to Jesus"- I like to think about the Red & Blue as political colors- with the same application. "I'm not loyal to a political party, but to Jesus." The OGG's were bringing peace into a very volatile situation in LA in the 90s-early 2000s. They had friends affiliated with Gangs on either side. Yet that ministered to both sides with the gospel- unafraid to stand on Truth.

# All Glory Be to Christ- Kings Kaleidescope

Key Lyric: The Lamb who was for sinners slain is making all things new/ Behold Our God shall live with us and be his steadfast light, and we shall ere his people be/All Glory Be To Christ!

Not just a Christmas song, folks. Use it to empower you to be his witnesses to the world.

# King Jesus- KB, nobigdyl.

Key Lyric- People don't care you keep Christ in your Christmas/If they cannot see that there's Christ in the Christian ... Placin' my treasure in Heaven where it'll get better/ And don't gotta weather the rot,

Shout out to our City Church brother, Dylan Phillips for this Dove Award winner. And- wow- it has about 15 key lyrics I could put. 2 big themes are shown in the 2 lyrics here. 1- Don't fight a culture war in place of drawing near to Jesus in such a way that the Fruit of the Spirit is evident in your life- thats the real war. 2- Don't let lust/greed for riches and possessions overshadow the treasure of knowing Christ and the inheritance that he offers. Galatians 5:22-23; Matt 6:19-21

## Holy- Bieber, Chance the Rapper

Key Lyric- I know I ain't leavin' you like I know He ain't leaving us, I know we believe in God, and I know God believes in us.

One of the best pop songs ever about Marriage & Sex. Since we are looking so closely at the intersection of Sex & Gender with Spiritual Renewal- I thought it more than appropriate. Chance's last lyric ties marriage to God's relationship with us- just like Ephesians 5 does.

# One Sixteen- Trip Lee, KB, Andy Mineo

Key Lyric- We ain't scared o' ya/What they gonna do?/What, murder us?/What murder does is send a surge of us to go put churches up

This song is referencing Romans 1:16- I'm not ashamed of the gospel, for its the power of God for salvation. It's a wonderful reinforcement of the truth that my fear of sharing the gospel is silly-that I am crucified with Christ-that death cannot stop the church. In fact- the church flourishes most when she is opposed.

Jireh- Elevation worship, Maverick City Music, Chandler Moore, Naomi Raine Key Lyric- *I will be content/In every circumstance/Jireh, You are enough* 

Got 10 minutes? Ok, so its long. But so much beauty represented here. God not only provideshe OVER provides. More than enough. Which means there is no situation where I can't be content. Because merely the presence of the God who loves and rescued us is enough to sustain us.

# Where You Go I'll Follow- Justin Bieber- Pink Sweat\$, Chandler Moore, Judah Smith

Key Lyric- On the third day, yeah, You rose up And You beat death once and for all

## All My Hope- Crowder, Tauren Wells

Key Lyric- And there's a kind of thing that just breaks a man/Break him down to his knees (oh, yeah, Lord)God, I've been broken more than a time or two, yes, Lord/Then He picked me up (picked me up) And showed me what it means to be a man/Come on and sing

I love this song. So simple. Yet such a profound truth. I hear humility and confidence. I hear weakness- yet great hope and strength. Exactly where you are when you have made your home in Christ.

#### Creed- Rich Mullins

Key Lyric- I believe what I believe/ Its what makes me what I am /I did not make it, no it is making me It is the very truth of God and not the invention of any man

This is the Apostles Creed set to music. A song that confesses we do not belong to ourselves, but to God. He makes us, we do not make ourselves. An historic church creed- that defines usthat we yield our self-definitions to...wow..counter cultural and deeply wonderful!

# Hope to Carry On- Caedmon's Call

Key Lyric- I can see Peter put away his sword/ He won't fight no more/ Love has come and its giving me hope to carry on

Pay attention to the progression- I can see Jesus on the cross —> I can hear him saying "Father forgive"—> Put away your sword. This is the way of growth and maturity in the Christ-follower. I see what Jesus did- I hear his words of forgivness- I now forgive instead of fight for and defend myself. (Matt 6:14-15, 18:21-35)

#### Jesus Freak- DC Talk

Key Lyric- Separated, I cut myself clean/ From a past that comes back in my darkest of dreams/ Been apprehended by a spritual force/ And a grace that replaced all the me I've divorced...Kamikaze, my death is my gain/ I've been marked by my Maker a peculiar display/ The high & lofty, they see me as weak/ Cause I won't live and die for the power they seek

Read those lyrics again. This song is kicking you back to Scripture- to understand that following Jesus is not a way to fit into a culture, but a way to stand out. Which means our aim isn't to create a culture to fit in to- but to live distinct holy lives- that are unafraid to submit to the Trutheven if it means being labeled negatively by our peers.

## One Way- nobigdyl.

Key Lyric- It just goes to show achievement / Isn't what we made for / Sellin' us the lie that we'd be Happy if we made more / Hold up, I worry less when I pray more / This is holy war / Better watch out for the Claymore

A song about keeping focus on Jesus while also recognizing the war we're in with spiritual forces. And the reality that blessing comes after setback. Renewal happens after crisis.

## **KALEIDOSCOPE-** Church Family

#### Family Ties- Bastille

Key Lyric- "Family ties and all of our strangeness, But there's love in your eye, It breaks me to pieces"

1 Peter 2:9 talks about the church as a "peculiar" or "Strange people". Also as a family bound together in the Hesed/Agape love of God.

## Luxury- Jon Bellion

Key Lyric- My plane is boarding soon and its plain to see/ That one could lose his way/ So could you pray with me?/ That I don't lose my soul in the luxury

This is Jon's request to his family as he has become a moderately successful artist- to pray for him, hold him accountable- that as leaves NY to fly to LA to pursue his music...that he remains loyal to God and his family...and doesn't lose his soul to money. Application to the church as family. a great reminder that church family isn't just for having good times- also to help keep us grounded in humility and accountability.

# Siblings- nobigdyl. (feat. Foure, Jerry Manna & Angie Rose)

Key Lyric- All my bros kings and my sisters queens/ Hear we yelling we Jesus over everything

The church is the royal brothers & sisters of King Jesus. As a family- we're proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God together as we are doing good to the household of faith (Galatians 6:10)

# I'll Find You- Lecrae, Tori Kelly

Key Lyric "Just fight a little longer my friend/It's all worth it in the end/But when you got no one to turn to/Just Hold on and I'll find you

The chorus and bridge serve as the voice of God through the embodiment and encouragement of church family. The verses serve as an expression of the daily fight to pursue God and his Kingdom in the midst of suffering.

# Suicide Nets- nobigdyl.

Key Lyric- So if you running, you should come home/ For my siblings I'm all ears like I'm Dumbo/ You got a brother over here if its trouble/ Show you the One that loves the lowly and the humble

This song puts together Jesus' personal care for his brothers and sisters, with the church's- the body of Christ- calling to care for our brothers and sisters. Especially those that are weak and struggling.