

THE Watchword

"On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen;
All day and night they will never keep silent
You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves,
And give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth."

Isaiah 62:6-7

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The purpose of this newsletter is to encourage prayer and passion for a true revival of apostolic Christianity.

The following material is offered in the hopes of provoking zeal and providing a vision of what the church could be if we would fervently pray.

PRAYER MAKES HISTORY

Are we truly Spirit-filled Christians? Does the term "Spirit-filled" describe our doctrine or our devotion? Samuel Chadwick described the fullness of the Spirit in the following way: *"Spirit filled souls are ablaze for God. They love with a love that glows. They believe with a faith that kindles. They serve with a devotion that consumes. They hate sin with a fierceness that burns. They rejoice with a joy that radiates. Love is perfected in the fire of God."*

The revivalist J.H. Weber is a vivid example of this burning Baptism. His life was distinctly marked by the Holy Spirit's urgency, zeal and compassion. The most striking feature of Mr. Weber's ministry was not so much his message or methods, it was the fact that he had actually become the message. He warned the sinner and saint alike of the eternal danger of rejecting the love of Jesus Christ. His life was a burning trumpet call to repentance toward God.

On one occasion when Mr. Weber was preaching on the Judgment Seat of Christ, *"the people became terrified and some came very near rushing to the altar before the sermon was done. When the invitation was given, it seemed a race as to who should get there first. The altar and front seats were crowded with earnest seekers. The presence of God filled the place. . ."*

J.H. Weber's ministry brought men to the valley of decision. His plain preaching forced men to choose between "death and victory," the self-life or the Christ-life.

Rev. Bennett Mitchel describes such a scene. *"The entire community was greatly stirred. The house was packed from the first to the last service. The devil raged. Men got mad. Some wanted to whip (Mr. Weber), others to tar and feather him. Others stood aghast with mute astonishment, while many came to the Lord and were saved. For the first week his preaching was directed to the church, and he scored the Christian people almost unmercifully. This was fun for the irreligious. They greatly rejoiced while he exposed hypocrisy and denounced the sins in the church. But he suddenly turned his attention to them.*



JOSEPH H. WEBER

Some of them were maddened, some slunk away in shame, while many were subdued and brought penitently to the cross. In the congregation men would threaten to strike him, when he would calmly look them in the face and say, 'You dare not do it, I am in God's hands,' and then put his arms around them and pray for them. Women would threaten to spit in his face, but he heeded it not, and persisted in pleading with and praying for them. He visited every family in the town and he prayed in nearly every home."

Like all true revivalists, J.H. Weber's ministry transformed whole communities. Often in the midst of a revival, he would march through the town with hundreds of believers following him singing and praising God. *"Saloon keepers trembled, businessmen feared; but God was in it."* When Mr. Weber left the town the church was revived and the last saloon was closed.

**"God's
choice acquaintances
are humble men."**

Robert Leighton

In 1884, Mr. Weber's diary reads: *"Began this year as the previous one, on my knees in the house of God."* J.H. Weber was a man who knew the necessity of fervent knee-work. He fasted often, spending whole nights in travailing prayer. When Satan raged or people resisted, Mr. Weber's solution was always the same; cling to Jesus in prayer. At times he would lay in his tent and pray by the hour, often resulting in a wave of salvation prostrating entire congregations. Because God found a man who would pray, literally thousands were brought to Christ, broken and crying for mercy.

Who among us has seen such glorious events and how many of us yearn to see such things? Have we become content with a nominal, yet entertaining Christianity? If not, then let us give ourselves to true travailing prayer. For until we get on our knees, we are nothing less than unconcerned and insincere in regards to revival. God have mercy and help us to see our great need.

Reference Used -

*Revival Tornadoes or
the Life of J.H. Weber - by M.W. Knapp*

PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

"When God's judgment fell upon Israel of old, it began with the loss of the finer things. How true this still is. Long before a backslider comes out into the open and flings aside his faith and service, a fearful thing has taken place - the 'dew has been stayed'. Knowledge remains, the old terms are used, service is still engaged in, but it is hollow, brassy, powerless. We look in vain for those finer spiritual qualities that contribute that spiritual power that touches the deepest springs of the human heart.

The dew, we are told, falls in the still night when all nature is hushed to rest. What is true in nature is true in spiritual things. In this we have the key to the reason why so many of God's people are living dewless lives. They are restless, anxious, impatient, fussy, busy, with no time to be still before the Lord. The finer things are being sacrificed for the coarser, the things of value for the worthless, the things that matter for those of no value. It is in the stillness that He gives His finest things. Seek the dew-drenched life that is always fresh and fragrant.

Men are eagerly, feverishly rushing after their own things. Prayer is a lost art; communion and meditation that transformed the lives of the saints in the past are now spoken of as mystical and impractical. Beware of sacrificing the dew of your spiritual life for the wealth, pleasure, and popularity of this passing age. Retain, even at the price of sacrifice, the finer spiritual qualities that make life's ministries mighty."

*W. Mallis
Kneeling We Triumph*