

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

The following from the pen of Catherine Booth should shake all who are slumbering the sleep of lukewarm indifference. She says, "Many do not recognize the fact as they ought that Satan has got men fast asleep in sin and that it is his great device to keep them so. He does not care what we do if he can do that. We may sing songs about 'the sweet by and by,' preach sermons and say prayers til doomsday, and he will never concern himself about us if we don't wake anybody up. But if we awake the sleeping sinner he will gnash on us with his teeth. This is our work - to wake people up."

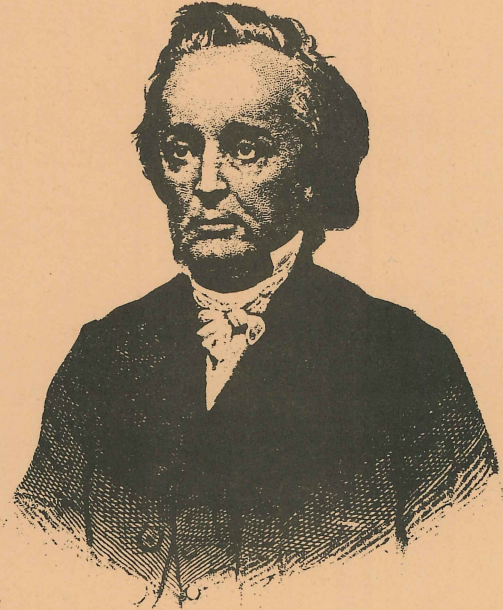
John Wesley Redfield was a man who awakened both the sleeping sinner and careless Christian. When Mr. Redfield prayed or preached men and women were touched by Jesus and went home different than when they came.

The following is an example of just such an occasion when slaves of sin were brought to repentance and set free.

The building was crowded that evening when Mr. Redfield entered the pulpit. His heart was heavy and yet committed to the course God had laid before him. Without hesitation he began by clearly describing all those who had lived in the church for years without true saving grace; who had sat under the most searching gospel ministry; who had seen the truth lived out before them and yet rejected it all. With passion he warned all those who had shunned the narrow path of repentance and the cross of Christ.

As Mr. Redfield spoke the Holy Spirit brought a shaking conviction of sin upon the entire congregation. "Some cried out, some fell prostrate before they could get to the altar, and others fell at the altar. The slain lay in some places upon one another until the aisles were closed for hours..." At this same time people miles away fell under the power of God in the seclusion of their own homes.

John Wesley Redfield said of himself, "God has made me a rough man and given me a rough gospel for rough hearts."



JOHN WESLEY REDFIELD

"He preached holiness forcibly everywhere he went. This aroused great opposition, but it also brought results. Dead churches were revived, new ones were built and the sick were healed..."

Mr. Redfield's doctrine and anointing were not borrowed from books, but born in prayer. "Frequently he would groan as if in the throes of death as he wrestled in prayer; then the victory would come. People shouted, prayed and confessed, many lost their strength and did not regain it until they promised obedience to God." Such manifestations of God's power often followed Mr. Redfield's ministry.

In New York in the late 1850's, men would run out of the church house to avoid yielding to Christ, only to fall helpless under the power of God in the streets. When found the police would take them to jail, supposing them to be drunk. The first night this occurred men marvelled as the once rebellious sinners recovered, broken and praising God.

The key to John Wesley Redfield's success is to be found in his total and unrelenting dependence on Jesus. Through many trials he had learned that he could truly do nothing apart from Jesus Christ. I am convinced that much of our failure to bring forth lasting change lies at the feet of our own self-dependence and pride. We must recover our simplicity and joy of devotion to Jesus Christ. We must repent and put away all our good ideas and plans and once again embrace the "one thing needful" - to sit at the feet of Jesus. (LK 10:38-42)

References Used -

The Life of John Wesley Redfield
Rev. Joseph Terrill

Men and Women of Deep Piety
Clara McLeister

"So because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth...those whom I love I will reprove and discipline: be zealous therefore, and repent."

Rev 3:16,19

PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

The love slave is altogether at his Master's service. He is all eyes for his Master. He watches. He is all ears for his Master. He listens. His mind is willing. His hands are ready. His feet are swift. To sit at the Master's feet and look into His loved face; to listen to His voice and catch His words; to run to His errands; to do His bidding; to share His privations and sorrows; to watch at His door; to guard His honour; to praise His name; to defend His person; to seek and promote His interests, and if needs be, to die for His dear sake, this is the joy of the slave of love, and this he counts his perfect freedom.

This is holiness. It is wholeness of consecration and devotion. It is singleness of eye. It is perfect love which casts out fear. The love slave does not fear the Master, for he joys in the Master's will. 'Not My will, but Thine be done'; 'Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.' says the slave of love. There can be no fear where there is such love.

This is heart purity accomplished by the expulsive power of a new and overmastering affection and purpose. Sin and selfishness are consumed in the hot fires of this great love. Hallelujah!

Do you ask, 'How shall I enter into this sweet and gentle and yet all powerful bondage of love?' I answer, by your own choice and by God's revelation of Himself to your soul. If your love to Him now is a very poor and powerless thing, it is because you do not know Him, you do not draw near enough to see the beauty of Him.

Take time, find time, make time to seek the Lord, and He will be found of you. He will reveal Himself to your longing, loving soul, and you shall know the sweet compulsions of the slavery that is love.

by Samuel Logan Brengle
Love Slaves