

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 lukewarm and indifferent. 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.

Under the influence of Mr. Redfield's ministry, the slaves of sin were brought to repentance and totally set free. Wherever he preached, church after church seemed to be effected in the same way. On one such evening when John Wesley 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



John Wesley Redfield

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." "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 his ministry.

In New York in the late 1850's as Mr. Redfield, preached 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 one after another, the once rebellious sinners, recovered - repentant and praising God.

The key to John Wesley Redfield's success is to be found in his total and unrelenting dependence on God. Through many trials he had learned that he could truly do nothing apart from Jesus Christ. Is it not true 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. We must repent and put away our new methods and programs and once again embrace the "better part" - to sit at the feet of Jesus. (Luke 10:38-42)

References Used-

The Life of John Wesley Redfield
by Joseph Terrill

Men and Women of Deep Piety
by Clara McLeister

Revival Means Humiliation

To the Church a revival means humiliation, a bitter knowledge of failure, and an open and humiliating confession of sin on the part of her ministers and people. **It is not the easy and glowing thing many think it to be, who imagine that it fills the empty pews, and reinstates the Church in power and authority.** IT COMES TO SCORCH BEFORE IT HEALS; it comes to rebuke ministers and people for their unfaithful witness, for their selfish living, for their neglect of the Cross, and to call them to daily renunciation, to an evangelical poverty, and to a deep and daily consecration. This is why a revival has ever been unpopular with large numbers within the Church. Because it says nothing to them of power such as they have learned to love, or of ease, or of success ; it accuses them of sin, it tells them that they are dead, it calls them to awake, to renounce the world, and to follow Christ.

Is the Church today ready to hear that voice? Is she bowed down before God in prostration of need, in conscious dejection of unworthiness, in passionate self-abasement and desire for that renewal which comes through renunciation? It may well be doubted. It is upon the hearts of the few that the agony falls. Revivals are not usually preceded by the awakening of the Church to a sense of need, but by the awakening of devout souls here and there, who, feeling the need, begin to entreat God in prayer for a revival. Gradually this deepens and spreads until the sense of need becomes a burden, until the cry, "How long, Oh God ! how long!" becomes an agony. This is the cry which God cannot deny. It is for that cry that we must intently listen. **Is there, then, today a disposition to pray for a revival?** Are devout men everywhere becoming alarmed, not for the success of the Church, but for the glory of Christ, lest it be lost altogether? Is there a sense of a burden lying upon men's hearts which will not give them rest, but which makes them agonize in prayer? **If not, then the night is not far spent, a deeper darkness still awaits us.** Of what use would a revival be if we are not prepared for it? It would pass over us without doing its work.

by James Burns
"Revivals Their Laws and Leaders"

Fascinated with Jesus

The goal of Scripture is an intensely personal love for Jesus possessing your whole being. The goal of redemption is your love-relationship, your love-life with Jesus. **Christian living is living in love with Jesus.** Prayer communion is looking lovingly into Jesus' eyes, thrilling to Jesus' voice, resting in Jesus' arms.

Christ's passionate lovers have bejeweled the history and heritage of the church. No Christian is greater than his love. Few today realize the intense devotion to Christ in the early church and in our sainted martyrs. The Holy Spirit can develop in us just as ardent devotion as He did in those days.

A.W. Tozer once said, "The great of the kingdom have been those who loved God more than others did." Those who have really looked into the face of Jesus cannot but be captivated by His love. **Too often our love for Jesus is sadly impersonal.** We believe in His Person, we worship His

Person, but we relate to Him far too impersonally. There is too much distance, a tragic remoteness in our fellowship. True, He is our infinitely holy God and we are but sin-deformed creatures before Him. He is our Sovereign King, and we bow before His majesty. But He is also our Savior who loved us with such everlasting love that He forsook heaven's throne to become the incarnate Son of Man, to die for us, to redeem us for Himself and make us the special and eternal object of His love. Indeed, He came to make us collectively His bride and personally His beloved. **Let's humble ourselves before Him. Let's confess how cool and casual we too often have been in our expression of love to Him.** Let's ask the Holy Spirit to give us a new baptism of love for Jesus. We need the Spirit's help to love, Jesus as we should. Perhaps we have had too little of the Spirit's fullness to enable us to love with the personal ardor Jesus desires.

All other passions build upon or flow from your passion for Jesus. A passion for souls grows out of a passion for Christ. A passion for missions builds upon a passion for Christ. When Hudson

Taylor was once asked what was the greatest incentive to missionary work, he instantly replied, "Love of Christ." William Booth's passion for helping the underprivileged, the derelicts of society, and for world evangelization was built upon his passion for Christ. **The most crucial danger to a Christian, whatever his role, is to lack a passion for Christ.** The most direct route to personal renewal and new effectiveness is a new all-consuming passion for Jesus. Lord, give us this passion, whatever the cost!

by Wesley L. Duewel
"Ablaze For God"

the Morning Watch

Daily Prayer

Times at Western Hills Church

Monday thru Friday;

6 to 7am (auditorium)

Saturday; 8 -11am (prayer room)

PRAYER IS NOT...

by
K.P. Yohannan

Prayer is not a new product to be marketed. Today we have prayer towers, prayer cloths, dial-a-prayer, live prayer lines, books, prayer letters, tapes, maps, diaries, prayer clocks, beads, charms and trinkets galore-but less real prayer than ever. There are endless seminars, workshops, retreats and courses on prayer. But the question must always be asked, where is the living God in the midst of these products and events? **It is not mere instruction and seminars that we need. Instead we need men and women who will get on their knees and pray.** Those who will do this, depending totally on the living God, are the ones God will use to shake this generation.



promotion technique by religious movements, sects and organizations. Real prayer is spiritual warfare. It requires us to wrestle with the world, the flesh and the devil - overcoming in the power of the Holy Spirit rather than in our own flesh and mind.

Therefore, the first requirement in prayer is that we come close to God. The more we sit at His feet and look into His eyes, the more our prayers will reflect His mind. Thus, the more we become like Him, the more reality there will be in our prayer lives. **We must start to love the people and things He loves, and hate what He hates.** As we go deeper into the heart of Jesus, we will

pray according to His will because we will know His will. How can we cross this vital bridge to reality? How can we have a meaningful prayer life?

In his book "Why Revival Tarries", Leonard Ravenhill cries out for reality in this critical area: "No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. The pulpit can be a shopwindow to display one's talents; the prayer closet allows no showing off. "Poverty-stricken as the Church is today in many things, she is most stricken here, in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few prayers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere. "We ... mistake action for unction, commotion for creation, and rattles for revivals."

Too often, we equate learning about prayer with the real thing. For others, the promotion of prayer has eliminated prayer itself. What passes for prayer in these cases is more often the mindless activism that mistakes motion for life. Prayer is not a management technique. The Christian calendar is crowded with so-called prayer meetings, twenty-four-hour prayer chains, marches, vigils, nights-of-prayer, half-nights of prayer and a host of other prayer movements covertly designed to promote secondary causes. Some of these are real. Others are merely used as a

First, prayer must become priority one. Prayer always comes first in God's timetable. We must reverse the process of modern thinking in order to discover spiritual reality. In the natural, we begin with our needs and desires the problems to be solved. We then set goals and plan backwards from them. Rather than waiting on God for direction, we rely on ourselves for solutions. We trust our beauty, finances, intellect, strength and talent. Science and technology have taught us to experiment, study and research solutions. Those who have bought into this lie believe if they are given enough time and money, they can solve any problem in their personal lives or in their ministries. Since they really don't believe they need God, prayer plays no part in most of their planning. When it does, it tends to be at the end rather than the beginning of their efforts! How different this is from the approach of a spiritual man or woman. The godly person first sets goals on his or her knees rather than at the drawing board. The servant whom God chooses to use is the one who has learned that if there appears to be any human explanation for our success, it is probably bogus. This Christian knows that you tend to pray better without computers, degrees, education, money, good looks, management skills or talent. When

(continued on next page)

we are freed from dependence on a human plan, program, leader or other resources then we are able to trust God rather than ourselves. **Until we learn to lay aside our reliance on every human resource; and learn to make waiting on God the number one priority in life, we are still in the kindergarten of prayer.**

Second, we must invest time in prayer. Of course, taken by itself, long hours spent in prayer are not a sign of closeness to God. It is more important that we come into His presence, like childless Hannah did, with desperate abandonment and submission to His will. She was speechless before God, and yet the Lord gave her the miracle of conception in answer to her silent pleadings. However, our time diaries too often betray our callous indifference to God. **The simple fact is that no one can get to know God without spending time with Him.** If we love the Lord as we say we do, how can we spend so little time in His presence?

We struggle to make quality time for friends and family. Millions of us plan our lives around favorite TV shows, sporting events and vacations. Yet why is it so hard to make an appointment with God, to spend an hour or two each day in prayer? How many of us can say we spend as much time in prayer as we do in eating meals and socializing around food? Our lives are so overbooked with frantic activity that we have scheduled Him right out of our days. Is it any wonder our Christianity is so ineffective, weak and powerless? There is only one way to see a change. We have to make prayer a priority and set aside time for it every day.

An Invitation to Every Believer

Christ is calling every believer to come apart and enjoy spiritual intimacy with Him through various aspects of prayer: adoration, confession, intercession, listening, thanksgiving, petition, praise, singing and waiting on Him. This is not an invitation open only to a few daring saints, but an access into the presence of God offered to all New Testament believers. And it is all of grace through faith. God wants to have this intimacy with us more than we will ever know. We as individuals can make prayer a part of

our daily life-style **IF WE ARE WILLING TO BREAK FROM OUR CULTURE** and live for God.

In early 1976, when the Lord began to break my heart over the lostness of the world, one of the first things we did as a family was to call a few of our friends and start a prayer meeting in our home. That Tuesday night meeting still continues without fail after all these years. We spend the first part of the evening in worship and praise with brief testimonies and thanksgivings. We don't spend the time chatting but hear reports from different countries of the world, individuals, tribes and unreached people groups. We read prayer letters and requests from all over the United States and Canada, as well as overseas. Frequently we will pause to break into small groups or pairs to pray over each request. In this way, we have seen hundreds and hundreds of specific answers to prayer. If there is not a missions prayer band in your church or neighborhood, why not start one? If one already exists, why not go and add your faith and warmth to that group.

God Delights in the Prayers of His People

Second Chronicles 16:9 reveals the heart of God in this matter: *"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him..."* He wants to bless us. He's looking for those with a heart totally after Him.

The world is looking for beautiful, self-confident people to lead and entertain it. But God is looking for humble, Christ-dependent people who will love the world as He does.

For those who are willing to confess their utter dependence on God in prayer, life enters the realm of the supernatural. And this power is available to families, churches and organizations where individuals are willing to start living a prayerful life. Hebrews chapter 11 and countless other passages reveal to us throughout history that there

have always been a handful of people who will reach out and touch God in faith through prayer. As we join them on our knees, we will see the power of God operate in our lives as they did. We will receive the vision and guidance we need to move supernaturally with God and accomplish His will.

Today, there are races, nations and peoples still without Christ. There are families breaking up all around us and individuals caught in sin. There are prisoners who need to be freed, hungry who need to be fed and sick who need to be healed. There are churches and neighborhoods and individuals in your own community which need a touch from God. The Lord is looking for individuals who are emptied of self-sufficiency to accept prayerfully the challenge of reaching those lost billions with salvation. Through prayer you can intervene in these needy lives and situations bring the power of God into the lives of the lost and lonely. Won't you, through times of personal and corporate prayer, join in the cosmic struggle to win them to Christ?

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ALWAYS REMEMBER

A truly prayerful and consecrated life unto God can only be established by faith.

It is by trusting in the finished work of Christ that we are empowered to produce the fruit of love and righteousness.

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world; our faith."

(1 John 5:4)