

# 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

XXIX

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

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." (Deut. 6:5)*

By the grace of God, David Brainerd obeyed this first and great commandment. He prayed with sacrificial passion, pursued perfect holiness and called sinners to repentance; all because he fervently loved the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sad to say, some Christians may have a difficult time understanding David Brainerd's zeal and love for JESUS. "To him the material and physical world had little value. He was of the race of the early martyrs. To him all things were naught that he might attain a deeper spiritual fellowship with God." Brainerd's diary states, "Thirsting desires and longings possessed my soul after perfect holiness. God was so precious to my soul that the world with all its enjoyments appeared vile. I had no more value for the favor of men than for pebbles."

He spent a great deal of time in prayer and frequently set aside days for prayer and fasting. He loved to retire into the woods to be alone with God. "Prayer became Brainerd's priority and it was his joy to spend two hours at a time in secret communion with Christ. He would rise early in the morning and get alone with God to enjoy His presence. He thirsted for God, the living God and he was not disappointed!"



*David Brainerd*

Determined to share Christ, Brainerd embraced a life of self-denial and sacrifice. He spent as much as twenty hours a week on horseback. His diet consisted of hasty pudding, boiled corn, bread baked in the ashes, and sometimes a little meat and butter. His home was a small log room complete with a heap of straw laid upon boards for a bed.

David Brainerd consistently and fervently interceded for the lost souls of the American Indians. Often he would travail with such earnestness that when he rose from his knees he was covered in sweat and could hardly walk straight. Like the persistent widow in Luke 18, David Brainerd's prayers were finally answered. Entire camps of Indians were converted by the power of God as he proclaimed a message of repentance and grace.

*"Old men and women who had been drunken wretches for years, and little children not more than six or seven years*

*of age appeared in distress for their souls. There was almost universal praying and crying for mercy. Many could neither go nor stand."*

The countless hours spent in prayer and fasting, his faithfulness in spite of physical weakness and having to endure the most terrible hardships, were now rewarded openly. The fire of the Lord fell. The remarkable thing was that all this happened at a time when he confessed that his hopes were at their very lowest. He had seriously entertained thoughts of giving up while on the very brink of glory and blessing.

Brainerd now saw a remarkable change in the lives of the Indians. He recorded in his diary, "I know of no assembly of Christians where there seems to be so much of the presence of God, where brotherly love so much prevails . . ."

David Brainerd poured a lifetime of holy passion, prayer and preaching into four short years. He ministered from 1743-1747, dying of tuberculosis at the age of 29, "Brainerd once wrote in his diary, I longed to be a flame of fire continually glowing in the divine service and building up of Christ's kingdom to my last and dying breath. That prayer was abundantly answered."

## References Used -

*The Life and Diary of  
David Brainerd  
Edited by Jonathan Edwards*

*Forgotten Founding Fathers  
by W. T. Hanzsche*

*Seven Guides to Effective Prayer  
by Colin Whittaker*



# Childlike Humility



**W**hat is it that continues to postpone a mighty visitation of the Holy Spirit? Why are our home groups and prayer meetings still less than glorious and fruitful? I believe the great hindrance in our midst is ourselves! **We have not yet come to the end of ourselves in brokenness and childlike humility.** The Church as a whole is still not UNITED in recognizing its own spiritual poverty. Standing in the shadow of broken promises and frustrated plans, many still refuse to admit their own failure. **Many are searching for a new method to remedy the Church's dilemma, when all God wants is a little honest humility.** Where humility is, the Spirit of God is always present. Where a deep sense of need is recognized the "I love you" of the Father is always heard. **Don't we believe the promises of God?** *"The humble He guides in justice and the humble He teaches His way."* - Psalms 25:9. *"He does not forget the cry of the humble."* - Psalms 9:12. *"The Lord lifts up the humble. He casts the wicked to the ground."* - Psalms 147:6. *"For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."* - Isaiah 57:15. God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives continual grace to the lowly and humble. James 4:6.

**T**he problems facing the Church in our day seem endless and at times overwhelming. Many with the best of intentions have created every imaginable ministry, equipped with an answer for every need. Yet many supposed needs are often only a shadow of the real problem. Are we busy answering questions that don't need to be answered? Have we been distracted, picking leaves that will only grow back, while never touching the root of our own stubborn pride? **I am afraid many have tried to improve the Gospel at the expense of Christ's call to childlike humility.** The promises of God offers the Church **GREAT HOPE!** That is, if we as a UNITED people will by God's grace meet the conditions. 2 Chronicles 7:14 says, *"If My people who are called by My name will HUMBLE themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* Either God has lied to us or we are lying to ourselves!

by David Smithers

## FIRE!

Christ was as far removed as possible from nervous excitability, the very opposite of intolerant or clamorous zeal, and yet the zeal of God's house consumed him.

**T**he lack of ardor in Christian profession or action is a sure sign of the want of depth and intensity. **The lack of fire is the sure sign of the lack of God's presence.** To abate fervor is to retire God. God can tolerate many things in the way of infirmity or error. He can pardon much when one is repentant, but two things are intolerable to Him, insincerity and lukewarmness. Lack of heart and lack of heat are the things that He loathes. *"I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth,"* is God's judgment on our lack of fire in the Church. Fire is the motor that moves the Christian life. Christian principles that are not aflame have neither force nor perfume. Flame is the wing by which faith ascends, and fervency is the soul of prayer. Love is kindled in a flame, and fire is the air that true religion breathes. It feeds on fire. Christianity can stand anything better than a feeble flame.

**C**hristian character needs to be set on fire. **Lack of heat makes more infidels than lack of faith. Not to be in fiery earnest about the things of heaven is not to be about them at all.** The fiery souls are the ones that win in the heavenly fight. Nothing short of red hot can keep the glow of heaven in these chilly times. **We must grasp the live coal and covet the consuming flame.**

by E. M. Bounds

**Z**eal is a contagious, but not a popular, element. Our fathers took their tea piping hot; we take ours iced. Iced Christianity is more popular and tasteful than iced tea. We can endure in our churches enough warmth to take the chill off, but more than this is offensive. We have added many good elements to our preaching, but these cannot make up for the loss of fervor. The average mind can only be moved to action by a flame. Some men may pull through to heaven on a cold collar, but they are the exception. A dwindling flame destroys the vital and aggressive forces in church life. **God must be represented by a fiery church or he is not truly represented.** God is all on fire, and his church, if it be like Him, must also be aflame with the great and eternal interests of religion. Zeal need not be fussy to be consuming and forceful.

## the Morning Watch

Daily Prayer  
Times at Western Hills Church  
Monday thru Friday;  
6 to 7am (auditorium)  
Saturday; 8-11am (prayer room)



# Bridal Love

by Basilea Schlink

Jesus, who so often says  
"Whoever loves Me . . ."  
"Do you love Me?"  
is concerned about our  
LOVE!

He is concerned about a special kind of love. It is the love which is shadowed in the relationship between a bride and her bridegroom; that is, it is an exclusive love, a love which places the beloved, the bridegroom, above all other loves, in the first place. As a Bridegroom, Jesus has a claim to "first love". He who has loved us so much wants to possess us completely, with everything we are and have. Jesus gave Himself wholly and completely for us. Now His love is yearning for us to surrender ourselves and everything that we are to Him, so that He can really be our "first love". So long as our love for Him is a divided love, so long as our heart is bound to family, possessions, or the like, He will not count our love to be genuine. Divided love is of so little value to Him that He will not enter into a bond of love with such a soul, for this bond presupposes a full mutual love. **Because our love is so precious to Jesus, because He yearns for our love, He waits for our uncompromising commitment.**

Whenever there are two alternatives, true love always chooses Jesus. If, for example, Jesus calls someone into the mission-field, then for Jesus' sake he has to depart from his native land, often leaving his family behind or being separated from his wife for a while. The love for these things has to take second place. Jesus can be our true love, our first love, only if this love takes priority over all others only if, whenever we are faced with the choice between Jesus or people and things, we choose Him. **Jesus has the right to make such a claim upon our love, because there is no one like Him.** No one is so full of glory, so full of royal beauty and powerful love as Jesus. His love is so overwhelming, so tender so intimate, so fiery and so strong. No human love could ever be compared with it. **No one loves so exclusively, so faithfully and with such loving care. No one exists so exclusively for us as Jesus.** Jesus knows what He can bestow with His love. He knows how happy He can make a human soul. That is why He has a thousand times more right than an earthly bridegroom to say, "Give Me everything-your whole love-your first love, for which you would leave earthly things behind, just as a



bride would put aside all her other desires and would give up home and fatherland."

Jesus stands before us as One who entreats. He wants to take complete possession of us. His love is a jealous love, because it is so great and filled with such a strong ardor for us (Ex. 34:14). **It is a grief to Him when we do not return His love with all**

**that we are and have.** His love for us is so powerful that it yearns to receive the ultimate of love from us, and for the true bride there is nothing more blissful than to surrender her whole being, her whole love to the One who loves her. Indeed, if her Bridegroom takes her completely into His possession, it is bliss for her. Divine possession-blessed words! God has taken possession of me. He longs for me so utterly that He is not satisfied until I give myself wholly and completely to Him. Only he who loves Jesus in this way can comprehend Jesus in His deepest nature, for only the soul that has given itself to Him completely in love can experience His great and intimate love.

We remember the rich young ruler. Jesus loved him, and the rich young ruler longed for the love-relationship to God. Jesus saw his deep desire to enter into this fellowship of life and love with God. Jesus showed him the way: to attain the precious pearl, eternal life, one has to sell something, one has to give up something-indeed, one must give up everything. This is inevitable, because the divine, eternal life is loving and this loving must be whole-hearted. In order to give my whole love to Him, I have to forsake other things I love. The rich young ruler went away sorrowful, and to this day (as I have known for myself), we believers are often dismal and depressed. We have not been caught up into His great joy, because the heartfelt, blissful relationship of love to Jesus is lacking. So long as we cannot bring ourselves to give Jesus our first love, we shall not know this relationship. It may be that some are afraid of falling into false asceticism or legalism, but it is usually because we are chained to our earthly possessions, to our honor, to our profession, to people we love, and so on. We will not give Jesus our undivided love.

Jesus said to the rich young ruler: "Sell-give up-follow Me-bind yourself to Me and My way! Out of love give Me your life and everything that makes it rich and desirable

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for you. Give it to Me-not as an ascetic act, no, out of love and I will give you the eternal, divine, overflowing life of love, which is the richest way of all, and which will make you abundantly happy. For only I can grant the highest life." Jesus can say this, because He is "the Life". Whoever follows Him, whoever joins Him, is joined to that Life, to the stream of life and love that flows without end.

Yes, whoever follows Him receives eternal life. That is what I found. For years I had lived on "cheap grace"-not answering His call for uncompromising discipleship as obligatory for my life. But then the time came when His love overwhelmed me. Then, as His disciple I consciously chose His way. In the affairs of life, I tried to choose the lowly place, the way of poverty, the way of the Lamb which is described in the Sermon on the Mount. I tried not to insist upon being right, not to strike back and not to retaliate when I was wronged. During the war and the post-war period, I gave up my last possessions according to Jesus' commandment: "Give and it will be given to you ..." (Luke 6: 38). From then on I knew for myself that whoever follows Jesus is really joined to the "eternal Life", to the spring of love that flows without end. I knew that this spring of love was poured out most into the hearts of the sinful and the poor. Ever since I had begun to take seriously Jesus' call to discipleship, I have been shown the real, true, divine standards for my life. Over and over again I sinned against them, but my sins drove me straight into the arms of Jesus, impelled me to claim His redeeming blood and reopened the fountain of His love.

**In Gethsemane, Jesus waited with such yearning in His heart for His disciples to stand by His side and show Him their love, but He sought and waited in vain.** While He was in Bethany before His passion, He had also looked for love. There He found someone, who sympathized with Him and understood how heavy His heart was, because the time had come for Him to begin His road of sorrows. This was Mary. Her love had shown

her how deeply grieved was His soul, and she did what she could do for Him. **Her entire concern was to comfort and refresh Him.** That is why she did not give her money to the poor (and so incurred the disciples' reproach), but rather "wasted" it on Jesus Himself (Matt. 26: 8, 12). She wanted to comfort and refresh Him, because He was so grieved.

*I* shall never forget the time when it sank into my heart that because Jesus is the same today as He was yesterday, and because His heart is still suffering today, **He is waiting for us to make Him happy and to refresh Him, yes, as the scriptures say, to be comforters for Him (Psalm 69:20).** Since that time, my first concern has been Jesus Himself and not my ministry for Him, although I have throughout sought to fulfill that ministry. Now I was concerned about if one may express it this way the ministry unto Jesus. Since that time adoration has burned in my heart. I was grieved for Jesus' sake, because He received so little love in words and songs of adoration. Since then adoration has never been lacking in my prayer life. Although I am a pronounced active and social type, from that time on I have been constrained to spend every free minute in my room so that I could talk to Jesus in prayer. I sense that He is waiting. **A bridegroom always waits for His bride to come to Him so that He can carry on a dialogue of love with her.**

Jesus is yearning to have fellowship with us and to hear words of love drop from our lips. He is waiting for us. He wants us to be close to Him. He wants to speak to us in our hearts, to cultivate love's intimate relationship with us. Only in times of quiet when no one else distracts us, and nothing else draws us away, can Jesus visit us with His love. Let him who wishes to know the presence of Jesus and who desires to enter into bridal love for Jesus keep his times of quiet holy and faithfully for Him.

Jesus is waiting for our love. As important as our sacrifices and our obedience to the commandments are

for God (the rich young ruler sacrificed, and kept the commandments), they are not enough. Sacrifices and obedience do not necessarily yield the "eternal, divine life". Love does not necessarily pulsate through them. Jesus is pulsating life and love and He wants to impart His nature to us. Therefore, only our love, which stems from the divine, eternal life which He has granted to us, is the proper response to His love for us. This love leads us to keep His commandments, which are His wishes for us. It will lead us to bring Him many gifts, and to offer Him sacrifices-but in a different spirit.

*This* love has radiant power. It radiates happiness and great joy. The Bridegroom is the Master of joy, who has been anointed with the oil of gladness above his fellows (Psalm 45: 7). His bride participates in this great joy. She belongs to Him, the Sun of love, Who shines forth in light and joy. She is united to Him in marriage. His joyful radiance falls upon her being. It is love which brings more bliss and joy than anything else into the world. The joy of an earthly bride is but a faint shadow of the true, eternal joy of the bride of the Lamb. **Bridal love for Jesus is filled with delight. There is no greater, happier, higher, richer love.**

by Basilea Schlink  
from "My All For Him"

## 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)