

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

XXXI

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

On March 9th, 1791, when John Wesley was carried to his grave, he left behind him a good library of books, a well-worn clergyman's gown, and a much abused reputation. But also, an England moved to the very depths and a Church thrilled through and through with an awakened spiritual life. John Wesley was a man who truly possessed both apostolic vision and gifts, but most importantly he was a man who lived in view of eternity. *"Consumed by the thought of the shortness of time, the great work to be done, and the need for haste in doing it, on he marched, preaching, pleading, warning and guiding . . ."*

John Wesley was a man mighty in faith and prayer. Time and again people possessed with devils were brought to him and in answer to prayer the demons were cast out. Not only were evil spirits cast out, but the sick were healed as well. As Wesley preached, the power of God often came upon his listeners, and hundreds would fall under the power of the Spirit. Then, in answer, to prayer their souls and bodies were healed. A physician became offended at the cries of many who fell under the power of God. He attended Wesley's meeting and a lady he knew fell under the power. *"Great drops of sweat ran down her face, and all her bones shook. But when both her soul and body were healed in a moment he acknowledged the finger of God."* On another occasion when Wesley was traveling the preaching circuit, his horse sud-



John Wesley

denly became lame. With no one near to offer help, he stopped and prayed. *"Immediately the horse's lameness was gone."*

Wesley pleaded with men to repent and by faith make peace with God or suffer in an everlasting hell. People who had entertained false hopes of salvation had their masks torn away by his plain preaching. Wesley believed that those who failed to warn the sinner and backslider, themselves stood under the judgement of Christ. He was determined to declare the whole counsel of God, offering the love of God in Christ and giving warning of the dreadful consequences of rejecting the gospel. Wesley wrote, *"Before I can preach love and grace, I must preach sin, law and judgement."*

John Wesley, as well as the other early Methodist preachers, was both a bold advocate and a living example of sanctification. Wesley preached with unceasing zeal that complete holiness

was the primary fruit of a vibrant faith in Christ. Counseling another minister, Wesley wrote, *"...till you press believers to expect full salvation from sin, you must not look for any revival."*

If John Wesley were to make an anonymous visit to the Methodists of today, it is doubtful whether many of its churches would welcome him. They would most likely resent his fervent zeal and enthusiasm. When he was eighty-three he made a note that he was regretful that he could not write more than fifteen hours a day without hurting his eyes. Wesley faithfully preached almost up to the very day he died. Truly his vigor and zeal in old age were the reward of his faithful stewardship of time. He seemed to consider every thought, word and deed in light of eternity.

"Amid all his arduous labours, his innumerable engagements, his coming and going, Wesley lived a hidden life of intimacy with God. When worn out with overwork he often found new strength in answer to prayer." It was Wesley's strict habit to daily spend one hour in prayer in the morning, and then another hour in the evening. **John Wesley shook the world by his preaching because he first shook heaven and hell with his praying.** His preaching had a sense of eternal urgency because he had touched eternity on his knees.

References Used -

"The Journal of John Wesley"

"Revivals - Their Laws and Leaders"
by James Burns

"Deeper Experiences of Famous Christians"
by James Lawson

THE FEAR OF MAN

The Fear of man is one of the most illogical things in the world. Men sell the blood of Jesus and hope of heaven and eternal happiness because of "what people say." Think of it, afraid of a man who will die and be buried under ground before he rots! Frightened at a thing dressed in a long black coat and a tall hat and a frown; a thing which will stop breathing some day and the worms will eat! Shall I tremble when an ecclesiastical Leo utters a roar? **Shall I halt and stammer because a top-heavy lad from a theological seminary, hopelessly in love with himself, scowls at the word "sanctification"?** The folks we are afraid of, are afraid of us. What a situation! **A great regiment of people marching straight down to hell, everyone afraid to break step for fear the others will laugh!** That is precisely the condition of nearly every sinner.

The ministry is sadly in need of a blessing which will give it courage to attack sin of all kinds and degrees. We need men who will rip the mask off the face of sin and pronounce God's sentence upon it; who will lift up the trap-door of the cesspools of men's hearts and bid them look within at their own sin; who will "*cry aloud and spare not*," though the enraged cohorts of demons snarl and shriek. **There will be a day when men will curse us because we have not preached more plainly.** Brethren in the ministry, let us be less anxious about the technical accuracy of our sermons and be more eager to help men live right and quit sin and go to heaven.

There are many sins which few men have the courage to antagonize in public. Theoretically the pulpit is supposed to bombard all sin of every variety and species, but, alas, it is usually too cowardly. **The Spirit-filled man fears no one.** It is not that ministers are unaware of the sins within the Church, but they dare not speak openly against them. He knows only too well that if he dares assert his manhood and exercises the prerogative of Christ's minister, the consequences could be swift and terrible, the loss of the approval of men, and maybe even his pastorate. **But let us be content with the approval and comfort of God rather than fear men.** For the sake of the Church and the lost, GOD HELP US to forsake the fear of man.

by Byron J. Rees

MANY STILL LACK THE FIRE!

It is true that Pentecost, historically, took place once for all. So did Calvary. But each individual must personally appropriate the blood by faith and so must each believer receive by faith the Spirit for power. The promise of the Spirit is received by faith (Gal. 3: 14). It is an experience of spiritual thirst, then coming to Christ, drinking of the Spirit by faith, believing and overflowing (John 7: 37-39). So the blood and bread must be accompanied by fire. **We have fundamentalism and facts; we have activity and earnestness and sincerity; we even have blood-washed and blood-nourished Christians, well-taught in the Word, WHO STILL LACK FIRE.** Some are prejudiced against it, identifying any definite experience of the Spirit with fanaticism. Some see nothing but a gradual growth in grace. Some mistake the indwelling of the Spirit for the infilling. Some have "re-

ceived" with a cheap and easy "*believism*" who somehow did not receive after all. For many reasons the church is largely behind closed doors as before Pentecost, and believers try to stir up a fire from their own sparks instead of being set on fire of God.

We are not here advocating some wild and weird emotional experience, but we do hold that he who seeks to burn out for God will have to go deeper than sentence prayers and occasional wishful thinking. There must be a holy burning and a consuming longing for the fullness of the Spirit. Tears and fastings and all night prayers have no value of themselves, but God will reward the man who forgets all else seeking the double portion of "*power with God and men*." It is not that God is stingy and must be coaxed, for He "*giveth liberally and upbraideth not*." It is that we ourselves are so shallow and sinful that we need to tarry before Him until our restless natures can be stilled and the clamor of outside voices be deadened so that we can hear His voice. Such a state is not easily reached, and the men God uses have paid a price in wrestlings and prevailing prayer. But it is such men who rise from their knees confident of His power and go forth to speak with authority and not as the scribes.

I saw a human life ablaze with God;
I felt a power divine
As through an empty
vessel of frail clay
I saw God's glory shine.
Then woke I from a dream,
and cried aloud:
"My Father, give to me
The blessing of a life
consumed by God,
That I may live for Thee!"

by Vance Havner
"Blood, Bread and Fire"

the Morning Watch

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

FOR JESUS' SAKE!

A CALL TO HOLY PASSION

by David Smithers

Matthew 21 describes perhaps one of the most impressive praise services ever witnessed. As Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, He was greeted by a multitude of joyful praisers. With great enthusiasm they waved palm branches and shouted "*Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*" Yet where were these enthusiastic praisers only one week later as Jesus agonized in the garden or as He hung on the cross? With few exceptions, they all went the way of their forefathers described in Isaiah 29:13, "*Therefore the Lord said: 'Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me . . .'*". **In Christ's darkest hour, He was not quite so attractive to these once ardent praisers. There are many praisers but few loving worshipers.** It seems that in many ways the followers of Jesus haven't changed very much since that day He rode into Jerusalem on a humble little donkey. On any given Sunday you can find a multitude who are willing to rejoice in the name of Christ, **and rightly so.** But where are the ones who live to worship Jesus, for HIS SAKE ALONE! Not because He is a means to obtain our wants and desires, but because, "*He is altogether lovely.*" (Song of Solomon 5:16). Jesus is not a means to an end, He is the beginning and the END. (Col. 1:15-18, Rev. 21:6).

Many of these once fervent followers saw Christ as a means to political advantage and power. I'm afraid many of the followers of Jesus in our own day of sin and uncertainty are pursuing Him for the same reasons. Some of the Church is even being encouraged to seek revival for the sole purpose of establishing national security and prosperity. **Imagine, seeking revival more for "OLD GLORY" than for His Glory!** In recent years we have also seen believers being instructed to lift up praises to Christ as a means to bring about the manifestations of healing and spiritual gifts. What father would not be grieved by his children using flattering words only for the purpose of gaining some sweet advantage? I'm sure many of those who are adhering to such teachings are quite sincere. Yet we must be discerning and not forgetful of the Apostle's warnings about seeking selfish gain.* **As the bride of Christ we must beware of anything that smacks of manipulation and usury in our relationship with Him.** Please do not misunderstand me, I'm quite aware that the Father longs and delights to bless us. **He rejoices to**

meet our every need, but these are the by-product and not the prime product of our devotion to Jesus Christ. Jesus must be the highest object of all our desires and affections.

Now let's consider some examples from the scripture of those who loved Jesus for His sake. . . Luke 7:36-38 says, "*Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.*" This woman did not come to receive a blessing, she came to be a blessing. There is no manipulation here. This is true devotion and passion for Jesus. She came risking rebuke and ridicule just so she could pour out her heart of burning love on Jesus. The flame of her love consumed and destroyed the fear of man. She could only see the feet of her Savior. She had eyes only for HIM. Though she had only come to give, she left with the sweet fragrance of her own sacrifice upon her. In Luke 7:44-46 we see the difference between the Pharisees mere admiration, and true extravagant love. "*Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil.'*" Many will invite Christ into the home of their hearts and yet deprive Him of the common courtesies of a little oil, water and a kiss of greeting. **The true lovers of Jesus are not content with just one kiss. They long to live with Christ in a realm of continual love and holy passion.** You will notice also from this example, true worshipers often weep. Many who are only praisers actually shun and ridicule such expressions of humility and brokenness.

Luke 8:2 & 3 "*And certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities - Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward and Susanna,*

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* James 4:2-3, 1 Timothy 6:6-9, Ephesians 5:3-6

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and many others who provided for Him from their substance." What a rarity these precious women were in the life of Christ. While so many came only to take and receive, very few came back to bless and provide for Jesus from their own substance. Such lovers are still far too rare within the Church.

John 12:1-3 "Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead. **There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil and spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.**" Here we find another band of true lovers of Jesus. They are not clinging to Him for what they can receive. **They are delighting just to be with Him, just to behold Him and sit with Him.** Multitudes come to eat of "the bread of life" but very few return to prepare a meal for Jesus. Many claim to have a true relationship with Christ, but true relationship is both receiving and giving. It's receiving His love and mercy and then in return pouring out our love on Him for His pleasure.

John 13:21-26 "When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, 'Most assuredly I say to you, one of you will betray Me.' Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke. **Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.** Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, 'Lord, who is it?' Jesus answered, 'It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I dipped it.' And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon." Here we see the young disciple John operating as a prophet, revealing the secrets of Jesus' heart. **Not because he sought a position but simply because he sought to be**

close to JESUS. John, "the disciple whom Jesus loved" desired only to rest his head on Jesus' breast and as a result he heard the heart beat of God.

John 19:25 & 26 "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus, His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, . . ." Look at Jesus now, He's dying on the cross. He appears to have nothing more to offer. He is not healing the sick with the touch of His hands, they're now pierced and fastened by nails. He is not teaching the profound truths of the Kingdom. He now can barely speak. The feet that once miraculously walked on water are now nailed to the cross. The multitude of admirers and praisers have all forsaken Him. Yet some of the true lovers of Jesus can still be found. They were there not for what they could gain, but for what they could give. They were there for Jesus sake.

What is the reward of such an undying passion for Jesus? The answer is found in John 20:11-23. It is to see the object of all our desires—to see Jesus. The lovers of Jesus were the first to see Him in resurrection power. Jesus reveals Himself to such ones in a very special way. **The generation that strips itself of every impure motivation and loves Christ for His sake, will usher in a mighty visitation from heaven!** Such ones will see the risen and glorious JESUS!

I challenge you NOW to examine yourself with the help of the Holy Spirit. Are you a true lover of Jesus or only one of His admirers. A sure way to discover where we are spiritually, is by looking at our prayer life. Do our prayers consistently revolve around nothing but ourselves and our needs? Certainly prayer involves petitions for our personal needs, yet true prayer is so much more. **True prayer is an intimate time of adoring Jesus. It's being totally preoc-**

cupied and fascinated with the Savior. True prayer is both the casting of our cares upon God and then waiting to receive His cares, His burdens and His broken heart. True prayer has in it something that reaches out to touch Jesus, just to be with Him. True prayer delights the heart of Jesus.

If there is one thing that undermines the strength and beauty of the Church in our day, it is our lovelessness. Many, many have grown cold and forsaken their passion for Christ. I believe the Spirit is crying throughout our land that many within the Church have forgotten and forsaken the heart of Jesus. **We have sinfully neglected the fact that Jesus suffers hurt and pain over our disregard for His feelings.** Jesus Christ is truly Holy and the exalted King of Kings, yet He still longs to be loved by His bride, not only for what He can give, but for Himself ALONE!

Let us humble ourselves in repentance that we might find grace to respond to the heart cry of the Bridegroom. **" . . . Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away! O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely."** (Song of Solomon 2:13 & 14).

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)