

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

XXXIII

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

Like the prophet Jeremiah, Charles G. Finney was anointed of God to "root out" and to "plant" in the Lord's vineyard, (Jer. 1:10). He was a man of intense prayer, purity and passion. *"Emptied of self, he was filled with the Holy Spirit. His sermons were chain lightning, flashing conviction into the hearts of the stoutest skeptics. Simple as a child in his utterances, he sometimes startled his hearers by his unique prayers."* He could thunder the judgements of God upon sin with great liberty and power and then offer the mercy of the gospel with tenderness and tears. Without question he was a prophetic voice to 19th century America.

His ministry consistently produced revivals, even in areas considered hardened and unreceptive to the gospel. Finney's autobiography is filled with accounts of powerful manifestations of the Spirit. On one occasion when Finney was preaching in a school house, *"suddenly an awful solemnity fell upon the assembly and the congregation fell from their seats, crying for mercy."* Finney said, *"If I had had a sword in each hand I could not have cut them off as fast as they fell. I think the whole congregation was on their knees or prostrated in two minutes."* The crying and weeping of the people was so loud that Finney's exhortation of Christ's mercy could not even be heard.

"Finney seemed so anointed with the Holy Spirit that people were often brought under conviction of sin just by



Charles G. Finney

looking at him. When holding meetings at Utica, New York, he visited a large factory. At the sight of him one of the workers, and then another, and then another broke down and wept under a sense of their sins, and finally so many were sobbing and weeping that the machinery had to be stopped while Finney pointed them to Christ."

Finney seems to have had the power of impressing the conscience of men with the necessity of holy living in such a manner as produced lasting results. *"Over eighty-five in every hundred persons professing conversion to Christ in Finney's meetings remained true to God. Whereas seventy percent of those professing Christ in meetings of even so great an evangelist as Moody afterward became backsliders."*

Such results were the fruit of hours and hours of prayer. It was not Finney's prayers alone that secured such heaven sent revivals. Finney's was supported

by the prayers of two of God's hidden treasures. It was the hidden, yet powerful intercessions of "Father Nash" and Abel Clary that laid the ground work for these mighty moves of God. *"Abel Clary was converted about the same time as Finney, and was licensed to preach also, but he had such a burden of prayer that he could not preach much. His whole time and strength was given to prayer. He would writhe and groan in agony, unable to stand under the weight."* *"After Clary's death Finney discovered Clary's prayer journal. Finney found in the exact order of the burden laid upon Clary's heart was the order of blessing poured upon his ministry."*

Father Nash lived a life of almost continual intercession. *"He joined himself with Finney, kept a prayer list and was no doubt the secret of much of Finney's marvelous success. He did not preach and often did not go to the meetings, but remained in his room, or in the woods, wrestling with God in mighty prayer. Often before daybreak people could hear Father Nash for half a mile or more in the woods, or in a church praying, and the sense of God's presence was overwhelming."*

The Church must do more than esteem the history of men like Charles Finney, Father Nash and Able Clary. If we are going to experience revival we must both esteem and PRACTICE the truths they declared; truths of a holy and pure life; truths of hidden intercession and an uncompromising love for Jesus!

References Used -

*"The Autobiography of
Charles G. Finney"*

*"Men and Women of Deep Piety"
by Mrs. Clara McLeister*

*"Intercessory Prayer"
by James G. K. McClure*

The Promise of Revival

Oswald J. Smith in his book "The Enduement of Power" encourages us that revival is a definite promise of God, just waiting to be laid hold of. Oswald J. Smith writes, "*And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh.*" Now, we are still living in the 'last days'. Pentecost was the birthday of the Church. But if Peter could speak of Pentecost as the 'last days', then we are living in the 'last hours' of the 'last days'. This is Saturday night in the history of the Church. **God has declared that in the 'last days' He would pour out of His Spirit.** That promise was partially fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. **But it remains for us to see the final and complete fulfillment.** Let me again remind you that this is still the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. Have we, then, Scripture to warrant the hope of another great outpouring of the Spirit of God as we enter the 'last hours' of this age? I believe we have. It is my deep, deep conviction that God is waiting to pour out His Spirit once again, and that wherever He can find a people who will meet His conditions, He will give flood-tides of revival. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is the greatest need of the hour. Any one may have it and expect it. **This is the solution of all problems.** Not money, but the outpoured Spirit. Not how to get the attention of the people, but how to secure the operation of the Holy Ghost. Not better preaching, but Holy Ghost preaching. *I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh.* This, my brethren, is the greatest need of the hour."

It is time for the Church to become united about its desperate need for revival. We must recognize our true condition! Let us agree in prayer with that old German mystic, Tersteegen, for the promise of revival. "O Lord Jesus! May we all be assembled and wait with ardent desire for the power from on high, and the outpouring of Thy precious Holy Spirit. This you have promised to us. As You have gathered us together as the body, so unite our minds that we may mutually seek, desire, and sigh after You in our spirits. **Purge our hearts of all distractions and of all that which does not lead us to You, that we may meditate on You alone.** O Lord Jesus! What are we without the fervor of Your Spirit, without the light and life of Your Spirit in our hearts? In reality, we are nothing but dead and formal Christians who neither know You, nor love You, nor glorify You. Come then, blessed Comforter! Descend upon this assembly! Enter into every heart! And though we may not all be filled with You, let at least a few drops of Your grace flow unto us on this occasion, that by this water of life our hearts may be mutually refreshed and incited to devote and offer up ourselves to You entirely. **May we utterly forsake all that is not You!** O Lord Jesus! Forgive us if we have ever grieved Your Holy Spirit, resisted His influences, and withdrawn ourselves from them. O let Your most sacred blood cover and atone for these and all other sins! Be in the midst of us, and manifest Yourself graciously and mercifully to our souls like the disciples that we may proclaim the gospel effectually to others. Do this, and hear and answer this our prayer, for the sake of Your precious blood and merits!"

TEARS OF REPENTANCE

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There is no rowing to paradise except upon the stream of repenting tears. **Till sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet.** Why are the wells of repentance stopped? Do not the sinners of the land know that they should repent? Have they no warning? Have not God's faithful messengers lifted up their voice as a trumpet and cried to them to repent? But many of these tools in the ministry have been spent and worn out upon rocky hearts. Do we think that God will always put up with our affronts?

Some bless themselves that they have a stock of knowledge, but what is knowledge good for without repentance? Learning and a bad heart is like a fair face with a cancer in the breast. **Knowledge without repentance will be but a torch to light the way to hell.** Repentant tears may be compared to myrrh, which though it is bitter in taste, has a sweet smell and refreshes the spirit. So repentance, though it is bitter in itself, yet it is sweet in the effects. It brings inward peace.

We are to find as much bitterness in weeping for sin as ever we found sweetness in committing it. Surely David found more bitterness in repentance than ever he found comfort in Bathsheba. Tears have four qualities: they are moist, salt, hot, and bitter. It is true of repenting tears, they are hot to warm a frozen conscience; moist, to soften a hard heart; salt, to season a soul decaying in sin; bitter, to wean us from the love of the world. And I will add a fifth, they are sweet, in that they make the heart inwardly rejoice. David, who was the great weeper in Israel, was the sweet singer of Israel. The sorrows of the repentant are like the sorrows of a travailing woman: "*A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.*" (John 16:21).

Be as speedy in your repentance as you would have God be speedy in His mercies. Many are now in hell that purposed to repent. Satan does what he can to keep men from repentance. When he sees that one begins to take up serious thoughts of reformation, he bids them wait a little longer. It is dangerous to procrastinate repentance. The longer any go on sinning, the harder they will find the work of repentance. Delay strengthens sin and

hardens the heart and gives the devil fuller possession. A plant at first may be easily plucked up, but when it has spread its roots deep in the earth, a whole team cannot remove it. It is hard to remove sin when it comes to be rooted. **The longer the ice freezes the harder it is to be broken. The longer a man freezes in security, the harder it will be to have his heart broken.**

Presuming upon God's mercy can be eternally fatal. Many suck poison from this sweet flower. Oh, one says, "*Christ has died; He has done all for me; therefore I may sit still and do nothing.*" Thus they suck death from the tree of life and perish by a saviour. So I may say of God's mercy, it accidentally causes the ruin of many. Because of mercy, some men presume and think they may go on sinning. But should a king's clemency make his subjects rebel? The psalmist says, "*there is mercy with God, that he may be feared,*" (Psalms 130:4) but not that we may sin. Can men expect mercy by provoking justice? God will hardly show those mercy who sin because mercy abounds. **Many would rather go sleeping to hell than weeping to heaven.**

by Thomas Watson
"The Doctrine of Repentance"

JESUS CHRIST

The True Bridegroom

by Basilea Schlink

Jesus is a true Bridegroom; this is His very nature. That is why He calls Himself Bridegroom in the Scriptures. His great love desires a bride, a bridal soul. He longs fervently for her love. He looks for her to see whether she is about to come to Him, to see whether she longs and yearns for Him, to see whether she really wants Him alone.

Jesus is a true Bridegroom; this is His very nature. He wants to give us His love; but He is also waiting for us to return His love. Jesus is a true Bridegroom. His love is a jealous love. He wants you, your soul, completely. **He is jealous when you give your love to other people and to other things.** He is jealous when you pay more attention to them, when you give them more time, more of yourself, than you give Him. Then He stands beside you, grieved. Then He is hurt and wounded, because He loves you so much.

Jesus is a true Bridegroom. He does not force you to love Him. He asks: *"Will you give Me your love?"*, and He gets what He wants when you do this. Only one thing will satisfy Him - your love. All else is too small for Him: that you believe in Him, that you obey Him, that you come to Him for forgiveness. He is not only your Physician who heals you. He is not only your Redeemer who delivers you from your bonds. **He wants to be your Bridegroom, and as Bridegroom He gives you His great, His tender, His most intimate love. Now He is waiting for you to give Him your love. He who loves wants to be loved in return.**

Because Jesus is the Bridegroom, He can be wounded if you take up self-chosen crosses, choosing the way of poverty and resolving to make sacrifices simply for ascetic reasons. Certainly He wants you to follow Him on the way of the cross. But His heart is filled with grief and sorrow if

it is not love that impels you. You should not take the way of the cross for your own sanctification, but rather - as He repeatedly said while He was on earth - *"For My sake you should lose your life, for My sake you should forsake houses, brethren . . ."* **Out of love for Him, out of love alone you should choose obedience, lowliness, humility and disgrace.**

Only the dedication which springs from love will make Him happy. Indeed, this is the only dedication which He will accept. Nothing else. All else is insufficient. Anything else would be more likely to wound Him, because it is simply pious deceit; we seem to be going His way, but it is really for our own sake.

Jesus, the Bridegroom, is the Man of Sorrows. He suffers to this present day. He is seeking a bride who will share with Him what is in His heart. His heart is filled not only with love, but also with suffering - past and present. **He is seeking a bride who will really live out the bridal state, whose heart will beat with His, who will bear things with Him,** who not only suffers through her own afflictions, but also suffers His afflictions with Him, who in reality enters into the fellowship of suffering with Him. Only she is a true bride who is concerned about His concerns - about the needs of His people and His Church and the things which hinder His dominion among the peoples.

For Him the bride is the soul who suffers with Him and who is prepared to do everything to alleviate His sufferings. She seeks ways through sacrifice and prayer and does her utmost to ensure that the things which trouble Him may be changed. She labors so that He may be honored where He is not now honored, that He may be feared where He is not now feared. She strives to lead back to God the people who are not living according to His



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commandments and statutes, and so she comforts His heart and makes Him happy. **She spends her life for Him and suffers until she has loved souls home to Him by whom they can be saved, until people set themselves under His dominion and begin to love Him.** Not until her Bridegroom is comforted will she be satisfied. The bride keeps asking Him: "How can I comfort You?", and in the quietness the Bridegroom will tell her what grieves Him. She will go with Him to comfort Him.

Jesus is a true Bridegroom; this is His very nature. That is why He is not satisfied when we simply set ourselves under His dominion and give Him slavish obedience. He wants more - He wants our heart, our very hearts blood. As the Bridegroom, He asks: "How much am I worth to you? How much can you sacrifice for Me? Can you give Me your beloved children? Can you give Me father and mother and friends? Can you give Me your home and your native land out of love if I ask for these? Will you go anywhere I call you to serve, and lead to Me the souls for which I hunger? Can you sacrifice your honor, your strength, your longing to be loved, your deepest secret wishes for Me?"

Jesus is a true Bridegroom; this is His very nature. He waits for His bride. **He does not seek to force love; it must be spontaneous.** He knocks softly on the door. He waits until someone opens it. He stands behind the door and looks to see whether His bride will open up and come out to Him (Song of Solomon 5:2). His eyes follow her sadly if all day long she is busy and in a hurry, if she goes about everything quickly and vigorously and yet spiritually is becoming estranged from Him, because she is completely engrossed with her work and earthly business.

Jesus is a true Bridegroom; this is His very nature. His ardent concern is to impart His likeness to His bride so that she too may radiate divine beauty and be adorned with many virtues. He works with special care, loving care for His bride. He guides her and leads her along paths of chastisement, for this will bring her to where His is. He dreams of the full beauty that shall be hers. He loves her too much to suffer her to have any "spots" or "wrinkles", because she is His bride. Full of pride and joy, His loving eyes behold her as though she were perfect. **Through the power of His blood He, the Almighty, can bring her to the perfection of divine beauty.**

"Jesus wants to be your Bridegroom, and as Bridegroom He gives you His great, His tender, and His most intimate love."

Jesus is a true Bridegroom; this is His very nature. So He stands as a Protector besides His bride. He is intent upon protecting her from all who may want to harm her. He strives on her behalf. **To be a bride means that one is no longer alone. It means that one has an intimate partner who lives for his bride, and to do everything that he can for her.** So, Jesus, the Bridegroom, lives to do everything for His bride, to help her in every situation, in every need, in every impossibility. She is no longer alone. Jesus is true Bridegroom; this is His very nature. He is waiting in heaven for the day when His bride will come to Him so that He can be united with her for ever. He seeks her in unending love.

I will betroth you to Me forever; I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In steadfast love, and in mercy. I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness; And you shall KNOW the Lord. (Hosea 2:19-20).

**by Basilea Schlink
"My All For Him"**

The Watchword is a free monthly publication designed to awaken the Church to her need for humility, repentance and revival. We gratefully welcome your prayers and financial support as the Holy Spirit leads. Please feel free to make copies of the Watchword for your family, friends and ministry use.

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

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)