

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

XXXVI

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

E. M. Bounds in his classic little book "Power Through Prayer", wrote, "What the Church needs today is not more or better machinery, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use - men of prayer, men mighty in prayer."

Edward Payson was just such a man; a man mighty in prayer. "He prayed without ceasing and felt safe nowhere but at the Throne of Grace. He may be said to have studied theology on his knees. Much of his time he spent literally prostrated with his Bible open before him pleading the promise; 'I will send the Comforter and when He, The Spirit of Truth is come, He will guide you into all truth.'" Payson's advice to his fellow ministers was, "prayer is the first thing, the second thing and the third thing necessary to a minister. Pray then my dear brother, pray, pray." It has been well said that the secret of Edward Payson's ministry was that he prayed much in secret. The scars on his bedroom floor testify to this fact. Next to Payson's bed were deep grooves in the hardwood floor where his knees had pressed repeatedly in times of travail.

To read "Praying Payson's" diary is to be touched by his heart longings and tender love for Jesus and the lost. On January 4, 1807, he wrote, "I was favored with a spirit of prayer beyond all my former experience. I was in great agony and wrestled both for myself and others with great power. God seemed to bow the heavens and come down and open all His treasures, bidding me, take what I would."



Edward Payson

January 29th, "I never felt such longings after God or such a desire to depart to be with Christ. My soul thirsted for more full communion with my God and Savior. I do not now feel satisfied as I used to with the manifestations of the divine presence, but still feel hungry and craving." February 18, "I was enabled to lie at Jesus' feet and to wash them with the tears of contrition. No pleasure I have ever found in the Christian life is superior to this." February 28, "I was favored with great enlargement in prayer. I seemed to be carried out of myself into the presence of God."

Like all true men of prayer, Payson understood the need for true humility. "It was the burden of his secret prayers that he might be delivered from pride, from self-seeking, from preaching himself instead of Christ Jesus the Lord." Through humility and fervent prayer he was always in hopes of seeing a fresh wave of revival. "The revivals which took place under his labors were numerous and were characterized by a depth and power seldom seen." Often Payson's congregation was overwhelmed

with a sense of Christ's presence and power and irresistibly brought to tears. Mr. Payson's diary testifies of the power and necessity of prayer for revival. September 27th, "In the evening I was favored with great faith and fervency in prayer. It seemed as if God would deny me nothing, and I wrestled for multitudes of souls, and could not help hoping there would be revival here." September 28, "I was favored with the greatest degree of freedom and fervency in interceding for others. I seemed to travail in birth with poor sinners and could not help hoping that God is about to do something for His glory and the good of souls." Within days, "Praying Payson" saw his prayers answered through a fresh work of revival power.

On April 23, 1808, Edward Payson wrote, "My heart seemed ready to break with its longings after holiness." Such longings for heart purity, revival power and the person of Jesus are the marks of a healthy and normal Christian life. The lack of these precious things in the modern Church reveals a nominal* Christian life. Too much of what is called the Church today is not fit to live or die. The nominal* Christian is unfit to deal with our demon-possessed age or the coming judgement seat of Christ. Truly the Church's greatest need is for men and women, mighty in prayer. We need men and women who will pray and crave for revival. The choice is ours, either to pray or to perish.

* - Nominal: Existing in name only. A difference in name and not in reality.

References Used -

"Memoir, Select Thoughts and Sermons of Rev. Edward Payson"
Compiled by Asa Cummings

"Touching Incidents and Remarkable Answers to Prayer"
by S. B. Shaw

"Power Through Prayer"
by E. M. Bounds

WHAT KIND OF REVIVAL DO WE NEED?

by Andrew Murray

How is the Church to be lifted up to the abundant life in Christ, which will fit Her for the work that God is putting before Her? **Nothing will help but a revival, nothing less than a tremendous spiritual revival.** Great tides of spiritual energy must be put into motion if this work is to be accomplished. Now there may be great differences in what we understand by revival. Many will think of the work of evangelists like Moody and Torrey. We need a different and mightier revival than those were. In them the chief object was the conversion of sinners, and incidentally, the quickening of believers. But the revival that we need calls for a deeper and more entire upheaval of the Church. **The great defect of those revivals was that the converts were received into a Church that was not living on the high level of consecration and holiness, and speedily sank down to the average standard of ordinary religious life.** Even the believers who had been roused by it, also gradually returned to their former life of clouded fellowship and lack of power to testify for Christ.

The revival we need is a revival of holiness, in which the consecration of the whole being is to the service of Christ, and that for the whole life shall be counted possible. And for this there will be needed a new style of preaching in which the promises of God to dwell in His people, and to sanctify them for Himself, will take a place which they do not now have. When our Lord Jesus gave the promise of the Holy Spirit, He spoke of the New Covenant blessing that would be experienced - God dwelling in His people. *"If a man love Me, he will keep My words; and My Father will love him."* So Paul also writes: *"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith . . . that you might be filled with all the fullness of God."* With the Reformation, the great truth of justification by faith was restored to its place. **But the other great truth of sanctification has never yet taken its place in the preaching and practice of the Church which God's Word claims for it.** It is for this that we need a revival, that the Holy Spirit may so take possession of us that the Father and the Son can live in us, and that the fellowship with Them, and devotion to Their will and service shall be our chief joy. This will be in very deed a holiness revival.

The Moravian community (at Herrnhut) owed its birth to a holiness revival. There were gathered together a number of Bohemian refugees, and along with them a number of Christians of different sects. It was not long before disputes arose, and Herrnhut became a scene of contention and divisions. Zinzendorf felt this so deeply that he went down to live among them. In the power of God's Spirit he succeeded in restoring order and in binding them together in the power and devotion of Jesus Christ and of love to each other. More than once they had remarkable manifestations of the presence of the Spirit, and their whole life became one of worship and praise. After

they had for a couple of years been having their nightly fellowship meetings, they were led to the consecration of the whole body to the service of Christ's kingdom. It was in this holiness revival that the Moravian missionary idea was born. When John Wesley visited them he wrote: *"God has given me the desire of my heart. I am with a church whose conversation is in heaven, in whom is the mind that was in Christ, and who so walk as He walked. Here I continually met what I sought for - living proofs of the power of faith, persons saved from inward as well as outward sin, by the love of God shed abroad in their hearts. I was extremely comforted and strengthened by the conversation of this lovely people."*

A holiness revival! What was the great evangelistic revival in England through Whitefield and Wesley but this? They had together at Oxford been members of the "Holy Club". With their whole heart they had sought deliverance from the guilt of sin, but also from the power of sin. When their eyes were opened to see how faith can claim the whole Christ in all fullness, they found the key to the preaching which was so mightily effectual for the salvation of men. What John Wesley did for the Methodists, General Booth, and his disciples, did for the Salvation Army. Looking at the material on which he had to work, it was amazing how, with his teaching of the clean heart and full salvation, he was able to inspire tens of thousands with a true devotion to Christ and the lost. **There may be great differences of doctrine, but no one can be blind to the seal God has set upon the intense desire to preach a full salvation and an entire consecration.**

A revival of holiness is what we need. Such preaching of the claim that Christ has on us, shall lead us to live entirely for Him and His kingdom; such an attachment of love to Him as shall make His fellowship our highest joy; such faith in His freeing us from the dominion of sin as shall enable us to obey His commandments; such yielding to the Holy Spirit as to be led by Him in all our daily walk - these will be some of the elements of the revival of true holiness for which the Church must learn to seek as for the pearl of great price.

And how is it to be found? It will cost much prayer. It will cost more than that - much sacrifice of self and of the world. It will need a surrender to Christ Jesus to follow Him as closely as God is able to lead us. We must learn to look upon a life like Christ's, having the very same mind that was in Him, as the supreme object of daily life. It is only when a prayer such as Robert Murray McCheyne's becomes ours, *"Lord make me as holy as a pardoned sinner can be,"* and begins to be offered by an increasing number of ministers and believers, that the promise of the New Covenant will become a matter of experience. †

THE GODLY MAN WEEPS

by Thomas Watson

"Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who CONTINUALLY goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psalms 126:5,6

Christ calls His spouse His "dove" (Song 2:14). The dove is a weeping creature. Grace dissolves and liquefies the soul, causing a spiritual thaw. The sorrow of the heart runs out at the eye (Psa. 31:9). **A godly heart grieves that it is not more holy.** It troubles him that he falls short of the rule and standard which God has set. "I should", he says, "love the Lord with all my heart." But how defective my love is! How far short I come of what I should be, no, of what I might have been!

A godly man sometimes weeps out of the sense of God's love. Gold is the finest and most solid of all the metals, yet it is soonest melted in the fire. **Gracious hearts, which are golden hearts, are the soonest melted into tears by the fire of God's love.** I once knew a holy man, who was walking in his garden and shedding plenty of tears when a friend came on him accidentally and asked him why he wept. He broke forth into this passionate expression: "Oh, the love of Christ, the love of Christ!" Thus we have seen the cloud melted into water by the sunbeams.

A godly person weeps because the sins he commits are in some sense worse than the sins of other men. The sin of a justified person is very odious. **The sin of a justified person is odious, because it is a sin of unkindness (1 Kings 11:9).** Peter's denying of Christ was a sin against love. Christ had enrolled him among the apostles. He had taken him up into the Mount of Transfiguration and shown him the glory of heaven in a vision. Yet after all this mercy, it was base ingratitude that he should deny Christ. This made him go out and "weep bitterly" (Matt. 26:75). He baptized himself, as it were, in his own tears. **The sins of the godly go nearest to God's Heart.** The sins of others anger the Lord; the godly man's sins grieve Him. The sins of the wicked pierce Christ's side, the sins of the godly wound His heart. **The unkindness of a spouse goes nearest to the heart of her husband.**

How far from being godly are those who scarcely ever shed a tear for sin! If they lose a near relation, they weep, but though they are in danger of losing God and their souls, they do not weep. How few know what it is to be in an agony for sin or what a broken heart means! Their eyes are not like the "fishpools in Heshbon", full of water (Song 7:4), but rather like the mountains of Gilboa, which had no dew upon them (2 Sam. 1:21).

Others, if they sometimes shed a tear, are still never the better. They go on in wickedness, and do not drown their sins in their tears. Let us strive for this divine characteristic: to be weepers. This is "a repentance not to be repented of" (2 Cor. 7:10). It is reported of Mr. Bradford, the martyr, that he was of a melting spirit; he seldom sat down to his meal but some tears trickled down his cheeks. There are two lavers to wash away sin: blood and tears. The blood of Christ washes away the guilt of sin; tears wash away the filth.

Repenting tears are precious. God puts them in His bottle (Psa. 56:8). They are beautifying. **A tear in the eye adorns more than a ring of the finger. Oil makes the face shine (Psa. 104:15). Tears make the heart shine; tears are comforting.** A sinner's mirth turns to melancholy. A saint's mourning turns to music. Repentance may be compared to myrrh, which though it is bitter to the taste, is comforting to the spirits. Repentance may be bitter to the fleshy part, but it is most refreshing to the spiritual. **Wax that melts is fit for the seal. A melting soul is fit to take the stamp of all heavenly blessing.** Let us give Christ the water of our tears and He will give us the wine of His Blood! †

**"A Godly Man
Sometimes
Weeps Out Of
The Sense Of
God's Love."**

Reference Used -

"The Godly Man's Picture"
by Thomas Watson

Vision

**"Where there is no vision,
the people perish."**

Author Unknown

"Where there is no vision, the people throw off restraint." (Proverbs 29:18). The need of the hour is vision, and vision we must have or break upon the jagged rocks of infidelity and materialism towards which we are being driven by the fiercest gale that has troubled these waters for many years. Our age is going blind! The black clouds of our own dissipations are shutting out the light! **The ceaseless whirl, and hurry, and rush of life is robbing us of God!** It is time to heed the warning. Lord have mercy upon us and give us wisdom.

Give the ministry vision! Help those of us whom you have called to be watchmen, amid the closing scenes of this awful age of God-forgetting, to live in the mountains so close to Your heart that we will see from Your viewpoint! Set our hearts on fire! Make us courageous! Help us to rebuke folly, unmask hypocrisy, and expose carnality! Don't let us pander to the worldlings, no matter what their profession or position! Save us from soft sentimental preaching; ununctionize us until the people will go out from under our ministry, feeling that they have listened to *"A man sent from God."*

Give the money-mad vision! That haggard, wrinkled, worried crowd who are burning up with a lust for gold. They cannot sleep. They have no time to pray. They struggle in a nightmare of stocks and shares and mortgages. Their nerves are gone, their health is gone and God is gone! The only worship they know is the worship of gold. **O Lord wake them up, before their miserable lives burn out, and they fall into a terrible hell.** Give the great crowd of pleasure-seekers and fashion-lovers vision. Those who have shrivelled their souls to a mere nothing by an endless study of proprieties and fashions, and etiquette and styles. They are a thousand times more worried about their complexion than they are about their sins, more interested about

the latest fad than they are in redemption. What a spectacle they will present in the judgement, when death will have unraveled them down to character. All the trappings gone! When death shall have scattered their trivialities amid the mould of the graveyard, and they must face God, burned out, prayerless unholy things, who danced and giggled, and flirted their souls away. Oh! My God! Give us vision! Swing us back to the things of value! Clear the fog of the hills of our higher levels of living, and help us climb! Climb until we have found the light as You are in the light. **Climb until we are more hungry for God than we are for fame, or money, or a good time.** And dear God, give us vision quickly! Don't let us wait too long before we begin to look and listen. Don't let us wait until our ears are deafened by the world's selfish roar. Don't let us wait until our eyes are blinded by the glare of passing pomp and folly before we strive to see and hear things of supreme worth. Help us to pause amid the hurried rush, and listen to the call of things more real.

Help us now to give ourselves to prayer, and stay there until the scales fall from our eyes, and the hardness melts from our hearts. Until God, and heaven, and hell, and holiness become real, until we are made simple enough again to hear Your voice. We shall doubtless be put down as dreamers, fanatics or fools by the mad mob who, have eyes but see not, and ears but hear not, but Oh! My God! Give us vision! The visions of God are only seen through the lens of a pure heart. †

Reference Used -

"The Price of Revival"
by J. D. Drysdale

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)