

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

XXVII

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 life of Billy Bray was an almost perfect example of the threefold injunction: Rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing and in everything give thanks." Billy Bray was a Spirit-filled Christian who took the Cornwall County area of England by storm. One wonders if there ever was a Christian that had more joy than Billy. His radiant joy, his persuasive preaching and his charming wit made him famous. Before his conversion to Christ, he was a drunken miner, but after being saved and filled with the Spirit, he became a burning and shining light for Christ. Billy Bray was faithful to pray for his co-workers and saw several brought to Jesus in answer to his prayers. He believed in the reality of prayer, and he meant to be answered whenever he interceded for the souls of his friends.

"Billy often felt the love of God overflowing in his soul, so much that he frequently shouted aloud or danced for joy. Some objected to his dancing and shouting, but Billy justified himself by referring to how Miriam and David danced before the Lord, and to the example of the cripple at Lystra who, after he was healed, leaped and walked and praised God. Billy also said that it was prophesied that 'the lame man shall leap as an hart.' He said, 'I can't help praising God,' as I go along the street I lift up one foot, and it seems to



Billy Bray

say, Glory, I lift up the other, and it seems to say, Amen; and so they keep on like that all the time I am walking. Even when his wife died, Billy jumped about the room with joy, exclaiming: 'Bless the Lord!' My dear Joey is gone up with the bright ones! My dear Joey is gone up with the shining angels! Glory! Glory! Glory!" Such actions often caused people to criticize him. He once jokingly said, "they said I was a mad man, but what they really meant was I was a glad man."

Billy could not tolerate deadness, as he expressively called it, either in a professing Christian or in a meeting. There was great excitement in many of his meetings; some singing, some praying, some shouting, and others dancing. These scenes were once quite common among the Cornish Methodist people.

"Billy was a hard worker. He often worked twenty hours out of the twenty-four, building meeting houses with his own hands after working his regular shift in the mines. One time he went to the town of Saint Ives to get money for one of his chapels. But the run of fish had been so poor that the fishermen did not have any money to give him. Billy and others prayed earnestly for fish and the fishermen caught thousands upon thousands." Billy often said that he was working for a big firm, - the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and he had great confidence in Them. He believed Christ would no sooner starve Michael the Archangel, as He would starve Billy Bray!

Concerning fasting, Billy would say, *"On Sunday I get my breakfast and dinner from the King's table, two good meals too, and I would not exchange this food from heaven for the richest dinner on earth."* The practice of fasting never quenched Billy's life of joy and praise. Billy believed if the members of the churches would mortify the flesh more, and not gratify it, they would be much HAPPIER than they are!

Billy Bray's secret of a life filled with joyful praise was not the lifting of feet or hands, but the lifting up of a grateful heart to God. Billy Bray's ministry was effectual because he prayed much. *"By prayer he opened the hand of God when it was filled with blessings."*

References Used-

"Billy Bray The King's Son "
by F. W. Bourne

*"Deeper Experiences of
Famous Christians "*
by J. G. Lawson

THE LOVER'S SECRET

**"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him,
and He will show them His Covenant" Psalms 25:14**

Love is not love which has not its secret. **Love is not love which has no reverence, no awe, no devotion, no trembling fear.** There is a passion which is not love but only a cold, amiable, and calculating benevolence. Love which is love indeed is always full of fear, swift to hear and to discern, swifter still to interpret and to understand. Two who love may be in one company, no word may pass between them, no sign be given, no gesture be made, not even a glance may be caught by the most watchful eye. Yet each is well aware of what the other is thinking and feeling. **The lover's secret is the disclosure of character, the revealing of the inner personality, the dear discovery to the beloved of the inward passion and delight.** The secret is with them that fear Him and no other.

There were men whom Jesus loved, who went away sorrowful because they brought no mind to enter into His secret, and they left a sadder heart behind. There was a city He loved, over which He wept, not only because of its doom, but because it knew not the day of its visitation. There was a race He loved, and longed after, and named His own, which knew Him not when He came. There was a world He loved and died for, which judged Him to be only a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, smitten of God and afflicted, and it judges so still. At times His own had their eyes blinded. *"Oh faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you?"* **This is the cry of a love which is weary.** *"Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip?"* **This the cry of love disappointed and in pain.** But when He found men like Peter, James and John, He took them into the house of sorrow, and up into the Mount of Transfiguration, and into the depths of the Garden, and there He disclosed His character to them.

These truths are seen clearly in the story of Moses. When Moses first enters into the knowledge of God, he knows Him only as his Master, rudely and mistakenly, with the hot, impulsive, and lawless deeds of youth. As years pass on, he lays himself down on God's altar, in a true faith and a meek submission, and becomes known as *"Moses, the servant of the Lord."* But he rises above the servant and he becomes the man to whom the Lord spoke as a man speaketh *"face to face with his friend."* Because he was the friend of God, He made known to him His ways. The day came when Moses prayed, *"Show me Thy glory."* What is God's glory? What did Moses crave to see and to know? God's glory is His character. **It was the lover's cry to see that inner world of beauty, which love can disclose only to love's deep-seeing eyes.** The Jewish legend ran that when Moses lay dying on the mount, God stooped and kissed him, because He was his lover, and had revealed His secret to him. He had shown to him, as He will to us, the secret of the master and the friend and the lover, because he **"FEARED THE LORD."**

*by W.M. Clow
"The Secret of the Lord"*

GOD IS JEALOUS

The Lord declares Himself a jealous God, and He will never give us a blessing that will make us, in a sense, independent and able to get along without frequent and deep communings with Himself. **He wants us to be often in His presence, and when there, to linger.** The reasons for this are obvious at a glance. He desires none of His children to possess stale experiences. He commanded fresh oil to be placed in the lamps, and new loaves on the table of the sanctuary. It is the ever fresh manifestation of God to the soul that is so attractive and impressive to the lost.

Again, the deep things of the spiritual life are not given to the hurried visitor at the throne of grace, but to

the lingerer at the Footstool of prayer. It is marvelous what secrets such people obtain from God. They are ever astonishing others with their beautiful and blessed discoveries in the Bible and kingdom of Grace. They spend so much time on their knees listening at the gates of heaven to what is going on within, that there is no wonder they surprise those religious people who spend most of their time in listening to what people of this world are saying. **Nothing can take the place of protracted prayer as a peculiar means of grace.** By it comes an increased knowledge of God, a deeper insight into the Word, a profounder acquaintance with the heart, a greater hatred for sin, a mightier love for holiness and souls and a more regal faith.

Years ago we read that just in proportion as the knees get soft the heart grows hard and as the knees grow hard the heart gets soft. We have found it to be so in our own experience and in that of many others with whom we have conversed. **In a word, we will never enter into a true Christian life in this world that releases us from the obligation**

and necessity of much prayer. What a revelation of weak Christian lives, and what an explanation of powerless pulpits could be made today by the examination of the knees of God's people. How soft most of them would be found to be! And how hard at the same time would be some of their words, how stony their feelings and how unmerciful their decisions and judgements.

*by B. Carradine
"The Sanctified Life"*

the Morning Watch

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

“ONE OF YOU”

by Thomas Payne, from “The Greatest Force on Earth”



“Epaphras, who is ONE OF YOU, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”
Col. 4:12.

What a mighty, irresistible force the Church of God would become in the world if she had within her ranks a host of spiritual intercessors like Epaphras who knew how to labor always fervently in prayer. The Church would then learn to regard this ministry as the indispensable thing and the one thing above all others that can prevail with God for blessing, to build up saints and secure power in the Holy Ghost, which enables believers to bear witness of Jesus Christ to a godless world (Acts 1:8).

The Power of Prayer

Intensified prayer through faith in Jesus Christ has done more to revive the Church after years of spiritual declension than any other force on earth. In answer to the intensified prayers of Martin Luther, God raised up a standard of truth against the flood of error, and restored to the Church the doctrine of justification by faith, which had so long been buried beneath the corruption of superstition and priestcraft.

In answer to the intensified prayers of Wesley and his devoted followers, the Lord restored to the Church the power of Apostolic Christianity. It was in answer to the intensified prayers of a consecrated few in 1858 and 1859 that the Lord poured out His Spirit and shook a great part of the continent of America. The Spirit of Grace and supplication wrought so abundantly in the souls of a few genuine believers that very soon most of the preaching services were turned into prayer-meetings and, under God, there was put into operation a chain of prayer reaching over two thousand miles in length, resulting in the greatest revival known since the days of the Apostles. So great was its power and influence that the inspiration of it flashed across the Atlantic Ocean into the very heart of Ireland, and found a place in the souls of a few devoted Christians. They fully believed that, what God was doing in answer to prayer in America, He could do for them. And very soon, in answer to their agonizing prayers, the Lord poured out His Spirit and shook the north of Ireland, and inaugurated a blessed revival.

A Word of Caution

We are persuaded that more depends upon the manner and spirit in which we receive the tidings of a revival than we have ever dreamed. It is possible that failure, through lack of sympathy on the part of many of our Churches with the late Welsh revival, supplies a reason for the spirit of decline which followed, as well as the departure from the faith which has taken place in our country during the past few years. It may also explain to some extent the reason why the revival in Wales, blessed and wonderful as it was, did not accomplish all that we hoped it would, or possibly all that God had intended it should. **May the Lord increase our love and appreciation for signs of spiritual awakening so that we may be always ready to encourage a true revival.**

A Word of Encouragement

Epaphras, who is “**one of you**,” which may imply that he was not only one of their Church or class, but also a man of like passions, one of the same original stock. And though it is evident that at this time he stood high in the ranks of Apostolic Christianity, yet it was not because of anything in himself, apart from the Grace of God, that made him differ from the others about him. Therefore, with a slight alteration, the words, “**one of you**,” may be successfully applied so as to inspire others with the thought that what God has done for one, He is able and willing to do for others.

We may visit a company of bootmenders, and say, William Carey, was “**one of you**” and he sought and obtained mercy, and after receiving the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, joined the ranks of intercessors, and soon developed such remarkable gifts that by his preaching and writing abilities he set in motion a work in India which, under God, will continue to grow and multiply to the end of time.

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We may pay a visit to one of our Scotch factories, and say to the young female workers at their looms, Mary Slessor was "**one of you,**" and she accepted Jesus and joined the ranks of intercessors, and became a mighty missionary in heathen Africa; and by her consecrated life thousands of sin-stained Africans were brought to the Saviour.

Epaphras was "**one of you,**" and he gave himself continually to prayer and to the study of the Word, though possibly at that time in the eyes of many of his brethren, he was only looked upon as an ordinary disciple or one like themselves. Yet because of his intensified prayers and intercessions in God's sight, Epaphras may have counted for a thousand, yea, a million, of some ordinary Christians.

The Burden of His Prayers

According to the statement of the Apostle, the sole burden of the prayers of Epaphras and the purpose for which he labored and agonized so intensely was for the blessing of their entire sanctification. Hence Paul speaks of him as one who was "*always laboring fervently that they,*" the members of the Church at Colosse, "*may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.*" We may

gather from the above prayer that Christians who are wholly abandoned to God and filled with the Spirit of grace and supplication will have a longing desire for the conversion of sinners, such as no doubt was the case of Epaphras. Yet if the prayer of Epaphras in this case means anything, it means that our responsibility is not ended when sinners are converted and born again, but rather we must pray more intensely, as did Epaphras, that those who have already accepted Christ "*may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God,*" and continue to pray until they get the assurance of it.

It is evident that so long as we give place to the carnal mind, which we are told is at enmity with God, we will have something within us that will hate God and will resist the Holy Spirit, and will strangle our very desires after holiness. Therefore, in order to be always able to labor fervently in our prayers, like Epaphras, that those who are already believers may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God, we ourselves must not allow anything carnal or selfish to come in to hinder the intensity of our prayers. Had the beloved Apostle John cherished anything within him that was doubtful, he could never have been able to testify, "*Whatever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments,*

and do those things which are pleasing in His sight" (I John 3:21-22). No man can really pray above the level of his own experience.

The Army of Intercessors

All through the history of the Church, God has been filling up His ranks of intercessors, not so much from the great and mighty of the earth but from among the poor and despised followers of Christ. And we may expect that in the future He is going to form His exceeding great and mighty army of intercessors not from among those who consider themselves wise and prudent, but from among those who know how to worship Him in spirit and in truth, and who know how to pray in the Holy Ghost. They are the souls God is on the look out for. None else need apply, for only such as have taken the trouble, like Epaphras, to learn the secret of prayer, will God take into rulership with Himself in the ministry of prayer and intercession.



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."
(I John 5:4)*

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.

Hidden In Him Prayer Watch