



Prayergram

Challenging Christians to Pray

September 2011



Revival, Pure and Holy

We're not experiencing 'pure revival' because, to a large degree, the majority of professing Christians will reject the vessel God sends on the basis of name recognition. God will use the unexpected, the unassuming, the ones who have gone through the 'pangs of birth pain,' who have been prepared in the 'furnace of prayer,' who have known how to yield themselves to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And they shall shine forth with the glory of the Son of God upon them. Then all shall know that there is a living God in the land, and He has set the remnant in array for a 'Holy invasion.'



Matthew Skariah

who is preaching, for God, the Preacher, will preach through His yielded vessels. In our revival discussions, we always talk about past revivals, and keep insisting that God should duplicate those revivals, as though He has lost His power, that He is unable to work in our midst now. Do you believe that God has shut down the shop and gone fishing? He is the same unchanging God and His promises are ever the same. Before we can experience the revival that makes us wholesome, we must seek the truth which makes us free.

There is a growing crisis in leadership in the land, in the home, in the church, in business as well as in government. We are always in a crisis mode

and looking for a quick-fix whether it is a religious problem or secular one. With all the preaching on radio and television, we have not been able to put one dent on the moral and social corruption of our nation. What does that tell us? It tells us that we cannot shout higher than we live, and examples are better than precepts. God's will is holy and pure. His will is an indispensable precept. When we do His will, we will have His peace. There must be a revival in the home before we can have a revival in the church. Let's remember the words of Jonathan Edwards, America's Puritan preacher, "Every Christian family ought to be like a church, consecrated to Christ and wholly influenced and governed by His laws." It seems that we don't want to be governed by God's laws. Is it any wonder we are drifting as a nation and a people?

When pure revival comes, God will visit His people with apostolic power and purity. The time of such visitation is a time of cleansing, adjusting, and ordering of the inner life which harmonizes it with the precious will of God. As Christians, we speak a great deal about 'revival', but

When pure revival comes, God will raise up someone with a broken heart, and he will step up to the plate and speak courageously for Jehovah God, and when that happens there will be true repentance and contrition. When God moves in the midst of His people with apostolic power, preachers will quietly lead their flock into a prayer chamber like our master did. They shall not talk of visiting evangelist or famous Christian leaders, but they shall talk of the magnificent presence of the Holy One of Israel.

When pure revival comes, we shall no more ask

mum when it comes to biblical holiness and purity. We want God to send a 'nice and tidy revival' without disturbing our nest of carnality. We are so captivated with self and so afraid of its destruction. Beloved, if we don't voluntarily submit ourselves to God, He may do it for us. It may sound a bit harsh. God's medicine may be bitter to the taste, but it is healing to the soul. There is no easy path to revival. Greatness is forged in the rugged terrain of life, not by having a mossy path that requires no pain, self-denial, or self-restraint. When the Spirit moves in our land, there wouldn't be any sensation-mongering religious activities which attempt to elevate one's religious profile.

When God works miracles, multitudes shall come wanting to hear the gospel preached in purity and power. There shall be a total rejection of any perversion of biblical truth for personal gain and such manipulative activities would be considered as a sordid business. When Jesus comes in glory and majesty, pride and arrogance will disappear from the places of worship. When people are saturated with His Spirit, they will travail, mourn, weep, cry, fast and abase themselves.

When true revival comes, there will be apostolic praying. As we know, we talk a great deal about prayer in conjunction with revival, but we pray very little. A young man in Bible school offered to help David Wilkerson years ago when he was ministering on the streets of New York City. Wilkerson asked him how much time he spent in prayer. The young man estimated about 20 minutes a day. Wilkerson told him, "Go back, young man. Go back for a month and pray two hours a day, every day for 30 days. When you've done that, come back. Come back, and I might consider turning you loose on the streets where there is murder, rape, violence and danger. If I send you out now on 20 minutes a day, I'd be sending a soldier into battle without any weapons, and you would get killed."

We can get into heaven, dear ones, without a lot of prayer. We can have a one minute meditation every day and still remain a Christian. But true prayer is getting lost in Jesus and being absorbed in His holy presence. In prayer, God is drawing us to Himself; He attracts us by the power of His sweet presence. He never uses force or pressure tactics. David said, "It is good for me to draw near to God" (Psalms 73:28). Once we discover His inimitable presence, we never want to live without it. Talking to God should be the most natural

thing. We should always be on speaking terms with the One Who died for us.

Each year hundreds of tourists visit a house in London where John Wesley lived. In general, the house is still kept as the man of God left it, including furniture and some instruments he used. Of one small room the guide says, "Wesley used to spend long hours here in prayer. This was Wesley's power-house!" Mr. Wesley knew the source of power, and he sought and received constant enduement from on high. Indeed, his contributions in the mighty revival of the 18th century cannot be explained otherwise.

Matthew Henry once said, "When God wants to do something special, He sets the church on praying ground."

The day of God's visitation, His people will have the strength to withstand against mockery, rejection, scolding and lies. And they shall suffer persecutions as they have never known before. Men shall no longer delight in every crumb of social and ecclesiastical accolade which comes to them from the tables of distinguished society, but they shall know the suffering which comes from being associated with Jesus of Nazareth. Like Tertullian, the Roman converted to Christianity, who said, "You cannot feel the chain when your mind is in heaven." There shall be shifting, shaking, and denial of faith, and many shall fall by the wayside when they discover the 'false prosperity' of this world. But a remnant shall remain true and faithful to their risen Lord and King. Their lives become a 'legacy of proof,' unable to be taken by lies, deception and modernistic incursion into their existence.

God is not interested in man-made revival, and He will give us a 'holy and pure' revival, an unadulterated revival

where He can work among His precious 'jewels of distinction' as the Lord of glory. If we reject God's vessels and ignore the heavenly mandate for revival, we shall go into a moral abyss. God will use those who are not afraid of the heavenly fire. For it is those who know how to yield their bodies to the fire that shall survive the burnings of Nebuchadnezzar's furnace. And they shall walk into the midst of the fire like the Hebrew children and shall come forth with the glory of the Son of God upon them. Beloved, the purpose of divine fire is not to consume us but to purify us.

Finally, the Lord will give grace and mercy to the humble and those who long to live a holy life and the enemy shall have no power over His anointed ones. In the day of God's visitation, His people shall hunger

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no more and they shall be filled to the brim, and His glory shall be upon them, in them, and it shall reach out to the nations of the world in loving kindness. The day of the Lord has come, for the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth, even “as the waters cover the sea.” When man seeks after recognition and human accolades, and assiduously strains to build a great image of him before men of renown, the glory of God lifts from him. For He declares, “My glory will I not give to another” (Isaiah 42:8).

When true revival comes, there will be a heartfelt desire to live a holy life. A Christian is to be holy, not unholy. Thomas Carlyle, the 18th century Scottish poet, was profound when he said, “*Holy living is the best argument that tells for God in an age of fact.*” Many Christians refuse to seek a life of godliness, because that would constitute changing some of their business and private practices! They want to be holy, but not that holy. The profound words of Jonathan Edwards come to mind, as he said, “*When true revival comes, three things happen. First of all, there will be holy living; secondly, ceaseless praying, and thirdly, cheerful giving.*” Have you seen this taking place in today’s highly publicized and personality induced revivals?

Beloved, these are trying times. Satan will do everything in his reach to hinder your walk with the Lord by mocking it, if possible. Also, he will not hesitate to push or abuse ‘biblical holiness’ so much that it becomes legalistic holiness, not a lifestyle that honors God. Please do not rationalize biblical precepts. As believers, we’ve a great responsibility to demonstrate to the people of this generation that there is nothing inherently wrong about biblical righteousness and purity. To do so, we must stop negotiating with the world, and start living the Christian life without apology. Don’t be bamboozled by the world! Be firm, constant, faithful, and let the world know that Jehovah God rules and governs!

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True revival is not prompted by razzle-dazzle or fiddle faddle. Cheap imitations and shallow entertainment are not its fountain source. Without heart purity, all our revival efforts will be futile something like the shaky fingers of a paralytic craftsman on the finishing board.

Voice from the Past

John G. Paton, Pioneer Missionary to the New Hebrides Island, was a consecrated servant of Jehovah God. When his life was threatened by the natives of the island, he stood fearlessly looking to God alone for help. The natives of the island admitted they had tried to kill the missionary but could not. They said the reason was that Paton was a holy man, and that his God was stronger than theirs. To which he replied: “Yes, truly my Jehovah God is stronger than your gods. He protected me, and helped me; for He is the only living and true God, the only God that can hear or answer prayers from the children of men. Your gods cannot hear prayers, but my God can and will hear and answer you, if you will give your heart and life to Him and love and serve Him only. This is my God, and He is also your friend if you will hear and follow His voice.”

John G. Paton (1824-1907), Apostle to the New Hebrides Island

What Makes Prayergram Unique?

The *Prayergram* is an unusual Christian publication. It is because the publication is so blunt, so probing, so relentlessly heart-wrenching—no matter how (or whom) it offends.

What makes *Prayergram* unique? We have a hunch. *Prayergram* tells it like it really is. It exalts the Savior and teaches on prayer without apology. Prayerlessness is prayerlessness. Carnality is carnality. Rebellion is rebellion. That is the way we perceive it and declare it. More importantly, *Prayergram* carries no solicitation for funds, none whatsoever. That’s our covenant with Jehovah God, the Patron and Provider of this ministry.

We trust that you’re enjoying the *Prayergram*, and it is a blessing to you, and you’d like to remain on our mailing list, kindly let’s know. Right now, we’re in the process of updating our list. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

—World Prayer Band Ministries

Letters

“I am extremely grateful to God for the impact you have had on me in respect to prayer. I got stunning revelations from your book *Talk Less and Pray More*, and I have never been the same.

Due to transfers and movements up and down, I have misplaced your book which has been my reference from time to time. It seems I cannot get a copy of this book where I am now. Therefore, if there is a way of getting me a copy of *Talk Less and Pray More*, and also the *Prayergram*, I would be most grateful.”

Dr. Matthiss P. Tengan, Axim Government Hospital, Ghana

“I just read the August *Prayergram*. It blessed and encouraged me to continue to pray and ask the Lord to bring tears to His church. Thank you, brother, for being used of the Lord in my life.”

Dr. Ted Kersh, Pastor, South Tulsa Baptist Church

“What a joy to receive the new book, *The Way I See It*, and be blessed in my reading of it thus far. Your heart has always been one for God’s glory and it shines forth in every page that I have read. Annie’s introduction was sweet and powerful.”

Mike Stanley, Pastor, Friendship Baptist Church, Highland, Arkansas

“Your August *Prayergram* was on target! In these end times the last thing the world is willing to admit is brokenness. But if we are willing to admit that we are broken, and ask God to take the ashes and make something beautiful... I am sure, He will! The answer lies in brokenness before God and salvation through Christ, our Lord.”

Bill Cox, Durant, Oklahoma

“I just finished reading the book *Talk Less and Pray More*, and it was such a blessing. I have always had a desire to pray but never giving it enough time. I would like to receive the World Prayer Band monthly publication, *Prayergram*; with the hope that my own prayer life and intercessory ministry will increase to the greater glory of God.”

Dr. Margaret Oriaifo, Benin City, Nigeria

“My name is Chioma, and I am 18 years old. I just finished High School, and getting ready to enter one of the Universities in Nigeria to study Biochemistry/Microbiology. I want to thank you for writing the book, *Talk Less and Pray More*. It was given to me as a gift by one of my pastors, and it has really helped me and brought great transformation to my life. This book has propelled me to pray like never before, and that is why I made the book one of my best treasures. Once again, I say thank you for blessing my life.”

Chioma F. Nwafoi, Kano State, Nigeria

“The book, *The Way I See It* is wonderful. I am torn between sitting down and reading it from cover to cover or reading it slowly so I can savor every spiritual gem. It is truly a navigational manual to help survive these confusing times in which we live.”

Terri Shelton, Ruidoso, New Mexico



The WPB Ministries

PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE — 2 Chronicles 7:14



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