

"And it came to pass in those days that he (Jesus) went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God"

Acts 6:12

**Longing, loving prayer for sinners, is one of the marks of a revival in the renewed heart.**



I assure you that the Bible has not a single word to the effect that soul-winning will get harder and harder, that revivals will become more difficult or impossible, not a single prophecy that the day of great revivals will pass away before Jesus comes. All that is in the minds of defeated, backslidden, powerless Christians. It is not in the Bible.



The Prayer Chain newsletter is published monthly as an encouragement for prayer. Names are rarely provided so that God can receive all honor and glory for article content.

## PRAYING FOR DEAD CHURCHES

America is going to hell in a wheelbarrow while hundreds-of-thousands of dead churches all across America sit idle and do absolutely nothing about it. A hearse should be used to pick up people for the average church in America today. Rigor mortis has set in! How can churches be so dead? No prayer life!

It is a sad day in America when people are having to leave church to find God! Most churches today are apostate—using corrupt bibles, singing worldly Christian Rock music, teaching psychology instead of preaching the Word of God, endorsing Godless political leaders, et cetera. It is tragic that most churches today have embraced the vile New International Version (NIV) or (*Not Inspired Version*) of the Bible.

I recently visited a Baptist church where the pastor wore blue jeans to the pulpit, spoke psychology instead of preaching, the music was worldly, the NIV was their Bible, most of the women wore pants, and the only invitation given to lost sinners was to "follow Jesus." Well, many people followed Jesus in His time in hopes of receiving food or a blessing, but they weren't saved. Judas was one of Christ's very disciples, but he was lost and went to Hell. That's **NOT** church!

It is not enough for a pastor to preach three times a week and then go home. Most churches today are more like private social clubs—where a group of people meet together a few times a week, tithe, sing a few songs, hear a sugarstick sermonette, and then go home for a beer and cigarette. That includes the pastor too! *Heathens!* The message needs to get outside of the walls of the church! America's preachers have lost their fire.

I'm talking about soulwinning churches here too! If we are going to bring America back to God at all, then we have got to start taking a stand against EVIL in each and every town across this great nation. Preachers across America need to start rocking the boat.

Most preachers are wimps and don't have the courage to stand against sin. Making money is their main love and concern. They're afraid of losing support so they dip their sails. What good are convictions as a preacher if you don't take a stand? You can post a big sign that says, "God loves people" as well. All I'm saying is that America is going to hell while churches all across the country are letting it happen.

*"For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered."* —Jeremiah 10:21.

September 20, 2009, for whatever reason, our church closed its doors. My husband and I have been visiting other churches in the area. He wanted to visit one that I didn't particularly want to so he went by himself on Sunday night. He was back home before the sun went down. He said he timed it and it was 49 minutes from the time he walked in the church until he got back in his truck to come home. They sang about fifteen songs (without a piano) and the preacher read his sermon in a monotone voice, never getting excited about any of it. That's a dead church!

Brother Jack Hyles use to say you can't resurrect something until it is dead! America's churches are dead and they need to be resurrected and prayer will bring them back to life. I hear all your amens because I know you agree with that - but - how much have you prayed about it?

## THE DEAD CHURCH

A new pastor in a small Oklahoma town spent the first four days making personal visits to each of the members, inviting them to come to his first services.

The following Sunday the church was all but empty. Accordingly, the Pastor placed a notice in the local newspapers, stating that, because the church was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent Christian burial. The funeral would be held the following Sunday afternoon, the notice said.

Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the "funeral." In front of the pulpit, they saw a closed coffin, smothered in flowers. After the Pastor delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his congregation to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead church.

Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a "dead church," all the people eagerly lined up to look in the coffin. Each "mourner" peeped into the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look.

In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror.

*"In everything give thanks"*

I Thessalonians 5:18

## THE TOWN ATHEIST

A preacher met me at the plane and took me to church. I said, "I would like to see your baptistry." We walked in and they had a curtain up over the hole I thought. So I opened the curtain and looked in and my head hit some sheetrock. I said, "How do you see the baptistry?" "Well," he said, "We have drywall over it." He said, "You go back to the back. The hole is back there." Well, I went behind and looked. Oak floor was laid over the baptistry. I said, "Where's the hole?" He said, "Underneath the oak floor." I said, "Well, how do you baptize?" He said, "We don't." He said, "We baptized seven years ago once and we haven't had an invitation in seven years." I said, "Well, what if you had to baptize tonight?" He said, "We would saw it out." I said, "Get a saw." That night I preached. Right before I preached, the preacher came over to me, nervous as I ever saw a man, and said, "Brrrrrother Hyles the bbbbiggest atheist in BBBBoise is sitting on the frrrront row. Whhhhhaaat are you gooooooing to do?" I said, "I am gooooooing to prrrreach!" I walked out and there he sat. Big old ugly-looking guy. He had his arms folded like he came to blow up the building. He looked like he was chairman of the deacons. When the invitation time came guess who was the first one to get saved? The town atheist. Numbers of folks got saved! The next night the place was packed with folks - Jack Hyles

**DO IT AGAIN,  
LORD!**

**PRAY FOR**

## CHURCH LIKE IT USED TO BE!

**Going to church is not like it used to be.** Church services have turned into places of entertainment and frolic and high pitched computer generated displays of excitement, energy and temporal feelings of self worth. Auditoriums are filled with choral groups arrayed in splashing displays of sparkling gowns with sound systems that generate twenty-seven million decibels of sound reverberating through the expanse of overflow crowds riveted with spiritual fervor. Bands fill the sanctuary with guitars, drums, brass, string and a host of instruments gauged with the onslaught of entertaining the masses. Power enthusiasm is the order of worship. That's not church!

**Going to church is not like it used to be.** Church services have turned into places where you can "come as you are." The dress code for worship is whatever makes one comfortable. Bare feet are now acceptable, shorts and tee-shirts and casual apparel as if one is going to the ball park, fishing or relaxing around the house. Church services are created to be as "dressed down" as possible. That's not church!

**Going to church is not like it used to be.** Church services have turned into places of social fellowship where one can find spaghetti, cake, hamburgers, hotdogs, fried chicken, sweet tea, pies, fruitcakes and pizza. The incense of coffee wafts through the halls with enticing appeal to doughnuts and sweet rolls. Crowds are appealed to through conversion of the stomach with fork in hand. That's not church!

**Going to church is not like it used to be.** Church services have turned into places where preaching the Bible is replaced with preaching the "feel good about yourself and no one sins anymore" kind of sophistry lacking conviction and devotion on any level. The grit of scripture is replaced with a veneer of soothing enticements to indulge the peaceful hearts filled to the brim with worldliness and covetousness. That's not church!

In the days of Jeroboam king of Judah, *"the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold and said to them, 'It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem (I Kings 12:28). What Jeroboam was afraid of was the people of the Northern tribes would go to Jerusalem to worship at the Temple, their hearts would turn against him and the people would rise up and kill him. To keep the people under his rule, he set up two calves of gold in Bethel and Dan for them to worship. It became convenient and more appealing to the people. Who wants to trudge all the way to Jerusalem? This religion of ease was to make the people happy and enjoy worship to "God." How convenient they would not have to be bothered by anything as tedious as going all the way to Jerusalem. They wanted to enjoy life and have fun and be entertained.*

The spirit of Jeroboam abounds today in modern religion. Everyone wants to have things convenient for them. Power enthusiasm, come-as-you-are dress codes, food in abundance and feel good religion has turned the Bible into nothing more than a dusty library of sixty-six books out of date and out of time with modern man. Leaving the Bible, modern religion worships at the altars of Bethel and Dan. We need prophets like Ahijah who will declare the pure message of God (I Kings 14). Anything less is rebellion.

## PRAY FOR REVIVAL TODAY!

What sin. What reproach upon God, what a mark of our unbelief, when we indicate that conditions are too hard for God, that conditions prevent a revival! History down through all the ages cries that it is a lie! All the revivals in Bible times, the great reformation revival with Luther and Calvin and others, the Wesleyan revival that saved England from its French Revolution and made English and American civilization and freedom what it is today, the Moody revivals and more – these were all brought about in the face of horrible, widespread and flagrant sin, in the face of spiritual decline and unbelief in the churches and out. Join us in praying for revival in America!

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