

"Wilt thou not revive us again that thy people may rejoice in thee?"
Psalms 85:6



JUGGLER PRAYER

Do you feel like a tired, staggering juggler on a high wire, trying to keep a dozen eggs in the air while someone else is trying to throw you half a dozen more? Join the club—being devoted to God and people takes time! Prayer is what makes a Godly person out of a busy person. Prayer and the spiritual disciplines aren't intended only for people who have a lot of spare time on their hands. They are the God-given means by which busy believers become like Christ



God commands all men to repent, we are told. And repentance means a sincere, heart-turning away from sin, a change of mind and disposition toward sin and toward God. How, then, could God be pleased to bless His own children who have not themselves honestly turned away from some sin in their own lives?

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.

The Prayer Chain

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"Ye have not, because ye ask not" September, 2009

PRAY FOR REVIVAL IN AMERICA, AGAIN!

A revival is a community saturated with God

The Great Awakening—came in 1857 when three men of God began to pray for revival in a Dutch Reformed Church in New York. Here is an excerpt of that event:

"First, there were three men praying in earnest at daily prayer meetings. Then there were five; then a week later 14 and then 23 uncompromising men who would not let go of the old time religion, who raised their voices to God. Soon, every public building in downtown New York was filled for noon-time prayer meetings, and in a week's time, ten thousand people were saved. In eight months, fifty thousand of that city were saved, and this revival spread throughout the whole country, from New York to Los Angeles. It spread to Ireland, Scotland, England, South Africa and India. One scholar remarks that the move of God's Spirit across America was so strong that even as ships came near American ports, the people on board felt the convicting power of the Holy Spirit and were saved and filled with joy before they reached the harbor."

After the church backslid, the next great revival began in Wales in 1904 with Evan Roberts praying. Seventeen men began to pray with him and committed themselves to these four principles: 1) you must confess every known sin to God; 2) you must remove every doubtful habit from your life; 3) you must obey the Holy Spirit's prompting; and 4) you must go public with your witness of Christ.

In this revival, thirty-seven thousand people were saved in one month and one hundred thousand in five months. Colleges closed down, and students marched, singing and praising God on their way to prayer meeting. For a time, crime came to an end—there were no more murders, robberies, rapes and burglaries. This revival also spread to America.

But what I want to relate to you particularly is some of the details, some of the inner workings of these revivals.

Before the revival, churches in the area were virtually empty. Many churches were about to close their doors. But there were some who were not ready to give up. Among them was a small group of men who agreed to meet regularly in a barn for prayer (1948). They made a covenant with God as they met three nights every week until four or five in the morning. One night, after the little band of prayer warriors had made their way to the farmhouse to claim the promises of God, John, the local blacksmith was called upon to pray. As he prayed, the power of God was unleashed, rattling dishes on the dresser, and then waves of divine power moved through the room.

Simultaneously, the Spirit of God swept through the village. People could not sleep and houses were lit all night. People walked the streets in great conviction; others knelt by their bedsides crying for pardon. As the men left the prayer meeting the preacher walked into a house for a glass of milk and found the lady of the house with seven others down upon their knees, crying out for God.

Within 48 hours the drinking house, usually crowded with drinking men of the village, was closed. 14 young men who had been drinking there were gloriously converted. Those same men afterwards could be found three times a week with others down upon their knees before God, praying for their old associates and for the spread of revival. It was in this village that, within 48 hours, many young people had surrendered their lives to Christ, and could also be found in the prayer meetings!

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NEWS FLASH!!

God has not revised the Bible!

There are many great saints of God, both now and in the past. There are many that truly show actions of love. They are not the ones giving Christians a bad name. Unfortunately, it is the roughly 50% of "Christians" that never set foot in a church, read a Bible, or pray other than when they play the lottery that spoils it for everyone



The only answer for the troubles of America is Christ. It does not matter whether the troubles be the economic crisis, the wars in the Middle East, or the war on terrorism. The answer is Christ. At one time we, as a people, knew and understood this concept. It shows in the Declaration of Independence and many other early papers by our founding fathers. The same Christ that is the answer for America is the answer for you. He can transform lives, mend broken homes and hearts, and above all He will show you love and mercy and grace you never thought possible



Beloved Christian, there is no way you can please God, no way you can have the sweet communion with Him to get your prayers answered if you are in rebellion against the known will of God.

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In some districts there was hardly a soul who was not affected by the revival. One man who had very little time for God was driving along the road when he suddenly saw before him a vision of hell. Startled and afraid, he jammed on his brakes, pulled his car to the roadside, then, kneeling down, he surrendered his life to Christ.

This is revival! When men in the streets are afraid to open their mouths and utter godless words lest the judgment of God should fall; when sinners, overawed by the presence of God, tremble in the street and cry for mercy; when, without special meetings and sensational advertising the Holy Ghost sweeps across cities and towns in supernatural power and holds men in the grip of terrifying conviction; when every shop becomes a pulpit; every heart an altar; every home a sanctuary and people walk softly before God—this is revival.

Dr. Campbell Morgan, after witnessing the scenes of revival in Wales, returned to Westminster Chapel in London and declared, 'Here is revival that comes from heaven; there is no preaching, no order, no hymn-books, no choirs, no organs, no collections and finally no advertising! Now think of that for a moment! There were organs—but they were silent. There were ministers—but there was no preaching—they were among the people praising God! Yet the Welsh revival is a revival of preaching, for everybody is preaching. No order and yet it moves from day to day, county to county with matchless precision, with the order of an attacking force. No song-books, but, ah me, I nearly wept over the singing! When the Welsh sing they abandon themselves to the singing. No choir did I say? It was all choir.

Wales is ablaze for God, already 50,000 converts have been recorded and the great awakening shows no signs of waning. It is sweeping over hundreds of villages and cities, emptying saloons, theaters and dance halls, and filling the churches night after night with praying multitudes.

Go where you will; into the bank; the store; the trains. Everywhere men are talking about God.

Dear friends, let us not compromise with the world to get people into our churches. Let us hold steady, dig in, die out to all that is of the self-life, be purified, get hot for Jesus, and pray fervently, corporately, and diligently, and God will do it again!

PRAYING FOR THE BACKSLIDER

"The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways." - Prov. 14:14

Christians sin. Some of the saintliest of God's people have fallen into outrageous sin. And that has puzzled honest hearts and has been the sneer of the wicked down through the ages.

A Christian who backslides is like a child who disobeys his parents. It does not affect his sonship but it affects his fellowship, his joy, and the approval of the Father.

Dear reader, will you test yourself by this simple rule? Was there ever a time when you were nearer to God than you are now? Was there ever a time when you read the Bible more, or enjoyed it more than now? Was there ever a time when you prayed more, when you had your prayers answered more frequently? Was there ever a day when you won more souls than you have won today? Was there ever a time when you were more completely absorbed in the Lord's business? If there was ever a time when you were nearer the Lord than today, you are a backslider. You have slid back from that close intimacy with God, from that high place of blessing which you once had.

It may be, dear Christian, that you have drifted somewhat but have never noticed it. You may be like Samson who "wist not that the Lord was departed from him" (Judges 16:20). We need to search our hearts and we need to watch and pray lest sin creep upon us.

Satan does not care how many people read about prayer if only he can keep them from praying.