

# FIRESTARTERS 5

## PRAYER TOOL

Igniting Prayer for Revival in our City • 5 Minutes to Read • 5 Minutes in Prayer

**FOR THE WEEK OF Aug 1 - 8, 2020** - Vol 14

### THEME VERSE:

*Call to me and I will answer you and tell you  
great and unsearchable things you do not know.*

*Jeremiah 33:3*

### THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

#### **The 1st Great Awakening of the 1730's - 1740's: Whitefield and Wesley**

As God was positioning Jonathan Edwards for revival in America in the 1730's, He was also preparing revivalists in England for a mighty evangelical awakening. He put Moravian leaders into the lives of John Wesley and George Whitefield to inspire them and ready them for His work. John Wesley was a son of an Anglican priest, and his life was marked by a sense of destiny early on. As a young child, he almost died in a fire that consumed his home, but at the last possible moment, his father and his community pulled him out from the 2nd floor window and rescued him. His mother absolutely believed God had spared John's life for a special purpose. He grew up and eventually went to Oxford for ministry training, where he started the Holy Club to focus on good deeds, strict obedience to God, and spiritual disciplines. There, John Wesley met a young student named George Whitefield. Unlike John, George came from a poor family. He worked his way through Oxford by serving the wealthier students. John Wesley welcomed him into the Holy Club, and the two became friends.

Wesley later journeyed across the Atlantic ocean in 1735 to Savannah, Georgia, to preach to the lost, but his ministry failed to gain traction. When he returned to England, he eventually realized that he lacked a personal relationship with Christ. At a Moravian gathering, Wesley experienced the new birth as he put his trust in Jesus. Wesley and Whitefield started preaching about the need for a new birth, about the need for true conversion, in order to experience the life God intended. As a result, many institutional churches in England closed their doors to them, so they unconventionally went into the open fields and preached to the miners and to others not deemed good enough for church. Thousands would gather, even tens of thousands, to hear the message of the Gospel that the established clergy had forgotten. Many of those who heard the Good News in the fields experienced the move of the Holy Spirit and gave their lives to Christ. Revival had come to England!

In 1740, Whitefield felt led to make the hazardous ocean crossing to the New World, to bring the Gospel to the American colonies. Everywhere he went, Whitefield experienced God opening doors of favor, evoking tender hearts and ushering in revival. It is said that, in one year, he traveled over 5000 miles and gave over 350 messages to spiritually hungry audiences. There was pronounced enthusiasm and emotion as the colonists awakened personally to God's presence and His supernatural power. God would stir hearts so intensely that people would come from miles and miles away in order to hear God's Word dramatically delivered by Whitefield. Even well-known colonial leaders like Benjamin Franklin could not help but stop and listen to the preaching about God granting new birth to sinners through Jesus Christ. Franklin was not shy in describing the effects of revival, saying, "It was wonderful to see the change that was made in the behavior of our inhabitants from being thoughtless or indifferent about religion. It seemed as if the whole world was growing religious so that one could not walk through town in an evening without hearing psalms sung by different families." This great awakening would continue to set ablaze more than

a hundred towns during this time, with hundreds of new churches arising and 9 Christian universities established to prepare young people for ministry. God would deeply touch the heart and soul of early America and prepare it for His purposes in the years ahead.

## **THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:**

- **IMPROVED TESTING AVAILABILITY.** Praise God that this week, in light of recent limited opportunities for coronavirus tests, many testing centers had more openings for COVID-19 diagnostic testing. Various labs and even travel-focused clinics now have these tests available for the general public to access.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:**

### FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- Pray for God to pour out healing upon those who are sick, and pray that the COVID-19 pandemic would soon be ended with some combination of a safe vaccine or an effective treatment to minimize symptoms and hospitalizations.
- Pray for adjustments to be made by parents, their children, teachers, and other school workers in view of the recent decision by North Carolina to do remote learning in public schools this fall. May God grant wisdom to parents, provision for the school staff, and divine help for all the young people impacted by this. Pray for churches to see new opportunities to help families and kids hurt by this decision.
- Pray for the sporadic rioting still occurring around our nation to end. Pray that the hatred and violence would cease and be replaced with compassion, respect, and practical solutions. That peaceful protests would gain a hearing and promote pursuing action God's way.

### FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- We pray for God's heart around the world as well as for our city. Pray for the Muslims who are doing the Hajj (going to Mecca) this week. Ask God to send them dreams and visions and to open their eyes to the truth. Also to raise up converted Muslims and missionaries to share with them about the love of God.
- Pray for a group of several new believers in Asia who recently have put their trust in Christ but, under the pressure of increased persecution, have stopped going to church and being in fellowship. Pray for a fresh touch of the Spirit along with new boldness and faith in their hearts.

### FOR REVIVAL:

- **REVIVAL.** Pray that God would raise up fresh and powerful voices among our city's Christians to be the next generation of revivalists like John Wesley and George Whitefield. Pray that God would grant us incredible boldness, divine power, and compassion for the lost. Pray that the church would experience an amazing transformation that would release a new song in their hearts that will be proclaimed unashamedly from every platform we are given.

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