

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Aug 9-15, 2020 - Vol 15

THEME VERSE:

*Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

Hebrews 4:16

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 2nd Great Awakening, 1790-1840's: Overview

Over a period of about 50 years, from 1790 - 1840, God released in America a series of revivals led by an assortment of diverse leaders. It would bring about far-reaching spiritual renewal and social reform. In the years preceding this awakening, the nation had fallen into a dark downward spiral. Though the nation only had a population of 5 million people, hundreds of thousands struggled with alcohol abuse. The crime rate was extremely high, and many folks were afraid to go out at night because of the threat of violence. Books were written to ridicule and strip away the authority of God's Word, and many of the colleges originally founded to honor God now had barely any true Christians among their student body. The churches in almost all denominations were losing vast numbers each year, and it was declared that "the church was too far gone to ever be redeemed." Voltaire, a philosopher of that time, said that Christianity surely would be forgotten within 30 years.

In 1791, church leaders in England, seeing a spiritual drought in their own country, called for a "Concert of Prayer" among all church members to ask for a fresh pouring out of the Holy Spirit. The people responded by unifying in prayer. The results? In a short time, revivals ignited and spread out in that part of Europe. Meanwhile, back in America, leaders like Isaac Backus observed what God was doing in England and similarly issued a call to prayer to the American Christians. And as they prayed, God would answer with a slew of revivals throughout New England, out to the frontier states, across small towns and villages, and into the big cities.

As a result of this time of awakening, each year hundreds of churches would find new life and Spirit-empowerment, and tens of thousands of new believers would join these churches. Many college graduates would enter into full-time ministry, and thousands of new churches would be birthed. Americans would participate in and generously give towards new efforts for social reform and also worldwide missions work. There were advances in women's rights, prison reform, and anti-slavery issues. As the Holy Spirit revived individual hearts in this country, the churches and society itself would undergo radical transformation for God's glory.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- **PRAYER IN SCHOOLS ARE PROTECTED.** Praise God that this week the government reaffirmed the value of prayer in the life of Americans and moved to reinforce protections for the free expression of one's spiritual beliefs in public schools.
- **PEACEFUL PROTESTS TOWARDS JUSTICE.** Thank God for ongoing protests against injustice and abuse that take place in a peaceful and compelling way, winning opponents to their cause through their conviction, passion, reason, mutual respect, and Christian lifestyle.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- Pray that tensions between Police and community are resolved with justice and peace. May mutual respect and care grows as conversations about better policing take place.
- Pray for wisdom & guidance for educational leaders as they plan out phases for the new school year.
- Pray for wisdom for Charlotte's leaders and also the Trump campaign as the President plans to come to Charlotte in August. Pray for God's protection and respectful and productive conversations about the future of our city and country.
- Please pray for those who still don't have access to healthcare. With 12% of Mecklenburg residents currently uninsured, this was identified as the 2nd most important medical issue for the city of Charlotte in regards to health priorities. Pray also that God would work through the church to help address mental health issues, which are the #1 health priority for our city.

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY:

- As businesses that were expecting to reopen or expand as part of Phase 3 of the COVID restrictions face the disappointment of 5 more weeks in Phase 2, pray for continued patience, perseverance, and supernatural provision through this difficult time. Pray for God's wisdom for leaders of these businesses to understand the times and to know what to do.
- Pray for those who have been laid off and whose unemployment supplement has run out, that the church would step up and provide humanitarian assistance as the government tries to work through the partisan issues blocking agreement on the next phase of the stimulus.

FOR CHURCHES AND FOR REVIVAL:

- Pray for divine protection for the churches that have prayerfully decided to resume meeting indoors, using wise caution in the process.
- Pray for Pastors who are working to bridge the gap between races, working toward biblical racial reconciliation in Charlotte and beyond.
- Pray for a fresh move of the Holy Spirit calling God's people to passionate prayer for revival in the churches. A prayer movement is underway for revival and spiritual awakening – pray that believers will be burdened to pray for a reviving work of God in these days.

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