

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Nov 8th-15th, 2020 - Vol 28

THEME VERSE:

*If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*

Luke 11:13

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1857 Hamilton, Ontario Revival

In the 1850's, God used Phoebe and Walter Palmer to minister powerfully at camp meetings and prayer gatherings around Ontario, Canada. Hundreds of listeners would respond and trust in Christ at these local meetings. At the conclusion of one of their ministry tours, they were delayed in their journey and forced to stay overnight at Hamilton, Ontario. Several churches asked them to help lead a prayer meeting the next day on Thursday, October 9th, 1857. On that first day, all 65 people in attendance prayed intently for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. On Friday, twenty-one people experienced deep spiritual transformation as God released revival upon the quickly expanding group, with people coming from all classes, all ages, and all walks of life. In the next few days, almost 400 more would come to the altar, fall to their knees, and seek God's grace through the Gospel. The meetings would often last from 7AM to 10PM each day, so intense were the people's cries to Heaven.

From Hamilton, the revival began to ignite all throughout the province of Ontario and Canada itself. Wherever the reports and stories were told, revival fires would burst to life. The spark that began in the small city of Hamilton would be used by God to fan its flames far and wide. It would, over the next few months, fuel fires of revival in Halifax, Prince Edward Island, as well as in the United States, like New York, and as far as Connecticut. Some revivals of that time period in Ireland and Africa traced their spark back to Hamilton. The distinguishing marks of these revivals were the emphasis on prevailing prayer and the role of non-clergy to spread its stories. The revivals would bring fresh conviction of personal sin, fervent re-commitment to the Lord, and a significant drop in the region's crime rate. Tens of thousands of lost people would trust in Christ and become aware of the Holy Spirit to empower them to live for Jesus and passionately share the Good News.

The legacy of the Hamilton revival goes far beyond the various nations it touched. It also deeply impacted the generations that followed by influencing many key teachers and missionaries and leaders such as Dwight Moody, David Livingstone, Henry Ward Beecher, and Charles Spurgeon. Groups such as the YMCA and the Salvation Army were birthed by the spiritual awakening that flowed out from this revival. In describing Hamilton's singular role in all this, it has been said: it was one of those "special times when the Spirit moves men in large numbers. If those days ever come again, we will do well to participate while we can."

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- PERSEVERANCE. Praise God that, despite the challenges and difficulties the church faces in these days, many Christians and church leaders continue to press forward in faith and prayer and love for others. May the church not grow tired in doing good always!

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **SCHOOLS.** CMS school system allowed students to go back to school in-person this week. So let us keep praying for our students and faculty. Pray for safety from the virus and for grace and mercy during the transition.
- **PEACE FOR OUR NATION.** Pray for God's peace over our city and nation as we await the results of the election to be confirmed at the electoral college gathering on December 14th. Pray for any forms of corruption, at any level, from any political party or individuals, to be completely exposed and remedied in the coming weeks. Although local law-enforcement in our city has stated they think there is a low risk of violence, we pray for God's hand of peace and order to be over all cities in America.
- **HEALTH.** Pray for God's ongoing protection and ultimate deliverance from the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray that numbers of daily hospitalizations and deaths would drop even as we head into colder weather. Pray for the release of safe and effective treatments and vaccines, and for God's presence to bring comfort and protection and healing into our communities.

FOR NEEDS OF THE WORLD AND IN MISSIONS:

- **HURRICANE IN THE PHILIPPINES.** Pray for provision and food for Filipinos as a category 5 hurricane recently hit one of the islands. The only things that weren't destroyed at a local Bible School were the brick buildings. Praise the Lord that no one at the Bible school was hurt. Pray for relief and quick restoration for everyone affected.
- **EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY.** Pray for Turkey that God would comfort families and provide shelter and food for people after the terrible earthquake. Pray that Christians would reach out and show the love of Jesus!

FOR CHURCHES AND REVIVAL:

- **CHURCHES.** As more cases of the COVID-19 virus increase, many churches are discussing and trying to decide about in-person vs. online worship in the weeks ahead. Pray for wisdom, for faith, for love, and for a readiness to be the church, caring for those in need in Jesus' name.
- **REVIVAL.** With the outcome of the elections still unsure in many ways, pray for the church to remember who we are, praying that God will revive us supernaturally so that the nation and world can see what God is able to do in a difficult and challenging time. If the church is not revived, the culture won't be awakened. So pray that we will be salt and light: ready witnesses empowered by the Spirit to represent our Lord in our culture. Lord, help us to be ready to yield to Your Lordship, serving You in these days.

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