

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Dec 20th-26th, 2020 - Vol 34

THEME VERSE:

"LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD.
Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known;
in wrath remember mercy"

Habakkuk 3:2

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1904 Welsh Revival: Traits of the Revival (Pt 3)

Looking back upon 1904, we see how God initiated one of the most memorable revivals in the history of Wales, a nation that was already very familiar with spiritual awakenings. Despite enduring a period of apathy and darkness in the late 1800's, the church there started yearning for more of God once again. Believers started praying and fasting and seeking the Lord to revive His church. In response to the intense longing of His sons and daughters, God ignited the first sparks in the town of New Quay. The revival burst into full flame when God raised up a young man in his twenties named Evan Roberts to start preaching at Moriah Chapel in the town of Loughor. The Spirit alighted and powerfully touched all in attendance. Drawn by the Spirit, thousands came to these meetings. Within a few weeks, accounts of the awakening hit the national news. And God sent Evan and his team out to towns all around the country.

What were these meetings like?

JOY. One clear mark of this revival was the joy demonstrated by Evan and those who heard his words. There were, of course, tears and deep conviction of sin at these meetings, but the Spirit also moved many listeners to pure joy as the crowds would loudly burst into songs of revival. It perplexed some leaders how Evan would be so intense in his longing for the Lord and yet so filled with happiness as he led the revivals. But joy indeed overflowed at these revival gatherings, and it is reported that often singing and spontaneous worship would take place not just in churches but also at train stations and in the mines of the workers.

HUMILITY. Another mark of this movement was the humility of those involved. Evan was always very concerned that God receive all the glory and that no person was stealing praise from the Lord. Evan kept his messages simple and plain, shunned publicity, refusing often to be photographed, and sought to keep the focus on Christ and the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL POWER. Another key trait of the Welsh revival was the power of the Gospel to reach and transform the lost. The first two months saw about 70,000 people saved. Over the course of the next year, the number swelled to well over 100,000. And at least another 100,000 believers re-dedicated themselves to the Lord during this time. The new Christians joined and served in many churches, and society saw a significant downturn in theft, in drunkenness, and unruly behavior. Even the workers in the dark tunnels of the mines replaced their swearing and gossip with the sounds of fervent prayer and boisterous hymns.

GOD'S PRESENCE. In addition to all this, there was an acute awareness of God's overwhelming presence at most meetings. The meetings could last more than 5 hours and often run late into the night. The Holy Spirit would break through the hardest of hearts at the gatherings and would move in believers through visions and healings and other manifestations. There was an intense passion to know Christ more and to love Jesus more fully. The presence of God was revealed with incredible power and intimacy as the revival spread.

As hundreds of Christians visited Wales to see what God was doing, they would sense the mighty moving of the Spirit and often take back revival sparks to their own nations. These spiritual flames would catch fire and bring revival in Korea, in England, and even in the United States when it finally reached Los Angeles. God used Wales to set the world afire for Him!

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- **GENEROUS DONORS.** Praise God for individuals who, in response to the great hardships facing local families and communities, have felt moved to compassionately donate billions of dollars to several historically Black colleges in North Carolina and to many non-profits that are serving those in our city neighborhoods.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **NURSING HOMES.** As coronavirus infections have increased nationwide, many more nursing homes have had to exercise caution and put limits on family visitors and volunteers. Pray for the safety of the nursing staff and for ways to keep residents healthy, physically and emotionally and spiritually.
- **COVID-19.** As hospitalizations rise to an all-time high in our state, let's keep praying that the disease's spread will be contained and that there will be a quick recovery for all those affected. Pray for safe and effective vaccines and treatments to become available soon. Pray for God's healing touch upon those who are severely ill. Pray for the pandemic to end soon.
- **ELECTION CONCERNS.** Pray for transparency, accountability, and resolution of all concerns with the election. Pray that any corruption would be exposed. May God be honored through this entire process.

FOR THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- **NIGERIA.** Pray for the release of 300 Nigerian boys abducted by either the Boko Haram group or another local gang this past week. Pray against the brutal persecution of Christians in this country overall and that that Gospel of Jesus Christ might break through to the hearts of these violent oppressors.
- **MISSIONS.** Pray for the many missionaries worldwide sharing the Gospel despite the pandemic.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **CHURCHES.** Pray that, at this Christmas time, Charlotte churches would freely and joyfully celebrate the birth of Jesus and not forget to proclaim the Gospel message which came through this baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. Even though we are different denominations and have different doctrines, may our focus ever be to seek and to save the lost in sin, and that salvation will come to many as we lift up Jesus: the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
- **REVIVAL.** Pray for God's grace to rebuild the spiritual walls of the churches of Charlotte. We have allowed moral, social and political corruption to invade our great nation. May God forgive us and restore His people in Charlotte to be salt and light once again. Pray that He gives us boldness to pray earnestly for a 3rd Great Awakening in our city and nation, praying for a revival as never before. May Charlotte be used by God to pave the way for revival across America.

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