

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Jan 31st - Feb 6th, 2021 - Vol 40

THEME VERSE:

*If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,
ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

John 15:7

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1904 American Revival

God consistently throughout history revived His church by first raising up individuals who heard God's heart and began to call others into prayer and a deeper longing for the Lord. In most of the well-known revivals, God highlighted a man or a woman who acted as a lightning rod for the outpouring of the Spirit. That person was prepared by the Lord to be the face associated with that revival. But, in some revivals, God primed His revivalists & then spread them out across many regions to ignite the spiritual fires, and all this without anyone gaining fame or a significant following. This was the case for the 1904 American Revival.

The early 1900's in America were marked by the electrifying work of the Holy Spirit in 3 particular areas: 1) Zeal in sharing the Gospel, 2) Anticipation of the coming revival, and 3) Intensification of prayers for God to awaken His Church. Regarding zeal for the Good News, different denominations such as Methodists and Presbyterians fervently sent out dozens of evangelists and held many campaigns from 1900-1904 to share about Jesus across the country. As a result, thousands upon thousands of the lost found salvation in these years.

As the Spirit touched many unbelieving hearts with the power of the Gospel, He also started to stir the spirit of the Church to long for revival. People started enthusiastically to write and talk about a great coming revival. Thousands of Revival Consecration Meetings and conferences began to convene across the nation to make people ready for the revival that surely would ensue. When the American Christians began hearing reports of what God was doing in the Welsh Revival of 1904, the anticipation skyrocketed in the United States.

Finally, the last piece that catalyzed this spiritual revival was the growing intensity of prayers crying out to God for a fresh outpouring. As early as 1903, the country witnessed thousands of pastors nationwide joined together in a network to pray for this outcome. In 1904, the prayer groups, especially among young people, vastly multiplied in number as they sought after God's manifest presence in their own city. Churches in the great cities like New York and Chicago and Washington D.C. set aside differences to pray in unity for a soon-to-come mighty move of God.

And, then, in December of 1904, in just a few short weeks after the ignition of the Welsh Revival, the Holy Spirit's fire swept across the town of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Large numbers of people - many of them Welsh immigrants - crammed into churches, accompanied by a keen thirst for spiritual matters, powerful conviction of sin, and unfettered cries unto God. The people were moved to passionately seek after God, and they experienced a new degree of supernatural power in the churches. There was the intense sensation of the very presence of God in the congregations.

By springtime of 1905, it was reported that over 10,000 people had received the Gospel there. And it had spread to Troy, New York, and then throughout New England as well as to Atlanta, Georgia, and Louisville, Kentucky, and the other Southern states. Businesses citywide closed for prayer at noontime. Everywhere people went, salvation was the one topic of concern. The flames of revival reached out to touch Minnesota, Oregon, and California. Tens of thousands of souls were saved. Almost every church denomination grew in number. College campuses were scorched with soaring enthusiasm for Christ, and many young people arose to commit themselves to the work of the Kingdom as future ministers and missionaries. The American Revival, though lacking one distinct face or name, rippled across this nation to awaken its people to God's presence once again.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- **SLOWING PANDEMIC.** Praise God that in North Carolina and many other states that the surge in COVID-19 this winter has begun to slow down. The infection rate and hospitalization rate have dropped recently and, by God's grace, many people will quickly recover their health in the days ahead.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **HEALTH.** Let's keep praying that God will work in our city, our nation, and abroad to curtail and end this pandemic soon. Pray that God will use safe vaccines and treatments, and also supernaturally comfort and heal those afflicted with the disease.
- **GOVERNMENT.** As our nation moves forward with a new administration, pray that we will continue to listen closely for God's heart and Kingdom plans. Pray for God's wisdom and leading to be heeded by all our governmental leaders. Continue to pray that any corruption and foolishness will be rooted out. Pray that God would unify and heal our country so that we can be a blessing to the world in Jesus' name.

FOR THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- **MISSIONARY FAMILY.** Pray for missionary friends who are back in the USA from working on a translation of the Bible in China. The family has 5 kids, and most are graduated now. They just lost their mother on Tuesday to a sudden and unexpected stroke. Please pray for the family and the father and his continued plans to finish the translation work of the Scriptures.
- **INDIA.** Pray for the Adi Karnataka people of southwestern India. Mostly Hindu, there are about 3 million people in this group. They are considered an unreached people group in this nation. They have a Bible in their language, but workers are needed to evangelize and disciple.

FOR MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **CHURCH.** Pray pastors and priests who have answered the call to ministry. For a fresh and new vision of the Holy Spirit who desires to take their devotion to God and lead Charlotte churches from 'business as usual, church as usual' to an overwhelming movement of God. May they desire to be used of God in a spirit of humility, willing to repent for their sins and be cleansed from all unrighteousness. May God take their clean and pure hearts and impart the power of Jesus Christ in their witness and exalt His name, invite His presence and see a mighty explosion of Christ's love that will overtake their congregations.
- **REVIVAL.** Oh God, it is Revival or the Rapture. We plead for the souls of men and women, boys and girls to be saved in the City of Charlotte. May your Holy Spirit send a Revival to Charlotte. Let the fire fall from Heaven and move in our churches, our schools, businesses, our neighborhoods, our families such as we have never seen in our lifetime. May it be that Jesus would become our number one conversation, above sports, social media, quests for money, power and control, above politics, above entertainment and leisure, until we experience an intimate relationship with Him. Jesus is the Revival. The Revival is Jesus.

FOR MORE, VISIT WWW.THINKREVIVAL.COM

For Discussion Questions, go to: www.thinkrevival.com/Stories/HistoricBlog/