

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Feb 7th-13th, 2021 - Vol 41

THEME VERSE:

*"Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

Galatians 6:9

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1906 Asuza Street Revival (Part 1)

The first years of the 20th century saw an increased longing among many Christians for a tangible and powerful expression of God in everyday life. Not content with mere rituals or intellectualism, they wanted to experience firsthand more of God Himself. In their minds, a true relationship with God should affect one's thinking and emotions. It should negate the power of sin so that one can practically be set free. It should be draw us into profound intimacy with our Lord, and it should imbue the normal Christian with supernatural power and giftings in order to fulfill the purposes of God. This longing stirred the Church to pray. To cry out to God. To look forward to a great move of the Spirit. This was the spark God put in many hearts so that the Asuza Street revival might fan into full flame in April of 1906.

As in many revivals, God groomed and fashioned its future leader decades ahead of time. William J. Seymour was born in 1870 to former slaves in Centerville, Louisiana. His spiritual journey included teachings from the Baptists and also from those affiliated with the Revivalist and the Reformation movements of that period. Even as a youth, Seymour often would find himself visited by dreams and visions from God. At the age of 25, he moved to Indianapolis, where he got a job at the railroad station and also waited on tables. It was there he contracted smallpox, eventually causing him to go blind in his left eye. After traveling to Cincinnati in 1900 and then onwards to Houston in 1903, he immersed himself in the Word of God and studying about the Holy Spirit, and eventually he became a pastor. All through this time, God fired up in Seymour's heart a heightened anticipation of a coming revival and a mighty move of God.

In February of 1906, a church in Los Angeles invited Seymour to speak to their congregation. Mustering whatever money he could find, he caught a train westward to LA. At the first Sunday service, he preached about the Holy Spirit and how God's power can be manifested among His people. It turned out to be quite controversial to a few of the leaders. By the next Sunday, Seymour had been barred from the church. One Christian family, although they were poor, invited him to lead Bible studies and prayer meetings from their home at 216 North Bonnie Brae Street. As God showed up on the porch of that small home, dozens and even hundreds of people increasingly gathered there, hungry for a fresh touch from the Holy Spirit. Eventually in April, after the porch collapsed because of so many attenders, they had to move to a new larger space, a run-down warehouse in a poor district of Los Angeles: 312 Asuza Street.

The beat-up two-story structure at Asuza Street used to house an Episcopal church at one point, but it had been converted to a warehouse and then abandoned. Seymour used the large barn-like 1st floor to host the the worship meetings, often with 300 and more people in attendance. The meetings were loud and energetic, running day and night. God worked miracles and poured out healing. People spontaneously stood up to give a continuous testimony of what the Lord was doing. The presence of God was palpable, and those present were inundated with conviction of sin and strong emotions. The Spirit of God poured out upon that place, deeply transforming the lives of many and releasing God's spiritual gifts and power upon the believers. Revival had come to LA at Asuza Street!

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- **PRODIGALS RETURNING.** Praise God that He is working through Sean Feucht in his Worship meetings in Florida. Many young people are turning to God and trusting in Him. Those who have been prodigal sons and daughters, far from God, are returning to God wholeheartedly.

- **MIRACULOUS ANSWER.** Recently some Christians had been praying for a expectant mother who was at 21 weeks and was bleeding. While she was in the ER and waiting for the results of the sonogram, a young technician came into room to encourage and prophecy over the baby and mother. When the Doctor came in, he examined her and then pointed to the sonogram, informing the mother that she was seeing a miracle! The placenta that had separated from the baby was re-attaching itself, and as a result, safeguarded the life of the baby.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **HEALING.** Continue to pray for God to bring healing and restoration in the midst of this pandemic. Pray for His direct comfort and presence to all those affected and that He will open doors also through good vaccines and treatments in the days ahead.
- **CITY ORDINANCES.** Mecklenburg County has sadly been proposing ordinances that strongly promote LGBTQ+ lifestyles. Let's pray for God to break through to those who are caught in this deception and also to those who are trying to restrict religious freedom in our nation.

FOR OUR BUSINESSES AND ECONOMY:

- **EMPLOYEES.** Pray for employees facing potential layoffs/furloughs, including those at major employers like American Airlines and Wells Fargo. Pray that these workers will not be anxious, and that by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, they will make their requests known to God, and that they will experience His peace, which surpasses all understanding.
- **PLACES RE-OPENING.** Pray that, as the pandemic situation improves, businesses will reopen and/or expand operations safely, taking extra care to look out for their employees and customers.

FOR MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOVE LIFE.** Pray for local churches as many pastors nationwide preach about God's heart for the unborn this week. Pray for current Love Life missionaries launching a new work this year in many cities: Detroit, Tuscaloosa, Boise, Roanoke, and in LA. Also in Jerusalem! Pray for the training of a new group of missionaries this week in North Carolina to prepare them to champion God's heart to protect and cherish life while ending the practice of abortion.
- **CHURCH.** With all of the change and uncertainty of the pandemic, many churches are dealing with disunity and division instead of unity and peace. Pray for a yielding to the Holy Spirit's leadership so that believers may know the peace that comes when we prefer one another and choose to yield our way to go God's way together.
- **REVIVAL.** In these challenging times, our only hope is in Christ, and the reviving work He can do in His church. Ask God to break through the barriers and obstacles supernaturally, and that He would give us strength to persevere. Lord, send revival to the church, from smaller congregations to larger congregations – overwhelm us with Your holiness so that we realize our desperate need of You. Lead us to surrender ourselves so that revival fire may purify us and prepare us for the days ahead, with spiritual awakening on the horizon.

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