

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Feb 14th-20th, 2021 - Vol 42

THEME VERSE:

*And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone,
forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.*

Mark 11:25

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1906 Asuza Street Revival (Part 2)

The Asuza Street Revival was a spiritual awakening of seismic proportions that jarred the city of Los Angeles with God's presence and power. Open at all hours, this church would give fervent messages on sin, salvation, and the Holy Spirit. The sounds of prayer and worship filled up the old abandoned building. Fire trucks would occasionally arrive at the site when bystanders would observe what looked like a glowing fire engulfing the structure and heard what sounded like a great explosion. But there never was any physical fire, just the moving of the Holy Spirit.

Unfortunately it was also a time in our nation when Jim Crow laws were still plentiful and women were suppressed from being able to vote. So when God began pouring out His Spirit upon Asuza, He made an impact far deeper than just large crowds and dramatic displays of emotions. He turned society's expectations upside-down through the Spirit's presence, while at the same time bringing Christians of all stripes together under one roof.

During its early years, about two-thirds of the Asuza congregation were still white, but unlike the society of that time, segregation and barriers were virtually non-existent. During the worship services which rang out day and night, Blacks, Latinos, Chinese, and Caucasians, along with men and women and children, would gather to pray and sing together unabashedly. It was a phenomena that was unheard of outside the church. It was also one of many powerful testimonies to God's Spirit at work. Led by William Seymour, the unknown Black preacher who was blind in one eye, this Asuza Street revival confounded people. God used Seymour to deliberately seek a deep unity among God's people even while humbly hiding his face behind shoe boxes during meetings. When you add to this all the signs and miracles, the profound sense of God's very presence at the meetings, and the extraordinary enthusiasm and joy of the attendees, it is not surprising that even the most determined critics would be at a loss to quickly dismiss it.

There would be challenges during the next decade or so. Criticism would come. Some division took place. Racism would rear its ugly head once in awhile. But during this period, thousands of people found salvation from hearing the Gospel, and many more would be healed or set free. The revival would blaze across this nation and by 1907 find its way into Germany, Holland, and South Africa. Thousands of folks too from around the world and of different denominations would visit LA and find themselves ignited with revival fire and a fresh touch from the Holy Spirit. Then they would take the fire back home to their nations, to their churches. Asuza may not have drawn the largest crowds in history, but it left an impressive legacy in its wake. It had helped recover the vital truth that the Holy Spirit should be supernaturally at work today in each believer and through each believer. By His intimate presence. With the whole gamut of spiritual gifts. Through His incredible power released through us. This one truth took flight far beyond the borders of California, birthing one of the fastest growing movements within Christianity. Today more than 500 million believers have been shaped by what God started at Asuza, and its fires still burn brightly worldwide.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- **NURSING HOMES MINISTRY.** Those who reside and work in nursing homes represent over 40% of those hardest hit by the pandemic nationally. During this winter's surge of infections, most places have had to tighten up their restrictions in order to limit the spread of disease. But praise God that some churches are reaching out and creatively finding ways to fight loneliness, re-establish personal connection, and encourage the residents there. May God keep on giving us favor and stirring up more compassion.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **SCHOOLS.** Pray for our school systems to wisely work out how best to educate the children in our city, so that they are learning well and staying safe. Pray also for any kinks to be worked out as the city begins to offer vaccines to our teachers. Pray that the initial slow-downs and frustrations would give way to a smooth effective distribution of vaccines to those who need it.
- **GOOD HEALTH.** Pray that God would continue to watch over all His people, to protect them from disease, and to heal those who fall ill. Pray that, as we learn more about COVID-19, effective guidelines would be announced to help people maintain healthy immune systems on their own through sleep, diet, and daily habits. Pray also that better treatments might surface to strengthen those who get infected so that no serious conditions arise.

FOR THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- **SAT7 MINISTRY.** Pray for the work of SAT7 which focuses on broadcasting Christian TV programming into Muslim countries. Pray for sustainable programming and access to more Christian talent (teachers, actors, creative, screenwriters, developers, producers).
- **TURKEY AND IRAN IMPACT.** Pray specifically for SAT7's broadcasting into Turkey and Iran. Pray for their viewing audience to grow and for the effective spread of the Gospel through their Facebook and Instagram programming.

FOR MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **CHURCH UNITY.** Pray that the Body of Christ maintains the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3) even as the hatred and divisions of the country are being felt within the church. We cannot, even in the name of social justice, allow hatred to define us and direct us.
- **PRAYERS AND REVIVAL.** Pray for a gracious outpouring of the Spirit, that He will spark prayer throughout the city in small gatherings of a few people like campfires across Charlotte. This vision for decentralized prayer is something the Holy Spirit has been showing Charlotte's intercessors for decades. Now, more than ever before, is the time to ask for it and receive it in His way. May the prayers of longing for His presence and His power lead us into a profound and mighty revival that will make the rest of the world take notice.

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