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We continue our Revival in America series in Psalm 85:6, "Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?"

One of the great aspects of revival is that it is based upon the desire and efforts of the redeemed. It is up to believers to seek the Lord until He gives birth to revival in their hearts. Christians are to never chase revival but revival must come from within.

Prayer is one of the main ingredients for old fashion revival. As a Christian, I am profusely concerned with the indifference I am witnessing in the church today. As I have said many times: I can pray for you, but I cannot do your praying for you.

Prayer is something every Christian must do and must discipline into their lives. Christian disciplines are needed now more than ever before. It takes discipline to spend time in our Lord's most holy presence. Prayer is simply a choice: Will I pray today or will I not?

I heard someone say just the other day that the average person spends about 5 hours and 45 minutes on their smart phone daily. Tragically that is an insult to a holy God and those whom we share our lives with. Surely a blood-bought born-again child of God can find 30 minutes a day to spend time in the presence of our Lord. There is nothing more edifying and refreshing than to spend time with our Redeemer. When spending time in His presence we receive refreshing, edifying, and comforting grace to succor us in our daily pilgrimage.

The coming days will demand edification and strength of spirit so we can finish strong. Sadly, America is on a fast track racing to the bottom

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all the while feasting on debauchery and debasedness. Like Sodom and Gomorrah, the cries and the stench of America are an abhorrent and repugnant odor in the nostrils of Almighty God.

We read: "And the LORD said, Because the cry (disapproval) of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous (chargeable); I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry (shriek or high pitch) of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know" (Genesis 18:20-21).

Undoubtedly, the same shrieking sound of sin and filth in America and the modern church is coming up before the nostrils and hearing of Almighty God. I know all too well most are just too occupied to take time to pray. However, no one should ever be too busy to pray and commune with our Lord.

The apostle Paul knew how encouraging and strengthening it was to be in the presence of our Lord: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion (partnership) of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen" (2 Corinthians 13:14).

Christ gave a stern warning concerning the end times and how many would be caught unawares and overcharged with life in general right before His Second Advent. Jesus said: "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting (excess), and drunkenness, and cares (distractions) of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares" (Luke 21:34). One translation reads: Watch

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out! Don't allow your hearts to be dulled by carousing and drunkenness and by the worries of this life. Don't let that day catch you unawares.

No one on their personal merits is worthy to stand before the Son of God, however, through the shed blood and efficacious work of that precious Lamb, all can stand justified and reconciled unto the Father. Paul declared: "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

When the church gets on fire for Christ, revival will sweep across America! Until then, the church will remain mundane and for the most part irrelevant. Sadly there is very little concern and effort concerning prayer today. It should be evident to everyone; there is a profuse deficit concerning prayer.

I cannot tell you the last time I heard a minister from today's pulpit imploring God's people to prostrate themselves in prayer and seek the face of God! All true men of God, who are fervently praying, will plead with God's people for prayer as well! A prayerful person knows too well the gravity and need for prayer and communion with Christ in this nefarious hour.

The psalmist declared: "Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore" (Psalm 105:3-4). How many are truly seeking the face of God at this time?

Let me be very candid here; prayer will keep sin out of your life! Praying men will quit sinning and sinning men will quit praying.

Having previously pastored for over 27 years, I learned anytime the church offers food and social gatherings there are those who will attend en masse, however, when calling for prayer hardly anyone will show up.

The Bible warns of this coming hour: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy **3:1-5**). That Scripture is a portrait of America and the modern church.

Most sermons today revolve around self, self-esteem, self-admiration, and self-centeredness. It's all about me and how I feel about myself? Some feel they're having a bad day if they have no cell service.

When was the last time they spent time in agonizing prayer before God on behalf of America and the multitudes who are perishing? How long has it been since hot tears ran down our faces as we agonized earnestly for the young people of America?

Some weeks ago on a Saturday afternoon, as I was perusing the television channels, I witnessed hundreds of thousands of young people in football stadiums and I questioned: <u>God who is going to reach all those young people</u>?

Some months ago I read a quote from David Ravenhill, the son of the late great Leonard Ravenhill, where he said: "Go and stand by the gates of Hell, and hear the damned entreat and implore you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come to this place of torment." Since having read that statement, I have been seriously con-

victed in my heart realizing I must do more to reach the lost.

Souls are dying and men are crying, but few are pleading with God to use them as a spiritual roadblock between these souls and Hell. Sadly far too many are drinking, drugging, cursing, swearing, fornicating, and fighting their way to Hell, What is the church doing to stop it? Someone needs to touch the holy hem of my God's seamless garment and plead with Him for revival and the souls of those who are perishing. Many mega ministries will have unfathomable amounts of blood on their hands because they did not pray and were not stirred by the Holy Ghost to plead for the lost and dying.

Let me share a very disturbing as well as convicting passage of Scripture concerning watchmen: "Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman (who have you chosen or set before you to be your watchman): If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity: but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my

mouth, and warn them from me" (Ezekiel 33:1-7).

In the Day of Judgment, untold numbers of purported ministers will stand before a holy God and their hands will be covered with the blood of untold millions of souls because they failed to warn those souls about God's Judgment. I believe one of the many torments of these watchmen for all eternity will be how they will never be able to remove the blood from their stained hands because they did not warn the lost.

An Old Testament watchman was to warn the people of God of impending danger. If the watchmen were unfaithful, the end results would be the tragic loss of life and property.

If you say you are a minister, are you concerned about the souls of men? As you read this newsletter, ask yourself: As a follower of Christ, who is watching over my soul?

The apostle Paul gave much the same warning in the New Testament: "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit (yield) yourselves: for they watch (are sleepless) for your souls, as they that must give account (record), that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you" (Hebrews 13:17).

Please pray today, because many souls will go out into eternity lost without God! My prayer is that this newsletter will challenge everyone reading it to spend more time in prayer.

As always we are humbled by your faithful love and support for this ministry. For without you we could not do what we are doing in this hour.

Serving faithfully with you,

David W. Lankford Pastor / Evangelist