

## ***Effectual Prayer Brings Awakening & Powerful Results***

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. ***In the history of the Church there have been times of supernatural visitations that brought great change to nations, peoples, and cultures.*** As we have said, Pam and I were ushered into the kingdom of God in such a move. We can't help but tell the story of our lives. ***Memories go deep. Personal experiences*** have molded our thinking and worldview. ***The power of the Holy Spirit*** inside of us drives us forward into God's plan for our lives and that of the Hilltop community. ***There is so much more that God wants to do! So many more to reach!***
- B. ***These powerful moves of God have led to multitudes repenting of their sins and Christians rededicating their lives to God in radical obedience and deeper intimacy with God.*** When we look at the history of revivals, we notice several common denominators.
- C. ***There was a deep love for God and desire to please Him above all else. There was some person or group of people praying and effectively committed to birthing a supernatural move of God—one that has its source in the supernatural power of God!*** These are like the O/T Prophets Daniel—A statesman and intercessor for the nation! These are like Simeon who was waiting for the consolation of Israel (Lk. 2:25-35) and Anna who did not depart from the temple but served God with fasting and prayers night and day (Lk. 2:36-38) who were deeply committed to the things of God and devoted their lives to a lifestyle of worship of Jesus with prayer and fasting!

### **II. PRECONDITIONS FOR AWAKENING**

- A. ***When it comes to experiencing awaking it is important that we understand what the preconditions are.*** The preconditions to awaking include ***a deep sense of humility; fervent prayer; seeking the face of God; and a turning from wickedness!***
- “When I shut up heaven and there is no rain or command the locusts to devour the land or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2Chr. 7:13-14)***
- B. ***When we look at the Church in many parts of the world it may seem like the heavens are closed.*** There is tremendous spiritual drought. In nature, when there is no rain, agricultural activity is devastated. The soil is dried out and the ground is cracked. Seeds sown do not sprout for lack of water. those that do sprout dry up and do not bear fruit. ***The solution is—rain, abundant rain!***
- C. ***What is the state of the Church today?*** In so many ways it reflects the picture above. We sow much but reap little. We labor, but our efforts bring meager results. God has given us a solution. God says that when we find ourselves in the above situation, if we do four things he will act.
- D. ***The Lord has given us the prescription to awakening and the corresponding results.*** It says—He will hear from heaven. He will forgive our sins, and He will heal our land! Does He always hear from heaven? Yes! Does He always Forgive our sins? Yes! ***Does He always heal our land? God can, but I believe it's conditional—If we will do our part (Humble, Pray, Seek, & Turn)!***

- E. **For there to be awakening we must humble ourselves, pray and seek God's face. We must repent, turn from our sins and ask God for forgiveness.** God is merciful and faithful; he will forgive us our sins and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We need to seek him with all our hearts.

*“Then you will call upon me and go and pray to me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart.” (Jer. 29:12-13)*

- F. **God wants to send his visitation, a mighty outpouring to His Church in this generation.** A great harvest is coming; Countries that have been closed shall opened. Regimes that have been in opposition to the gospel and oppressing humanity shall fall. **The knowledge of the Lord shall fill the earth as the water covers the seas.**

*“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on my menservants and on my maidservants I will pour out my Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the remnant whom the Lord calls.” (Joel 2:28-32)*

### III. AWAKENING COMES IN ANSWER TO PRAYER

- A. **God sends awakening (revival) in answer to prayer.** I can think of men like **John Wesley, David Brainerd, Evan Roberts, Charles Finney, and many others.** They were instruments in the hands of God to bring awakening and transformation to millions of people because they were men of prayer. **Sometimes hours and days in intense, focused prayer.**
- B. **They had prayer teams surrounding them.** Some came weeks before meetings to “prepare the soil of peoples hearts”! **And when they prayed, God answered their prayers by sending Holy Spirit power from above that broke through and brought salvation, healing and transformation to communities!** God is looking for people who will give themselves to prayer.

### IV. PRAYER IS KEY TO PERSONAL AND CORPORATE AWAKENING:

- A. **We must follow God's direction if we want to experience awakening.** Through prayer we are endowed with the power of the Holy Spirit. Prayer keeps us focused and humble. Prayer keeps us ablaze for God. Through prayer we get the ability to overcome obstacles in our lives (personally, as a church and as a community). **Prayer keeps our discernment sharp and clear and gives us supernatural revelation about how to tackle everyday problems, needs, and challenges!**
- B. **Personal awakening can be cut short if we stop praying, being humble, seeking God, and turning from wickedness.** We can become dull, stagnate, and drift if we're not careful. We can start in the Spirit and grow dull over time.

### V. HOW YOU CAN BECOME A VESSEL FOR AWAKENING

- A. **You can become a vessel of Awakening. Here is how:** Live a life of intimacy with Christ through prayer, regular times of fasting, and by being baptized in the Holy Spirit—and be continually filled! Become a student of the Word! Pray with others! Be watchful and vigilant!