

EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER

January 24, 2014

INTRODUCTION: The need is great. The hour is late. The alarm clock is going off in the church and in our nation. This is not the time to push the snooze button.

III: I will not take the time tonight to paint a picture of our culture and all we are facing. You have and will have in this conference great men who can do that for all of us.

App: We know we are in a crisis. Every crisis we face exist because of the greatest crisis of all: WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL CRISIS.

III: While we see encouraging signs in many churches, the overall forecast by most is that the church is in trouble. *As the church goes, so goes the nation.*

WE ARE NOT UNLIKE

JEHOSPHATH AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD in

2 Chronicles 20, that found themselves surrounded by enemy armies, hopeless and destined for failure and destruction. But they did something that we must do. They called out to God with extraordinary prayer. Listen to these words . . .

2 Chronicles 20:12, "For we are powerless before this vast number that comes to fight against us. We not know what to do, but we look to You."

What happened? God answered their desperate call and delivered them miraculously.

THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN ISAIAH'S DAY

After all God had done for them, they rebelled against God, grieved his Spirit, strayed away from God, hardening their hearts against Him. They cried out to God with desperation and urgency, telling God they look and live just like the people who are not called by His name.

But they did something we must do. They called out to God with extraordinary prayer! Listen to the cry . . .

***Isaiah 64:1, "If only You would tear open the heavens open and come down!" (HCSB)
(NLT) "Oh, that You would burst from the heavens and come down!"***

"Oh" deep thirst, deep desire, not letting go until God answers me

"burst open the heavens" rend, tear open, rip apart the heavens, revealing to us ALL you are concealing today. They reminded Him in their desperation about How powerful He is and how He worked before, telling Him there has NEVER been a God like You!

PETER, JOHN, AND THE EARLY CHURCH

In Acts 4 they had arrested and threatened greatly. They told them to stop doing miracles and talking about Jesus. They threatened their lives. Peter and John said they must listen to God and speak for Him; they just cannot help it! They threatened them even greater and let them go. THEN, Peter and John told the church what had been said to them. The early church did something we must do. They called out to God in extraordinary prayer. Listen to the words of . . .

Acts 4:24, "When they heard this, they all raised their voices to God . . . "

Acts 4:29, "And now, Lord . . . "

Acts 4:31, "When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak God's message with boldness."

Notice prayer was their first choice, not their last one. God shook the place by shaking their lives.

In their visible union they were all filled with the Spirit and spoke God's Word with boldness!

They believed. They were of one heart and mind. They were selfless.

LISTEN: While we are not unlike the people of God in these biblical accounts that were in desperate need; sadly, we are unlike them in their RESPONSE TO GOD.

When we pray, it shows we are depending on God. When we do not pray, it shows we are depending on ourselves.

III: *The Cove Story: Prayer, Call to Pray. Revival in the Church and Awakening in the Nation.*

III: Two gatherings, Dallas and Atlanta, MY CHURCH, etc.

JONATHAN EDWARDS, "An Humble Attempt to Promote Explicit Agreement and Visible Union of God's People, in Extraordinary Prayer, for the Advancement of Christ's Kingdom on Earth"

1. EXPLICIT AGREEMENT

*They agreed the church needed revival and America needed awakening.

*They called for and agreed on a plan to follow until God came through. Years later He did: 1st Great Awakening.

Could we agree together tonight, that the church is in need of revival and America needs spiritual awakening?

2. VISIBLE UNION

*They agreed to a plan and stood together in it.

Could we stand together with visible union and in harmonious fellowship tonight, standing together visibly in agreement that the greatest need in the church is revival and the greatest need in America is awakening?

3. EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER

*More than ever, they prayed alone, with each other and in their churches for revival and awakening. God answered!

*What is extraordinary prayer? Prayer beyond the ordinary, beyond what we are doing today. (Personally, call to God daily about it? Together, call out to God about it? Church, call out to God about it?)

WILL YOU begin to pray in an extraordinary way, beyond what you have ever done, for personal revival, revival in the church, and spiritual awakening in America, believing that all escalates and accelerates the fulfillment of the Great Commission!

(Not navel gazing . . . all so everyone can know and hear)

3 COMMONALITIES OF EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER:

- *Created out of desperation**
- *Ignited by a burden**
- *Established upon a belief**

JONATHAN EDWARDS was a man who believed deeply in the sovereignty of God. Yet, he called upon people to act, because He believed God would listen to the promptings of His people.

Edwards had some direct words to Pastors and Leaders. It is recorded in his works, "Some Thoughts" in "Complete Works". (The Narrative of Awakening, Alvin Reid)

"Be much in prayer and fasting, both in secret and with one another. It seems to me, it would become the circumstances of the present day, IF ministers in a neighborhood would often meet together, and spend days in fasting and fervent prayer among themselves . . . SO it is God's will that the prayers of His saints shall be GREAT and PRINCIPAL MEANS of CARRYING ON THE DESIGNS OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM IN THE WORLD. When God has something to accomplish for His church, it is with

**His will that there should precede it the
EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER of His people.**

- *Is fasting and prayer in your life and ministry?
- *Is extraordinary prayer the base of all strategy to reach your region for Christ?
- *Is extraordinary prayer being practiced by you and your church?
- *When is the last time, if ever, has your church prayed in an extraordinary manner?

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, REVIVAL:

And in movements of the Spirit the first thing that happens and which eventually leads to a great revival is that one man or a group of men suddenly begin to feel this burden and they feel the burden so much that they are led to do something about it.

- *Will we do something?
- *Will we do something tonight?
- *Will we do something when we go home?
- *Will we pray in an extraordinary way for revival in the church and awakening in the nation?

Ezekiel 22:30,

"I searched for a man among them who would repair the wall and stand in the gap on behalf of the land so that I might not destroy it, but I found no one."

- *Will you be that man?*
- *Will you be that woman?*
- *We must stand in the gap with extraordinary prayer!*