

NO REVIVAL WITHOUT PRAYER!

From Dave Butts

Dave Butts is the chairman of America's National Prayer Committee.

"You are living in the midst of the greatest prayer movement that the church has ever seen. In 2,000 years, there has never been anything close to what is going on in our midst today."

Why in the world would someone ride on a bus for five hours to speak for twenty-five minutes and then turn around and get in a car and ride back five hours? Why would you do that? It's the same reason that years ago God called my wife and I out of an eleven-year pastorate with people that we loved and who loved us. It was growing, and it was good.

But He called us to travel all over the nation teaching on prayer, and that didn't sound very exciting. But something had touched my heart many years ago that basically said, "I want to be in on whatever God's doing."

There was a point in time in which I made a commitment that I was no longer willing to sit on the sidelines. I didn't want to read in a magazine or watch on TV what God was doing. I wanted to be in on it. I wanted to be right in the middle of whatever God is doing.

Now, the question is: **What is God doing in the world today?** And you might ask: How in the world could anyone say that they know that?

I think, in fact, it's a rather easy thing to do. I think when you start looking at what is happening all over the planet, it becomes very obvious that God is doing, mainly in the church, three things. I want to tell them to you.

The first thing is He's calling the church to prayer. Now, it is true, God has always called His people to prayer, but there is something special going on. There is something unique. You are living in the midst of the greatest prayer movement that the church has ever seen. In 2,000 years, there has never been anything close to what is going on in our midst today. It is phenomenal.

Honestly, I could go on for twenty-five hours, not twenty-five minutes, just telling you stories (I won't, honest) of what's going on all over the planet. Everywhere—in any nation I get to, I hear preachers preaching from Isaiah 56:7, where God Himself said, "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." Everywhere, preachers are preaching from that. It's as if the Holy Spirit has underlined it and said, "I want to make sure you get this one. Preach on it. Live it." **We're seeing gatherings of prayer like the church has never seen.**

On another level of prayer, if I were to take the pastors of the ten largest churches in the world, none of which, of course, would be in the United States, and asked them the key to their success, all ten of them would tell you, "It's simple. We pray." And they pray at a level that most of us can't even comprehend.

When I was in Seoul, South Korea, visiting the world's largest church, it's a church that at that time was only

running 800,000. It's grown since then. They were telling us, "If you're going to be on staff at this congregation, you must sign a covenant that you will pray three hours a day." You can't even be on staff unless you commit to praying three hours a day!

Beyond that, and I mean beyond that, there is a movement—a day-and-night prayer—in our day and age that is going on, that is accelerating, that is growing. I think it's a movement we've not even begun to see the tip of the iceberg of what God is doing in day-and-night prayer.

In South Africa there are over 5,000 houses of prayer that are committed to twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week—in South Africa.

In Indonesia, there's over a thousand. Indonesia's the largest Muslim country in the world, and over a thousand prayer towers have been built that are dedicated to day-and-night prayer.

It's a fulfillment of the passage in the World of God in Isaiah chapter 62:6-7 in which God says,

I have stationed watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.

By the way, that's a prayer that's all about revival, but that's another whole lesson. Okay, we won't go there.

There is a huge movement of prayer that I would love to tell you more about but here's what I want to say: This movement of prayer is ultimately not about you and I figuring out how to get God to give us what we want. That's not what this movement of prayer is about. This call from

God to us to pray is about the other two things God is doing in the world today.

The second is He's calling us to revival—not another week of meetings, but rather the church waking up to the presence of Christ in her midst. There's a lot of great definitions of prayer. Speaking of Life Action Ministries, it's hard to even think about trying to define it considering that's what you all do, and the teams that travel all over teaching on revival and calling people to that.

I have a very simple definition—it's when God comes to church. It's when the church of Jesus Christ begins to experience the presence of Christ in our midst. Another way of saying it is it's when we begin to experience what we already believe theologically. It says where two or more are gathered together, then Jesus is here in our midst. You believe that, but Sunday after Sunday and congregation after congregation, all over the planet, Christians who believe that come in, have services, leave, without ever experiencing what they believe.

That's the reason why so often revival is called an awakening. It's as though we've fallen asleep. We believe something, but we're sleeping through it. And, excuse the picture, but it's as though God reaches out and shakes us and wakes us up, and we go, "Oh! You're here! You really *are* here!"

Here's what I want to simply say, and what I will tell you now is what any student of revival will tell you. I know that you all believe this firmly: There has never been a revival, biblically or historically, the seven major revivals of the Old Testament, whether you look at Pentecost or on through church history, **there has never ever been a revival without there first of all being a movement of**

prayer. God always sets His people to prayer in anticipation of revival.

Now, if you and I are living in the midst of the greatest prayer movement in the history of the church, can revival be too far off? God is calling us to pray in a way that does not force the hand of God, because we have no ability to do that, but in a way that prepares a landing strip for the Holy Spirit. It prepares the ground for God to do something significant in our midst.

But you need to know that the purpose of revival isn't for the church just to have better meetings. It is not for Christians to walk around with smiles on their faces. The purpose of revival is the third thing that God is doing in the world today, and that is **He's calling the church to finish the task of world evangelism.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "Go into all the world. Teach, preach, baptize. Make disciples." And we've been chipping away at that task for thousands of years.

I tell you. I'm among those who believe that we are about to experience and in some ways are already beginning to experience the greatest harvest the church has ever seen because the church is beginning to wake up. We're beginning to move, not in our own strength, not depending on some new technique or method or a new class we had, but the power of the Holy Spirit that has awakened us in revival. And we move out as the body of Christ in powerful, effective evangelism.

And that leads me to the fourth thing that God's doing. And you say, "Wait a second. I thought you said three." Yes. There are three things that God's doing that leads to a fourth, and **the fourth has to do with the second coming of Jesus.**

I don't know when Jesus is coming back—in case you were wanting to figure that out. I have no insider information, but here's a fascinating passage of Scripture. In Matthew 24:14, Jesus said, "This gospel will be preached to all nations as a witness, and then the end will come."

I don't know what "then" means. Did Jesus mean the minute the last person hears, then He's coming? Or does "then" mean later on that week, or later on that year? I don't know. But here's one thing that's very, very clear: **God is calling His people to prayer in order to produce revival, that a revived church may finish the task of world evangelization, and then, in God's timing, then the end will come.**

I want you to see this—this is huge, folks—this is the purpose of God. This is the plan of God, and He's calling you to take part of that. He's calling you to literally be a world changer, to jump in and be a part of His plan to bring all things to a culmination point. **Our job isn't to figure out when. It's to jump in now and be a part of what He's calling us to do.**

These are exciting days. Some people look, and all they see are the dangerous things that are out there. They see the things that are intended to bring fear. Jesus said there will be terrible times in the last days, and the hearts of some will fail them, but not those of us who choose to look to God and see what He's doing, to see His hand at work.

So, why drive five hours here and five hours back to speak for a few minutes? For the same reason why I think many of you, and maybe every one of you, is going to end up saying, "I've got to be in on this. I've got to be in on what God is doing."

Not a new program. Not a new plan. But something I believe sent from heaven to call us to that place of greatest effectiveness—when we're on our knees, humbling ourselves before Him and saying, "God, we desperately need You. We have no new plan. We have no new thing that we can offer to the world or to our nation. What we need is for You to show up."

So my very simple plea to you is: **Do you want to get with what God is doing? Pray. But I want to tell you from personal experience, it never ends with prayer. That's always the beginning place, but it's never the ending place.** Let's pray.

Father, I thank You. I thank You for allowing us to be a part of what You are doing. Lord, You could do this all on Your own. You don't need us. But You invite us to join You, and we are so grateful. Lord, thank You.

Thank You for calling us to prayer. Thank You for calling us to serve You in prayer, first of all in a place of humility, in a place of repentance, and a place of recognizing that we really have nothing to offer You, but You have everything for us.

So Lord, we commit ourselves to seeking Your face, and we offer to You our voices, our minds, our hands, our knees, our feet. Lord, here we are. Like the disciples so long ago who came to Jesus and said, "Lord, teach us to pray," we, too, would simply say, "Lord, teach us to pray. Show us how to pray in a way that releases Your power to bring increased honor and glory to Jesus, to bring about that awakening among Your people that accomplishes Your purposes in our day."

Thank You, Lord, for allowing us to be a part of that. In Jesus' name, amen.

GOOD ADVICE ON PRAYER FROM A PRAYING MAN WHO GOT RESULTS WHEN HE PRAYED

George Muller, who in the mid-1830s, cared for over 2,000 orphans in England. All by faith in God. Muller was known as the man who got answers to his prayers. Before he died, he had listed in his journals over 50,000 answers to prayer.

When asked how he determined the will of God on any matter, Muller listed the following steps he believed were necessary:

- 1. “I get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to any particular matter.”**
- 2. “I do not leave the result to feelings or simple impressions. That can make one open to great delusions.”**
- 3. “I seek God’s will through, or in connection with, His Word. If you look to the Spirit without the Word, you open yourself to delusion.”**
- 4. “I consider providential [God-controlled] circumstances.”**
- 5. “I ask God in prayer to reveal his will to me.”**
- 6. “I make sure I have a clear conscience before God and man.”**
- 7. “Every time I listened to men instead of God, I made serious mistakes.”**
- 8. “I act only when I am at peace, after much prayer, waiting on God with faith.”**

Those who walk by faith, seeking only God’s perfect will, are often sorely tested and tried. More and more in my own life, I am finding out how important diligent prayer and Bible reading are. Sadly, not many of God’s people pray diligently nowadays. Instead, there is much TV viewing and very little of waiting on God.

When I give myself to prayer, my faith rises. And when I feed on God’s Word, my confidence in his power to lead and help me increases. The Lord becomes my banker, my advisor, my attorney. May you find Him doing the same for you.

A PASTORS PRAYER - KANSAS STATE SENATE

It seems prayer still upsets some people. Some years back Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

“Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance.

We know Your Word says, ‘Woe to those who call evil good’, but that is exactly what we have done.

We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem.

We have abused power and called it politics.

We have coveted our neighbor’s possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.” Amen!

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest!

In 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Minister Wright is Pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer.

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on his radio program, “The Rest of the Story”, and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired.

With the Lord’s help, may this prayer sweep our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called “one nation under God”

The First Continental Congress

Prayer A.D.1774

O Lord our Heavenly Father, high and mighty King of kings, and Lord of lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all the Kingdoms, Empires and Governments; look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these our American States, who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor and thrown themselves on Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on Thee. To Thee have they appealed for the righteousness of their cause; to Thee do they now look up for that countenance and support, which Thou alone canst give. Take them, therefore, Heavenly Father, under Thy nurturing care; give them wisdom in Council and valor in the field; defeat the malicious designs of our cruel adversaries; convince them of the unrighteousness of their Cause and if they persist in their sanguinary purposes, of own unerring justice, sounding in their hearts, constrain them to drop the weapons of war from their unnerved hands in the day of battle!

Be Thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable assembly; enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation. That the scene of blood may be speedily closed; that order, harmony and peace may be effectually restored, and truth and justice, religion and piety, prevail and flourish amongst the people. Preserve the health of their bodies and vigor of their minds; shower down on them and the millions they here represent, such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Savior. Amen.

Reverend Jacob Duché
Rector of Christ Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
September 7, 1774, 9 o'clock a.m.

LET US PRAY!

MY STUDY SCRIPTURES FOR PRAYER

Isaiah 56:7 - Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices *shall be* accepted upon mine altar; **for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.**

Matthew 21:13 - And said unto them, It is written, **My house shall be called the house of prayer**; but ye have made it a den of thieves. [Also Mark 11:17 and Luke 19:46]

Jeremiah 33:3 - Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Psalms 34:17 - [The righteous] cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

2Chronicles 7:14 - If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

John 15:7 - If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Philippians 4:6 - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Mark 11:24 - Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive [them], and ye shall have [them].

1 Thessalonians 5:17 - Pray without ceasing.

Matthew 6:6-7 - But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Romans 8:26 - Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Jude 1:20 - But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 - I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Matthew 26:41 - Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak.

James 5:16 - Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Ephesians 6:18 - Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

Luke 18:1 - And he spake a parable unto them [to this end], that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

Colossians 4:2-3 - Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.

Mar 9:28-29 - And when he was come into the house, his disciples

asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Matthew 7:7 - Ask, and it will be given to you seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Matthew 21:22 - And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”

Mark 11:24 - Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

John 14:13-14 - Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

James 5:14-15 - Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Matthew 6:5-13 - And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them:

for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Luke 6:12 - And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Jesus prayed all night! If Jesus had to pray, what about you?

Christian Quotes About Prayer

Prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan. ~ **John Bunyan**

The fewer the words the better prayer. ~ **Martin Luther**

Prayer is an effort of will. ~ **Oswald Chambers**

Our prayer and God's mercy are like two buckets in a well; while one ascends, the other descends. ~ **Arthur Hopkins**

If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. If they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees. Let no one go there unwarned and unprayed for.

~ **Charles H. Spurgeon**

It is because of the hasty and superficial conversation with God that the sense of sin is so weak and that no motives have power to help you to hate and flee from sin as you should. ~ **A.W. Tozer**

Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue. God's voice in response to mine is its most essential part. ~ **Andrew Murray**

Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees.

~ **Corrie Ten Boom**

Prayer is the acid test of devotion. ~ **Samuel Chadwick**

Prayer – secret, fervent, believing prayer – lies at the root of all personal godliness. ~ **Williams Carey**

My prayer for you today is that you take these Bible verses and articles you just read and do something with them. Too often we just take information in and then move on to the next project or thing. Use these awesome Bible Verses and Articles; put them into action by being obedient to what they teach! [Be a Prayer Warrior!](#)