

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF May 17-23, 2020 - Vol 3

THEME VERSE:

Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near.

Isaiah 55:6

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1857 Layman's Revival on Fulton Street

The 1840's and 1850's in the United States were largely marked by spiritual decline and lethargy. Why? There was widespread disappointment in the nation during the 1840's as predictions for Christ's return failed to materialize. There was also a widening sense of division throughout society and the church over the polarizing issue of slavery. Meanwhile, the nation was experiencing a surge in financial prosperity because of industrialization, railways, the gold rush, and farming abundance. It was good times for the USA, and Satan did not waste the opportunity to steal hearts with the promise of easy money.

But God did not turn His heart away from His people. He began to draw the hearts of many believers across the continent to pray. In July 1857, God sent a 48 year old businessman named Jeremiah Lanphier to start a missions work in downtown Manhattan, just off Fulton Street. Although church attendance was low in his city, as well as across the nation, Jeremiah did not give in to discouragement. He knew he had to pray.

He initiated a prayer meeting in the middle of the city at noon on September 23, 1857. That day, he began the time alone as he lifted his voice to the Lord. For 30 minutes he labored in prayer faithfully by himself. Finally a few others joined him that day, and they finished their time of intercession with 6 believers gathered.

In the 2nd week, something had changed. A great financial crisis had swept across the city causing many businesses to close down. At Jeremiah's prayer meeting, the numbers swelled to 20 participants that day. The next week, that number doubled to 40 attenders, and they decided they needed to start meeting daily to pray. By November, they were holding three prayer meetings simultaneously in different locations.

They gathered simply to pray. They had simple rules: No long prayers. Everyone had an opportunity to pray if they felt led. Divisive debates were set aside. People prayed for one another and for the salvation of the lost by name. Those gathered held the deep conviction that only God could change lives and rebuild what was broken. They gathered to pray regardless of their denomination or theological distinctives or style of intercession. The unsaved would visit these meetings, and many would end up giving their hearts to the Lord. The businessmen were key in this move of God, becoming the most ardent in sharing their faith, giving testimonies of God's handiwork, and praying for the lost.

Reports of revival started emerging in early 1858. It spread across the city and then across the country. Prayer meetings and evangelism powerfully took hold in new towns and cities. It even spread to cities in Europe and Africa and India. 6 months after the very first prayer meeting, 10,000 businessmen were meeting daily to pray in New York city. 50,000 were saved in that city during this time. What started so small, so humbly, by faith would continue to spread and to ripple its effects for years afterwards.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

Praise God for that many areas around the country are seeing a decline in Covid-19 cases. Praise God that antibody testing has been a huge factor. Praise God that many groups citywide continue to come together to pray by Zoom or in small groups.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE HEALTH OF THE CITY AND THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY:

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has issued further guidance on providing non-COVID-19 care to patients. Pray for the safety of patients and staff of medical offices and hospitals as they begin to relax earlier guidelines.
- Please pray for those entering into surgery who were postponed previously. Pray for compassionate and comprehensive treatment and for God to heal them quickly.

FOR OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY:

- Our city's small businesses are facing an unprecedented economic disruption due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Pray for Washington to unify and come up with a fair package of aid that will help them through this sparse time and encourage them to ramp up the jobs and services in a safe way.
- Pray for Jehovah-Jireh's provision while the business owners wait for a clear signal of what to do next.
- Pray for boldness for the Christians in the marketplace to encourage others with the hope we have in Christ. 1Peter 3:15

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- Pray that God will raise up new missionaries to go and minister in places around the world where older missionaries have had to leave because of the corona virus.
- Pray for those who are ready to go as soon as things get back to normal for the financial and spiritual support they need. Wycliffe Bible Translators has people who need to raise their support by June in order to start ministry.

FOR THE CHURCH AND REVIVAL:

- We are beginning to open after a long time of sheltering at home. Pray for the church congregations as they try to find the balance between meeting together and keeping appropriate social distancing. The balance and logistics are harder than they first appear.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to raise up small prayer meetings throughout the city and that these groups would find one another to create a network of prayer across Charlotte.
- Pray that God's peace would replace any fears we may have of the future. May He grant us His peace that comes with us faithfully and courageously pursuing exactly His calling for us in this time. We pray for revival to be birthed out of a solid trust in our Lord.

FOR MORE, VISIT WWW.THINKREVIVAL.COM