

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF May 24-30, 2020 - Vol 4

THEME VERSE:

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.*

Acts 1:8

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

Revival at Pentecost of 30 A.D.

Pentecost was a Jewish feast meant to be celebrated on the 50th day after Passover. It's a time of thanksgiving to God for the start of the summer wheat harvest, when people present offerings and their first fruits. More generally, it was an opportunity to thank God for the great blessings and gifts He had given His people.

For the first Christians, the Pentecost after Jesus died and was resurrected would be unforgettable. It would take place after one of the darkest times of human history. The Jewish leaders had falsely accused and framed Jesus. The Roman rulers had condemned an innocent man to face torture and unimaginable suffering through crucifixion. Many of the people had turned their backs on Jesus during this time, and even His own disciples fled or denied Him. After His resurrection, Jesus told them to go back and to wait for His gift of the Spirit. He didn't say how long. And so they waited and they prayed in the upper room.

From the book of Acts 2:1-13, 36-41

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Peter gave a powerful message and ended with this :

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

There were many unique and powerful aspects of that first Pentecost, but it also demonstrated what can happen when God brings revival. Christians are emboldened and empowered, and their hearts are quickened. Those around them become keenly aware of God's presence and their own sin, leading to repentance and a turning back to the Lord. Revival breaks out naturally as the Holy Spirit is poured out on a people. At Pentecost today, we give thanks to God for the great blessing and gift of the Holy Spirit that will usher in the tremendous harvest that He desires.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

Praise God as this week many places - churches, businesses, and services - are taking their first steps to re-opening and gathering in a limited capacity. Praise God for His granting insights, spiritually and medically, as to how best to respond to this pandemic.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR CITY:

The Covid 19 virus has caused increased frustration for welfare services, foster agencies, family courts, and parents across the country as the courts are only hearing cases that are deemed an emergency or essential. As a result the number of children within the Department of Social Services system is at its highest.

- Pray for the people of God to be the arms of Christ to the orphan. James 1:27
- Pray we continue to see downturn in deaths and hospitalizations now that we've started to re-open the city.
- Pray for the safety of patients and wisdom for administrators as practices and hospitals open up again for patient care.
- Pray for business owners to take necessary precautions to protect staff and customers. That the marketplace would be ruled not by fear but by love, respect, and consideration for one another.
- Pray for God's provision and sustenance for businesses and employees impacted by the shutdown.

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

The Covid -19 pandemic has placed enormous pressure on the global food supply chain. Quarantine orders and border closures have disrupted trade and created labor shortages. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) warned of a looming food crisis, especially on the poorest and most vulnerable.

- Pray for strength and provision for our blessed missionaries who are providing food packets and distributing them around the globe.
- Pray for an effectual door of ministry to be open to them as they minister this relief. 1 Cor.16:9
- Pray for many to be touched as the Gospel is displayed and shared amongst them.

FOR THE CHURCH AND REVIVAL:

- Pray for safety and protection from illness as Christians gather to pray for God's intervention at the abortion clinics and for His love to be powerfully felt.
- Pray that the church this week would rise up in worship and thanks for all God's blessings, and especially that of His Holy Spirit. Pray that we would enter into deeper times of waiting upon Him and actively seeking for historic revival to sweep across our city and nation again.

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