

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Nov 1st-7th, 2020 - Vol 27

THEME VERSE:

*In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before You
and wait expectantly.*

Psalm 5:3

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1802 Yale College Revivals

Although America was profoundly shaped by the 1st Great Awakening, by the late 1700's this young nation began to slide once again into spiritual apathy. And in its wake, the towns and cities began to fall victim to alcohol abuse and violent crime. Also, churches suffered as the number of faithful members dwindled in most towns. All around the country, Satan began to birth and stir up fierce philosophical opponents to true Christianity: deceptive groups like the Universalists, Unitarians, and Deists. The region of New England was one area particularly hit hard by this anti-Christian intellectualism.

Yale University was founded in 1701 by Congregationalist clergy, who intended the school to train up ministers and spiritual leaders in Connecticut. By the end of the 18th century, it had traded away its Puritan roots for an obsession with rationalism. This produced among its students the worst kind of fruit: arrogance, insubordination, and widespread disregard for one's spiritual life. Yet in 1795, God raised up a Godly man named Timothy Dwight to become president of Yale University.

Dwight was convinced that it would be a total waste of time if the students under his care graduated with scholarly prowess yet stayed devoid of true spiritual life in Christ. So he persistently and brilliantly reasoned with his students in the classroom, and he passionately tried to persuade them to follow Christ at the chapel gatherings. Over several years, he poured out his heart faithfully in prayer and through powerful teaching of God's Word.

In the spring of 1802, two students responded to what they were hearing and were overcome with deep conviction of their personal sin, and soon they put their faith in Christ. In a short time, God's Spirit mightily stirred up the college, with 80 of the 230 Yale students receiving the Gospel and starting to follow Jesus. One such student, named Benjamin Silliman, described the impact of revival on this campus that had previously hated Christ, saying: "Yale college is (now like) a little temple: prayer and praise seem to be the delight of the greater part of the students, while those who are still unfeeling are awed into respectful silence."

The 1802 revival surged out to other colleges in America, and in time many graduates would sense the call of God and enter into religious ministry, some even overseas. But God was not done with Yale. In 1808 another wave of the revival flooded the campus, bringing strong conviction of their need for Christ. In 1813, yet another revival wave swept over this college, leading to another 100 students fully committing themselves to Jesus. And in 1815, after a group pledged themselves to pray for revival each morning at 3:30AM, a fourth swell of revival was again released upon this campus. The revivals would always reverberate out to other colleges, impacting many other students, inspiring many to surrender to Christ and serve Him unconditionally. Timothy Dwight's heart desire had constantly been to see God's purpose fulfilled for Yale. He loved his Savior and those entrusted under his care. In the end, God would fulfill that desire and Yale's divine purpose through these mighty moves of the Holy Spirit!

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- COVID-19 UNDER CONTROL. The latest stats from the CDC show that infections have seen a sharp rise across the nation in the last few weeks. But, praise God, the hospitalization rates have not increased much recently while the number of fatalities daily have remained steady with no increases for several months now.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- SCHOOLS. The Charlotte school system started live classroom attendance for pre-K several weeks ago. On Monday, elementary-aged kids (not including 7th grade and up) will be allowed to attend their schools for live instruction. Pray for smooth transition and safety for all the teachers and students, and for a spirit of peace and thankfulness to God to accompany this.
- ELECTIONS. Pray the election process and election day will continue with integrity and peaceful interactions all next week. Pray for any protests to be marked with wisdom and calm and respect for others. Pray against any hostile groups that plan to incite violence in Washington DC and other American cities during the week. Pray that God will raise up and confirm the right leaders for our city and nation going forward.
- HEALTH. Thank God that the number of deaths daily from COVID-19 has stayed steady despite spikes in the infection rate. Continue to pray that God would protect our country and break the back of this pandemic. Pray that daily hospitalizations and deaths would decrease much in the coming months. Pray for powerful treatments and vaccines to overcome this disease, and that God's presence would override any fear in our nation.

FOR NEEDS OF OUR ECONOMY AND BUSINESSES:

- CONFIDENCE. Pray for wisdom and compassion on the part of the leaders of Wells Fargo as they restructure their company. Pray for the 27,000 Charlotte area employees who are facing uncertainty due to potentially massive layoffs to come. Pray that Christ-followers will demonstrate confidence in God's sovereignty and goodness, and that they will help calm those trapped in fear and anxiety, always ready to share Jesus Christ with them.
- GOD'S GRACE. Continue to pray for favor for the small businesses suffering from COVID social distance/shutdown restrictions, and provision for the individuals working in those industries.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- PRO-LIFE. Pray for sidewalk missionaries to be trained and equipped by Love Life and sent out across 40 regions in need of a Christian witness to stand for the unborn. Over 70% of abortion clinics are currently unreached by the Gospel. May this be remedied by the end of 2021. Also please pray for the Charlotte prayer walk on November 21st. As this is their largest prayer gathering of the year, pray for the logistics, planning and volunteer support to make this happen! Pray for many churches and Christians to see the tragic truth of abortion and to be propelled to action, locally and across the nation.
- REVIVAL. Keep praying that God will raise up faith-filled men and women who will be prophetic voices in our city to call the church back to God. Pray that the heart of the church will be ready to serve those in greatest need, desperate to see God move in power, and anticipating the very soon day when the Spirit will be poured out again for a global awakening.

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