



# THE PRAYER CLOSET

ENCOURAGING & EQUIPPING BELIEVERS IN PRAYER

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## SPIRITUAL AWAKENING 101

The burden of my heart is for spiritual awakening in America. I hear many people saying that we need revival in America. It is true that the church needs a powerful move of God to renew its faith and witness.

However, I'm convicted that the need of the hour is spiritual awakening. I do see a distinction theologically and historically between revival and spiritual awakening. Revival is directed at the church; it is the spiritual stirring of God's people. On the other hand, spiritual awakening is directed toward the lost; it is a deep work of God in those outside of Christ. My heart is heavy because there are unbelievers in and out of the church. There has to be a deep work of the Holy Spirit that shakes the very foundation of peoples' lives, showing their lostness and bringing them to Jesus Christ.

What is definition of spiritual awakening? I believe historically and theologically speaking I would give the following definition. Spiritual awakening is a unique and extraordinary work of the Holy Spirit in which He awakens massive amounts of lost people to their need of Jesus Christ and brings them to saving faith in Jesus Christ and the local church. This issue of *The Prayer Closet* will focus on what spiritual awakening is and how to seek God for it.

### What Is Spiritual Awakening?

According to our definition, it is foremost a unique and extraordinary work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit alone can produce this work. It will take place only through the sovereign power of the Holy Spirit. There are means that God uses in bringing spiritual awakening. However, ultimately, it is a manifestation of the power and grace of the Holy Spirit in the lives of people.

This extraordinary work of the Holy Spirit awakens massive amounts of lost people to their need of Christ. The goal of the Holy Spirit in this work is to convict people of their sin, "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (**Acts 2:37**). In spiritual awakening, people see and understand their lostness. At the same time, the Holy Spirit points people to Jesus as the only Savior from sin (**Acts 2:38**). In spiritual awakening, people are convicted of their sin and lostness and then turn to Jesus Christ in true faith.

In spiritual awakening, people come to Christ and His church. This is not merely making a decision for Christ or praying a prayer. It is turning from a sinful, selfish lifestyle to trust Christ and pursue Him in His church. People come to Christ, confess Him, and join His church, "Then they that gladly received the word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (**Acts 2:42**).

### The Biblical Basis For Spiritual Awakening

Is there a biblical basis for spiritual awakening? Prayer needs to be built on a biblical foundation. I believe the following truths should lead us to believe in and pray for spiritual awakening:

#### The Cross – **Isaiah 53:10-12**

The Bible tells us that Christ knew that He would see fruit from His labors on the Cross. There would be people coming to Him from every generation because of His work at Calvary (**Psalms**

**22:27, 30-31**). This work at Calvary should stir us to pray for massive amounts of people to come to Christ.

### The Character of God – **2 Peter 3:9**

God is longsuffering and patient. He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. This should quicken us to plead for the conversion of many people.

### The Glory of the Son – **Philippians 2:5-11**

When people come to Jesus, it glorifies and honors Him. Shouldn't we pray for many people to come to Jesus that He might be honored and glorified?

### The Power of the Holy Spirit – **John 6:44**

The Holy Spirit is equal to the Father and the Son. He is fully God. He has almighty power. He is able to bring many people to Jesus.

### The Establishment of the Church – **Acts 2:41, 47**

This sovereign work of God would bring many to Christ and His church. It would build and strengthen His church. I realize that it would be a challenge to the churches and new churches would have to be started. However, if you want some fresh air, you're going to have to deal with some flies.

At the same time, the following are biblical precedents. In these verses, we see many people coming to Christ.

Acts 2:40-41

Acts 6:7

Acts 8:1-25

Acts 11:21

Acts 13:49

These show the possibility of a sovereign work of the Spirit in a place, bringing many people to Jesus. Outside of the Scripture, we see this in the First and Second Great Awakenings in America. God has done this before and He can do it again.

## How Can I Prepare For Spiritual Awakening?

I would encourage you to consider the following in order to seek God for this awakening:

- *Start with yourself.* Ask God to reveal your true condition to you. Are you truly converted? Have you truly turned from your sin to trust only in Christ? Plead with the Holy Spirit to start with you.
- *Pray for revival in your church.* Historically, revival and spiritual awakening have come in a variety of ways. Sometimes revival sparks spiritual awakening. Sometimes awakening sparks revival. However God chooses to work, the church needs a powerful move of the Holy Spirit. Our faith needs to be renewed. Our boldness needs stirring. Our witness needs reinvigorating.
- *Humble yourself before God and ask Him to make you a vessel for spiritual awakening in your area.*
- *Fill your personal and pulpit prayers with intercession for your area and spiritual awakening.*
- *If you're a pastor, consider preaching a series of messages on spiritual awakening.* Strive to emphasize the necessity of this in your area and state.
- *On a regular basis, call the church to fast and pray for a work of God in your area.*
- *Use part of your prayer meetings to pray for spiritual awakening.*
- *Pray.* The bottom line is that we must seek God. We must pray as individual believers and as a church. We have not because we ask not.

## How Can I Seek God For Spiritual Awakening?

The following are Scriptural prayers that you can use to pray for spiritual awakening in your area:

Father, I ask in Jesus' name that You would destroy the complacency of the lost in this area. I pray that they will no longer be content in their sin and unbelief. Awaken them to their condition and their need of Jesus Christ (**2 Corinthians 6:2**).

Father, I pray that You would destroy the pride that is keeping the lost of this area from Jesus. Humble them and deeply convict them of their sin. I ask that they will repent and turn to Christ (**2 Corinthians 10:5**).

Father, Satan has had a grip on the lost in this area long enough. He has used self-righteousness, ignorance, religiosity, and a host of other evils to continue his grip on the lost. I ask that all these things will be shattered. I ask that his lies will no longer work on the lost of this area. I am pleading for the conversion of thousands and thousands of people through Jesus. Do this for Your glory (**2 Corinthians 10:5**).

Father, I plead in Jesus' name that the lost in this area would have a fresh and new concern for their souls. O God, show them their need. I ask that it would be ever before them. Do not let them rest or be content in the lostness. I pray that they would come to Jesus (**John 3:16**).

Father, I pray in Jesus' name that You would destroy the false ideas that the lost in this area have about Jesus and His Word. I ask they will reject all false ideas and that they will receive the truth (**Proverbs 14:12**).

Father, I plead that You would convince the lost in this area that they are lost, separated from God, and headed to hell. I ask that they will seek Jesus for His salvation (**Romans 3:23**).

Father, by Your almighty power, I ask You to draw the lost in this area to Jesus Christ in true faith and repentance. Call them out of their hardness and indifference to surrender to Jesus Christ (**John 6:44**).

Father, I plead in Jesus' name that You would bind and remove Satan's work among the lost in this area. He has blinded their eyes to the truth of Jesus and His salvation. Open their eyes to the truth and enable them to repent and believe (**2 Corinthians 4:4**).

Father, I ask that You would open the hearts of the lost in this area. I plead that they will hear the gospel and respond with true repentance and faith in Jesus (**Acts 16:14**).

Father, I pray that the lost of this area would not neglect the glorious salvation, which is available

through Your Son. I ask that they will no longer ignore and neglect Jesus and His salvation. Show them their need and enable them to turn to Jesus (**Hebrews 2:1-3**).

Father, I plead that the lost in area will see that their works are as filthy rags in Your sight. Reveal to them that their works will not save them. Convict them of their total lostness and inability to earn or merit Your salvation. I pray that they will turn to Jesus in true faith (**Isaiah 64:6**).

Father, I ask that the lost in this area will know the burden of their sin. Show them how evil and destructive sin is. I pray that they will turn to Jesus and experience the forgiveness of sin and true salvation (**Matthew 11:28-30**).

In the name of Jesus, I ask You, Father, to quicken the lost throughout this area. They are dead in sins and trespasses. I pray that You would grant them new life through Jesus Christ. Awaken them and draw them to Jesus by Your almighty power (**Ephesians 2:1**).

Father, I pray that You would uniquely prepare the hearts of the lost in this area to hear Your Word. I ask that You would create within them a heart to hear and receive the truth. Save them by Your power and truth (**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**).

Father, I plead in Jesus' name that You would deliver the lost in this area from the kingdom of darkness and damnation. I ask that through faith that they would enter into the kingdom of Your dear Son Jesus Christ (**Colossians 1:13**).

Father, I pray in Jesus' name that the lost of this area would no longer be content in trusting in themselves and their works. I plead that they will turn to Jesus Christ as their own personal Lord and Savior (**Galatians 2:16**).

Father, I ask in Jesus' name that You would grant genuine repentance to the lost in this area. I pray that the lost will hate sin, turn to Jesus, and seek the righteousness that pleases You (**Acts 11:8; Luke 13:1-3**).

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### Scriptural Arguments:

- Father, You say in Your Word that Your Son did not die in vain. You say that He would see the fruit of His suffering. I plead that You would bring many from this area to Jesus, honoring the work Jesus did at Calvary.
- Father, You are the compassionate and longsuffering God. You take no pleasure in the death of the lost. Show your compassion and love by drawing many people to saving faith in Jesus.
- Father, Your Son was obedient to You. Jesus came, suffered, and died. You exalted Him for this. You honored Him for this. I plead with You to give Him more honor and glory by saving many people. Magnify Your obedient Son by bringing many people to trust in Him and live for Him.
- Father, You have given us the Holy Spirit. He is equal to the Son and You in power and glory. I pray that He would release His power in our area in unprecedented ways. I plead that many will come to faith in Christ by His almighty work.
- Father, I plead that You will add to Christ's church. Save people throughout this area, enable us to disciple, and help them.
- Father, Your Word is true and without any error. It points people to Christ and His salvation. I plead that people throughout this area will have a desire, a hunger for Your Word. I ask that they will read it and come to a saving knowledge of Jesus.
- Father, Your Word says that the blood of Jesus can cleanse from all unrighteousness. I plead that many will come to Christ and experience the cleansing power of Jesus Christ.

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