

# WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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## FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

I welcome you to this new month and present to you November 2020 edition of "Watchman's Trumpet". This month, our theme is "Lord, Revive us again!"

The word 'Revival' is one whose meaning has been greatly distorted. Today, almost everywhere people associates revival with loud prayers, powerful sermons and the coming into town of a great preacher or evangelist, whereas in context, revival has to do with God's operation in the life of a thirsty seeking and waiting people for reversal and removal of religious coldness and formality.

Absences of true sanctified love in the Churches, neglect of family duties, neglect of watching over our souls and that of other brethren, secret sins, evil companionship, and worldliness in tastes, choices, decision, dressings and decoration; censorious spirit, evil speaking, hypocrisy, bad tongues and tempers, robbing God, not serving faithfully and hindering others from serving, and loss of zeal for evangelism are clear indications that the church needs revival today

God raised Elijah in Israel at a time of universal apostasy and institutionalized idol worship. He is still looking for men like Elijah whom He can use to turn the tide against Satan and the spirit of indifference to the things of God prevalent in many nations today. You can be that man. You can be the Elijah or Elisha or Deborah that your country has been waiting for.

To be used by God to ignite the fire of revival in this generation, you must be someone with eyes of faith who is not

easily discouraged by physical variable. You must see the possibility of rising of dry bones even before you start your preaching or prayer. Like Ezekiel you must ensure that you secure the hand of God upon your life and the anointing of His Spirit. You must be such as can implicitly obey the Lord and follow His counsel and leading.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of revival. No matter how bad things become in the world, God who knows all things ahead of time. He knew that a time will come when multiplying iniquity will threaten to undermine believers' fervency. Hence he promised us a latter day outpouring. The potentials for double portion of God's Spirit, the kind Elisha has is still available today. If we consecrate for it like Elisha did, we shall receive and become a mighty instrument in God's hand for preservation of multitude in faith till the Lord comes. I pray that it will be so in Jesus's name.!

## THE NATURE OF TRUE REVIVAL

"Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there" **1 Kings 18:38-40.**

"Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you" **Hosea 10:12.**



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The word 'Revival' is one whose meaning has been greatly distorted. Today, almost everywhere people associates revival with loud prayers, powerful sermons and the coming into town of a great preacher or evangelist, whereas in context revival has to do with God's operation in the life of a thirsty seeking and waiting people for reversal and removal of religious coldness and formality.

Revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God and genuine, sincere repentance, and renewal of relationship with God. Whole-hearted repentance, and devotion; renewed covenant or pledge by a congregation to continuously live for God's glory and abide in Christ remains the litmus for true revival. The glaring evidence of the absence of this in Christendom today, at least in significant numbers, increasingly prevalent religious lethargy and nominalism in the church and in the world are clear signs that we need revival.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. The need for revival
2. Characteristics of heaven sent revival

## 1. The Need for Revival

*"O God, why hast thou cast us off forever? why doth thine anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture? They have cast fire into thy sanctuary, they have defiled by casting down the dwelling place of thy name to the ground. They said in their hearts, Let us destroy them together: they have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land. We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long." Psalm 74:1,4,7-9*

*"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" Psalm 85:6*

The events in Israel described by the psalmist in these references clearly show the need for divine visitation, renewal and revival.

For the avoidance of doubt, God's people need revival -

- i. When there is a want of brotherly love in the church and the society pass "vote of no confidence" on Christian's claim of allegiance to God and relationship with Christ.
- ii. When there is worldly spirit in the church and Christians compete with one another over the latest fashion, party-hosting and ostentatious displays rather than piety.
- iii. When church leaders and members are falling into gross and scandalous sins.
- iv. When sinners are becoming increasingly hardened, careless and stupid; it takes a revived church to put out the fire of hell from men's bosom.
- v. When ministers have in any way lost the respect and confidence of their congregation and that of sane, moral public.
- vi. When a church continuously decline in attendance, programme participation and membership
- vii. When church attendees in a community are more of ungodly persons than converted Christians and new creatures.

- viii. When sermons lure people to sleep rather than ignite deep conviction and consecration for closer walk with God.
- ix. When employers of labour prefer to trust unbelievers than church people.
- x. When a community's spare times are spent more in pubs and night clubs than in prayer meetings and listening to inspiring sermons.

## 2.Characteristics of Heaven-Sent Revival

*"I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants" Luke 15:18-19*

*"Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. "1 Kings 18:38-39.*

Heaven-sent revival should result in:

- i. Repentance and forsaking of sins, lukewarmness and backsliding
- ii. Renewed interest in spiritual matters
- iii. Reconciliation with God and return of Bible day's fellowship. Luke 15:17-20.
- iv. Rekindled appetite for the word of God i.e. Bible study
- v. Re-dedication to lives of implicitly obedience to God and the scriptures. 1 Kings 18:36-39
- vi. Rededication to holy living and righteousness - Josiah. 2 Chronicles 34:30-33
- vii. Regenerated men available for service
- viii. Revival of holy, selfless and sacrificial first love among brethren
- ix. Renewed commitment to Mission activities: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, helping the helpless, bringing life and hope to the hopeless.
- x. Resultant manifestation of God's power following the return of God's power and glory. 2 Chronicles 31:20-21
- xi. Restoration of God's presence and glory to a seeking people. 2 Chronicles 15:1-4.
- xii. Reminding all of the imminence of Christ's return.



Contrition must precede fervent prayer for revival. The church individually and corporately must repent of - Neglect of quiet time of Bible studies, regular and consistent prayer life, neglect of fellowship with brethren and family duties, neglect of watching over our souls and that of other brethren. We must repent of secret sins, evil companionship, and worldliness in tastes, choices, decision, dressings and decorations. We must repent of censorious spirit, evil speaking, hypocrisy, bad tongues and tempers, robbing God, not serving faithfully and hindering others from doing so. Repentance and spiritual healing must feature majorly in a revival meeting. People en-mass must leave such places to do restitution, live sober lives, preach and promote godliness.

## 3. Aftermath of Enduring Revival

*"And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise...." Luke 3:10-14*

The goal and outcome of true revivals include:

- i. Submission of the converted for water baptism
- ii. Availability of the baptized for discipleship and workers training
- iii. Increase in church or fellowship attendance and service to God
- iv. A lifetime of "walking" with Christ in -
  - a. The Light - John 12:35
  - b. By faith - 2 Corinthians 5:7
  - c. Honesty and truth. Romans 13:13; 3 John vs. 4
  - d. Worthiness - Ephesians 4:1
  - e. Wisdom - Colossians 4:5
  - f. Obedience - 2 John vs. 6
  - g. The Spirit - Galatians 5:25
  - h. Newness of life - Romans 6:4
  - i. As Christ walked - 1 John 2:6

True revival, heaven-sent and enduring revival will produce Christlike believers.





## ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

## WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



### *Prayer Points - For December 2020*

1. That the fire of revival will burn off every chaff and set men’s heart on fire for the Lord.
2. That passion for the Lord and true revival will flood men’s heart again.
3. For true revival, genuine Christian experiences of Salvation, sanctification, holiness of life and faithful walk with God.
4. Increased appetite for the word of God.
5. Increasing faith as we read and listen to God’s word
6. For turning of the heart of sinners to the Lord in repentance.
7. Victory over the world and its lusts
8. That we will live ready and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit.
9. Double portion of anointing to meet the challenge of this perilous time and for the task of the Master.

*“..... men ought always to pray, and not to faint;’ Luke 18:1*

***May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!***

***Watchman Prayer Hour*** holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan . Oyo - State. You can also follow us live on any of our Social media platforms during the prayer session and send inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.



# THE FIRE OF REVIVAL

*"And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that thou, O LORD, art God, and that thou hast turned their hearts back." Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt offering, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench" 1 Kings 18:36-38.*

The text above describes the mysterious and wonderful display of God's power through Prophet Elijah. God revealed Himself as consuming fire, miracle worker as well as a loving God who wants the heart of His people turned back to Him. Prior to this time, the children of Israel had apostatized; they have gone astray from true worship and had institutionalized idol worship. To bring them back to God and by the Lord's leading; Prophet Elijah called for a contest of supremacy between Jehovah God and Baal.

The prophets of Baal, (450) were eager to take on the challenge. They were eventually disappointed when Baal failed to send fire on their sacrifice in response to its prophets' cries and self-inflicted wounds.

At the time of evening sacrifice, Elijah stepped in and God in response to Elijah's prayer, sent fire upon his sacrifice. This generation's level of perverseness, crookedness and spiritual lethargy as well as sodomy pointed to the need for the fire of the Lord, the fire of revival to fall upon the church and bring conviction to wayward men again so as to prepare them adequately for the coming of the Lord. I pray that this will happen today in Jesus name!

We shall consider these three subtopics:

1. The Passion of Elijah
2. The Prayer of Elijah
3. God's response to Elijah's Prayer

## 1. The Passion of Elijah

1 Kings 18:21, 19:10; Psalm 69:9, John 2:17

*"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word" 1 Kings 18:21.*

Today, like it was at the time of Elijah, idol worship and immorality had become a norm; corruption is the order of the day, Church people are lukewarm and spiritually lethargic. Holy institutions are daily abused by institutionalized prophets and false teachers. Men scorned the sacred name of the Lord. Wolves are devouring Christ's fold and many that should be burning with holy passion against sin are passionately serving the devil. They are passionately fulfilling the desires of the flesh.



The state of the church and the world today urgently calls for revival fire like in the days of Elijah. There is a need for revival in the church. However, God acts through men. Men are often instruments of God-sent revival. But where are the "Elijahs" today? For our present narrative to change, we must have men who are dedicated to God and have divine mandate to root out, pull down and destroy the kingdom of the devil so that the kingdom of God can flourish; men who can boldly challenge unrighteousness, godlessness and lukewarmness.

The same question that came to Prophet Isaiah is coming to us today. The Lord asked "...whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah responded "...Here am I: send me!" Isaiah 6:8. God expect the same response from you and me today. John Knox expressed the same passion about the spiritual state of Scotland in his days. He passionately prayed to God. He said 'Give me Scotland or I die!' God seeks men with similar passion today.

## 2. The Prayer of Elijah

*"..... men ought always to pray, and not to faint;" Luke 18:1*

It takes more than passion to transform men, communities and nations. There's a place for prayer. In fact, prayer is the wheel on which revival rides. The impact and

effect of prayer cannot be underestimated in any great move of God. Many are passionate today about revival but do not more than talk the talk. Beyond passion, Elijah took some practical steps to re-connect the people with God. He prayed.

There are even certain things he did before praying which is relevant to the church's desire for revival today. (1) He repaired the altar (2) he prepared a sacrifice on which the fire will fall (3) the timing of his prayer was also important, it was the time when God appointed that Israel should bring evening offering to Him. Elijah's heart and mind was centred on God and his commandments throughout the contest. The altar of consecration and love for God in many believers' lives and home today had become dilapidated. These must be rebuilt and restored if we want the fire of God to fall upon our lives.

Elijah's prayer itself emphasized certain things worthy of note. The prayer revealed that Elijah (1) sought God's glory (2) sought divine witness that he was a servant of God (3) sought for divine confirmation that he was sent by God for the assignment (4) and for a confirmation that will help turn the heart of the people back to God. Many prayers for the power of the Holy Spirit and for exploits in ministry today are underpinned by selfish motives and self-seeking, self-serving ambitions. God expects that those He would use to transform lives in their generation will have been purged from these tendencies.

## 3. God's response to Elijah's prayer

*"Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt offering, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench" 1 Kings 18:38*

We need experiences that will make men stand in awe of divine majesty and glory. We need the experience that will make the fear of God to predominate in the Church and in our world. Renewed out pouring and Holy Ghost refreshing will make believers fear the Lord in all that they do and walk in love. The presence of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life chases out lustful desires and sins and replaces it with burning passion for righteous living. This can still happen today; it we happen as we whole heartedly yield to the Lord.

## LIFE FOR DRY BONES

*"And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army"* **Ezekiel 37:8-10**

The account in our text is a prophetic revelation of the historical and spiritual state of the nation of Israel at the time of Ezekiel. By implication, Ezekiel saw Israel as a dispirited, divided, despondent people separated from God (Psalm 137), from one another and scattered among the nations; their land having been annexed by conquering power. They are at a point that only divine intervention can change their situation.

As we look at our lives - spiritual, academic and social; in fact as we look at our nation, the fellowship to which we belong or the Christian church as a body, don't we see a correlation between the way things are now and the way it was in the days of Ezekiel? 1 John 3:8b this passage is written (1) to increase our faith in God (2) To deepen our conviction in Biblical truth and revelations and (3) To enhance our allegiance and commitment to Christ. It is historically verifiable, spiritually applicable and fosters eternal hope and expectation.

Resurrection life that the vision portrays is true for the nation Israel, the Lord and the church. At a personal level it reveals the possibility of separation from a painful sinful past, supply of abundant grace and power to live God-honouring and righteous life today no matter how depraved the world becomes, it also revealed the reality and certainty of

future resurrection life and glory.

God calls every believer here today to rise up like Ezekiel and do something for the Lord and the Kingdom in their generation. If we received what Ezekiel received, if we responded like he did, in our lives, fellowship, family, concerning the Great Commission, we will have the result he got.

We shall consider three points

1. Pathetic vision of dry bones
2. Prophetic ministration to the dry bones
3. Powerful transformation by Christ's Spirit.



### 1. Pathetic Vision Of Dry Bones

*"The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry."* Ezekiel 37:1-2.

Before the Lord questioned Ezekiel, he was allowed to carry out an inspection of the valley. This valley seems as it were the site of a great battle lost by the people of God. The fact that they were not buried is the evidence of open reproach and shame of their loss; and exposure to harsh realities of changing circumstances of daily life. The sun, the wind, heat and cold took their toll on them till they became very dry; a hopeless, helpless situation. This is the case with all sinners and backsliders; sin is still killing multitude today Romans 6:23; 8:13; Proverbs 14:38. God calls every sinner to repentance. If you believe and obey your situation will change in Jesus name. Men's impossibility is God's opportunity.

### 2. Prophetic Ministration To The Dry Bones

*"Again he said unto me, prophecy unto these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of God"* Ezekiel 37:4

Here we see Ezekiel shaking off despair, despondency, hopelessness and helplessness. It is not what we see that determined the course of our lives but our reaction to it. However, we need to recognize where Ezekiel's motivation came from; it is in verse one. The hand of the Lord was upon him and he was borne on the wings of the Spirit. No wonder he succeeded where others failed. You will succeed no matter the tales of woes, failure and frustrations around you; you will succeed in Jesus name!

He was able to obey God, he declared the word of God, he quoted the promises of God. The words of Christ and promises of the Bible, when targeted and propelled by the Holy Spirit bring life and power. Ecclesiastes 8:4; John 6:63. Great things happen when in faith we speak the word of God against any adversary or to any adversity in obedience to God.

Here then is a reason to study and memorize the word of God so it can be made available as a sword in our hour of need. Whatever keeps you away from God's word and obedience to God is postponing your victory. Hosea 4:6.

### 3. Powerful Transformation by Christ's Spirit

*"So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army."* Ezekiel 37:10

Ezekiel has spoken to the dry bones; he has spoken to their circumstances, now he speaks to the Lord (The Lord Holy Spirit) on their behalf. The history of the growth of the Christian church is an history of powerful transformation of lives through powerful preaching and persevering prayer. What role does prayer play in your life? What is the place of the word of God and of prayer in your Christianity? Acts 6:4. Prayer and the word is the Spirit's standard against the hordes of hell. Heroic exploits and heaven-mindedness replaces hopelessness and helplessness when the children of God rise up in faith and obedience to God to confront the activities of the Gates of Hell in their lives, in their surroundings, in evangelizing sinners, in the family, in the fellowship and even in the nation. One Ezekiel made a difference in Israel; you could be the next, rise up and do something today.

## DOUBLE PORTION OF GOD'S ANNOINTING

*"And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me" 2 Kings 2:9.*

2 Kings 2:1-15 described how Elisha desired a double portion of God's flow of power and anointing evident in Elijah and got it. Generally people will transfer or give what they have but to transfer two times what is evident in you will take divine intervention. It is God who confers on Elisha twice the power for ministry evident in Elijah. The transfer point was when Elijah saw fiery chariots and horses descend in whirlwind to transport Elijah to heaven. Ministers of God and believers in Christ need such revelation today.

We shall consider three subtopics

1. Description of a double portion
2. Desire for a double portion
3. Dedication for a double portion

### 1. Description of a Double Portion

*"And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow" Genesis 48:5, 22*

Double portion is the privileged inheritance of a first born. It implies two times the portion given to other children in the family. It qualifies the firstborn to lead the family after their father's death. It was unfortunate that irresponsible conduct made Reuben forfeit the firstborn's privilege of double portion to Joseph among the children born to Jacob. Elisha was wiser.

Elisha's experience shows that the Holy Spirit is given only to those who desire it. It also shows that there is no extent to which the Holy Spirit cannot go with us if our consecration matches our desire.

Asking for a double portion implies that:

1. Elisha does not want to remain a mediocre among the sons of the prophets.
2. He does not want to be lost in the crowd
3. He wanted power to fulfill his assigned role
4. He wanted to be effective as a leading minister
5. He wanted leadership portion and anointing
6. He wanted the anointing to rule and reign in life.
7. He wanted to excel above his peers.
8. He wanted to be successful and fruitful in ministry

Things just don't happen, there is a God in heaven that has the final say as regards men's life and destiny. If His blessings and best must come upon our lives like showers of rain from the sky, we must desire it and dedicate ourselves to Him through righteous living and fervent prayers.

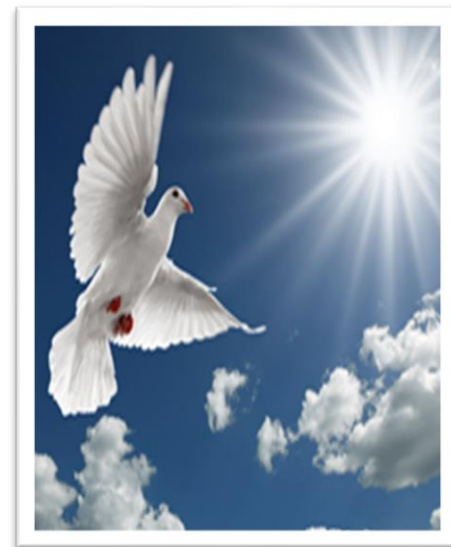


### 2. Desire for a Double Portion

*"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" Luke 11:9-13.*

In life, a pass is easy to come by but to obtain distinction, much more is required. The best from God, even the best in life's affairs does not come to idle, lazy, indifferent pleasure seeking fellows. Men who have been greatly used by God in days gone by are men that are fervent in prayers. The extent of our prayer life goes a long way to determine how sincere our desire is since it is by prayer that we make our desire known to God.

Elisha asked and received. It is an encouragement to us that if we ask for the gifts of the Holy Spirit or any other blessings from God, God will give it to us. However, we must realize that prayer does not stand alone. It is the fervent prayer of righteous men that avails much. James 5:6b



*"For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses. One shall say, I am the LORD'S; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the LORD, and surname himself by the name of Israel*

*Isaiah 44:3-5*

### 3. Dedication for a Double Portion

*"And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing; nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so" 2 Kings 2:10.*

Elisha was determined and focused throughout the period of his quest. He refused to be distracted. Even though a prophesy existed that Elisha will replace Elijah as national prophet or leader of the schools of prophet, he did not on account of the promise become over confident or relapse into a life of self-indulgence, carelessness, insincerity or idleness. If he had done so, he would have like Reuben forfeited the blessing and loose the rewards of years of consecration.

In God's programme, there is a special place for special people. Not that God is partial but that when people thread a unique path of consecration and commitment to God's will, by the law of attraction, cause and effects; and the law of sowing and reaping, God does grant them special privileges that others do not have. On the other hand, if we sleep when and where the general populace sleeps, eat what they eat, drink what they drink, go where they go. How do we expect our destination to be different from that of the majority?

Elisha's dedication to God and to Elijah his master was very clear. From the time he was called to the time of translation of his master, he demonstrated undivided loyalty and unwavering consecration. He was committed to God and to His master. Even at the time of departure of Elijah, there was that tenacity of purpose. He knew what he wanted and was prepared to sacrifice anything for it. He refused to be distracted by petty talks and gossips by other co-students in the schools of prophetic ministry in Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho and Jordan. God eventually honoured him by giving him what he requested for.

There is always a deciding moment in history, a moment of great outpouring, a moment of manifestation of the power of God. Jesus rebuked Israel for not recognizing the hour of their visitation. Luke 19:44. The Lord from heaven came to visit them but they were too preoccupied with mundane earthly things of no value, so they missed Him. The question still comes to you today - can you discern this hour? Even in Christian meetings and fellowship, can you discern the time when angels of God begin to go round distributing gifts and blessings and anointing of the Holy Spirit and not be passed by?



In every meeting of believers, there is need for vigilance alertness and openness. We must be sensitive to the move of the Holy Spirit whenever we are in God's presence. Those who will receive the best from God are those who ready to pay the price. What are you ready to let go or lay down? It is a paradox that Elisha got what Esau carelessly threw away. God still has double and great portion of Spirit's anointing and desires to bestow them on any who consecrated and pray for such a blessing. You can be that Elisha that the world, your nation or community has been waiting for.



## SONG OF THE MONTH

### THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME AT PENTECOST

1. The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost  
He came in mighty fullness then  
His witness thru believers won the lost  
And multitudes were born again  
The early Christians scattered o'er  
the world  
They preached the gospel  
fearlessly  
Tho' some were martyred and to  
lions hurled  
They marched along in victory

*Chorus:*

*Come Holy Spirit dark is the hour  
We need Your filling  
Your love and Your mighty power  
Move now among us stir us we  
pray  
Come Holy Spirit revive the  
church today*

2. Then in an age when darkness  
gripped the earth  
The just shall live by faith was  
learned  
The Holy Spirit gave the church new  
birth  
As reformation fires burned  
In later years the great revivals came  
When saints would seek the Lord  
and pray  
O once again we need that holy  
flame  
To meet the challenge of today

*Chorus:*

*Come Holy Spirit dark is the hour  
We need Your filling  
Your love and Your mighty power  
Move now among us stir us we pray  
Come Holy Spirit revive the  
church today*

Repeat Chorus

*Revive the church today  
Revive the church today*

**Author: John W. Peterson**

William Booth was born in Nottingham on 10 April 1829, the son of Samuel Booth and his second wife Mary (nee Moss), both from Derbyshire. He had had three sisters Ann, Emma and Mary and an elder brother, Henry, who died on his own second birthday.

In 1842, when he was aged 13, his father sent him to work as an apprentice to Francis Eames in a pawnbroker's shop situated in the poorest part of Nottingham. He disliked his job, but it was through this work that his social conscience was stirred and he became aware of the plight of the poor.

In September that same year, his father Samuel became ill and died, though not before making a death-bed repentance. Shortly after, his mother had to leave her the house in Sneinton for a small shop in one of the poor quarters of Nottingham where she earned a meagre income selling toys, needles, cotton and the like.

It was at this time that William started attending Broad Street Wesley Chapel (Methodist) and in 1844 he had a conversion experience, noting that: *"It was in the open street [of Nottingham] that this great change passed over me"*. In 1846 he was impressed by the preaching of the Reverend James Caughey from America and David Greenbury from Scarborough. Encouraged by Greenbury he joined a group of fellow believers who preached in the streets. He delivered his first sermon in Kid Street. Eventually Booth stopped working at the Pawnbrokers and was out of work for a year. In 1849 William moved to London to find work where he found his future wife, Catherine Mumford. They got married on 16 July, 1855. Following a brief honeymoon, he was appointed to circuits in Halifax and Gateshead. But, finding this structure restrictive and feeling himself called to itinerant evangelism, he resigned in 1861.

## MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

### WILLIAM BOOTH 1829-1912



Four years later William and Catherine moved to London. It was here that William commenced his first open air evangelistic campaign in Whitechapel, preaching in a tent. This ministry led to the formation of The Christian Mission, with Booth as its leader. In 1878 The Christian Mission was renamed The Salvation Army. William Booth became known as '*General Booth*'; concerning the work he said: *"We are a salvation people - this is our speciality - getting saved and keeping saved, and then getting somebody else saved."* There was frequent opposition to the Army's methods and principles in its early years.

After suffering from cancer, Catherine Booth died on 4 October 1890, leaving a significant void in William's life. In the same month Booth published his major social manifesto, *'In Darkest England and the Way Out'*. In implementing it, he explored various far-reaching ideas, such as providing hostels, employment centres and helping young men learn agricultural trades before emigrating. Thereafter Booth turned back to preaching and evangelism, with day-to-day administration of the Army passing to his oldest son, Bramwell. The years that followed were difficult ones for William. He had to deal with three of his children leaving The Salvation Army and one dying in a train crash.

#### SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

*"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it."*

Isaiah 2:2

On 17 August 1912, The War Cry reported that the General was *"not so well."* Three days later, on 20 August at 10.13 p.m., and following a terrific thunderstorm - as had occurred just prior to the passing of the Army Mother 22 years before - *"the old warrior finally laid down his sword"*. In accordance with a widely felt desire, the body of the General lay pavilioned in state at The Congress Hall, Clapton, on the Friday, Saturday and Monday following his passing. Some 150,000 people passed the bier to gaze upon the ivory-like features of *"the world's best-loved man."* The Mayor of South Shields described him as *"The Archbishop of the World."*

A public memorial service was arranged at Olympia on the following Wednesday (28 August 1912), 35,000 people attended. The funeral was conducted by the new General, Bramwell Booth, at 3.00 p.m. on 29 August, at Abney Park Cemetery, Stoke Newington. He delivered a striking address at the graveside, in the course of which he said: *"If you were to ask me, I think I could say that the happiest man I ever knew was the General. He was a glad spirit. He rose up on the crest of the stormy billows, and praised God, and laughed at the Devil's rage, and went on with his work with joy."* His legacy was a Salvation Army that numbered 15,875 officers and cadets, operating in 58 lands.

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