



Where Is The Agony For Lost Souls?

As you study the great awakenings in America, you see that God had men in place who had the agony and burden for souls; and there was a gut-wrenching spiritual battle between heaven and hell! The First Great Awakening began in the 1730s and lasted to about 1740, especially amongst the ministry of Jonathan Edwards and the British evangelist George Whitefield. George Whitefield cried, *“Give me souls, or take my soul....There is passion for souls, a depth of burden for men, a care for the flock of God that beggars words and sighs and tears.”* David Brainerd wrote in his journal, *“I care not where I go or how I live or what I endure so that I may save souls. When I sleep, I dream of them; when I awake, they are first in my thoughts....No amount of scholastic attainment, of able and profound exposition, of brilliant and stirring eloquence can atone for the absence of a deep, impassioned, sympathetic of human souls.”* These two men who were part of the first great awakening in America had the burden for lost souls to be saved! Their toils eventually wore both men out and they literally died sharing the gospel to lost men and women. They had agony for lost souls. Where is that agony for souls today?

In the third great awakening from 1840-1890, there was a preacher-evangelist named John Wesley Redfield who had this “agony for souls”. One night in a church, he was filled with unspeakable agony for souls. He wanted to howl like one of the prophets of old but dare not do it. The burden was so great he could hardly endure. He tried to leave the church, but the Holy Spirit stopped him. He cried out *“Oh God these people must be saved!”* He was instantly relieved, and the Holy Spirit swept the place and souls repented, and hundreds were saved! Years later it was stated that “some of the fruit of this revival still remains.”

In the great Welsh revival, young Evan Roberts had that agony for souls. One evening when Dr. F.B. Meyer was attending one of the revival meetings, he saw a preacher bring in two very lost souls to the meeting and one of the lost men said “I am not an infidel. I am agnostic. If God wants to save me, I will give him fair opportunity. Let Him do it!” This boast caused Evan Roberts to fall on his knees in perfect agony of soul. It seemed as though his very heart would break beneath the weight of this man’s sin. One of Dr. Meyer’s friends said, “let me play some music to drown out these dreadful sobs!” Dr. Meyer replied, *“Do not do that! I want the throb of this man’s anguish to touch my own soul! May God let me learn that sob -- that my soul may break while I preach the gospel to men. I have been preaching the gospel for 40 years with dry eyes!”* After a long fight of prayer where the whole meeting was in earnest agony for a long time for these two lost souls, one of the men finally yielded to God while the other did not -- like the two thieves on the cross. If it took that much prayer during the great Welsh Revival, would it not take that much prayer today? What is the value of one soul??? Jesus on the cross!!!

In Scotland on the Hebrides Islands in 1949, they recovered the lost agony for souls. Two Gaelic-speaking sisters in their 80s felt led to go into agonizing prayer for the salvation of the youth on Lewis island (one of the Hebrides islands). Duncan Campbell (13 February 1898 - 28 March 1972) was a Scottish Evangelist who is best known for being a leader in the Lewis Awakening or Hebrides Revival (a mid-20th century religious revival in the Scottish Hebrides). The people gathered for whole nights of prayer -- but it was no ordinary prayer meeting. They were burdened with souls. In one of the meetings, a young lad named Donald led the prayer and he had not been praying more than five minutes and the Holy Spirit swept into the church -- but not only into the church -- but through the whole island! Souls were crying out to God for salvation from all walks of life; and the highways were filled with souls seeking God. Duncan Campbell came across three men on a country road lying flat on their faces, so distressed about their souls they could not talk to him -- yet they were never near the meeting! Revival had come to the Hebrides Islands!

WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE REVIVAL OF AGONIZING PRAYER THAT BRINGS REAL REVIVAL. This is more than a two-minute prayer before hopping into bed or stepping into your car in the morning. Agonizing prayer is like Jacob wrestling with the Angel of the Lord at Bethel, until he prevailed (Genesis 32:21-32). It means wrestling with God and staying down before Him until you get a hold of the horns of the altar and prevail! This kind of wrestling involves pleading, begging, agony, and sweat, persevering, persistent seeking, asking, knocking until an answer from God comes. Are mothers and fathers praying this way today for their children? 1Tim 2:1-4-“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” We need to be praying for laborers to bring the gospel message: Matt 9:38-“Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.” 2Thess 3:1-“Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you...”

We, the church, have lost the will and the power to weep, to wrestle, to plead, and to agonize over lost souls. Do we understand that these souls will spend eternity in the flames separated from God with eternal, unimaginable suffering and that many of them will be family members and friends? We lack deep conviction of their condition and eternal woe. 2Thess 1:8-9-“dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” Rev 14:11-“And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night...” Rev 20:14,15-“Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” ISH 66:24-“Then they will go forth and look on the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die and their fire will not be quenched; And they will be an abhorrence to all mankind.” Do we really want this to happen to anybody? Especially to family and friends???

The church (God’s people) is not awake to the condition of our day. We are in the last of the last days. Romans Chapter 1 is playing out before very eyes. The world is upside down and has been given over to a reprobate mind where good is called evil and evil good. All common sense has vanished! Where are the weeping and agonizing prayer intercessors?

So, how do we get this kind of prayer life? I can tell you that you cannot work this one up in your own strength. It is a wonderful gift of God to you. You have not because you ask not! This kind of prayer life is from God. It is the Holy Spirit in you, leading you to this blessed kind of prayer. First, we must do a spiritual inventory and ask God to show us what needs to be changed in our own spiritual lives. Ask God to show us what sins need to be confessed and repented of (1John 1:9). The next step is to humble ourselves before God and confess to Him how weak and pathetic our prayer life really is! Ask Him to give us a Godly, intercessory prayer life with agony for souls. **BUT KNOW THIS:** It is going to cost. But, the reward outweighs the cost! The cost will be sleepless nights, many tears, and a crushing burden for souls that will weigh us down until we wrestle with God! **THE REWARDS ARE PRICELESS:** Saved loved ones, neighbors, friends, strangers and a Word-based Revival to come to America as it has in past centuries! *God be merciful and send us agonizing prayer warriors.*



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