

Why Revival Tarries

Leonard Ravenhill

- 1 Preaching of the type mentioned affects men; prayer affects God.
- 2 The tragedy of this late hour is that we have too many dead men in the pulpits giving out too many dead sermons to too many dead people.
- 3 A sermon born in the head reaches the head; a sermon born in the heart reaches the heart.
- 4 Under God, a spiritual preacher will produce spiritually minded people. Unction is not a gentle dove beating her wings against the bars outside of the preacher's soul; rather, she must be pursued and won.
- 5 Unction cannot be learned, only earned—by prayer.
- 6 Moreover, the devil has substituted reincarnation for regeneration, familiar spirits for the Holy Spirit, Christian Science for divine healing, the Antichrist for the true Christ, and the Church of Rome for the true Church.
- 7 Away with this palsied, powerless preaching which is unmoving because it was born in a tomb instead of a womb, and nourished in a fireless, prayerless soul.
- 8 Our praying, however, needs to be pressed and pursued with an energy that never tires, a persistency which will not be denied, and a courage which never fails.
- 9 No man is greater than his prayer life.
- 10 The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying.
- 11 Poverty-stricken as the Church is today in many things, she is most stricken here, in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere.
- 12 The two prerequisites to successful Christian living are vision and passion, both of which are born in and maintained by prayer.
- 13 His power; but to be much for God, we must be much with God.
- 14 The secret of praying is praying in secret. A sinning man will stop praying, and a praying man will stop sinning. We are beggared and bankrupt, but not broken, nor even bent.
- 15 Prayer is to the believer what capital is to the business man.
- 16 Someone now warns us lest we become so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly use. Brother, this generation of believers is not, by and large, suffering from such a complex! The brutal, soul-shaking truth is that we are so earthly minded we are of no heavenly use.
- 17 Are you prepared for vision at this top-price demand—the loss of a friend or a career?
- 18 If you only want to be saved, sanctified, and satisfied, then the Lord's battle hath no need of thee.
- 19 NOTE: sanctified ?
- 20 WOE, a word of confession; verse seven, LO, a word of cleansing; verse nine, GO, a word of commission.
- 21 Could God entrust us with such a heartbreaking revelation? Have we graduated in the secret place of prayer and in the school of suffering so that our spirits are tempered to bear such a soul-sickening sight? Blessed is the man to whom the Lord can impart such a vision!
- 22 Only men with less breadth of intellect, maybe, but with more depth of vision can do that.
- 23 To wait tremblingly before this thrice-holy One before

- 24 He who fears God fears no man. He who kneels before God will stand in any situation. A daily glimpse at the Holy One would find us subdued by His omnipresence, staggered by His omnipotence, silenced by His omniscience, and solemnized by His holiness. His holiness would become our holiness.
- 25 “A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hands of God.” So said Robert Murray McCheyne.
- 26 There are three persons living in each of us: the one we think we are, the one other people think we are, and the one God knows we are.
- 27 Unless we are desperate to get into real victory, we are so easy on ourselves and so hard on others!
- 28 Let us, too, pray for sight—upward, inward, and outward! Then like Isaiah, as we look upward, we will see the Lord in all His holiness; as we look inward, we will see ourselves and our need for cleansing and power; and as we look outward, we will see a world that is perishing and in need of a Saviour! “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24).
- 29 We know the utility of prayer from the efforts of the wicked spirits to distract us during the divine office; and we experience the fruit of prayer in the defeat of our enemies.
- 30 When we go to God by prayer, the devil knows we go to fetch strength against him, and therefore he opposeth us all he can.
- 31 One praying man stands as a majority with God!
- 32 God is bypassing men—not because they are too ignorant, but because they are too self-sufficient. Brethren, our abilities are our handicaps, and our talents our stumbling blocks!
- 33 Therefore the blessed Holy Spirit could write the life of Elijah in two words: “He prayed.”
- 34 By the key of faith, which fits every lock, Elijah locked heaven, pocketed the key, and made Ahab tremble. Though it is wonderful indeed when God lays hold of a man, earth can know one greater wonder—when a man lays hold of God.
- 35 him. The preacher will be heralded; the prophet hounded. Ah! brother preachers, we love the old saints, missionaries, martyrs, reformers: our Luthers, Bunyans, Wesleys, Asburys, etc. We will write their biographies, reverence their memories, frame their epitaphs, and build their cenotaphs. We will do anything except imitate them.
- 36 One place alone will keep the heart in passion and the eyes in vision—the place of prayer. This man Elijah, with a volcano for a heart, and
- 37 The price is high. God does not want partnership with us, but ownership of us.
- 38 Elijah lived with God. He thought about the nation’s sin like God; he grieved over sin like God; he spoke against sin like God. He was all passion in his prayers and passionate in his denunciation of evil in the land.
- 39 M. Bounds is right in saying that short, powerful public prayers are the outcome of long secret intercession.
- 40 Oh! my ministering brethren! Much of our praying is but giving God advice! Our praying is discolored with ambition, either for ourselves or for our denomination. Perish the thought! Our goal must be God alone. It is His honor that is sullied, His blessed Son who is ignored, His laws broken, His name profaned, His Book forgotten, His house made a circus of social efforts.
- 41 The man who can get believers to praying would, under God, usher in the greatest revival that the world has ever known.
- 42 Again and again God asks men to do not what they can, but what they can’t. To prove that no sleight of hand does it but that they link their impotence to His omnipotence, the word impossible is dropped from their vocabularies.

- 43 Prophets are lone men: they walk alone, pray alone, and God makes them alone.
- 44 In these days of acute political helplessness, moral lawlessness, and spiritual helplessness, where are the men not of doctrine, but of faith? No
- 45 Were Wesley, Whitefield, Finney, Hudson Taylor special editions of ministers? Never! If I read the Book of Acts aright, they were just the norm.
- 46 By overstating the sovereignty of God and blundering on in an atmosphere of stagnant dispensationalism, we safeguard our spiritual bankruptcy.
- 47 "I prophesied as I was commanded" (there is the crux of the matter—he was a fool for God);
- 48 To save our faces, we of course modify God's commands, and so lose our faces.
- 49 Herein are three very vital issues: Broken Hearts, Mourning, and Sin.
- 50 Try tears!" They did. And they had revival.
- 51 classes of people in the world today: those who are afraid, those who do not know enough to be afraid, and those who know their Bibles.
- 52 Men build our churches but do not enter them, print our Bibles but do not read them, talk about God but do not believe Him, speak of Christ but do not trust Him for salvation, sing our hymns and then forget them. How are we going to come out of all this?
- 53 We are told that, despite our sin and carnality, we are seated with Him. Alas, what a lie! We are Ephesians all right; but, as the Ephesian Church in the Revelation, we have "left our first love!" We appease sin—but do not oppose it. To such a cold, carnal, critical, care-cowed Church, this lax, loose, lustful, licentious age will never capitulate. Let us stop looking for scapegoats. The fault in declining morality is not radio or television. The whole blame for the present international degeneration and corruption lies at the door of the Church!
- 54 Why does revival tarry?
- 55 Revival taries because of cheapening the Gospel.
- 56 We must alter the altar, for the altar is a place to die on. Let those who will not pay this price leave it alone!
- 57 Revival taries because of carelessness.
- 58 Revival taries because of fear.
- 59 Testament, Christians were stoned and suffered every ignominy,
- 60 Revival taries because we lack urgency in prayer.
- 61 We pray with a "take-it-or-leave-it" attitude; we pray chance prayers; we offer that which costs us nothing! We have not even "strong desire." We rather are fitful, moody, and spasmodic.
- 62 Finally, revival taries because we steal the glory that belongs to God. Listen to this and wonder:
- 63 We have failed. We are filthy. We love men's praise. We "seek our own."
- 64 The Gospel is a fact; therefore tell it simply. The Gospel is a joyful fact; therefore tell it cheerfully. The Gospel is an entrusted fact; therefore tell it faithfully. The Gospel is a fact of infinite moment; therefore tell it earnestly. The Gospel is a fact of infinite love; therefore tell it feelingly. The Gospel is a fact of difficult comprehension to many; therefore tell it with illustration. The Gospel is a fact about a Person; therefore preach Christ. —ARCHIBALD BROWN
- 65 True preaching is the sweating of blood. —DR. JOSEPH PARKER
- 66 I am increasingly convinced that tears are an integral part of revival preaching. Preacher brethren, this is the time to blush that

- 67 The fact beats ceaselessly into my brain these days that there is a world of difference between knowing the Word of God and knowing the God of the Word.
- 68 Is it not true that with the coming round of Bible conferences we hear only old things repeated, and most likely come away without any increase in faith?
- 69 Are we mesmerized by spiritual wealth?
- 70 Perhaps a penniless seaman might be tantalized and tormented to sail over the Atlantic, knowing that beneath him lies the Lusitania with ten million dollars in her holds—his for the taking! The only barrier is a mile or two of water! Even so, the Bible, the Christian's checkbook from the Lord of glory, says: "ALL things are yours. . . and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." I am finding a healthy dissatisfaction these days with the poverty of us believers.
- 71 Yet when I move up and say, "He will change this table into gold," my problem is solved.
- 72 NOTE: God you can fill me with the Holy Spirit every moment of my life, cause me to be qualified to receive it
- 73 We Christians glibly quote, "My God shall supply all (tremendous word!) your need"; but really, do we believe it? Without lessening its value, an appendix could be added to Hebrews Eleven and could include Hudson Taylor (founder of the China Inland Mission), George Mueller, Rees Howells, and others who "through faith" did mighty works.
- 74 God honors not wisdom nor personality but faith. Faith honors God. And God honors faith. God goes wherever faith puts Him.
- 75 Faith links our impotence to His omnipotence.
- 76 Doubt delays and often destroys faith. Faith destroys doubt.
- 77 blessed Book does not say "if thou canst explain the Scriptures, all things are possible to him that explaineth."
- 78 We have often heard people say with a sense of injury (after they have been overlooked for a job they thought they were admirably suited for), "It is not what you know these days that matters, but whom you know."
- 79 know is one thing; whom we know is quite another. Paul had nothing, but yet "possessed all things." Sublime paradox! Blessed poverty! This blessed man was loaded spiritually. Building Christ's empire and writing the oracles of the Lord never unbalanced him.
- 80 Who a man is is not important; What he knows does not matter; but what he is to the inscrutable God is what matters. If we displease God, does it matter whom we please? If we please Him, does it matter whom we displease? What we can be in union with Christ is one thing; but what we are is quite another. I am terribly dissatisfied with what I am. If you "have arrived," then pity your weaker brother and pray for me.
- 81 The greatest benefactor of this generation will be the person who brings down on this strutting but stricken protestantism the inestimable power of the Lord. The promise still stands: "The people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits."
- 82 No man is ever fully accepted until he has, first of all, been utterly rejected.
- 83 Men may try to destroy a prophet's body, but they can not destroy the prophet.