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RESURRECTION OF THE EARLY METHODISM
By Karlis Iesalnieks

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Karlis Iesalnieks was a Latvian Methodist minister serving many years in Latvia, one year under the regime of Russian communists. In the second World War he lost his Church, his Native Country, and all he had save his life; he was deported, as a refugee to Germany, where he worked in a forced Labor Camp; after the capitulation of Germany, he lived in a D.P. Camp (Dislocated Persons Camp) for almost 5 years. Then in 1949 he was transferred, as a refugee, from D.P. Camp, to United States of America, where he served in the Free Methodist Church for 10 years until his retirement.

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"Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that cut Rahab, (Egypt) and wounded the dragon?" Satan -- (Revelation 20:2) -- (Isaiah 51:9).

The great Bible truth concerning soul travail in prayer, is almost extinct in so called holiness churches in our days. Fasting, the tears of the criers and the groans of the sighers, wrestling in prayer against Satan, the power of darkness, are out of date. Yes, lifeless, formal prayers are offered a lot, but a weeping and crying intercessor, who expresses soul agony, is numbered with the religious fanatics or extremists, who has gone "too far" concerning prayer. Such kind of prayer is the travail of the soul.

Jesus was one who offered such a kind of prayer: "Who in the days of his flesh, when he offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared". (Heb. 5:7). The Apostle Paul was another one who prayed this sort of prayer: "My little children of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you" (Gal. 4:19) The Early Methodists knew this kind of prayer and prayed so. They spent hours on their knees in prayer. They lay on the ground weeping and pleading and came out from their prayer rooms physically weary and spent, but spiritually victorious. The great saints of the past have always been mighty in prayer, and their triumphs have always been the outcome of pain. As a result of their travail souls were born anew. Carnally-minded churches and believers counted them as fanatics and fools. But in God's sight they were "wise men" who by their wisdom delivered nations, cities, villages, dead churches, and dead believers from the bondage of Satan. (A poor man of prayer? Read Eccl. 9:13-18) May the Lord give us more such fanatics in our days, then we shall see more newborn souls. God is looking for such Christians as those of the past among the holiness people in our days, but cannot find them. (Read Ezekiel 22:30-31, "I sought for a man among them ... but I found none").

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth". The word "travail" means to suffer the pain of childbirth, or labor with pain. Paul labored fervently for them in prayer until they got really born of God. Please, consider very seriously these mentioned terms, concerning prayer: "Strive" -- That ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me (Rom. 15:30) "Labor fervently" -- Always laboring fervently for you in prayer (Col. 4:12). "To wrestle" -- For we wrestle against powers, against the rulers of darkness, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12- in the Latvian language, "Against evil spirits in the air"). "Great conflict with the devils" -- For I would that ye know what great conflict I have for you and for them at Laodicea (Col. 2:1).

These words are military terms, pertaining to the soldiers of Christ and battle. But this battle is not physical, bodily, or after the flesh, but spiritual and real, actual battle with Satan and his evil spirits (demons) who keep in spiritual darkness those souls for whom we pray. (Read II Cor. 10:3-5 and Eph. 6:10-20) Spiritually speaking, this battle is TRAVAIL OF SOUL. This spiritual knowledge and vision is what we Christians need most of all. Where the light, concerning prevailing in prayer, is obscured or lost, there the people perish, "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Prov. 29:18).

Oh, the people of God, let us stir ourselves up, awaken and shake from us the spiritual and physical DROWSINESS and follow Jesus in prayer; "And in the morning, rising up a GREAT WHILE BEFORE DAY, he (Jesus) went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there PRAYED" (Mark 1:35). That is the place where the Early Methodism was born; and that is the place where the Early Methodism, (which the modern chief priests and scribes have killed) shall RESURRECT AGAIN.

"But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4). "And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, (Anna) which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day" (Luke 2:37). -- One godly man said that prayer is the link that connects us with God. Prayer is the bridge that spans every gulf and bears us over every abyss of danger. Of course it is not formal prayer, but "Praying always with

all prayer and supplication IN THE SPIRIT, and watching thereunto with ALL PERSEVERANCE and SUPPLICATION for all saints" (Eph. 6:18).

The Apostle Paul says in Romans 9:1-2, "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not . . . that I have GREAT HEAVINESS and CONTINUAL SORROW in my heart". What is the great heaviness and sorrow in his heart? The answer: it is the "burden of prayer". Jesus knew what the burden of prayer was: "Who in the days of flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears ... I (Heb. 5:7). The Apostle Paul knew what the burden of prayer was: "For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears . . ." (II Cor. 2:4). The early Methodists knew what the burden of prayer was: The farmers had their "prayer altar" in a corner in their cow sheds where they prayed and wept for the unsaved souls. All great saints of the past have known what the burden of prayer was. Parents had this burden of prayer for their unsaved children: "They prayed for them days and nights with tears and groaning". Preachers had this burden of prayer for their churches: "They prayed for the members of their churches, calling them by names, with tears". This burden of prayer is a natural result of the perfect love that is in the heart of each true saint. Now a question for us all: "Do we know this "burden" of prayer? Do we have it in our hearts?"

The burden of prayer is, spiritually speaking, "spiritual pregnancy of the soul" or the condition (spiritually) of being with child only where there is "spiritual pregnancy may we expect a spiritual birth of a child of God (John 1:13). In physical life no child can be born without travail of body or the pains of childbirth suffered by the mother. It is just the same in spiritual life. No soul can be born of the spirit, without the "travail of soul," of somebody who is making unceasing intercession for that person. That is an unalterable law in both the physical and spiritual realms concerning birth. There is: 1. -the hard time of pregnancy -- months and years the "Burden of prayer" is upon the heart of an intercessor. 2. -the travail of the soul of an intercessor -- praying with tears and groaning, and wrestling with Satan and the powers of darkness, for the soul who lives in sin. 3. -Then the glorious birth of a newborn soul -- a strong confidence and assurance in the heart of the intercessor, that God has answered his prayers. How or when it will be seen in the physical realm, no one can tell. In the spiritual realm it is "ACCOMPLISHED" and one day it will be seen in the physical realm. The soul, for whom that intercessor prayed, will be gloriously saved and born of God. "He shall see of the TRAVAIL of his soul, and shall be satisfied . . ." (Isa. 53:11) Among the Early Methodists this Bible truth concerning prevailing prayer was a common and well-known thing. They prayed like this and souls got saved and were born of God. In our days this truth is obscured and lost among Christians. Oh, dear people of God, let us stir ourselves up, repent of our prayerlessness and pray that the Lord will put upon our hearts the "BURDEN OF PRAYER". May we get up in the early morning hours and start the "Battle of Prayer" with all perseverance. It will be the beginning of the RESURRECTION OF THE EARLY METHODISM.

"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. (Mark 1:35).

Text: "By him (Jesus) therefore let us offer the sacrifice of PRAISE to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name. (Heb. 13:15) -- Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous and SHOUT for joy, all ye that are upright in heart. (Psalms 32:11) -- SING aloud unto God our strength; make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob." (Ps. 8 1:1).

We call your attention to three words in our text: Praise . . . Shout . . . Sing. When the Early Methodism was spiritually alive, the Methodists PRAISED the Lord, SHOUTED and SANG spiritual hymns joyfully; they made a joyful noise unto God. (Ps. 66:1) Of course, not after the flesh, but after the Spirit; (Gal. 5:25) and they did these three things in a sound, spiritual UNDERSTANDING. (I Cor. 14:15, Col. 1:9)

But when the Early Living Methodism spiritually died, and the modern Methodism took its place, then Praising ... Shouting ... Singing in the Spirit and spiritual understanding also died (ceased). (Col. 1:9) Yes, they still have the name "Methodism", but God saith to them, "Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." (Rev. 3:1) They have modern church buildings, modern organs, chorus, educated pastors, evangelists, Sunday School leaders, etc., but Praising . . . Shouting . . . Singing in the Spirit and spiritual understanding is gone.

Oh yes, they build the tombs of the Early Methodists and garnish the sepulchers of the prominent leaders of the Early Methodism, as John Wesley and others, saying, "If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the Early Living Methodism". (Matt. 23:29-30) But if someone among them has the 'John Wesley Spirit', then they "honorably retire" such a person from every office of the church and pulpit. They are the enemies of Christ in their minds, judgments and understanding. (Col. 1:21, Isa. 59:14-15)

The backslidden Methodists have done something more, in order to keep the Living Early Methodism in the tomb forever: Sealing it and Setting a Watch at it. (Matt. 27:62-66) But their sinful effort is ABSOLUTELY IN VAIN, because in the Early Living Methodism IS THE SPIRIT OF THE CHRIST and the POWER OF THE RESURRECTION. Hallelujah!!! -- Amen -- Amen! When God's appointed time will be at hand, the Rejected ... Crucified . . . Killed Early Methodism will RAISE FROM THE DEAD: "And, behold, there was a great earthquake; for the ANGEL OF THE LORD descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, (of the tomb) and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow; and for fear of him the KEEPERS did shake, and became as dead men." -- (Matt. 28:2-4)

Praising...shouting. . .singing in the Spirit and with spiritual understanding, is the highest degree of the LIVING FAITH. (I Cor. 14:15, Eph. 6:18) Such living faith, linked with steadfast confidence, makes a saint an actual partaker of Christ, "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our CONFIDENCE steadfast unto the end". (Heb. 3:14) This is the divine property of the saints, who are righteous and upright in their hearts, "Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye RIGHTEOUS, and SHOUT for joy, all ye that are UPRIGHT in heart". (Ps. 32:11) "I will also clothe her priests with salvation; and her saints shall SHOUT aloud for joy". (Ps. 132:16) "Sing aloud unto God our strength; make a joyful NOISE unto the God of Jacob". (Ps. 81:1)

In Praising. . .Shouting. . .and Singing in the Spirit, is concealed a mysterious, supernatural power of God. The devils are afraid, dismayed of that "joyful noise" and flee. The unbelievers and infidels become angry of the "joyful noise", because it pricks in their hearts. (Acts 2:37) To the modern Christians such Praising and Shouting and Singing seems foolishness, and they say that these men are drunken. (Acts 2:13) But the natural believers receiveth not these things of the Spirit

of God", for they are foolishness unto them; neither can they know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (I Cor. 2:14) But the true saints of God join to that Praising and Shouting and Singing with a positive, confident 'Amen'.

The first early Christian knew what the power of God is in Praising and Shouting and Singing in the Spirit and with spiritual understanding. Also the Early Methodists knew it; and all great saints, in all ages knew it and appropriated it in their Christian life, and practically experienced that power of God. We read in Acts 16:19-40, where Paul and Silas were thrust into the prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang Praises unto God, and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, do thy self no harm, for we are all here. Then he called for a light and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the Word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized he and all his, straitway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house. (Acts 16:24-34)

That demonstration of the power of God was a result of Praising and Shouting and Singing in the spirit and spiritual understanding. A godly man -- Marchale -- once wrote: 'Nothing fills all hell with dismay like a reckless, dare-devil, shouting faith'. There is nothing which can stand before the man with a genuine shout in his soul. Earth and hell flee before him, and the heavenly hosts throng about him to help him fight his battles and gain victory. (R. C. Boynton).

"Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to comedown for you the rain, the FORMER RAIN and the LATTER RAIN in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil." -- Joel 2:23-24.

The greatest spiritual need in so-called holiness churches of our days is: Rain, rain, the rain of the Holy Ghost from heaven. on every hand we see dry and parched fields and pastures: Dry churches and pulpits, dry preaching and prayer meeting, dry altar services, dry and parched sanctification., and dry holiness, and dry eyes of the intercessors. There are Christian parents, before whose eyes their own children die in sin and worldliness, but their fathers and mothers do not feel godly sorrows in their hearts for their lost children, no compassion no weeping for the tragic condition of their souls.

The unregenerate, carnally minded church leaders invent and bind heavy and grievous burdens of the innumerable religious methods: Building, rebuilding, relocation programs, canvassing, banqueting, etc., and lay them on the poor church members' shoulders, promising that through those things they shall revive the church, and thus deceive themselves and others. But the unfailing Holy Ghost Method, which God has given to his people in the Bible: Fasting, praying with all perseverance, godly sorrow, weeping and mourning for themselves and for the unsaved

beloved ones, contrite heart and spirit, etc., they reject and cast off as antiquated and outmoded things, which are not fit for the holiness churches in the present age. Oh, rain, rain, rain the Holy Ghost Rain is really needed over those dry and parched fields, pastures, shepherds and their flocks.

May be some of the readers of these lines would ask: "What shall we do that the Lord would give us the former and the latter rain and that the empty floors would be full of wheat again, and the dry vats would overflow with wine, as it was in the early Methodists and Free Methodists day?" (Joel 2:24) The answer: First of all we must arise and cast out TV sets from our homes, and film apparatuses from our churches, and ball game equipment from our churches and camp grounds and burn them before all men, as did the early Christians with such like abominations: "Many of them also which used curious art brought their books together, AND BURNED THEM BEFORE ALL MEN; and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver." (about \$10,000). And the practical result of the spiritual stand was: "SO MIGHTILY GREW THE WORD OF GOD AND PREVAILED". Acts 19:19-20.

We read in the old Testament, about King Josiah who reigned in Jerusalem: "And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left." (II Kings 22:1-2) And what he did we read in the next twenty-third chapter: "And the king commanded to bring forth out of the Temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove; and he burned them without Jerusalem in the field of Kidron ... Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, which the ungodly king, Jeroboam had made, both that altar and the high place, King Josiah broke down, and BURNED THE HIGH PLACE, and stamp it small to powder, and BURNED THE GROVE." II Kings 23:4,15

There are many things and abominations in backslidden holiness people's hearts, and homes and churches and camp grounds and schools which must be cast out and BURNED BEFORE ALL MEN. (Acts 19:19) Then the Lord shall open unto thee His good treasure, the heaven to give the RAIN unto thy land in His season. (Deut. 28:12)

"Therefore also now, SAITH THE LORD, turn ye even to me ALL YOUR HEART, and with FASTING, and with WEEPING, and with MOURNING: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth Him of the evil". Joel 2:12-13

In so-called holiness churches, in our days, the saddest things are: There is no fear of God before their eyes, (Rom. 3:18) neither gravity and sincerely concerning spiritual things; they take the sin, conversion, holiness, heaven and hell so lightly, just as it is written in Jeremiah 8:11, "For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people SLIGHTLY, saying, Peace, peace, when there is no peace." But God commands to us: "In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works, in doctrine showing uncorruptness, GRAVITY, SINCERITY. (Titus 2:7) Repent ye, and believe the gospel, and be ye holy in all manner of conversation." (Mark 1:15, 1 Pet. 1:15)

The Christians who take the spiritual, eternal things with all GRAVITY, and are of a contrite and humble heart and spirit, -- God has promised to LOOK to them, to be NIGH them, and even to DWELL with them, and bless them and REVIVE their hearts and their spirit: 'For thus saith

the High and Lofty one that inhabiteth eternity, whose Name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a CONTRITE and humble spirit, to REVIVE the heart of the CONTRITE one." (Isa. 57:15) (Read also: Isa. 66:2, Psalms 34: 18, 51:17)

God is looking and seeking for men and women, who are of a CONTRITE AND BROKEN HEART AND SPIRIT, -- first of all, for their sins and transgressions and failures, and then also for others: Who with FASTING and WEEPING and MOURNING make intercession for their beloved ones who are still living in sin and worldliness, Would you be one of them? If God can not find such "INTERCESSOR", there is no hope that your beloved ones will be saved.

Maybe you would say, "I pray for them daily and do my best, and believe that God in his mercy, some day, some how, will save them, but I do not think that I have to weep and mourn for them." But the truth concerning salvation of your dear beloved ones is this: If God cannot find, at least one person, in your family or in your church, who has a pure love and compassion for your beloved ones, and who has a contrite spirit and broken heart for those lost souls, and who would be willing and ready to FAST and stand on his knees in persevering intercessory prayer, and WEEP and SUPPLICATE and PLEAD God for them, day and night -- then there is no hope that they some day, some how, shall be saved. Maybe you would say why not? The answer: Because the Holy Ghost could find none who would be willing actually to stand in the "gap" before God for them. Because the Holy Ghost could find "no channel" through which to reach those darkened souls, and shed the heavenly light into their blinded minds and hearts. (11 Cor. 4:3-4)

That is the unchangeable Bible truth, concerning an individual lost soul, and a backslidden family and church and nation; God will and is able to PARDON, to SPARE, and to Save, but, if the Lord cannot find among them, at least "ONE PERSON" who sees their tragically lost spiritual condition and is ready to FAST, to PRAY with all perseverance, to WEEP and MOURN, then God will pour his indignation upon those unsaved and consume them with His wrath. These thoughts are not my personal opinion of belief, but God saith it in His Word. (Read Ezekiel 22:23-31; also Jeremiah 9:1)

GOD'S CALLED AND CHOSEN SERVANTS

When God has purposed to do something among Christians, then He seeks and calls and chooses men or women, by whom He then realizes or carries out His purpose. But a surprising and amazing thing, in the calling of the Lord is this: God calls persons and uses means and circumstances, which seem from human or man's viewpoint, a foolish and impossible thing; and yet, God uses them and realizes His purposes and thus confounds the wise and mighty men of this world, saying unto them, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9.

This truth or this fact is confirmed in the Bible, in the old Testament and also in the New Testament. The true saints of God, whose eyes have been opened by the Spirit of God, see this truth in the true holiness churches today, just as we read in I Corinthians 1:26-29, "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called; but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath

chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in His presence."

When God had purposed to lead his people, Israel, out of the land of Egypt, deliver them from the bondage of Pharaoh, He called and chose a man whom God used and realized in His purpose or plan. The surprising and amazing thing is this, that God called and chose for that great work a man, who, from man's viewpoint seemed that he was not fit nor able to accomplish that great work, because he was too old and weak -- he was 80 years old, a shepherd of the priest of Midian, by name, Moses. (Exodus 3:1) From the human standpoint Moses was fit for retirement, much more, he was far over retirement years; but he was not suitable for such great work. From the human viewpoint it seemed an impossible thing, but God made this impossible thing possible. Moses lived after this calling of the Lord still 40 years and delivered Israel from the bondage of Pharaoh. (Read Exodus from chapter 3 to 15).

We read in I Samuel from chapters 10-16, that Israel was in a great spiritual and political crisis: King Saul was backslidden, even possessed with an evil spirit, and Israel was in a great and desperate spiritual condition, groaned and needed a wise, godly king who would lead them out of that great crisis. Then God said to his servant, Samuel: "Fill thy horn with oil, and go to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided me a king among his sons. (He had 8 sons) and Samuel went there; when he saw the oldest son of Jesse, a strong and high of his stature, Samuel thought, Surely this is he whom the Lord will anoint for the King of Israel. But God said to Samuel: "Look not on his countenance, for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. Samuel said unto Jesse, "The Lord hath not chosen these; are here all thy children?" Jesse said, "There remaineth yet the youngest, and behold, he keepeth the, sheep." Then Samuel said to Jesse, send and fetch him, for we will not sit down till he come hither."

Jesse sent, and brought his youngest son David in. And the Lord said unto Samuel, Arise, anoint him, for this is he. Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: And the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. (Read, I Samuel 16:1-13).

Evidently Samuel himself was greatly disappointed, seeing that God had chosen as the King of Israel this young shepherd boy; therefore he did not say any word, but rose up and went to his home. From the man's viewpoint it seemed foolish. "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise." (I Cor. 1:27). And the Lord used David and confounded many wise and mighty men of this world.

Jesus needed disciples through whom He would transfer his doctrine and His Spirit to this sin-sick world. He did not choose for this purpose the wise, noble and mighty men after the flesh, but He chose and called the unlearned common men -- fishermen from Galilee -- Peter, James, John, etc., Matthew 4:18-22 and used them and confounded the high priests, scribes and the captains of the temple, (Read, Acts 4:1-13) and made them the 'FOUNDATION STONES' for the Holy Jerusalem wall. (Read -- Rev. 21:10-14)

So likewise today, the Lord will find and call and choose men and women, who from the viewpoint of this world are foolish, weak and despised, and RESURRECT THE EARLY METHODISM. "That no flesh should glory in His presence." (I Cor. 1:29)

Text: "I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled." Luke 12:49

THE FIRE OF THE LORD

John the Baptist said, "I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose; he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." (Luke 3:16, Matt. 3:11) This is the fire that Jesus was talking about, "I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled." Of course Jesus does not talk here about natural fire, the fire from below, which men can kindle; but He was talking about supernatural fire from above, from heaven -- THE FIRE OF THE LORD.

The natural fire from below has a great and tremendous power to burn and consume, but not all things; the fire from below consumes wood, hay, stubble, but gold, silver, stones and iron it cannot destroy; yes, a fervent fire can melt some of them, but not consume. (I Cor. 3:12-13) But the simple water is stronger than fire; the fire-men run and pour the water on the burning house and quench and extinguish the fire.

But the fire of the Lord, that comes from above, is able to burn and consume everything and all things. We read about this truth or fact in the Bible when the prophet Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord, that was broken down, on the mount of Carmel:

"And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be thy name; and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord; and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water. And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of 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. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that Thou art the Lord God, and that Thou hast turned their heart back again.

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 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. I Kings

18:30-40. (The prophets of Baal -- 450, and the prophets of the groves -- 400, together 850 -- I Kings 18:19).

In this story we see what 'The Fire of the Lord' can do: Consumed, not only the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, but also the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water in the trench; and also changed the hearts and minds of the people; the fear of God fell upon them and all fell on their faces and said, The Lord, He is the God, and liquidated the worship of Baal in the whole Israel in few hours. This is the fire that Jesus was talking about, "I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled". This Holy Fire of God we need today in our hearts, in our homes, in our churches, and pulpits, and in parsonages, more than any other thing. The Early Methodists had this Fire of God.

A SMOKING FLAX SHALL HE WILL NOT QUENCH
Matthew 12:20

The very first thing that prophet Elijah did, on the mount Carmel, was: He repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down; and when that work was accomplished, then the fire of the Lord fell down from heaven, and consumed the things which no earthly fire could consume: The stones, the dust, and it even licked up the water that was in the trench; and also threw the backslidden Israel to the earth on their faces, and caused them to cry out, 'The Lord, He is the God, The Lord, He is the God.' I Kings 18:31-31).

This sort of fire the Early Methodist had in their hearts, in their homes, in their churches, and pulpits. But today, the sad and the most pitiable fact is this: The altar of the Lord -- PRAYER ALTAR -- is broken down in many so-called holiness people's hearts and homes; yes, a cold, dead form of prayer still is used, but the fervent, effectual, prevailing prayer, in the Spirit is quenched and extinguished; (James 5:16, Eph. 6:18). Many other altars of the "Modern Baal" are erected in the place of the altar of the Lord. But the true God's people groan and weep, "Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people." (Jer. 9:1).

Dear people of God, let us arise and make "this prayer" the topic of our daily prayer; let us begin every day with "this prayer" and close every day with this prayer: "O Lord God of heaven and earth, STIR UP IN ME a fervent, effectual spirit of prevailing prayer; KINDLE IN ME a sincere, burning DESIRE to pray and make intercession, DAY and NIGHT for my unsaved beloved ones, children grandchildren and for all the saints whom I know, for my Church and Preacher etc.,etc., with all PERSEVERANCE, (Eph. 6:18) and CONTINUALLY, as long as I live. (Rom. 12:12) Make me a man, a woman of prayer that I may know how to pray WITHOUT CEASING (I Thess. 5:17) Make me, O Lord Jesus, a faithful follower in THY PRAYER LIFE.

In our prayer God does not respect so much the words we utter with our mouth, but He highly respects the sincere, burning DESIRE of our heart, "Thou has given him his HEART'S DESIRE, and hast not withholden the request of his lips". (Ps. 21:2) Desire in our prayer is the same thing that electric current is in telephone wires. Even an excellent faith, in our prayer shall be fruitless, if in our heart is lack of sincere, burning DESIRE. Sincere DESIRE must be first, then only our faith can reap the fruit: "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye DESIRE, when

ye pray, BELIEVE that ye receive them, and ye shall HAVE THEM." (Mark 11:24) The telephone wire can be all right, and well connected with the home of your beloved ones, but if the wire lacks the electric current, your words will not be heard there.

DESIRE, DESIRE, DESIRE, yes, a glowing DESIRE we need for prayer and intercession, which like a fervent FIRE would burn in our hearts. The Lord saith concerning intercessors: "I wondered that there was no INTERCESSORS ... I sought for a man among them (God's people) that should stand in the gap... but I found none". (Isa. 59:16, Ezek. 22:30) In the majority of so-called holiness people, this HOLY FIRE has gone out completely, extinguished. But, praise the Lord, there is still a VERY SMALL REMNANT, (Isa. 1:9) in whose hearts is still "a smoking flax" of this fire. (Matt. 12:20) Are you one of them? Then pray: "O Lord, rekindle in my heart that sincere, fervent SPIRIT OF PRAYER which was in THEE: "And in the morning, rising up a GREAT WHILE BEFORE DAY, He went out, and departed into a SOLITARY PLACE, and there PRAYED." (Mark 1:35)

Dear Christian parents and ministers of the gospel, who profess that you are saved, sanctified and love God, "Now it is high time to awake out of spiritual sleep, and cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light; (Rom. 13:11-12) and cease forever to love the world and things that are in the world, (I John 2:15) and cast away the modern religious methods -- the proud church building, rebuilding and extension programs, and Sunday School enlargement campaigns, and to fall down on our knees and cry unto the Lord: "O God, have mercy on me and take away from me the proud, stony, selfish, worldly heart, and give me a new heart, full of unfeigned love of God, and compassion for my own unsaved beloved ones, who are in my family, in my own church, but who are still dead in their sins. O merciful God, make me able to fast and pray for them with all perseverance, and weep and mourn for them day and night, as prophet Jeremiah did: 'Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people.'" (Jer. 9:1) Let us be not hearers only of the Lord's command, but doers: Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning; Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people O Lord . . ." (Joel 2:12-17)

Merely the "Godly weeping method" can rekindle the quenched Holy Ghost fire in our hearts, and then also in the hearts of our backslidden and unsaved family members, and in slumberous sleeping church members' hearts, but never a new church building, or modern pews, or something else. "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." If we are ready to humble ourselves, to relocate our corrupt natural minds and hearts from "Territory of the flesh" to the "Territory of the Spirit of God," and actually to die to this world and to ourselves, only then we may expect true spiritual awakening and revival, but never through the modern religious methods which make provision of the flesh, and fulfill the lusts thereof. (Rom. 13:14)

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THE END