

Its Time to Press In

2 Timothy 3:1-5 - But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people

Matthew 24:7-8 ESV For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains

Acts 2:17 “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

It is so important that we recognize the times we live in.

The disciples are a perfect example of this. We see this in the garden of Gethsemane.

This is right after the last supper. After the warnings about betrayals, denial and being scattered.

Gethsemane

Mark 14

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” **33** He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.

34 “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. **“Stay here and keep watch.”**

35 Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. **36** “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

37 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping.

“Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? **38** **Watch and pray** so that you will not fall into temptation. **The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.**”

39 Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. **40** When he came back, **he again found them sleeping**, because their eyes were heavy. **They did not know what to say to him.**

41 Returning the third time, he said to them, **“Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough!** The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. **42** Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer.

Just like the disciples they had been hearing Jesus talk about the day of his betrayal, yet maybe they thought that the garden of gethsemane was just another prayer meeting.

Mark 14

45 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him.

46 The men seized Jesus and arrested him. **47** Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

Sometimes we want to be Peter. Sometimes we have been Peter, and we dealt with something in the natural that needed to be dealt with in the Spirit.

With one sword, Peter was willing to take on a small army of men, yet he couldn't pray with Jesus for one hour. Prayer is the best work we can do, and often the most difficult.

Its time to press in....

With his sword, Peter accomplished very little. He only cut off one ear, and really just made a mess that Jesus had to clean up by healing the severed ear ([Luke 22:51](#)).

Luke 22:51

51 But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

When Peter moved in the power of the world, he only cut off ears. But when he was filled with the Spirit, using the Word of God, Peter pierced hearts for God's glory ([Acts 2:37](#)).

Acts 2:37-38

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Peter had a natural, fleshly response to a spiritual situation.

Its time to press in....

Prayer is the very thing the enemy down plays,
You may have heard it said "well all we can do now is pray"....

Prayer is not the last resort!

It is the responsibility and mandate of every believer. It is where lives are changed, breakthroughs occur and miracles happen.

Yet we can often be like the disciples who couldn't stay awake for even an hour to pray.

What would happen if the church got a revelation on the power of prayer?

And Jesus is asking us to do the same watch and pray.

Luke 21:36 ESV

But **stay awake at all times, praying** that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

1 Peter 5:8 ESV

Be sober-minded; **be watchful**. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Back to our text

Mark 14

48 “Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? **49** Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” **50** Then everyone deserted him and fled.

51 A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, **52** he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

Revelation 16:15 ESV

“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”

In the midst of the description of the coming battle, there is this warning to be prepared in light of Jesus’ assured victory.

We know that Jesus wins... But just like in the garden there is a battle ahead. And still Jesus says stay awake!

The enemy wants to strip us of our garments.

Garments are pictures of spiritual and practical righteousness. We are given the righteousness of Jesus as a garment

Galatians 3:26-27

26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, **27** for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

But we are also called to “put on” the nature of Jesus in terms of practical holiness.

Ephesians 4:22-24

Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, **23** and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, **24** and to **put on** the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Above all, we must not be “**naked**” – that is, without a covering, or trying to provide our own covering like Adam and Eve (**Genesis 3:7**), which is like filthy rags in the sight of God (**Isaiah 64:6**).

So just like this young man that was following Jesus dropped his garment and ran away in nakedness and shame. We cannot lose our garment before he comes like a thief in the night.

Notice this young man was following Jesus. Who knows how long He had been following. But right before Jesus greatest victory he threw his garment away and ran.

The young man, I believe was a prophetic example of what was about to happen to the disciples and a warning to us today.

In the end times, in the last days right before Jesus wins, again. Don't drop your garments. Don't drop staying close to Jesus. Don't drop righteousness and holiness.

Its time to press in.

Definition of Holiness

"Holiness" is commonly defined as **being separate or set apart**. God is holy in that he is set apart from everything that is not God, and God's people must be holy by being set apart from sin. Holiness according to this definition is separateness that entails moral purity.

1 Peter 1:13-25 calls all people of faith to live a life of holiness.

Called to Be Holy

1 Peter 1:13-16

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for **action**, and being sober-minded, **set** your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **14** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, **15** but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Literally, holy living means that the Christian lives a life that is set apart, reserved to give glory to God. It is a life of discipline, focus, and attention to matters of righteous living.

Why would holiness be so important? Because just like the enemy wants us to think prayer is a last resort and ineffective. Leading unholy lives leaves us powerless and ineffective.

Warning and Encouragement

Hebrews 12

14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

A lack of holiness is a huge obstacle to a close relationship with God.

If we want to walk close, to hear his voice, we must be people of the spirit. Which requires holiness.

The enemy has worked tirelessly to convince us that we can have a form of religion and deny its power. That we can believe in Jesus but change nothing about our hearts and lives.

This kind of Christianity is powerless. This is the most discouraging place for a christian to be. Believing in Jesus but not walking in the power and anointing that He has for us.

May we be aware of the enemy schemes and choose to press into God like never before.

We need a move of God. We need men and women who will live a life of holiness. Set apart unto the Lord. That are willing to pay the price in prayer for a move of God. That we so desperately need.

We need a revival not just in one persons heart, or at one church, or in one city. We need it in our nation and in the world.

Throughout the whole bible Jesus partners with people. He partners with us through prayer to bring about change.

God could have rescued Israel on His own but He didn't He found a Moses.

God could have delivered Israel on His own but he didn't. He uses a Samuel, Samson, Deborah, and Gideon.

If you look throughout history every revival was always birthed through prayer.

(1906-1915) **Azusa Street revival** was birthed through a prayer meeting held at home on 216 N Bonnie Brae. After 5 weeks of William Seymour preaching and holding prayer meetings and three days into an intended 10 day fast, The Holy Spirit showed up. Interesting enough William Seymour and this small group of about 15 people, including several young people. They were not praying for revival. They were praying to be filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. They were praying for an encounter with the Holy Spirit. And He showed up! They ended up having so many people at Bonnie Brae house that it collapsed the front porch of the home. No one was hurt but this is when they realized they needed a bigger place to meet. That is when they found the Azusa street location.

(1949-1953) **The Hebrides Revival** began with two sisters: Peggy and Christine Smith. One was 84 years of age and blind, the other 82 and crippled with arthritis. They were greatly burdened because they'd been told no young person attended public worship at their church. They decided to pray twice a week. On Tuesdays and Fridays they got on their knees at ten in the evening, and remained there until three or

four in the morning; two older women, blind and crippled in a very humble home.

Then one night in November a young man who had began to attend a prayer meeting of a few men from the church that Peggy and Christine attended began to pray, 'God, are my hands clean? Is my heart pure?' But he got no further. He fell into a trance and lay on the floor of the barn. Within a matter of minutes three other elders also fell into a trance. The minister and other intercessors were gripped by the conviction that a God-sent revival and it will always be related to holiness and godliness.

Are my hands clean? Is my heart pure?

An awareness of God gripped the whole community.

(Late 1960's- early 1970's) **Jesus Movement** came as an outgrowth of the hippie culture of the 1960's. The hippies were a radical group that shocked America with their alternative lifestyle and radical beliefs. They used illegal drugs and listened to rock and roll music. They were concerned chiefly with protesting the Vietnam War and with civil rights. The counter-culture of the hippies promoted experimentation with all kinds of drugs. Eventually, the psychedelic/free love/acid trip lifestyle took its toll. "The 'drug scene' and the 'crashing' districts of runaways were riddled with disease, psychological wreckage, crass exploitation by racketeers, perverse kinds of occultism, and despair. It was at this low point that hippies and drug addicts started turning to Jesus in significant numbers.

The term Jesus People began to be used to describe the group of originally outcasts, drug-obsessed, and all-around anti-religious who encountered Jesus and were radically changed by the Holy Spirit.

This revival however, was a mystery when it came to who prayed for the Jesus movement. We were just at a Prayer conference a few weeks ago where Lou Engel spoke to this very subject. He was also trying to figure out who prayed in the Jesus movement? After much prayer and

researched he found his answer. It was Moms who were sick of seeing a whole generation lost to sex, drugs and the occult. The Jesus movement was birthed through Moms that had, had enough and knew we needed a move go God.

(1995-2000) **Brownsville Revival** Prior to revival, several key prophecies foretold of revival coming to America, It was prophesied even as early as the 1930's That God was going to touch the world through the Brownsville church.

Later on in the early 1990's prophecy came from several leaders including from Dr. David Yonggi Cho of Korea and Rev. Ken Sumrall, founder of Liberty Fellowship.

These prophecies from the 1930's to the 1990's were passed down and remembered by each generation of the church.

Two and half years prior to revival, Pastor Kilpatrick responded to God's prompting to make Brownsville a house of prayer in an even deeper sense. He promptly set aside the tradition of Sunday night services and decided to designate the evening service for prayer.

Through the years, Brownsville become known as a church of integrity, where holiness was preached, prayer was central, and a heart for the nations was key. The 2-year prayer initiative for revival began in 1993, culminating in 1995 in what is now called the Pensacola Outpouring or the Brownsville Revival. Where **More than 1.5 million** people attended the revival, and well over 100,000 of them answered the altar call to come up and repent for their sins.

So today I want to remind us of the prophecies that have been spoken over Pueblo. Throughout the years there have been words spoken over this city. One of which took place in California where Pueblo was called out in a church service as a place where revival was going to break out. The evangelist giving the prophecy had never even heard of Pueblo or knew where it was.

Most recently Dr Joelle Suel gave a prophecy saying “ The time is coming where people are going to drive to Pueblo. They are going to pass through Colorado Springs to get to Pueblo. Pueblo is going to be an Oasis for people. Pueblo is about to no longer be hidden on the map, but is going to be known for revival. So the Lord says watch what I’m about to do.

So now I bring us to **The Great Pueblo Revival**

You may not have heard of that one. Well, Its because it has yet to happen. This is a revival that is yet to be birthed in prayer. So Where are the pueblo William Seymours and the young people that will cry out for the holy Spirit and baptism? Where are the Peggy and Christine Smiths, women who didn’t let age or illness keep them from storming the heavens for the young people of their community. Where are the Pueblo churches that will choose to pray, even if its not easy. Where are the Moms that will say enough is enough. You can’t have our kids.

May it start here with Pueblo Christian Center. May we be a church that cries out to the Lord and Ask Are my hands clean? Is my heart pure? May we be a church that seeks the infilling of the Holy Spirit! That seeks to live a life of Holiness that draws the Spirit of the Lord Close.

May we be ready, watching and praying with our garments of Holiness on. Ready for what the Holy Spirit wants to do in our generation and in our city.

Remember

Acts 2:17 “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

It is so obvious we are living in the last days. Jesus is coming soon.

The Day and Hour Unknown

Mark 13: 32-37

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **33** Be on guard! Be alert[e]! You do not know when that time will come. **34** It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. **36** If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. **37** What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”