

DAILY CHECK-IN
MONDAY 10, 2025

REVIVAL AND NOBODIES WHO PRAY

BIBLE READING

I CORINTHIANS 1:27-31

PRAYER PROMPT

ASK THE LORD FOR REVIVAL. ASK HIM TO MOVE DESPITE OUR WEAKNESSES AND DESPITE OUR STRIVING.

In our Sunday night study, we talked about the Welsh Revival of 1904. One of the key figures of that revival was a man named Evan Roberts. Reports from the revival assess the results to be great and quick in coming. Contemporaries of the Roberts went to Wales to investigate the revival and reported that “within five weeks twenty thousand have joined the churches. I think more than that have been converted.”[1] Roberts was a miner turned evangelist.

G. Campbell Morgan gives us a vivid description of the man. “Evan Roberts is hardly more than a boy, simple and natural, no orator; with nothing of the masterfulness that characterized such men as Wesley and Whitefield and Dwight Lyman Moody; no leader of men.” Campbell goes on to say, “God has set his hand upon the lad, beautiful in simplicity, ordained in his devotion, lacking all the qualities that we have looked for in preachers and prophets and leaders. He has put in the forefront of this movement that the world may see that he does choose the things that are not to bring to naught the things that are, the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty.”[2]

Another eyewitness and investigator of the revival W. T. Stead observed the meetings and reported on the events. Of Roberts, he writes, “he did at the beginning of his career deliver long addresses, which were simple, direct Gospel appeals.”[3] By the time the revival reached its peak, these messages had shortened considerably. The Welsh meetings were filled with singing and testimony of those in attendance. Roberts would interject his “message” here and there in the meetings. Morgan attended several meetings and reported on one which began an hour and a half before Roberts even arrived. “I venture to say,” Morgan reported. “That if the address Evan Roberts gave in broken garments had been reported, the whole of it could have been read in six or seven minutes.”[4] Evan’s himself stated that he did not “control the meetings.” “Why should I teach when the Spirit is teaching,” he told Stead.[5]

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One must ask, then, if Evans was not an orator or a leader and he refused to take control of the revival, how did such a thing come to pass? Some credit Roberts with the greatness of the revival others credit the young girl in Endeavor who proclaimed her love for Jesus.[6] Morgan argues that to give credit to either is wrong because both were a product of the revival. Nor, he says, should we credit advertising or media coverage for the growth of the revival because the media only began covering the revival after it grew. [7] Instead, he discovered after interviewing more than fifty people that “a praying remnant have been agonizing before God about the state of the beloved land, and it is thought that answer of fire has come.”[8] Evans Roberts himself was one of those who prayed even before he began to preach. It was reported by Stead that Roberts had been present at an address given by F. B. Myer. During the event, Roberts and others pledged “that they would spend a whole day every month praying for a revival.”[9]

In the end, we must conclude, if we believe in the Lord of whom we speak, that the Welsh revival was not a revival built on the passion of one person or the oratory skills of another. In the end, it was a revival that demonstrated the power of God. The power of God to use the weak and insignificant to accomplish His will. Thus, those of us who are weak are powerful. Those of us to try to plan and organize can relax. We are powerful in prayer, and we can relax knowing He will answer our prayers. Prayer, though, is usually the last place we turn. In his book, *Why Revival Tarries*, Leonard Ravenhill writes, “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.”[10] Let us remember what Paul said in I Corinthians chapter 1 verse 27 “Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong.” We can stop planning and start praying as we move down the Road to Revival.

[1] G. CAMPBELL MORGAN, “THE REVIVAL: IT’S POWER AND SOURCE,” IN THE WELSH REVIVAL ED. J. H. TEWKSBURY (NEW YORK: THE PILGRIM PRESS, 1905), 84.

[2] IBID, 81-82.

[3] W. T. STEAD, “NARRATIVE OF FACTS,” IN THE WELSH REVIVAL ED. J. H. TEWKSBURY (NEW YORK: THE PILGRIM PRESS, 1905), 56.

[4] MORGAN, 80.

[5] STEAD, 57.

[6] MORGAN, 83.

[7] IBID.

[8] IBID, 83.

[9] STEAD, 49.

[10] LEONARD RAVENHILL, *WHY REVIVAL TARRIES* (RAVENHILL BOOKS, ND), 7.