

# 50 Days of Prayer

Feb. 14 - Apr. 4  
2010

## A Bible Study to Prepare for General Assembly 2010

It's everywhere, once you see it.

I had known it was there, but never really noticed how much it was built into the fabric of every layer of Scripture. Like one of those trick signs, once you become aware of the hidden writing is there, you never miss it again. Here it is:

God's desire is that **nations** and people groups be won to him.

We are a principle part of it – through the God-directed prayer ministry of the Church. In fact, we are the primary “movers and shakers” on this issue of the call:

*He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name **to all nations**, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. ~ Luke 24:46-49 NIV.*

We belong to a movement built on the foundation that the least-reached peoples of the world are to receive a gospel witness. Three of the four strands woven together in what we call “the fourfold gospel” (Jesus is Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer and Coming King), are found in the text above. We must proclaim that Christ can and will save us, granting us **repentance and forgiveness of sins** through Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection (Saviour), that we must wait until we are “**clothed with power from on high**” (Sanctifier), and that we will “**hasten the return**” of the Lord when **forgiveness of sins [is] preached in his name to all nations** (Coming King).

This study is an attempt to do some of the “waiting/preparing” for the work of being sent to all the nations. It will serve as a guide to help us hear God's voice speaking to us through the Bible. We need a strategy for our country to become a God-honouring nation. We also need a strategy as a sending society, for all the other people groups we are being sent to win for Jesus, (individuals, regions, cities, states, nations/tribes/tongues/peoples), that they, *as a people together*, stand before the Lord at the end of time, reconciled to the God who gave them life through Jesus our Lord.

We need to partner with God in prayer. A central tenet of our faith is that Jesus did nothing until the Father told him. Our prayer life is to be a reflection of the same

principle! Listen to our Founder describe this as he speaks of the believer who is led by the Holy Spirit:

*“The spiritual man is sustained and upheld in his life of faith and love and hope **by the prayer of the Holy Spirit**. This is the power that impels his life; this is the inspiration that upholds his faith and hope and love; this is the force that continually supplies the strength of his whole being...Now [God] does this through the ministry of prayer. He takes us into partnership with Him in the work of our own development and full salvation. He does not work upon us as the potter upon the plastic clay, but He works with us and requires our cooperation with Him. So as each need arises, He gently lays it upon our own heart; He whispers it to us as a breath of prayer, or a burden of desire, and He leads us out to present it to the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus step by step, moment by moment, **He prays out in us** every need of our work, every need of the other lives that He lays upon us and the Father sends the answer in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ...”*

(A.B. Simpson, Keith Bailey, ed. Camp Hill, Penn.; *The Holy Spirit*, p. 561-62)

Here is the theme of the next 50 days.

It is not that *we* seek God, but that *God* seeks out *intercessors* to pray out what needs to be accomplished in winning nations for the glory of God. God brings things about by requiring that his Body, the container of his Spirit, prays things into existence.

God initiates. We pray. God answers, and the answer, *channeled and filtered through the prayer life of the church*, is what God wanted done in the first place.

This is the prayer principle of a yielded life—and the inspiration of our movement. It is time for us to pray for a mighty, fresh anointing of Spirit-directed prayer across the Alliance. We need a fresh baptism in his empowering presence. Pray for the Spirit to fall upon our congregations as we seek the Lord for nations to be won to him.

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