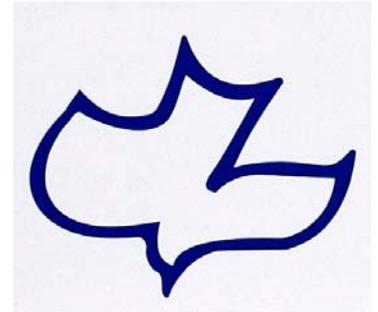


I believe that brothers and sisters would expect a prosperous church when it is approaching its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Prosperity of our church however depends on our prayers. What kind of prayers would bring about church's revival?



**1. Pray earnestly in unity**

A brother had a dream in which he saw a ghost sleeping at the entrance of a church and then he walked through another church where he saw a number of ghosts nervously ran in and out of the church. This brother thought that the latter, with so many ghosts, must be very sinful while the former, with only one ghost, must be holy and spiritual. Later he found out that it was contrary to what he thought. The fact was that the former was in spiritual poverty – the ghost had no worries as all believers were “sleeping” in spirituality. On the other hand, the latter was spiritually prosperous as all believers were praying earnestly with passion.

It is not our zeal in ministries that makes Satan scared because it can destroy the ministries; it is God's work that makes Satan scared. But when shall God work? God shall work after we have prayed to Him as shown in Chapter 1 of the Acts. The Holy Spirit poured upon the disciples after they had prayed in unity. Satan knows that it cannot prevent God from working but it can discourage men to pray. If men do not pray, God will not work to fulfil His promises. In other words, Satan stops God's work by discouraging men to pray.

It is Satan's trick to discourage men to pray: It let men see the worldly enjoyment, feel their physical tiredness, live a busy life so that the latter do not pray. An important servant of God said, “I will prepare myself in 15 minutes whenever I pray so that I can come before God with a clean heart. This is because there are so many tricks of Satan surrounding me, such as tiredness, frustration. Therefore I must stand up to fight against Satan's attacks.

**2. Pray with a mentality of grabbing God's promises**

In the Bible God has made a lot of promises to believers: promise on Christ's salvation (Micah 5:2-4); promise on Counsellor the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17); promise on eternal Kingdom (Daniel 12:1-3); “do not worry about our life” (Matthew 6:31); “I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).... It is God's promises that make our life abundant – no more wants; gives us the true “success” – to His Kingdom.

In the Old Testament, it was noted that Jacob wrestled with “a man” at the ford of the Jabbok. He grabbed the man, saying “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” This is the mentality of grabbing God's promises. It was also noted that Elijah prayed at the

Mount Carmel for rain. He prayed one time, two times, three times, four times but there was no rain; it rained until he prayed the 7<sup>th</sup> time.

In the New Testament, it was noted that disciples prayed at the Upper Room before the Holy Spirit came. They did not just pray for 1 or 2 day; they had prayed for 10 days before they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Today, how many believers will pray with this mentality of grabbing God's promises? Remember, we should pray with this mentality and take action to pray continuously, until God answers our prayers. It is a pity that a lot of people pray not more than 3 times and give up because their prayers are unanswered. Therefore, they cannot get what God has promised.

We do hope that our church has revival. Do remember that revival comes from prayer, which is the origin of all power and the springs of ministries. In fact, all revivals come from the self-awareness, eagerness and persistency to pray from within our heart, not from anything outside. And we should pray with the mentality of grabbing His promises. I believe that if we do so our church's revival will come because this is His promise and He will fulfil.

Brothers and sisters, we should trust God's promise. He will bless our church because Christ is the head. Pray that God will help us to pray willingly, earnestly, with the mentality of grabbing His promises. May our Lord uses our prayers and let believers be "burnt" by the fire of revival, so that they are willing to serve God and the church. Amen!

***All great revival movements were initiated by men who were willing to kneel down to pray – Moody***