



PRAYER 4 AWAKENING

Confession...of the Church

“INDEED, IF PRAYER DOES NOT MAKE A MAN LEAVE SIN, SIN WILL MAKE HIM LEAVE PRAYER.”
- THOMAS WATSON, *Doctrine of Repentance*



If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. I JOHN 1:9

In his book *Revival! A People Saturated with God*, Brian Edwards has the following to say about the church:
(with some adaptations)

Outwardly there are many good things in the churches today, but beneath it all there can be found the rottenness of worldliness, carelessness, a lack of deep commitment and a triviality about holy things.

Churches are divided and quarrelsome. Leaders are proud of their reputations and driven to build their own empires.
Too often Christians think and behave like the world.

Churches are hardly making any impact upon our society, and are not growing vigorously by life changing conversions.

We have become experts at simply shuffling the pack of dissatisfied or grumbling Christians from church to church.

Revival is not churches exchanging members but the Holy Spirit changing lives.

Revival is needed, not because of the state of the world but because of the state of the church.

“MY SPIRIT HAS BECOME
DRY BECAUSE IT FORGETS
TO FEED ON YOU.”
-ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS



Personal Reflection:

As a greeter at my church, I see many people streaming in on Sunday mornings because they are longing for an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. He longs, even more, to bless us with renewal and refreshment. Perhaps that is why He is drawing believers from all over the world to pray so that the church will know His fullness and His love. I believe awakening is coming!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,

We praise you that you are one with the Father.

We praise you that your name is "I AM." It brings us great comfort and security to know that you will be who you have always been.

We thank you for choosing the church to be your bride. You must love us so very much. Thank you for redeeming us as Hosea redeemed Gomer and Boaz redeemed Ruth. We are so blessed with Your Word, the sacred scriptures that provide us with such truths in order that we may know You.

Father, we know we are your blemished bride.

- We confess that like the church in Ephesus, we have left you, our first love. We rely on our own intelligence and believe we do not need you. We can manage the church without your input.
- We have not lived the truth. We are liars, just like Smyrna. Like the church at Philadelphia, we pretend to be who we are not.
- We tolerate sin. We live immorally, pretending that you do not notice. We ask forgiveness and then return to our sins.
- We do not love. We do not seek unity in the body. We want our way. We want control.
- We are apathetic, proclaiming "whatever!" Like Laodicea, we are neither cold nor hot.
- We are greedy. We put the desires of our church members ahead of the needs of others.
- We are careless with Your Word. We have adopted the world's ways and called them your ways. Jesus, we acknowledge that we want to be like everyone else.

Like the church at Sardis, we are soiled.

We are sorry. Lord, please forgive us! Cleanse us. Make us whole again. Make us one, just as You and the Father are one. Sanctify us by your truth. Restore our faithfulness to your kingdom so that the world will know You through us.

In our Redeemer's name we pray. Amen.

Practice:

- Write the sins of your church, confess them.
- Admit your part in the sin of the church.
- Quit blaming, complaining and gossiping.
- Repent. (Requires a change in behavior)
- Pray for your church.
- Get off your seat, on to your feet and do something for the kingdom.