

I Thessalonians 5:16 – “Pray without ceasing.” John Hyde was a Presbyterian minister who was filled with the Spirit shortly after arriving in India in 1892. He began to put great emphasis on his prayer life. He was stationed in Punjab and saw few converts. Hyde began praying for revival, but it was twelve years before he began to see his prayers answered. In 1896 he united in prayer with fellow missionaries every Sunday, pleading for an outpouring of the Spirit. He spent whole nights in prayer. He constantly spoke of the need for all those involved in missionary work to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. He and others formed the Punjab Prayer Union. Each member was asked to answer these questions: (1) Are you praying for quickening in your own life, in the life of your fellow-workers, and in the church? (2) Are you longing for greater power of the Holy Spirit in your own life and work, and are you convinced that you cannot go on without this power? (3) Will you pray that you may not be ashamed of Jesus? (4) Do you believe that prayer is the great means for securing this spiritual awakening? (5) Will you set apart one-half hour each day...to pray for this awakening, and are you willing to pray till the awakening comes? Many Indians began to join the missionaries in prayer, some of them spending whole nights crying out to God. Finally, revival came. In one service “Praying Hyde” stood before the people and spoke three words: “O Heavenly Father.” A great tide of blessing swept over the service. Hearts were melted, open confession of sin broke forth, and many people received new victories. The keys to revival are the Holy Spirit and prayer. Let us pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray until the Holy Spirit comes upon us. Let us pray until revival fires burn within us. Then keep praying until the fire within us spreads to those around us. Let us pray until the fire of revival ignites and unites the church. Then pray that revival will burn brightly so the lost will come to the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire. The light that shines the farthest shines brightest at home. HA