

Luke 3:21-22 – “...Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him...” It is no accident that the Spirit of God descended on the Son of God while He was praying, and the Spirit of God descended on the church of God while they were praying. Jonathan Edwards, the foremost leader of the First Great Awakening, stated: “The Spirit descends on the church of Christ the same way...that it descended on the head of the church. The greatest effusion of the Spirit that ever yet has been...on the day of Pentecost was in answer to extraordinary prayer.” If revival is a restoration of Pentecostal power, and it is, we are correct in believing that it will come in answer to extraordinary prayer. Extraordinary prayer is fervent prayer (James 5:16). Fervent means hot or boiling, and it is used to describe an attitude of spirit. According to W. E. Vine, fervent prayer is an inworking supplication, consistent with an inward conformity to the mind of God. Extraordinary prayer is not manifested by loudness, or hysterics, or demands. Extraordinary prayer is supplication offered with an inward conviction that God is our only help. When Hannah prayed for a son, her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. She spoke in her heart. She unleashed her burden. Revival comes when the burden gets heavy enough, when it won't go away, when we realize God is our only hope. If we don't have a burden, we need to pray for one. A burden exists when our spirits boil and our minds agree with God. Every revival I know anything about was birthed in extraordinary prayer. We can't repeat Pentecost. We can, however, ask God for the power of Pentecost. That requires powerful praying, fervent praying, extraordinary praying. Until that comes from the hearts of God's people, revival will tarry. Sometimes it only takes one. Evan Roberts prayed thirteen years for revival. At times, he thought of quitting when he saw his friends having fun, but he was faithful. It was worth the wait. The revival came suddenly, and over 150,000 souls were converted and added to churches in Wales within a year. We must pray until our spirits and minds are conformed to the mind of God. When that happens, the Spirit will be in our midst. HA