

Romans 12:12 – “...continuing steadfastly in prayer...” Every Friday night Andrew Murray Sr. spent several hours in prayer for a revival in South Africa. In April 1860 while speaking at a conference in Worcester, South Africa, he was moved to tears. His son, Andrew Murray Jr. prayed with such power that some say it marked the beginning of revival. Fifty days after the conference, revival broke out in Montague. It began in the Methodist church while people were praying. People had been praying every night plus three mornings a week. People who had never prayed before began to pray. One evening God anointed a young girl. As she prayed, everyone began to cry to God for mercy and continued until midnight. Members of other churches left their prayer meetings and crowded into the Methodist church. This went on for weeks as people in the village experienced great conviction of sin. Strong men cried out in anguish. The prayer revival soon spread to other cities and villages. One Sunday evening an African girl in the youth service asked permission to sing a verse and pray. When she prayed the Spirit fell on the group. In the distance there came a sound like approaching thunder. The hall building began to shake. Instantly everyone began to pray. Andrew Murray rushed in to silence the young people, but all continued to call out for God to forgive them. Prayer continued throughout the week with repeated outpourings of the Spirit. On Saturday, Andrew Murray preached. Then he prayed and invited others to do so. Everyone broke out in simultaneous prayer. Murray tried to quiet the people, but a stranger in the service whispered to him, “Be careful, for it is the Spirit of God that is at work here.” What caught my attention was the eagerness of young people to pray. There was no reticence or hesitation. They prayed with their peers and with adults. They prayed in private and in public. They had no thought of embarrassment, just reaching out to God. What has gone wrong? Adults today aren’t that free to pray. I’m not that free. “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31). They spoke the Word with boldness, because they were filled with the Holy Spirit. They were filled with the Holy Spirit, because they prayed with boldness. That is where it needs to begin. We are as bold as we pray. HA