

It was a revival moment that did not have a lot of fanfare. There was no showy, outward display; just new life breathed into a lifeless body. The awakening of a soul thought to be dead forever. It happened in a pleading moment between a man and his God – behind a closed door.

This story of a revived life comes from 2 Kings 4. A wealthy woman was miraculously blessed with a son, as prophesied by Elisha. Several years later her joy turned to agonizing sorrow as her son suddenly died. In her grief, she traveled to find the prophet who knew how to plead with God on her behalf.

Elisha returned with the woman and found her child lying dead on the bed. In that grief-filled moment, Elisha displayed an unusual and quiet confidence in the Lord. Scripture says he went into the room alone and *shut the door behind him*.

A Pleading Prayer for Revival

Behind that closed door, Elisha poured out his heart to God in prayer. Not only did he pray, but he laid his physical body on top of the dead boy's body. Face to face, mouth to mouth, hands to hands, Elisha stretched out over the boy. He prayed. Warmth began to return to the child.

Elisha got up and walked back and forth in the room a few times. He then stretched out over the boy's body again. Face to face; life upon the lifeless. In that moment behind a closed door, God answered the prayer of His servant Elisha. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes!

And then, Elisha simply opened the door and offered a revived son back to the once desperate but now joyous woman.

Behind Closed Doors

Some of the greatest work in God's Kingdom is done in those alone moments behind closed doors. It is that moment when God's servants lay themselves out before the Lord, pleading for His miraculous work in reviving the spiritually dead and saving the lost through Jesus Christ. There is not a lot of fanfare, no gifted speakers, no orchestration of prayer times. It is a man or woman laid out before God with no hope of anything but God's gracious and miraculous response.

Those are the moments when God tests what is truly in our hearts. Do we believe Him for the promise of revival? Are we willing to lay down our very lives in His presence with pleading prayers that only He can answer? When we don't see immediate evidence of His answer, it is often for purposes of testing of our willingness to persevere in prayer. Are we willing to pour out our lives again and again for the sake of others?

Alone with God

Although God calls us to corporate times of pleading prayer with other believers, we must also nurture the "behind closed door" times when we are alone with God. These are times when God refines us and prepares us to walk in the power of His Spirit. He reveals the deep places in our hearts where we must repent of our sins. He touches the wounded places that need His healing. He speaks to us in a voice that we can recognize when we are alone and quiet with Him. And He fills us with confidence to pray with boldness according to His promises.

Oswald J. Smith (a Canadian pastor and author known for missions) writes:

*"So far as I have read the biographies of anointed men, they have come from their knees with the power of God resting upon them, and the fire of the Holy Spirit burning in their souls. I am perfectly confident that the man who does not spend hours alone with God, will never know the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The world must be left outside until God alone fills the vision." **

There is great power and clarity that comes when we pray alone with God, behind closed doors, apart from the world – until God Himself responds. This is often where our part in revival begins. Revival comes

to the hearts of those who earnestly seek Him without regard to any fanfare or notoriety around them.

Jesus and His “Behind Closed Door” Moment

Jesus demonstrated this for us at His most agonizing moments in preparation for His death. Although He brought His trusted disciples along to the Garden of Gethsemane, He left them to wait while He approached His Father alone. In that distressed exchange, Jesus wrestled, wept, and cried out to God (Mark 14:32-41). In that “behind closed door” moment, Jesus was assured of His Father’s love and empowered to walk the way of death for the sake of others. And what may have looked like defeat to everyone else was just the beginning of glorious victory and a revived Church.

Yes, we are called to pray in community with each other as we plead with God for His promise of revival - to those who humble themselves and repent. But do not neglect or discount your times behind closed doors with the true and living God. ***He is waiting to breathe life and hope back into you!***

“Dear Heavenly Father, thank You that it is Your desire to revive our hearts and empower us with Your Holy Spirit. We pray that You will draw us into those “behind closed door” times with You, that we might know You more intimately and experience our own personal revival of the heart. Give us the longing to be alone with You as You prepare us for the coming revival. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Quoted from “With Every Great Revival, Someone Tarried, Waited, Wrestled, and Travailed,” from *Herald of His Coming*, December 2009.

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