

Small Group Discussion Guide

Believing For a Great Awakening: For the week of October 24 - 30, 2021

Main Thought and Scriptures:

Many believe that we are on the cusp of revival and a great awakening in our country. History shows us that revivals and awakenings often follow significant societal challenges and lead to societal renewal by defeating injustice and corruption. Revivals and awakenings do not happen automatically but are birthed through prayer. In the face of the oppression and corruption of the Roman Empire and Jewish religious leaders, Jesus instructed His disciples on how they should pray.

"And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ²He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, "Give me justice against my adversary." ⁴For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, "Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" ⁶And the Lord said, 'Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'" (Luke 18:1-8 ESV)

Scripture teaches us the following keys to prayer:

Pray tenaciously, relentlessly, and continually.

"...they ought always to pray and not lose heart." (v. 1)

- Praying periodically or randomly won't conquer life's larger challenges. There is cumulative power only through consistent prayer.

Pray specifically.

"...Give me justice against my adversary." (v. 3)

Combine prayer with fasting.

"Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not cast it out?' ²⁰So Jesus said to them, 'Because of your unbelief; for assuredly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. ²¹However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.'" (Matthew 17:19-21 NKJV)

- Sometimes demonic opposition that resists God's will on earth can only be overcome through combining fasting with prayer.

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'..." (Isaiah 58:6-9 ESV)

- Fast with purpose: to disempower evil alliances, coercion, control and oppression: *"...to loose the bonds of wickedness...the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?"*
- Fast with sacrifice: Forgo the need to eat while sharing with others the needs of life.
- Fast with expectation: God promises to shine his light through us, accelerate healing, grant protection, reveal his glory and answer our prayers.

Discussion Questions:

- As you reflect on the main thought, scriptures, and the weekend sermon, what is the Lord highlighting to you and why?
- Share an example of when you had to pray tenaciously and relentlessly for something. What happened, and what did you learn through that?
- How do you think the Lord wants you to apply this discussion in your life?

Prayer Points:

- Share about a situation you need prayer for, and take turns praying for one another for breakthrough.
- Pray for revival and awakening in our communities, nation, and the world.