

ONE THING THOU LACKEST – THE NEED FOR PRAYER

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We are living in the most critical and solemn hour of human history. World shaking events are taking place every day in these atomic times. In spite of this, a tragic state of lethargy exists in the church of Jesus Christ. The lukewarmness of the church has resulted in the moral, social, political, and religious decay of our nation. A spiritual awakening is absolutely essential in order to bring deliverance from these conditions and save our nation from utter chaos.

Fortunately, a great spiritual awakening has already begun, an awakening to real salvation from sin and complete deliverance from sickness and infirmity for all of God's people. This spiritual movement is the only thing which will bring deliverance from the lethargy existing in the church. Though the Scripture foretells the lukewarmness and apostasy of the church in the last days, it also speaks of a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, referred to by the prophets as the former and the latter rain. This revival is God's remedy for these terrible times. It will be brought about by a Holy Ghost outpouring such as took place on the day of Pentecost, and will be a tremendous upheaval which will shake this nation and make history once again, until this spiritual fire will spread all over the world. Lukewarm Christians will once more be as the prophet declares, a flame of fire.

Jesus prayed that His followers might be one. In Acts 2:1-4 we read: "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Here the Bible tells us that when they came together they were all in one accord. They had settled their differences; everyone loved each other, and when they reached the place of perfect love and unity the fire from heaven fell. Today we are feeling the effect of that earthshaking spiritual tremor. As the church of Jesus Christ once again becomes of one accord in love unity, the Holy Ghost will be outpoured even as on the day of Pentecost. In Malachi 3:6 we read: "For I am the Lord; I change not." God is just the same today.

For seven years I have watched with the deepest of interest and concern the mighty harvest that is taking place over the world. I have read with tears streaming down my face of the different evangelists over the world who have been reaping in the harvest and as I read, and as I myself have traveled over the world, I have been conscious that something was MISSING AND DID NOT KNOW WHAT IT WAS. This weighed mightily upon my heart as I tried to piece together what was a gigantic crossword puzzle to me. Something was lacking, something was missing, and I could not pin point it. And then one night in the wee hours of the morning as I was in prayer it was given me of the Spirit "ONE THING THOU LACKEST" and then in a flash I knew what it was. I knew where we had missed the road; though we were seeing thousands and millions coming to Christ there was something that all lacked; despite the great fanfare and the publicity, I knew what it was: it was the thing that brought Pentecost

into existence; it was the thing that brought the Reformation into being, it was what gave John Wesley to the world and Talmadge and Moody and Paavo Ruotsalainen, And what brought the Welsh revival into existence: One thing thou lackest.

In Cardiff, Wales, one year before that great revival broke out, they prayed every day, for one year. And when the evangelist came it was not a revival but it was a harvest and what a harvest, that moved all of South Wales, and for one year after the evangelist left the great harvest continued night after night; it was seasoned within and without with prayer and I have the feeling in my heart that despite the fact that we have reaped millions in this great harvest, have we failed to root and ground these new born babes in Christ in prayer? I have attended the great major campaigns all over America by the leading evangelists, and I can see that though there has been a sprinkling of prayer our converts have not been taught to pray. The first Church was born in the spirit of prayer and its converts were taught to pray and daily they gathered for prayer. "ONE THING THOU LACKEST." I have determined, I have made up my mind that from here on out in the great harvest of souls the Master of the harvest will not say to me in that day, "One Thing Thou Lackest," but I want to hear Him say: "Well done" and I want to say to Him: "Thou Master of Harvest, Thou Master of men, I have finished the work that Thou gavest me to do."