

Men and Prayer

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And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the Lord. Genesis 4:26

On our first trip to Israel one of the sights that remains fresh in my memory is the side of the Temple known as the "Wailing Wall". A place where Jewish believers come to pray. It was an overwhelming experience to see and hear the number of men praying before a broken wall that had once been a magnificent structure for worship. It reminded me of the intercession we had made for over a year for men in this nation to rise up and pray and become strong intercessors in the house of God. What a contrast it makes to see a broken wall where many with broken hearts stood to make petition while we have completed buildings and beautiful churches but many times empty of men who are willing to earnestly pray, cry and seek the heart of God. Luke 18:1 states "*and he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*" It always stands as a call for the diligent seeking of that place of communion with God. Any relationship only as strong as continued communication and trust will make it. The expectation of an earthly father seems to know no bounds when he receives the news that he has a son. He begins to plan for college, baseball and football before the first diaper is changed! As I have handed men their newborn babies or assisted them bringing them into the world it always seems to be a special moment even to the shedding of tears of celebration. How much more does God long for a bonding through prayer with his sons. There needs to be a careful examination of your heart as a son of God regarding your place of prayer. The prophet Ezekiel declared that the Lord said "The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy; year, they have oppressed the stronger wrongfully. And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none." Ezekiel 22:29-30

Praying men are still needed to strike down forces of oppression and to make up the hedge and stand in the gap. In this generation God is still looking for men who like Enoch will walk with God (Gen. 5:24) and men who like John are willing to be caught up in the presence of the Lord (Rev. 1:10) and men like Jude who are willing to pray in the power of the Holy Spirit and keep themselves in the love of God (Jude 1:20-21)

It is past time for the sons of God to obey the charge from Haggai to "Consider your ways" (Hag. 1&) and the command from Joel (1:14) to fast and pray and weep broken before the altar for our land needs to be healed.