

A. G. Daniells

Our Most Urgent Need:

A Spiritual Revival and a Spiritual Reformation

We surely need some things very much. We need money and we need it greatly. But **there is something of greater value than money to the church, and that is true godliness. It is more important for a man to be godly, to be righteous, than it is to have his pockets full of money. It is more important for the church to have the righteousness of Christ woven into the hearts of the members than it is to have the money chest running over with gold. It is the most urgent of all our needs.** We need men, we need laborers in foreign fields, but we need godliness in the hearts of men more than we need numbers of men. Our schools need greater and better facilities, but we need godliness in our schools more than we need more facilities. We need more sanitarium facilities, but we need the living Christ walking in our sanitariums more than we need additions to the sanitariums. A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. Put them all together,—**money, men, institutions, facilities,— bring them all together, stack them up, and then remember that God says that a revival of true godliness in our hearts is a greater and a more urgent need than all others. Do you believe it? Just as soon as we believe it with all our hearts, we shall get it.** The Lord will give it to every true seeker. And to seek this should be our first work.

Here in this, convention **we ought to be seeking this godliness, this righteousness of the Lord Jesus, more earnestly than anything else that is brought before us.** We are told that there must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing. We must learn to agonize with God in prayer. To a very large extent the spirit of intercession, of earnest prayer, has been lost. I remember the early days, when I was a lad and went to the camp-meeting. That which gripped me the strongest and made the deepest impression upon my young heart was the spirit of prayer that was in the meeting. At night, after the

meeting, the brethren would go out for prayer. All around through the grove in the dark you would hear them crying to God. I don't think we prayed too much then nor too earnestly. **I fear we pray too little now, and our prayers are too feeble. Before we get through to the end of our journey we shall come back to the spirit of intercession and agonizing prayer.** God will hear us, and we shall know there is a living God among us who is helping us and saving us. This we are told through His Word and these messages that are sent to arouse and awaken us.

Let us respond to the messages God has given us. With all my heart I enter into this call of God, and I am praying Him to help me to know how to respond acceptably and experience what I ought to experience in it. O, I would that the spirit of earnest intercession might fall upon us here tonight! There is such wonderful power in prayer. You know how, all down through the history of God's people, good men, devout men, have won great victories on their knees. When Hezekiah received that letter from the proud Sennacherib, telling him that he would be overthrown, and that he and his people would be food for the armies of that haughty monarch, he got down on his knees and spread the letter out before God, and said: "O Lord our God, I beseech Thee, save Thou us out of his hand." His cry was heard. God wrought a wonderful deliverance. It has been so all along through the history of God's people. You know the power of prayer, of your own prayers, and the prayers of devout fathers and mothers. We must never forget them, however old we may become.

On Memorial Day I went out to the cemetery in Washington, and visited the graves of some of our fallen comrades. As I stood in front of Brother Olsen's memorial, and reflected on the life of that devout man, I remembered the mighty intercessions I had heard from his lips at times when we were in difficulty. Then I went to Brother Irwin's tombstone, and called to mind the crisis through which we passed in Battle Creek, and the morning when he and I knelt down by the bed in our room to pray. We were in a terrible situation, and

we did not know which way to turn, so we knelt down and cried to God for deliverance. The Lord heard and answered us. A wonderful deliverance came to hundreds of our people there. Then I went over to the resting-place of old Father Prescott and recalled the earnest prayers I had heard him offer for the recovery of the sick. I had joined him in anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, and had seen them raised up. **I do not want to forget men who knew how to pray; I do not want to lose the prayer spirit out of my life.** I could not go to my mother's grave that day, for it was all the other side of the continent, but O the prayers she offered that softened my heart and led me to Christ! I do tonight thank God for a praying mother. I shall never be too old to remember with deep gratitude and becoming reverence the prayers of a sainted mother.

Brethren, we must not let this spirit of prayer leak out of our hearts and churches. We know that we have been losing it. Check up the record for 1923, brethren, and see what you find. You know the record. And I know it with many, for I have traveled around. **I have gone to the camp-meetings, and I tell you, my ministering brethren, we do not pray on our camp-grounds for the salvation of our people, as our ministers once did. May God put into our hearts the spirit of intercession.**" —A. G. Daniells, *Proceedings of the Educational and Missionary Volunteer Departments of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in World Convention, Held at Stratton Park, Colorado Springs, Colorado, June 5 to 19, 1923*, (Washington D.C: Review and Herald, 1923), 50-62.