

We thought it was just lunch. But God had something else in mind.

We are three women acquaintances from church who just decided to have lunch. 15 minutes into lunch, one of us said she had been asking the Lord for a couple of friends to help with an idea she believed was of the Lord. She explained a plan to organize prayer warriors from each State to pray over America. We said “Let’s do it!” The flame was lit.

We felt it was too overwhelming a job for three ordinary women from South Dakota. But if it was the Lord’s will, He could make it happen. And He did, in miraculous ways! He tapped each one of our unique personalities, giftings and backgrounds to bring this to fruition. After only 7 weeks, with over 70 hours of meetings and countless hours of writing and rewriting, the rough draft of this manuscript was complete.

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May Almighty God use these words to stir hearts and bring revival in this nation and around the world, for His kingdom and His glory.

A Three Strand Cord (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

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# 1

## THE PURPOSE

*If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

II Chronicles 7:14

### “If We Will...Then He Will”

If we will...then He will. What does that mean?

Many of us are feeling a growing unsettledness in our hearts. We are disturbed by the increasing immorality, division, and violence we see in our nation, and there doesn't seem to be an easy answer. We are growing fearful of the potential seismic shift in our futures.

We want our nation, our land to be healed. And that is what God promises to do, right? Yes, but it is an “If...then” proposition. “*If* we will...*then* He will.” So what needs to happen *first*?

II Chronicles 7:14 tells us we *first* must humble ourselves, pray, seek His face and turn from our wicked ways. Only then will He forgive our sin and heal our land.

“If We Will...Then He Will” is a grassroots prayer project that was birthed from a desire to bring repentance and revival to the hearts of His people, those of us called by His name.

This is not motivated by politics or church affiliation. It is simply a call to His people to turn from *our* wicked ways and implore Him to heal our land. The plan prepares intercessors from all 50 states to pray for 50 days for His people and for our nation.

How? It begins on December 1 with 31 days of preparation for spiritual battle. This is followed by a time of prayer and fasting on January 1, New Year's Day. Then for 50 days - January 2 through February 20 - prayer warriors from all 50 states will be led in interceding on behalf of God's people, our nation and our world.

This is not a passive project. We have a real enemy, and we need to learn how to seriously and effectively engage in battle against him and “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12). Therefore, there are 31 days of preparation for spiritual warfare, as well as a time of prayer and fasting, prior to our 50 days of intercession.

Why 50 days? The 50-day plan has specific and unique daily rotating reading assignments in Psalms for intercessors in each of the 50 states. The result is that the *entire* book of Psalms will be lifted to the Lord by intercessors all across our nation *each and every day* for 50 days. Each prayer warrior will also seek the Lord daily, asking Him for the petitions He desires we bring before Him in prayer. The details are laid out on the following pages.

There is real hope for a new beginning, but only if we do it God's way. Together, this is our journey back to Him, back to our “first love” (Revelation 2:4 KJV). Only then will we be enabled to turn from our wicked ways. And only then will He heal our land.

# 4

## THE POWER

*My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*  
Psalm 121:2

### **The Power of Prayer**

Have there been times in history when people have cried out to God Almighty and He has answered in miraculous ways? Actually, yes.

One of the most recent and well-documented events in American and world history happened in December of 1944 during World War II's pivotal Battle of the Bulge.

General Patton wrote in his journal "Know of nothing more I can do to prepare for this attack except to read the Bible and pray." <sup>ii</sup> But after seeking the Lord's face, he must have been led to do more. Patton contacted the Army's Chief Chaplain, James H. O'Neill, and organized a call for all the troops to pray. The result? Six days of uncharacteristically clear weather for Europe in December, the dead of winter. Those six days of clear skies turned the tide of World War II.

Here are the fascinating details:

From September to December, fog and rain had plagued General Patton and his soldiers, limiting their use of air power. On the morning of

December 8, 1944, General Patton called the Army's Chief Chaplain, James H. O'Neill. "This is General Patton; do you have a good prayer for weather? We must do something about those rains if we are to win the war." <sup>iii</sup>

General Patton told the Chief Chaplain "I am a strong believer in prayer. Up to now, in the Third Army, God has been very good to us. This is because a lot of people back home are praying for us. But we have to pray for ourselves, too. We've got to get not only the chaplains but every man in the Third Army to pray. We must ask God to stop these rains. If we all pray, it will be like plugging in on a current whose source is in Heaven. It is power." <sup>iv</sup>

Within the hour, a prayer had been written and approved. Patton ordered 250,000 prayer cards produced, and then distributed to each soldier in the Third Army. With the presses working day and night, both the printing and distribution were accomplished by December 14, only six days after the order had been given. Each soldier had a prayer card in hand as they anxiously awaited the next battle. They did not have long to wait.

Just two days later, on December 16, 1944, German forces launched a surprise offensive, aided by the cover of "heavy rains, thick fogs and swirling ground mists that muffled sound, blotted out the sun, and reduced visibility to a few yards," wrote the Chief Chaplain. "For three days it looked to the jubilant Nazis as if their desperate gamble would succeed." <sup>v</sup>

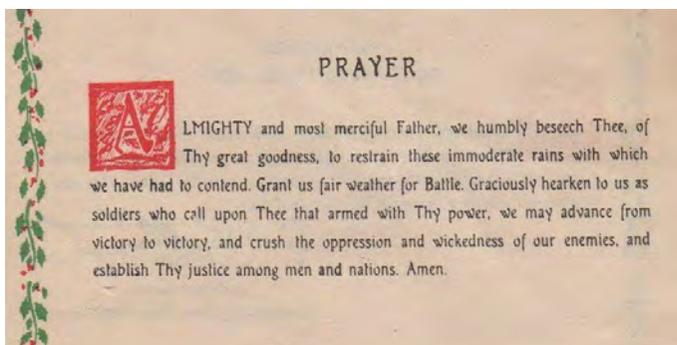
But then the anguished and totally dependent prayers of the Allied soldiers facing defeat were answered with a miracle. The Chief Chaplain continues his eyewitness account:

"On December 20, to the consternation of the Germans and the delight of the American forecasters who were equally surprised at the turn-about, the rains and the fogs ceased. For the better part of a week came bright clear skies and perfect flying weather. General Patton prayed for fair weather for battle. He got it." <sup>vi</sup>

Prayer turned the tide. This was the prayer on that card: <sup>vii</sup>

## PRAYER

**A**LMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen.



What made this prayer so miraculously powerful? It certainly wasn't the size of the card; it was only the size of a business card. It certainly wasn't the quantity of words; it could be read aloud in 30 seconds or less. It was the condition of the heart of the "pray-er" and the powerful God they were praying to. This prayer would have been prayed whole-heartedly, fervently. Imagine if we were in the trenches. It was a time of desperation, of total dependence. God was their *only* hope, their *only* salvation. And Almighty God delivered in a remarkable way.

The Nazis' attack on December 16 was a surprise to the Allied Forces. But it was not a surprise to Almighty God. God had already pre-arranged for the Third Army soldiers to have the prayer cards in hand by December 14<sup>th</sup>, two days *prior* to the surprise attack.

The Nazis' goal was to strike fear in the hearts of the Third Army. The Nazis' surprise attack and three days of victory under cover of cloud and fog surely would have struck fear in their hearts. But that fear is precisely what God used to bring those same soldiers to the point of total desperation, of total dependence, of turning to Him in prayer because they recognized they had nowhere else to turn. "When I am afraid, I put my trust in You" (Psalm 56:3).

General Patton and the Third Army found themselves in circumstances that may not be all that much different from our circumstances today. It may seem to us as though we are surrounded by enemies on all sides, leaving us feeling helpless and hopeless in our own strength. And that is precisely where He wants us. Only then will we truly seek Him with our whole heart. And He promises that we then will surely find Him (Jeremiah 29:13).

May this story fortify us with courage as we prepare to engage in spiritual warfare to turn the hearts of His people and our nation back to Him.