

The Midnight Hour

Matthew 21:12–14 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves {Purity}. **13** And He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’” {Prayer} **14** Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. {Power}

Purity and Prayer is the normal process preparing for God’s Power.

J. Edwin Orr, revival historian, on the night before his death in April 1987 said “The beginning of revival looks like judgement. Judgement always precedes revival. We are standing on the brink of the extraordinary.” Current events sure looks like judgment! Here’s the key to revival:

Hebrews 12:27 Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Shaking is so that what cannot be shaken remains. Current events are cracks in the ground and will magnify in intensity until there is Purity and Prayer (man’s part). Then, Power is God’s part. The Bible pattern is never morning and evening but evening and morning; not light and dark, but **dark and then light**. Light overwhelms darkness.

1 Peter 4:17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Because judgment begins with the household of God, we must press in for Purity – Prayer – Power. We don’t just want to pull weeds; we want to harvest souls.

Right now, senses say “Nothing is happening. It’s not working. It’s getting worse!” Revival can be likened to a nuclear explosion after the nucleus gets depressed... All through the Bible: Moses; David; Joseph; Abraham; the Crucifixion - things got worse. Then they got better. Our works must pass through fire before we can have His presence.

Gideon – Things were bad. Where is God? His army got smaller and smaller (300).

Judges 7:19 So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands.

Gideon struck during the middle watch (Hebrew watches were from 6-10, 10-2 {Midnight}, and 2-6). Every soldier had a clay pot with a torch inside and a trumpet. They blew the trumpet, smashed the clay pot, and 120,000 Midianites died against 300! {Purity – Prayer – Power}

Luke 12:35 “Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning”

Mark 13:35–37 Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, **at midnight**, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—**36** lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. **37** And what I say to you, I say to all: **Watch!**”

Let your lamps be burning (Purity and Prayer) – even in the second or third watch (Romans had 4 watches: “evening”, “**midnight**”, “cock crowing”, and “morning”).

Matthew 25:1–6 “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. **2** Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. **3** Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, **4** but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. **5** But while the bridegroom was delayed, **they all slumbered and slept.** **6** “And **at midnight** a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’”

Their lamps went out at midnight. That's how **Samson lost his anointing - sleeping.**

Matthew 13:25 but **while men slept**, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat...

Proverbs 6:10–11 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep— **11** So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

Mark 14:32–41 Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." **33** And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. **34** Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch." **35** He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. **36** And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will." **37** Then He came and **found them sleeping**, and **said to Peter, "Simon**, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? **38** Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." **39** Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words. **40** And when He returned, He **found them asleep again**, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. **41** Then He came the third time and said to them, "**Are you still sleeping and resting?** It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Jesus said to Peter (Rock), "Simon" (Reed), "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." = the reed can not stand but the rock will!
Purity – Prayer – Power. If we want the Power, we must provide the Purity and Prayer!

Acts 16:25 But **at midnight** Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Background – Paul wanted to leave Galatia for Asia but Holy Spirit would not let him. He went to go again but was stopped. Finally, he had a vision of the Man of Macedonia. He was being sent to Europe so he set out for Philippi, a Roman colony, where his ministry got him arrested.

v.25 So, Paul and Silas still had oil in their lamps and were not asleep at Midnight...

Acts 16:26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

It was midnight but they were busy getting the earthen vessels shattered (Purity) as they blew the trumpet (Praise/Prayer). Then they got the Earthquake (Power).

When the Peter and John were arrested, they were forbidden to preach the name of Jesus. Upon their release, they told the rest of the disciples of the threat...so they all prayed:

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was **shaken**; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Purity – Prayer – Power / The next arrest was in Acts 5

Acts 5:19-20 But **at night** an angel of the Lord **opened the prison doors** and brought them out, and said, **20** "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

Purity – Prayer - Power

Herod killed James, John's brother, and saw that it pleased the Jews, so he had Peter arrested.

Acts 12:5–7 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. 6 And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. 7 Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And his chains fell off his hands.

Purity – Prayer - Power

Acts 16:25-26 But **at midnight** Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. **26** Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.

The earthen vessel is you. The lamp within is the Spirit of the Lord. The vessel will have to break before the light can shine. The trumpet is your mouth. Corporate revival comes from personal revival – Purity – Prayer – Power.

Communion

Jewish sources indicate that during Passover Seder, 3 parts water is mixed with the fermented wine because children participate in the meal. Early church father, Justin Martyr wrote that in his day this practice remained. We use unfermented wine (grape juice) because fermentation requires bacteria to change the form and that would picture Christ’s blood as corrupted.

1 Pt 1:19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Consider that at the crucifixion the centurion pierced His side and blood and water came out. At the ancient Temple, the water was in the laver and the blood at the altar. You could not get into God’s presence without passing through both.

Jesus was baptized in water. His sweat (water) was mixed with blood in Gethsemane. Blood and water poured from His side. Our redemption is sealed in baptism by the blood of Jesus.

1 John 5:6–8 This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. 7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

The bread eaten at Passover and Communion has no leaven because leaven represents sin. Being born of a virgin, Christ’s blood was not tainted with human sin. (ie., unfermented)

Jesus was the true vine and also the true bread from heaven. Our Communion comes from grapes crushed to make the wine, and grain crushed to make the bread. He was a grain of wheat dying to bear much fruit. He had to be crushed and crucified to bring forth a covenant of life. Purity and Prayer led to Power.

Are you at the 11th or 12th hour – Prison – Stocks – Pain of “stripes”? Is your vision lost? Is your nucleus depressed? Does it feel like Judgment? Don’t sleep! In the name of Jesus, revive!

Right now, press in for Purity with Prayer! Will you shatter your earthen vessel and blow your trumpet? Midnight hour is a time to praise, not to sleep. We are on the brink of the extraordinary.