



HeartCry



January 2007

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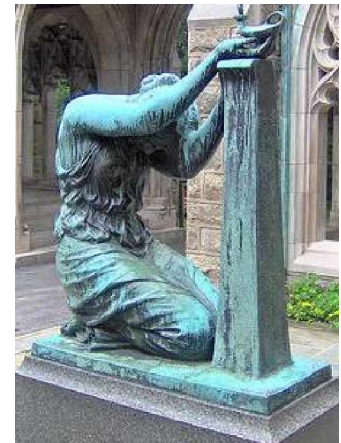


Evangelism &
Discipleship
Commission

Prayer Mobilization
Team

Power of Compassionate Weeping

Jesus frequently used the word “behold” when He was teaching His disciples the truths about His Kingdom. In so doing He was telling them to open their spiritual eyes and see the truth He was conveying. It is my prayer that the scriptures presented will reveal to you the Father’s Heart on praying with tears.



I. The Weeping of Jesus !

And as He approached. He saw the city, and He wept [audibly] over it. Exclaiming, would that you had known personally, even at least in this your day, the things that make for peace... But now they are hidden from your eyes. (Luke 19:41-42)

When Jesus saw the throngs of people who were suffering as a result of their sins, He was moved with compassion for them. Often, He even wept over them. **The shortest verse in the Bible says, *Jesus wept* (John 11:35). What was He weeping over here? First, He saw the need, which was the death of Lazarus.**

Then He heard the cry of Martha’s heart: Master, if You had been here, my brother would not have died (John 11:21). At this point Martha expressed her faith in the Master’s ability to heal. She said, I know that whatever You ask from God, He will grant it to You (John 11:22).

Next, Jesus heard the piercing cries of Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, and When Jesus saw her sobbing, and the Jews who came with her [also] sobbing. He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled (John 11:33).

Because He saw and listened actively to the heart cries of Martha, Mary, and the assembled Jews, and was tuned in to the resonance of the heart of Father God Himself, Jesus was moved with compassion, and in turn ministered effectively to the urgent need at hand.

John the beloved describes in detail for us how Lazarus came forth from the tomb; he bolted forth demonstrating the power of the resurrection from the dead!

The Power of Compassionate Weeping (continued)

Tears preceded this power encounter. Perhaps compassion and power are inevitably linked.

Yes, our tears have the power to cleanse, to enable us to see, and to thrust us to action in behalf of those in need.

Gospel Accounts of the Tears of Jesus

1. John 11:33-35 - *When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping. He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. Where have you laid him? He asked. Come and see, Lord, they replied. Jesus wept. (NIV)*
2. Luke 19:41 - *As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it. (NIV)*
3. Matt 26:38 - *Then He said to them, My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me. (NIV)*

II. Testimonies From People of Prayer

1. William Booth - Several Salvation Army officers asked General Booth, *How can we save the lost?* Booth's return letter stated only, *Try tears.*
2. Ira Stanphill - *My church will never grow while my eyes are dry.*

Primary Scriptures

1. Rom. 12:15 - *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep (NKJ)*
2. 2 Cor. 1:3-4 - *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. (NIV)*
3. Ps. 51:17 - *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God. Thou wilt not despise. (KJV)*
4. Ecclesiastes 3:4 - *A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance. (NIV)*

Character Sketches from Scripture

David - Psalmist and King

1. Ps. 6:6-7 - *I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears. My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes. (NIV)*
2. Ps. 69:3 - *I am weary with my crying; my throat is dry; my eyes fail while I wait for my God. (NKJ)*



(continued on page 5)

The Warrior's Arsenal: resources & tools

Submitted by Mike Garrison of Riverhill Evangelical Church



Repentance and 21st Century Man

By C. John Miller
ISBN: 0-87508-344-X

"Repentance is an attitude beginning at conversion. Throughout the Christian life it is a drawing near to God of the whole person, a humbling of the heart expressed in daily response of obedience to the love and will of the heavenly Father. Painful, but liberating! Humbling and strengthening." Miller stresses the difference between penance (self-effort and works "for God") and repentance which does not center on what man does, nor on that which one sees and feels within oneself, and does not leave the sinner powerless and imprisoned. Repentance focused on God, looks to Him, and replaces a previous failing effort with wonderful strength and overcoming power of Jesus Christ. A clearly written resource for helping the carnally-minded or struggling disciple, this book also gives practical advice for dealing with the problem of people's guilt and failing relationships.

111 pages



Humility: The Journey Toward Holiness

By: Andrew Murray

ISBN: 0-7642-2560-X

When Jesus "made himself [Himself] nothing...taking the nature of a servant," He modeled for all believers true humility. With insightful, penetrating clarity, Murray calls all Christians to turn from pride, empty themselves, and study the character of Christ to be filled with His grace. Viewed as the best book on this subject.

110 pages



The Divine Exchange: My Life for His - Strategies for the Mature Christian

By Stelman H. Smith
ISBN: 0-88270-160-6

This work is for those who want the will of God - a powerful manual for believers who want to live as fully given to Christ. Filled with Biblical example and explanation, this book explains, in precise terms, what it means to deal with our carnally minded tendencies. This is one of the currently surfacing "get real" books that will challenge your thinking and will prompt a good look at where you are and what Jesus desires you to become. Prepare for change as you read this one!

247 pages

When Heaven Invades Earth: A Practical Guide to a Life of Miracles

By Bill Johnson
ISBN: 0-7684-2952-8

Johnson compares the focus on God's presence with Israel and today's church by stating that, "Then, as today, the real issue is the priority we place upon His presence. When that's intact, the supernatural abounds, but without it we have to make up new doctrines for why we are OK the way we are...being people focused on His presence means that we are willing to live beyond reason.... The realm beyond reason is the world of obedience to God. Any time the people of God become preoccupied with concepts and ideologies instead of a Christ-like expression of life and power, they are set up to fail, no matter how good those ideas are." Johnson's view of God's presence and His willingness to show His people what He desires to do is a creative alternative for the "going-through-the-motions" church service.

190 pages



Raising the Sail of Intentional Prayer Akron Grace E.C. Church

Bathe in Prayer is a conscious effort to seek God's guidance for our church and it is making a difference.

Sabrina Dowlin (Prayer Participant)



Even though the **Bathe in Prayer** time has been a blessing in the Akron Grace E.C. Church, it has gone through an interesting *metamorphosis* for it originated as a prayer service for the building project. Through an *expressed prayer burden* of Sue Davidson (Mission Commission Member) and Robin Haley (Former Ministry Council Chairperson), Bathe in Prayer moved, by God's Spirit, to intentional prayer in seeking God's concerns regarding the scope (whether big or small) of every ministry in the Akron Church. Somehow we thought God was only interested in the big stuff of ministry and we lost sight of our need for Him in every detail of all our ministries. So *together* we began to lift (Acts 1:14) many more things to God for His blessing and leadership. Visually speaking, we are now raising what we call the *sail of intentional prayer* to catch the winds of the Holy Spirit in empowering us to fulfill God's agenda for our church.

Along with a God-centered format, Scripture-based prayer, and the celebration of God's presence through music, another unique blessing of **Bathe in Prayer** shared by Steve Raezer (Evangelism Commission member) is *- the involvement of believers through the sharing of their prayer burdens for the church and their personal testimonies of God's transforming power.*

Bathe in Prayer, about a half hour in length, follows our worship service once a month with an average of 30-40 attending. After praying together, we often break bread together through a luncheon and we believe God enjoys the time He spends with us.

Prayer is the most vital part of believers' lives - a privilege we can never overuse...as natural as breathing and of great benefit to the body of Christ. Marian Martin (Intercessory Ministry)

We thank God for the privilege to share the Bathe in Prayer Ministry with you. May we be mutually encouraged to raise high the *sails of intentional prayer* and together catch the winds of the Lord's directives and power to do His work in each of our churches. It is a joy for us to see so many intentionally seeking God's presence and direction for the Akron Church. May this joy be yours as well!

Pastors Don Metz & Ed Vidizicki
Prayer Coordinator Carolyn Boussum
Akron Grace E.C. Church

A stylized graphic of the word "JANUARY" in a blue, outlined font. Above the letters are several white snowflake icons. The entire graphic is set against a light blue background.

1. Art & Mary Ellen Davis during a time of transition in their ministry
2. District Prayer Meetings in February & March 2007
3. Pray for those who recently lost loved ones in our fellowship. Holidays can be a difficult time for these families.
4. Pray for the "Day Apart" Women's Get-a-ways
5. Pray for the increase of staff for the Navigators as they meet the growing discipleship demands.

The Power of Compassionate Weeping (continued from page 2)

Paul, the Apostle

1. Acts 20:10 - *Serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears...* (NKJ)
2. Acts 20:31 - *...for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night or day with tears.* (NKJ)
3. 2 Cor. 2:4 - *For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears...* (NKJ)

Jeremiah, the Weeping Prophet

1. Jer. 9:1 - *Oh, that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!* (NKJ)
2. Jer. 31:15-17 - *...Refrain your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for your work shall be rewarded, says the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope in your future", says the Lord, "that your children shall come back to their own border.* (NKJ)
3. Lam. 2:18-19 - *Their heart cried out to the Lord, "O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night; give yourself no relief; give your eyes no rest.. "Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches; pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord. Lift your hands toward Him for the life of your young children, who faint from hunger at the head of every street."* (NKJ)

III. God Sees Every Tear (Key Verse)

Psalms 56:8-13 - Thou has taken account of my wanderings; put my tears in Thy bottle; are they not in Thy book? Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call; this I know, that God is for me. In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise, in God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me? Thy vows are binding upon me, O God; I will render thank offerings to Thee. For Thou has delivered my soul from death, indeed my feet from stumbling, so that I may walk before God in the light of the living.

The Prayer of Hezekiah

2 Kings 20:1-6 - Return and say to Hezekiah the leader of my people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of your father David, "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the Lord..." (v. 5)

Testimony of Evald and Peter in 1991 in the Czech Republic

The following is a brief testimony from a pastor from the northern part of Czech Republic. Pastor Evald Ruffy from Libreac, Czech Republic was in hospital bed in Sweden suffering from a heart attack and had fallen into a deep coma. Many people prayed for their friend. His best friend and associate pastor Peter came to his bed side to pray over Evald's lifeless body.

In this period of time though, Evald was caught up into heaven enjoying the presence of God unaware that he was a husband, father, pastor and that his work was not yet complete. Peter stood prayerfully over Evald's bed and in desperation began to weep over his friend. As Peter's tears fell on Evald's body, suddenly, Evald in heaven felt called to return and suddenly found his spirit soaring through the heavens hitting his body in the hospital bed. He was immediately healed. The hospital declared it a miracle and released their patient without paying any of the medical expenses!

Evald was called from death to life, through the power of compassionate weeping.

What Will God Do With Our Tears?

1. Isa. 25:8 - *He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth: for the Lord has spoken.*
2. Rev. 7:17 - *For the lamb in the center of throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes.*
3. Rev. 21: 4 - *And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.*

“Our tears are stored in heaven’s bottles, (Psalm 56:8-13) after these vessels are filled they are turned upside down and become the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the dry land.” (Jim Goll)

Prayer for Revelation of the Broken Heart of God

“Your Word declares Lord, that you welcome the broken and contrite of heart. So today Lord we present ourselves on your altar of sacrifice that you would break us in a way that would expose and smash the roots of pride where we have walked in our own strength, and that we would come forth in humility leaning on our beloved Jesus, not in the strength of our own might but in brokenness and humility.

Lord grant us the gift of tears and a compassionate heart to see life spring forth from situations and circumstances that seem so lifeless. Lord we desire your heart. As Ezekiel cried out, rend not our garments but rend our hearts and let streams of tears flow in the wastelands to see life spring up. Amen.”

Perhaps this is why this publication is called HeartCry?

Terry Jacobs, Riverhill Evangelical Church and the Prayer Mobilization Team



Tidbits on Prayer

Sowing in Tears

by Anabel Gillham

The pain was almost more than he could bear. He had never realized that a broken heart could hurt so terribly, but he couldn't just sit down and cry. It was planting season. So he took his bag of seed and went to the field.

But there was no joy in his work. He didn't hear the clear call of the meadowlark. He didn't see the fields of yellow and lavender on the horizon. The smell of the fresh-turned earth escaped his nostrils. The bite of the pure spring air didn't cause him to lift his head and take in great gulps, for even as he broadcast the tiny seed his eyes were blurred and his hands were damp with tears wiped from his weathered cheeks.

Then, when he could bear it no longer, he fell on his knees and his head touched the broken soil. His tears fell into the furrows, wetting the tiny ovule nestled in the pocket of earth. No one heard. No one saw. There was no one to touch, to care, to say, "I understand."

To know such suffering...and still to sow.

Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting. He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed, shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him. (Psalm 126:5,6)

Yes, you are hurting. But you can't just sit down and cry. The seed would not be planted and growth would never come. There would be no fruit to harvest. No, you must sow. And chances are, there will be no one who really understands...no one to touch you or hold you...no one to care. To know such suffering...and still to sow.

God's promise is to you: Can you believe that one day you will actually SHOUT with sheer joy?

Compassionate Praying Calendar



Not that sowing is easy, far from it. And while it is important to sow with the harvest in view, it is also sometimes true that the harvest is a long time coming. But this only serves to make the harvest that much sweeter when it does come.

Psalm 126:5-6 - "Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

January 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Abortion	2 Murder	3 Pornography	4 Gambling	5 Prostitution	6 Molestation
7 Sexual Abuse	8 Stealing	9 Lying Tongues	10 Jealousy	11 Pride	12 Envy	13 Anger
14 Hatred	15 Greed	16 Selfishness	17 Incest	18 Unbelief	19 Alcohol Abuse	20 Drugs
21 Self Reliance	22 Arrogance	23 Homosexuality	24 Same Sex Marriages	25 Terrorism	26 Prejudice	27 Slander
28 Indebtedness	29 Obesity	30 Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God	31 Ungratefulness			