

The Prayer for "Change"

Last night as I sat upon my couch flicking back and forth through the news coverage of the 2008 presidential elections watching the final results come in I was filled with various emotions. In one sense I couldn't help but be disappointed and somewhat concerned for the direction of this nation, because quite obviously I did not stand for a lot of the policies our new president elect stood for and my vote did not land for him. On the other hand I could not help but realize that I was truly watching a historic moment for our country and that he, Barack Obama, was a man just like me, not an enemy, not the anti-Christ, not some one to be fearful of or riled up over, as many of the e-mails I've received over the last months have insinuated, but that he was a man with frailties and strong points just like me, who above all odds and obstacles achieved something noteworthy and great in our country.

When I thought about the fact that two days before his grandmother, Madelyn Dunham, passed away it added even further to the emphasis of the moment. Here is a man that was a black child of a white, divorced, single mother in the 1960s. He's a man that hardly knew his father, lived in a foreign land as a child, saw his mother go through two divorces, and was partly raised by his grandparents. I can't imagine that coming out of a broken home as a black child during that time was the easiest thing to overcome. He watched his mother die of ovarian cancer at the age of 52. His father had already died in a car crash in Kenya with him only seeing him once, and his grandfather had passed away as well. These are not small odds to overcome, and I hope for a moment we can put our politics and conspiracy theories aside to have some compassion and honor the feat that was accomplished in his life through God's grace.



Let me even go way out on the line and say even as I watched tears in the eyes of Reverend Jesse Jackson & Oprah Winfrey during his acceptance speech, for a moment I understood, though the "race" wasn't supposed to be about the "race," that a great justice was done in our country regardless of political views. This accomplishment that I was witnessing was in a country that, where not more than 50 years ago, wouldn't let a black man sit next to me on a bus.

Can I be plain and frank with you in saying that a lot of unnecessary fear has been stirred up about this man. Who are we trusting in? Does his policies and views on things like the economy, the war, and abortion concern me, yes, but he is not our enemy or one to fear or hold in contempt. Besides, the last I checked Proverbs 21:1 says, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of the water; He turns it wherever He wishes." The question is will you, and will all of us, as the body of Christ, rather than being moved by fear and praying *about*

Barack Obama, be moved by love and pray *for* Barack Obama? Will we speak blessing on his life and family, will we be concerned for their welfare, will we ask for God's grace and protection to be upon him, and for God's wisdom to guide him? I happen to remember a verse that says something like this, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers" (1 John 3:16). "If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us" (1 John 4:12), and "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (1 John 4:20)



I remember back to the enthusiasm throughout the body of Christ in 2001 to pray for George W. Bush when we realized we had elected a president that confessed to be born again. I remember churches and believers dedicating to fast and pray for him at least once a month. We were so excited that we had a Christian president and with great zeal we stood behind him and lifted him up in prayer and support. Just in the last few months there has been a great stir to pray for Sarah Palin as we found out that she was an authentic Spirit filled believer. We hailed her as an "Esther" to this generation, which the future might hold to be true, and earnestly sought God on behalf of her and the McCain campaign. My question is, will we pray with the same enthusiasm and hope for our president though he might not look as we expected or hold similar view points. Will you allow the walls of anxiety, bitterness, and fear to come down and be moved with love for your brother and seek his well being and guidance in prayer. I can already hear the thoughts of many saying, "He is no brother of mine," "he cannot be a Christian and pro-choice," "he cannot be a Christian and have the political stances he holds." Let me make it clear that I personally stand against abortion and pray for Roe vs. Wade to be overturned of which I think is an unjust and ungodly law that has taken the lives of millions in my generation. Having said that, since when does having the correct views on political issues such as abortion qualify or disqualify someone for the blood of Jesus and its redeeming power? Others may say, "His theology isn't correct. He's said Jesus is the only way for him, but that people with other beliefs may make it to heaven." Just a thought, could it be possible for someone to personally trust in the Lord for their salvation and have incorrect theology? Does having perfect theology qualify you for the blood that was shed on the cross?

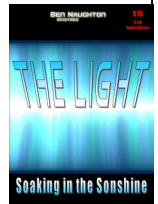
The bottom line is that we need to let some of the walls down against this man. Again, the Word says, "The king's

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-- REVIVAL RESOURCE --

This month's revival resource is an audio message preached by Ben recently in Eau Claire, Wisconsin called The Joyful Sound. The message is part of a 3 CD audio series called "The Light" which you can now order online. It is our prayer that as you listen to this message you will receive a fresh touch of God's Spirit calling you into the higher dimensions of His glory through worship.

Ministry Reports

BNM Itinerary

Clarkfield, MN— On October 3rd I found myself driving through what seemed to be endless farmland and cornfields to a tiny little town 3 hours west of Minneapolis. There, though small in size, was a powerful gathering of on fire believers hungering for revival. The name of the congregation was called "Fire on the Prairie." That night I ministered on the light that shines from God's presence and about soaking in the "Sonshine," which is one of my favorite messages. As we began to pray for people at the end there was an awesome release of God's Spirit and many basked in the rays of God's glory well into the night.

Eau Claire, WI—After my time in Clarkfield, I then drove 4 1/2 hours east into Wisconsin to preach at Clearwater Christian Church. The first

heart is in the hand of the Lord." We must pray, not out of anxiety or fear for him, but in love as a brother for his heart to be molded in the hands of the Lord. Love never fails and our faith works by love. This is not the time to be cynical or pessimistic, but to be moved with compassion knowing that it is the Lord who is King of Kings.

When he says that he is a believer in Christ and came to saving faith in him I believe we need to take him at his word and give him the benefit of the doubt. Many have called Obama's faith in Christ into question at this hour. I would like to say who are you to judge whether that is so or not? Is it possible for someone's theology or social beliefs or political principles to be imperfect but yet they are a blood bought son or daughter of God because of their trust in what Christ has done on the cross? I'm sure we wouldn't want people questioning our faith in such a way. So he says he is a Christian, let's not judge and give him the benefit of the doubt. He might not have perfect theology, but let's not forget or take for granted that his story is one of being a black child who was raised by a single mom and white grandparents, who never knew his father, whose closest to him had passed away, who trying to find his place and identity, purpose and reason for life, said he found Christ at the foot of the Cross. "I learned that my sins could be redeemed. I learned that those things I was too weak to accomplish myself, He would accomplish with me if I placed my trust in Him. It was because of these newfound understandings that I was finally able to walk down the aisle of Trinity one day and affirm my Christian faith. Kneeling beneath that cross on the South Side, I felt I heard God's Spirit beckoning me. I submitted myself to His will, and dedicated myself to discovering His truth and carrying out his works." Maybe we should extend a little grace and give him the benefit of the doubt. Who are we to say that this experience was insincere or just a political act?

night I spoke to the youth and many of them had powerful encounters with the Holy Spirit, which I believe changed their lives forever. On Sunday morning I gave a message about the Fire of the Holy Spirit and we began to cry out for Holy fire to fall. That evening is when I gave the message "The Joyful Sound" and we delved into higher realms of God's glory as His presence was poured out.

Miami, FL—On Oct. 25th & 26th we held the Glory & Fire Weekend meetings with Fire Starters of Florida at New Jerusalem Church. We truly touched the realms of heaven in our pursuit of God. At one point as we were still in His before the Lord His presence started manifesting so strong people throughout the church began to fall under the power. It was truly a weekend of Glory & Fire.

The bottom line is that God still controls the destiny of the nations (Psalm 47:8). God and His plans are even bigger than these 50 United States that exist in a small fragment of all time. God in times passed has changed the hearts of rulers and kings much more wicked and corrupt than any president we have ever known. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was driven out into the fields as a beast because of his pride until he came to say, "His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation" (Dan. 4:3). During the time of Christ and the early church the political scene was just slightly worse than it is now. I haven't seen anyone stoned to death or thrown to the lions for their faith, yet the message and power of the gospel flourished and spread like no other time. Paul and Peter gave instructions to pray, give thanks, and honor the King (1 Tim. 2:1-2 & 1 Peter 2:17). This was at a time the Caesar, Nero, a heathen emperor of the Roman Empire who persecuted Christians ruled the land. We have nothing to fear if we know who our trust is in.

Finally, let's not forget that God calls us to love our neighbor as our self, whether he lives next door or on Pennsylvania Ave. So, I suppose my ultimate question is will you, for this man, who is flesh and blood like you and I, who has overcome obstacles of hardship, tragedy, and race, who has claimed to find peace with God in the cross of Jesus Christ, who has risen against all odds to the oval office, who is not our enemy or the anti-Christ but a man like you and I, regardless if you agree with him or not, will you allow your heart to be filled with love and compassion for him and pray and support your new commander & chief, President Barack Obama?



Sonrise Worship Center Lutz, FL	11/ 2
Heart of Worship Bayshore, NY	12/ 12 - 13
Pillars of Faith Tabernacle - 10 am Flushing, NY	12/ 14
Seeking God's Face Ministries - 3 pm Farmingville, NY	12/ 14
Word of Life Church Ft. Myers, FL	119
Check our website for recent itinerary additions	



Ministry Needs:
MiniDV Camcorder—\$350
Laptop Computer—\$800
Firewire Card & Cable—\$100

Prayer Points

- Anointing and Open Heavens for Signs, Wonders, and Miracles
- For the Fires of Revival to be released in each church we minister
- Necessary finances to come in to do all God is calling us to do
- Hedge of Protection around Ben & April
- Ben & April to have greater intimacy with the Lord

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