

Sound the Alarm

Joel 2:1-17

It is no hidden secret that there are many that murmur, complain and live in their lusts and passions. Many today pretend to be devoted, but it is often in order to gain influence, power, and even money. These people can only go so far though. Eventually they separate themselves from the true church and from the ones who demand holy living. Knowing this, where does the body of Christ go from here?

- I believe that the generations of today are missing the most critical command of today: "Making a Difference".
- Today's church wants to be different, but there are many who are not willing to be the Difference!
- Students don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care!

Making a Difference?

When the church begins to have true compassion, then we can make a difference between those who are weak or those who are ignorant in their ways. There are those who are proud and arrogant, and they are unwilling to obey the truth, but my question is this: *How long will the church go on before we sound the alarm?*

If the Church is going to be willing to be the image of Christ, then this means that we have got to be willing to realize that it isn't just about you, personally. Ask yourself this: *Did Christ die for himself or for others?*

What the Church needs to recognize:

We are in WAR – it is a spiritual warfare and there are lives being affected every single day that you and I live.

We need to understand these things:

- I know that Joel 2 is a prophecy of events dealing with Armageddon, restoration, destruction, etc. for Israel, but I strongly believe that these future events can be applied as a warning to what we (as born-again, blood bought believers) must be willing to do.
- In the book of Joel the prophet cries out to God's people. He is deeply grieved over the condition of his nation. He appeals to those who, by their actions, can alter what seems to be inevitable: the coming judgment of God. He knew the beginning of judgment was the preaching of judgment. He also knew the preaching of judgment could be the beginning of revival, if the people heard and responded.

Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly, gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and the nursing infants...let the priests, the Lord's ministers, weep between the porch and the

altar, and let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your inheritance a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they among the peoples say, 'Where is their God?'"

Joel 2: 15-17

1. **2:1** – “**Blow the trumpet...sound an alarm.**” This is a command for us to do, not God!
2. When a trumpet is blown it was a call to war, therefore we have got realize that we can no longer stay on the defense, but we have got to be willing to be on the offense.
3. **2:2-11** – Goes into great detail describing an army of God with great power that will not be defeated. It is an army that will be greater than any other generation before. Even though this is speaking of the army at Armageddon I believe we can apply this as a type/shadow of our generation.
 - a. *“ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”* – **John 14:12**
 - b. *“ But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that they should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”* – **1 Peter 2:9**
4. We have already been equipped: **Ephesians 6:10-20**.
 - a. Missing the point of the armor:
 1. Our Strength only comes from God in battle
 2. Even though we are to put on the whole armor of God, it is not one piece – another words we put on one piece at a time – therefore many will never be able to put on the whole armor because we are not willing to grow spiritually in our walk with God.
5. REPENT – You will never be willing to go into battle if you are not willing to repent. **2:12-13** – notice that there is a rendering of the heart and not of our garments. Simply put: You may change your clothes to prove your holiness, but God only sees the change of our hearts!
6. It is not our place to save with our ideas, theologies, or knowledge. Look closely at **2:14**. We do not know if an individual will repent or not, but it should not hinder our abilities to pray, fast, repent, seek God’s face, His favor, etc.
7. A weeping between the porch and altar. There has got to be an awakening to stand in the gap, interceding for this generation.

We need some Warriors of Prayer (Examples of prayer):

In **Luke's** Gospel:

Text	Prayer	Significant Event
1:5-20	Prayer of Zacharias	Announcement of John's birth
3:21-22	Jesus prays at His baptism	Father appears, speaks (3:21-22)
4:42	Jesus' private prayer	Galilean ministry (4:43ff.)
6:12	Jesus in prayer	Choosing the twelve disciples
9:18	Jesus in prayer	The great confession
9:28-29	Jesus in prayer	The transfiguration

In the Book of **Acts**:

Text	Prayer	Significant Event
1:14	Disciples in prayer	Pentecost
4:31	Prayer of church	Powerful witness in Jerusalem
7:59-60	Stephen's prayer	Saul's conversion
9:11	Saul in prayer	Saul's sight regained and filled with Holy Spirit
10, 11	Prayer of Peter, Cornelius	Gospel spreads to Gentiles
12:5	Church in prayer for Peter	Peter's release
13:1-3	Fasting & Prayer	First missionary journey
16:25	Prison prayers	Earthquake, release, conversion of jailer

It can be safely said that Luke places a heavy emphasis on prayer. He is careful to link prayer with great manifestations of God's grace and power. We can hardly overstate the need for prayer today, nor can we overstate the lack of diligence of the church to pray as we ought. As the apostle James put it,

You do not have, because you do not ask God

James 4:2

We must people of prayer, as our Lord was marked by His prayers.

What will it take?

If Jesus is God's Messiah, the King who was appointed not only to die for man's sins, but the King who will come subdue His enemies, then we had better listen to Him now.

“For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “‘The Lord said to my lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”’ Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ” **Acts 2:34-36**

If you have not come to recognize Jesus as God’s King, then you are His enemy. Peter reminds us from the Scriptures, He is coming again to punish those enemies. The application for you is exactly the same as that which Peter made to his audience:

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God may call”

Acts 2:38-39

- "Why do they blow the Shofar?...in order to confound Satan"
- It is believed that the many blast of the Shofar would confuse Satan and put him on the run!
- Hallelujah! Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord is coming, for it is at hand.

Joel 2:1

1. To herald the Lord's descent and the giving of Law at Mount Sinai (**Exodus 19:16,19**)
2. To usher in the Feast of Trumpets, known today as Rosh Hashanah (**Numbers 29:1**)
3. To herald the Day of Atonement, or Yom Kippur (**Leviticus 25:9**)
4. To announce the Year of Jubilee (**Leviticus 25:10**)
5. To usher in the Ark of the Lord (**2 Samuel 6:15**)
6. To be sounded when a king was anointed (**1 Kings 1:34**)
7. To rally troops (**Nehemiah 4:18**)
8. To announce God's presence and to praise and worship Him (**Psalms 47:5, 98:6, 150:3; Isaiah 18:3, 27:13; Revelation 1:10**)
9. To call people to repentance (**Isaiah 58:1; Hosea 8:1; Joel 2:1**)
10. To sound the alarm for war (**Jeremiah 4:19, 21**)
11. To sound a warning of danger (**Amos 2:2**)
12. To call the assembly together to repentance and fasting (**Joel 2: 1, 15**)
13. Blown by the Lord (**Zechariah 9:14**)
14. Blown by angels (**Matthew 24:31; Revelation 8:2**)
15. Blown at the return of Yeshua (**1 Thessalonians 4:16**)

I urge you, if you have not acknowledged your sins, your rebellion against God, and trusted in Jesus as your sin-bearer, then do so today, for a day will come when you must acknowledge Him as God’s King.

- Remember that **Joel 2:1** said, "**Blow ye the trumpet...sound an alarm.**"
- The word alarm has a definition that means:
 1. To shout, raise a sound, cry out, give a blast
 2. To shout a war-cry or alarm of battle
 3. To shout in triumph (over enemies)
 4. To shout in applause
 5. To shout (with religious impulse)
 6. To cry out in distress
 7. To shout for joy

Prophecy

Watchmen why do you slumber?

Watchmen why do you stray from your post?

Do you not know the hour is near and the last watch is at hand?

Watchmen - keep watch - be faithful - be alert

Watch out that no one deceives you

Do not be alarmed

Stand firm to the end

Be ready

Be prepared to sound the alarm

Do not be afraid

Nor be silent

Though they may cut you down they cannot take your life

Though they may spit on you and harass you they cannot condemn you

Nor can they keep you or harm you

They cannot touch a hair on your head without Me allowing it

They cannot take you from My presence

For I have paid the price and you have been set free

This world has no hold on you

Do not fear in the midst of adversity

Do not fear in the face of the adversary

Sound the alarm

And gather My saints together

Sound the alarm and prepare the troops

Sound the alarm and know that I am with you always

Yes, always

Therefore be watchful

be alert

for you are living in deceiving times

What is evil is called good

What is good is called evil

Be watchful, lest you, yourself fall away by your own desires

Stand united and stand firm

Though it may seem dark the darkness cannot devour you for you are light

Speak watchmen, what do you see?

Warn the people
Sound the alarm
Speak watchmen, what do you hear?
No longer will you keep silent
But speak the Word of the Lord
And allow My people to be set free
The House of the Lord is being held in captivity
My people have been raped and prostituted
Plundered and oppressed
Stand attention watchmen
What do you hear?
Break the silence with a blast from the Shofar
Break the silence with the voice of truth
Let My watchmen be silent no more
Blow the trumpet in Zion and declare the Word of the Lord!
Be still no more watchmen - but declare the works of the Lord!