

# *A Revival is Coming*



An aged woman, a member of my church, whom I frequently met, always appeared to me to have a more than common interest in the prosperity of religion; and whenever I saw her she had something to say in respect to the success of the gospel. Her heart appeared to be bound up in the welfare of the church. She would often inquire, “are any of our young people coming to Christ?”

One day as I was passing her house she called me in. Says she, “I asked you to come in here because I wanted to tell you a Revival is coming.”

“How do you know that?” said I.

“We shall have a Revival here,” says she “before another year is past.”

“How do you know that?” said I.

“Dear me,” says she, “now don’t think me one of that sort of folks, who think themselves particular favorites of the Lord, as if they were inspired; I’m none of that sort, by a great deal. but I have got faith, and I have got eyes and ears, and I believe in prayer. Perhaps you may think me too certain, but I tell you a Revival is coming, and I don’t know it by any miracle either, or because I am any better than other people, or nearer to God. But, for this good while, every day when I have been out in my garden, I have heard that old deacon,” (pointing to his house,) “at prayer up in his chamber, where he thinks nobody hears him. The window is open just a little way off from my garden, and I hear him praying there every day. He is not able to leave his house much you know, because he

has got only one leg; but if he can't work he can pray; and his prayers will be answered. I am sure a Revival is coming, and I should not be surprised if some of his children should be converted. I am not so foolish as to think I am a prophet, or to think I know the secrets of the Lord. I am none of your fanatics. But remember, I tell you a Revival is coming. God answers prayer. You will see."

A Revival did come. Before a year from that time more than a hundred persons in that congregation were led to indulge the hope, that they had been "born of the Spirit." Among them were a son and a daughter of that old man of prayer, and a grandson of this woman who "believed in prayer."

There was no miracle or inspiration in this aged woman's confidence. She employed only faith, and her own careful observation. "God answers prayer," says she; and she had noticed that earnest prayer was offered, such as had prevailed before.

She was not so singular as she supposed. Others expressed the same confidence, and about the same time, and for a similar reason. One of them said to me, "I notice how they pray, at the prayer-meeting in the school-house up Bridge Street, every Tuesday night." God does answer prayer.

Much that is foolish, fanatical and wicked, has been preached and published about prayer for Revivals, within the last twenty-five years. Men have maintained that the prayer of faith will produce a Revival at any time, and in any place. And the prayers which have been offered on that principle have sometimes been shocking to contemplate; while the fanatical "Revivals," (so-called,) which have followed them, have done inconceivable mischiefs. A spurious spirit has crept into the church, and spurious conversions have deceived many. Said a minister of no small notoriety to his congregation, "they accuse me of trying to get up a Revival here, and I am going to get up a Revival here, so help me my Maker." Horrible! How unlike the gospel—how unlike the humble spirit of reliance and faith!