

## **TRAVAILING FOR SOULS**

**John 3:3-7; Proverbs 11:30; Psalm 126:5-6; Isaiah 66:8**

**Introduction:** Men never know the pain, agony, tears, travail that women go through to give birth although they can be there to do what they can. There are trials in life other than child birth that bring tears, agony, pain and travail. God's Word reminds us that the same thing happens a spiritual sense in relation to God.

### **I. THERE MUST BE TRAVAIL BEFORE SPIRITUAL BIRTH**

- 1 . History reveals times of travail before spiritual birth:
  - Israel being in Slavery
  - Nehemiah and the walls of Jerusalem
  - David and Israel
  - The Disciples in the Upper Room
  - The great reformation and Martin Luther
  - Every great revival
  - Jesus before every major event
  - Souls that need to be saved today
  
2. Why must there be travail?
  - God has so ordained it.
  - It is for our (one's) own good (brings patience, faith, Christ-likeness, no labor-no birth).
  - It qualifies for proper care of the new-born. (wanted, expected, planned for).
  - It gives all the glory to God. (only God brings about the new-birth).
  
3. How does travail start?
  - When two or three become distressed over the lost.
  - When others are drawn by the Holy Spirit.
  - Leaders begin to volunteer to reach out to their community. (all moved by the Holy Spirit).

### **II. TRAVAIL BRINGS SURPRISING RESULTS**

1. The results will be quick, rapid. (Sometimes even while one is still praying).
2. The results will be great. (Idleness and unbelief replaced with travail).

### **III. TRAVAIL AND ITS RESULTS ARE GREATLY NEEDED TODAY**

1. Our country is perishing.
  - There is no hope while the Church is idle.
  - Blessings will come through Christ's Church.
  
2. The powers of evil are ever active.
  - Satan never rests or sleeps, although the "plough" of the church is rusts.
  - Christ's Church **MUST WAKE UP** to the evil around it.

3. When a Church is not travailing for souls, trouble is within it.
  - A Church must bear fruit or die. No time for problems and pouting members.
  - Lost people are not drawn to an idle Church, for it has nothing to offer.
4. God is not glorified (the worst of all).
  - No travail equals no births and no births equals no glory for God. Just what is God interested in more?
  - Ever Church needs to be know as a TRAVAILING Church.

#### **IV. TROUBLES WILL COME TO THOSE WHO HINDER TRAVAIL**

1. Worldly Christians hinder travail.
  - Christians living in "secret" sin.
  - Christians who are careless about spiritual matters.
  - Christians who bear little, poor quality fruit are useless to the Holy Spirit.
2. Christians who distract the Church from travail will suffer.
  - The only business of the Church is SOULS.
  - The Church is not a community catch-all center (seminars, tours, non-spiritual activities, etc.)
  - The Church is not a recreational facility.
  - The Church is not a political organization.
  - The ONLY function of the Church is WINNING SOULS.
3. Christians who do not share in the travail of their Church will have troubles.
  - Not all Christians cause trouble, but many do not travail nor agonize over souls.
  - The Church is like the four men who carried their friend to Jesus on a blanket - everyone must help carry the responsibility of travail.
  - If YOU don't travail for souls, then you are HINDERING the others who do.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. The "Law of Direct Proportion" applies to TRAVAIL and Souls - as much that is put in, that much shall be returned.
2. Are some people still lost because YOU have not travailed over them?
3. God honors and rewards those who travail for lost souls.
4. What is the soul of a member of your own family or friend worth to you? If that soul is lost, will you not begin to TRAVAIL, agonize, cry out to God, day and night for that lost family member or/and friend?
5. Have you ever travailed over anything?