

### **Praying for the Lost**

D.L. Moody was one of the most influential evangelists in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His entire evangelistic strategy was prayer. He prayed daily for a list of people he kept. Why is it so difficult to pray daily, 365 days of the year, for the lost?

### **Prayer Gives Birth to New Life**

“The mysterious, long, and slow process of spiritual birth is seeded by prayer.” -the life of Elijah

**Scene 1 The Church on Fire** – Elijah proposes to King Ahab to test the power of his false god Baal against the true God of Israel. Water is the most precious commodity during these 3 years of drought. He has them pour 4 large jars of water onto the offering. What does this symbolize?

Elijah prays – “Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.” What was the people’s reaction when God sent fire to burn up the sacrifice, the wood, the stone, the soil, and licked up the water in the trench? What would you and your church be like if it were “on fire” for God?

### **Scene 3 The City Reborn**

Elijah tells King Ahab to celebrate and then goes to the high ground. He tells his servant to watch the sea seven times. Then the storm came with the rain. God does not dream of a church “on fire”, but rather pouring His Holy Spirit upon it, creating a church reborn.

### **Scene 2 The Mountain of Prayer**

Elijah went to the mountain, bent down to the ground, and put his face between his knees. This is a particular detail in the Bible. Why is this detailed description of prayer mentioned?

“Elijah metaphorically gets into the position of a woman in labor, beginning to push...there is a kind of prayer that gives birth to new life.”

### **There Is a Kind of Prayer That Gives Birth to New Life**

The Hebrew word “tohu” – formless, barren.

“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.” What other stories in the Bible follow this pattern of birth or rebirth?

Jesus said: **“Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”**

“Within them” – Greek word “koilia” which means “womb”. We are the womb which God’s spirit inhabits to create new life. Have you ever thought of yourself as the womb for the rebirth of the unsaved? For them to be “born again”.

Praying for the salvation of the unsaved can be slow and unglamorous. Are we willing to pray constantly, arduously, and without confirmation for the unsaved?