

THE STORY OF JOHN SUNG 1901- 1944



John's father was a poor Chinese Methodist evangelist in SE China. Revival broke out! At age 9 John Sung was convicted of sin and received Jesus. He soon had a great love for God's Word and a passion for prayer and preaching. He had a great intellect and at age 19 he came to America to study the Sciences and then earned three degrees in 5 years even though he had to work to earn money. He then was asked to return to China to take a lucrative position with the government. But God spoke to him through Mark 8:36;

'What will it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?'

He decided to attend Union Theological Seminary instead. (It really was a cemetery, as their liberal teaching nearly killed his faith in God). He says: 'My soul wandered in a wilderness. I could neither sleep nor eat. My faith was like a leaking, storm driven ship without a captain or compass. My heart was filled with the deepest unhappiness.' At this low point he went to a church and heard the gospel again and 1 Corinthians 1:19 came to his mind; **'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise...'**. Back at Seminary he stopped going to classes and returned to the Bible he had neglected. One night in February 1927 at midnight, while crying and praying for peace, he heard the words, **'Son, your sins are forgiven.'** Relief came and he shouted Hallelujah! He ran through the dorm walls shouting and praising God. The next day his professors and others heard about his transformation. John Sung told them that their theological books were of demons and he burned them! The Seminary had him sent to a mental institution to get some rest for six weeks. At one point they put him in a dangerous ward with maniacs. God spoke to John that he would have to endure this treatment for 193 days in order to learn to bear the cross and to walk the pathway of obedience to Golgotha. During this time John was then allowed to return to his original private room. **During those 193 days, John Sung read through the Bible 40 times.** He was freed after 193 days, just as God had revealed to him earlier.

He would later refer to the date of his discharge from the mental institution as the day he received his highest degree. On the ship back to China, John threw out all of his awards and diplomas except for his doctorate degree, which he retained to satisfy his father. He devoted the rest of his short life to pleasing his heavenly Father. He became a powerful evangelist who won hundreds of thousands to Christ for the next 15 years. He tapped into God's power. Every morning he prayed at 5 AM for 2-3 hours. He prayed until sweat poured down his face as prayer for him was like a battle. At times he would literally collapse upon his bed and uncontrollably weep and sob under the burden of travailing prayer. To him, prayer was the most important work of a believer. **He defined faith as watching God work while on your knees.** He was a flame for God with purity and power. He saw great miracles of healing and true repentance and sometimes even called out specific sins in the people. Some called him an apostolic evangelist and the John Wesley of China. He was a prophet midst the great Chinese Revival of 1927-1937. Few people have heard of John Sung but God knows him and great is his reward in heaven.

Compiled by John Beckerink January 2022