

A Spiritual Coma

OUT OF THE WORD

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I think that you would agree that human vital signs are the most important part of our bodily make-up. Blood pressure, pulse rate, bodily temperature, and breathing rate are what God has created within us to sustain life. These ABCs (airway, breathing, and circulation) not only help assess the general physical health of a person but also gives clues to possible diseases or if a person is starting to recover from a disease or distress. Just as the physical vital signs are important to regulate what might be going on, so too do we have spiritual vital signs that need to be examined as well (2 Cor. 13:5). In The past few months, I have experienced something in my life that has been a double-edged sword. On the one side, a radical transformation has taken place for deeper passion and lovesickness for Jesus Christ (Song of Solomon 2:5-6) and on the other, I abhor the thought of having more church services. A deep craving has occurred from within at a more penetrating compacity to see God bring a breakthrough in the churches and in the lives of Christians who bear the name Christ. What is it going to take for the modern-day church to say, "I would rather die than merely tread lite water and continue talking about how there is power in the Bible and that there is power in the Holy Spirit." but never see it in our personal lives, families, or church ministries? I believe the answer is that we don't have a clue how to pray. Yeshua never taught His disciples how to preach fancy sermons, He only taught them to pray (Luke 11:1). Prayer is the source of the Christian life. A person can dress up a baby doll with fancy clothes all day long, but that baby isn't breathing. I challenge you, Christian, to strike up a spiritual conversation with someone sitting next to you in the pew this Sunday, better yet even ask your elders and preachers, "So hey brother...tell me, how has the Lord been speaking to you this week in His written Word and through private travailing secret prayer?" You will get a blank stare or within a few seconds, the conversation will transition to the weather, politics, or sports programs. It does no good to talk to someone in a comatose state. Could this be the reason why a church can have the greatest teaching but is producing limited results? If those that are listening to the teaching have flat vital signs or are in a state of coma, then what is the point? How can a church claim "*New Testament Christians*" if we don't have a prayer life? The fourth great hallmark of the early church was prayer. I don't see how that was limited to brother Earl standing on the third and praying for sister Irene's broken toe. Now, I'm not picking fun at anyone (I'm sorry if these are your names- not aiming this at anyone in particular), but I thank you get the point. "*They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer*" (Acts 2:42). We can see that prayer is almost proof of a Church's regularity. What if we would boast more of our prayer meetings or corporate church prayer than our church attendance? Look what Satan has done, he has tempted us to place those religious signs that say how many we had in attendance on the wall of the church. What if we said instead, "here is how many called fire down from heaven last Thursday night at the prayer meeting!" We boast of having the correct doctrine, lots of kids' games for the youth, and massive attendance, but a spirit of brokenness and calling on Yahweh through traveling prayer- big negative. Check the vital signs. As Lenard Ravenhill said, "the secret to praying, is praying in secret." O Yahweh, strengthen our hands for prayer (Nehemiah 6:9). You can know the Word of God without knowing The God of the Word. May God give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. That our eyes of our heart may be enlightened so that you will know what is the hope

of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints in Jesus Christ. (Eph. 1:17-18).