

Not Dead But Asleep

Once while serving in North West India I witnessed an old woman being carried up two flights of stairs so that she could attend some of our meetings. She looked pretty sick, and I admired her determination for I could see that it took quite an effort for her to be there. Later, as I was going through the crowd of people praying for the sick, a messenger came to me and said the woman had died. As soon as the words left his mouth I heard in my right ear a voice saying, "*She is not dead, but sleepeth*".

Now, I do not normally think thoughts in King James English - but the spirit spoke to me in such a manner in order to make a point clear to me. Just as Jesus did in Mark 5:39 I went to pray for her. I was taken to her body laying on the floor with no signs of life left in her. I first said to her "you are not dead but sleeping" to which the witnesses standing around all looked at me incredulously. I next rejected all doubt and rebuked the spirit of death and commanded life back into her. Still there were no signs of life. Finally, after praying, I had two leaders lift her up. As they got her to a slumping but erect position - she gasped for air and life seemed to flood back into her.

Recently our President has been proclaiming that our country is no longer a Christian nation. Newsweek proclaimed that God is dead and predicted the death of Christianity in America. Some say they are only proclaiming what they see. When Mark Twain's obituary was mistakenly published in the newspapers, the famous author wired in the words, "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." So it may be with the church in America. She is not dead, but sleeping. Something is coming which will jolt her from her stupor and The Spirit will come back into her.

An interesting side note on the woman I prayed for in India. When her breath returned to her so did her youth. What looked like an old woman carried into the building, was in reality a young woman in her 20's. When she was revived without the infirmities she looked young again. May it also be so for the church in America when she arises, awakes and shines - may it also be with renewal and vigor. (Rev 3:2, 3)

"These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: 'I know your works, that you have a name, that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die..'"

July 4, 2009