



## The Trumpet Call

*Blow a trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly; gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and the nursing infants, let the bridegroom come out of his room and the bride out of her bridal chamber.*

*Joel 2:15-16*

What would it take to truly wake up the Church today? I shudder to think of it. I think about the statistics of the wildfire growth of the church in persecuted countries, the true and deep faith developed and lived out where the very act of that faith is cause for death. Persecution breeds warriors for God, those who believe so truly the message of the Gospel that they are willing to stake their lives on it. Indeed they embody Paul's words to the church at Colossae, "For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3).

We see none of that in the US. Even those who have truly repented, truly surrendered their lives to God are infected by the insidious depravity that blankets our land. We take things for granted. We assume that our local church will be there next Sunday if we don't go this one. We assume that our Bible will be there tomorrow if we don't read it today. We assume that God will listen to us later if we don't have time to come before Him now. We're complacent. We're self-centered and lazy. Because this country was founded on faith in Christ, we expect it now to be handed to us, to not only be spoon-fed the words of God but to have those words already dissected into small, bite-sized portions. Noteworthy sayings, sound bites and tweetable phrases. But they do not reach our hearts.

What will it take to wake us up? The call to arms in the feature verses above spoke to my heart this morning. Consecrate, proclaim, gather, sanctify, assemble. From old to young, from every walk of life, from every household, tribe, and tongue, gather together before the Lord your God and consecrate yourselves. Throw yourselves on His mercy. Repent before the Righteous Judge. Repent of your own sins, and the sins of your family, the sins of your community, your county, your state and your country. See the reality of those sins and mourn. See the reality of a Holy God and weep.

Wake up. Fall on your knees before the throne of grace and realize your desperate need, your decayed state, your weakness and your sin. Hear the trumpet call to repentance, to surrender, to service. We are treading dangerous ground in our country. We are skipping around the borders of the mercy of God. Above all God desires our hearts; if He must remove our purses to get to them, then so be it. He desires our service to Himself; if He must remove our freedom to spark it, then so be it. He desires our humbleness; if He must bring us to our knees to reach it, then so be it. Heed the warning call.

*Father, humble our hearts before You. Spark true repentance, weeping and mourning among Your people. Wake us up, Lord. Cause us to follow You above all, to love You above all, to heed Your warning words. Let us not forget You are Righteous and Holy, and the Authority to which we answer.*