

## A Rees Howells Company

---

Introduction: As we begin the Howells Initiative, it is important to begin to understand not just who Rees Howells was but also what his story exemplifies for us today. A closer look at his inspiring story reveals more than just one man taking on the world. An entire company of like-minded people comes into focus.

God is bringing together distinct groups of believers who will contend for spiritual breakthroughs on earth. He is giving them grace for unity that bridges diversity, a commitment that overcomes compromise, and revelation that silences their critics.

When we talk about developing a culture of contending prayer, there are a few qualities to reach for as we seek to be effective in God's calling.

### I. A REES HOWELLS COMPANY IS A GROUP WHO CONSECRATE THEMSELVES IN THEIR GENERATION

- A. Every generation needs fiery messengers and prophets who will reject the status quo of compromise and put holiness on display as a beacon of hope to all those deceived by the spirit of the age.
- B. God sets people apart for His special purposes. He is looking for those who will accept their God-given assignment and not treat it as optional. Many people treat the assignments of the Lord as suggestions instead of mandates.

*If you would do the best with your life, find out what God is doing in your generation and throw yourself wholly into it. –Arthur Wallis*

- C. God is looking for people who will accept their assignment, not treat it as an optional thing.

***<sup>6</sup> And the angel of the Lord solemnly assured Joshua, <sup>7</sup> "Thus says the Lord of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge [watch, assignment], then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here. (Zec 3:6-7 ESV)***

***<sup>22</sup> And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup> But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. (Ac 20:22-24 ESV)***

*The world became our parish and we were led to be responsible to intercede for countries and nations.<sup>1</sup> –Rees Howells*

*Was there anywhere else in the whole of Britain, or America, or elsewhere among God's people another such company, maybe a hundred strong, who were on their knees day by day holding fast the victory by faith while soldiers across the water were retreating mile by mile, whole countries surrendering, and the enemy within sight of their goal? [during World War II]<sup>2</sup> –Norman Grubb*

- D. Before massive movements take place when countless people are swept into a move of God, He raises up forerunners to make a way where there is no way. These forerunners are the countercultural dreamers who defy stereotypes and stand in stark contrast to the culture of compromise around them.

***And I raised up some of your sons for prophets, and some of your young men for Nazirites. Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel?" declares the Lord. (Am 2:11 ESV)***

*I was just thirty years old... I told the Holy Spirit I knew of no one who had been called to such a thing in this generation [Nazirite consecration].<sup>3</sup> –Rees Howells*

## II. A REES HOWELLS COMPANY IS A GROUP WHO PRIORITIZES PRAYER

- A. Jesus' disciples knew what they needed most. They didn't ask to be taught how to be better leaders or be more eloquent speakers. They asked him how to pray.

***Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." (Lk 11:1 ESV)***

*Prayer does not fit us for the greater works; prayer is the greater work.<sup>4</sup> – Oswald Chambers*

*History belongs to the intercessor.<sup>5</sup> –Walter Wink*

*Intercession is the supreme vocation. –Lou Engle*

- B. Do you know how to move heaven?

*The highest form of Christian service is intercessory prayer. The high water mark of spiritual experience is an intercessory life. I care not how emphatically you may boast of your spiritual experience and of the special gifts you have received, your ministry is void of power in the sight of God if you know not how to intercede on behalf of others. The Throne life is what counts.<sup>6</sup> –Samuel Howells*

## III. A REES HOWELLS COMPANY IS A GROUP WHO PURSUES THE HIGHER PURPOSES OF UNITY AND AGREEMENT WITH EACH OTHER

- A. The Lord has called you to be *corporately* effective and not just *individually* successful. Power in prayer is released through corporate agreement. There are a lot of prayer people out there who “fly solo” because of offense in their heart toward leaders and other brethren. Division and offense ultimately limit your effectiveness in prayer.

***<sup>18</sup> Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” (Mt 18:18-20 ESV)***

- B. The great need for corporate agreement cannot be overemphasized. It is the operational requirement for the effective church, and yet it is often the missing element in most endeavors.

*The constitution of a community is more important than the passion of its worship or the fervency of its prayers. –Lou Engle*

- C. Unity is essential regardless of the size or scale of your group. Jesus related it to as few as only two people (he knew how difficult it actually is). Imagine the potential if larger groups—whole churches—pressed in for supernatural unity.
- D. Agreement in prayer is something we must contend for and a precious thing that must be fiercely guarded. This is not to create any sense of being exclusive or elite within the body of Christ. Instead, it reflects a desire to be most effective in our God-given assignments.

*Samuel was also careful concerning whom he prayed with at the College. Moses had to pray outside the camp (Exodus 33:7), when the multitudes were not in faith. Inviting untested strangers into “an intercessory prayer meeting,” to pray with those who had surrendered all seemed to be inconsistent with the principles of full surrender and the life of abiding. How could they have the faith of God operating through them, if they had never surrendered and invited the Holy Spirit to believe through them? How could visitors only pray the prayers of the Holy Spirit, if they had never met Him personally? How could an unholy or compromised believer become one with a prayer of the Holy Spirit?<sup>7</sup> –Richard Maton*

- E. Despite the church’s efforts to promote relationships, many people fail to develop close ties and personal bonds that hold them accountable. This kind of isolation must intentionally end because it prevents you from engaging in the corporate mission you are called to.

- F. Even though it is largely misunderstood and mocked by fearful critics, God is raising up expressions of communal living for the purpose of unique effectiveness. Living in a community is the quickest way to expose petty differences, wrestle through prejudices, and be quickly humbled in moments of pride and arrogance. While this kind of living arrangement may not be for everyone, it is entirely appropriate and necessary in some missions.
- G. Being in a community accelerates the process of coming to agreement. Choosing to voluntarily submit yourself to that kind of environment will allow you to get into agreement more quickly and effectively.
- H. Conflict, offense, and unforgiveness are massive hindrances to answered prayer. Contending for a godly community is essential for effective prayer.
- I. In other words, you need to know who you can go to *lunch* with and who you can go to *war* with.

#### IV. A REES HOWELLS COMPANY IS A GROUP WHO PURSUES THE COUNSEL OF THE LORD

- A. There is a big difference between having a good idea and having a “God idea.”  
***<sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. <sup>17</sup> They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”<sup>18</sup> For who among them has stood in the council [council or counsel] of the Lord to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? (Je 23:16-18 ESV)***
- B. You're invited into the company of the throne room to participate in the conversation and the deliberation. Intercessors are invited into a council room where they get to eavesdrop on the conversation of the Trinity.  
***<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple... <sup>8</sup> And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” (Is 6:1, 8 ESV)***
- C. God releases prophetic insight and information to those who are close to Him.  
***“For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.” (Am 3:7 ESV)***

***Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command. (1 Chr 12:32 ESV)***

***If they are prophets, and if the word of the Lord is with them, then let them intercede with the Lord of hosts, that the vessels that are left in the house of the Lord, in the house of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem may not go to Babylon. (Je 27:18 ESV)***

- D. What's needed most right now is a church functioning more as a prophetic witness than a corporation with a well-executed business plan.
- E. King David learned the hard way that the "God idea" could be very different from a good idea. The unique presence of God could not be carried by the worldly idea he borrowed from the Philistines—placing the ark of God on an ox cart. Disaster and delay were the result of his leadership when he failed to inquire of the Lord.

***<sup>7</sup> And they carried the ark of God on a new cart, from the house of Abinadab, and Uzzah and Ahio were driving the cart... <sup>12</sup> And David was afraid of God that day, and he said, "How can I bring the ark of God home to me?" <sup>13</sup> So David did not take the ark home into the city of David, but took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. <sup>14</sup> And the ark of God remained with the household of Obed-edom in his house three months. And the Lord blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that he had. (1 Chr 13:7, 12-14 ESV)***

## **V. A REES HOWELLS COMPANY IS A GROUP WHO WILL IMPACT NATIONAL AND WORLD EVENTS**

- A. Many local churches rarely extend their vision beyond the families of their own congregations. Larger churches or mega-churches might talk about having a city-wide reach. We usually look to the largest organizations with the most plentiful resources, and we leave it to them to have the larger assignments.
- B. We all need to get delivered of this wrong mindset: that you have to be big to have a big impact.
- C. You can be small by anyone's standard of measurement, with no resources or finances, but still have "a world vision."
- D. Small is the new big!

- E. The Bible College of Wales is an inspiring example. They were small by any standard of measurement with scarce resources and nonexistent finances. However, they corporately were baptized with a world vision.

*During the four years previous to the outbreak of World War II, as we have already seen, the Lord was changing the burden on Rees Howells from local concerns—centering on the development of the college—to national and international affairs.<sup>8</sup> -Norman Grubb*

---

<sup>1</sup> Grubb, Norman. *Rees Howells: Intercessor*. Fort Washington: Christian Literature Crusade, 1952.

<sup>2</sup> Grubb.

<sup>3</sup> Grubb.

<sup>4</sup> Chambers, Oswald. "Greater Works." *My Utmost for His Highest*, <https://utmost.org/classic/greater-works-classic/>.

<sup>5</sup> Wink, Walter. *Engaging the Powers: Discernment and Resistance in a World of Domination*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

<sup>6</sup> Maton, Richard. *Samuel Rees Howells: A Life of Intercession*. ByFaith Media, 2012.

<sup>7</sup> Maton.

<sup>8</sup> Grubb.