



the Roar of the Tiger

Kathleen
Dillard

What I learned about life and
prayer from Leonard Ravenhill.



**THE ROAR OF THE TIGER –
LEONARD RAVENHILL'S PRAYER LIFE**

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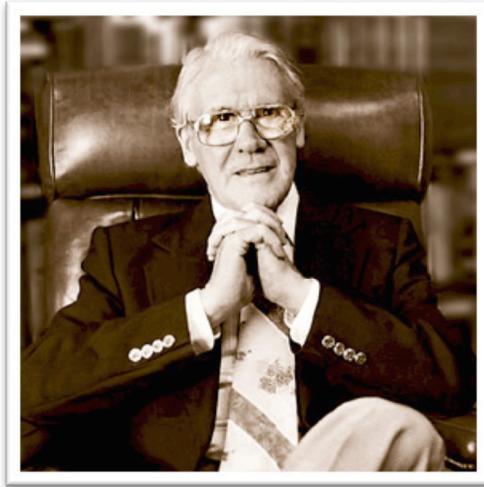
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Take it to the King

with Kathleen Dillard

ENCOUNTER GOD. IGNITE YOUR DESTINY.



THE ROAR OF THE TIGER – LEONARD RAVENHILL'S PRAYER LIFE

Lessons learned from my time with Leonard Ravenhill

“No one has to advertise a fire.” ~Leonard Ravenhill

If the Old Testament prophet Elijah had a brother, his name would be Leonard Ravenhill. Let me tell you how I met this powerful apostle of prayer.

Los Angeles, California, 1976. I was 20 years old and gripping my college diploma like a sword, ready to face the world with a B.A. in English Literature. I still had no idea what to do with my life. One day I was surprised to find a letter in my mailbox from my best friend that I'd met in college. The letter said: “I became a Christian. And I joined a Christian ministry.” She had partied a lot in college, so I knew she was serious when she talked about making Jesus the boss of her life. When she told me, “It's God's will for you to join this community too,” I thought she was in a cult. After all, this was California, a land known for cult leaders and compliant followers.

As soon as I visited her in Woodland Hills, California, I met the Christian musician named Keith Green ⁽¹⁾, who ran the ministry with his wife Melody ⁽²⁾. I could see this was the real deal. One afternoon while I was standing in a worship meeting, there the peace of Jesus encircled my seeking soul and enclosed me in a canopy of light. Everything was quiet and hushed on the inside. Oh, **THIS** was who I had been looking for. Not Buddha, not the Hindu gods but *Jesus!* Jesus' presence makes all the difference.

As my girlfriend had predicted, it was God's will for me to join Last Days Ministries. Everything was new to me! A glistening thread had pierced my gray existence, and now I was on an upward journey out of the “valley of the shadow of death.” Still, I wasn't

raised in a Christian home - not for the first 15 years of my life - so there was a lot of sudden changes in learning. But His peace lingered and remained over my tired heart, sweeping away some deep inner storms that left me for good.

In the late 70's and 80's the emphasis in Christianity was all about discipleship. So each day at our Christian community ended with Keith Green leading us in a Bible study and heartfelt worship that shook the roof.

The goal in this season was character development, repentance, and being *so clean* in your attitudes and actions that you shined before the sun rose in the morning.

It wasn't a lot about God's manifest Presence. It was more about the power of personal choices combined with a surge of the supernatural that kept you in your lane on the straight and narrow path.



After an intense night of prayer, Keith shared about the deep work of holiness God did in his heart.

(Photo courtesy of Terry Degraff)

One night a radical turn of events was ignited. Keith Green decided to stay up all night seeking God's face. He used the extensive list of personal repentance by the great revivalist Charles Finney to direct him in his time. (How to Repent, Sins of Omission and Commission.)

Bam. At 6 a.m. in the morning, Keith went and woke up Wayne Dillard (my late husband), saying: "Wayne, Wayne, get UP. God touched me last night and I had a big salvation experience." Being a true musician, it was Keith's habit to work all night in the studios and then go to bed around 5 a.m. When Keith was wide awake at 6:00 a.m., Wayne knew something was happening! So he jumped out of bed and they called everyone from our community houses together into one living room where we huddled together to hear the news.

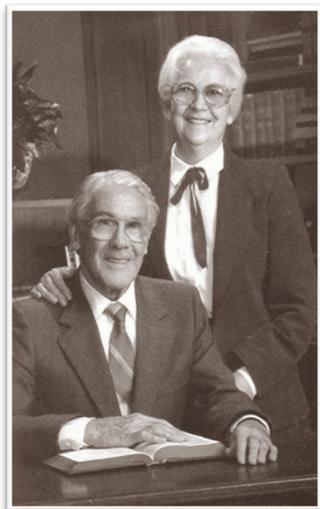
As Keith shared, the air became heavy with God's Holiness and it hovered over our heads. People began to weep. And in the weeks that followed, there was a deep scouring of our souls with conviction linked to repentance and restoration.

Day after day, the air glowed with the glory of people meeting Jesus. Every Friday night at our neighborhood potlucks people got *saved!* In fact, as Keith and Last Days folks did outreaches in high schools, colleges, and concerts, God's Spirit just rolled over people in wave after wave of salvation encounters. A visiting pastor said, "Hey - you guys are having a revival."

We didn't know what a revival was. Most of us did not come out of church backgrounds, so everything was unfamiliar and unexpected.

I should tell you that there were a handful of us who got baptized in intercessory prayer. Deep, radical cries of the heart arose from our small group for people who still needed a breakthrough with Jesus. Sometimes strong wailing and spontaneous prayer meetings arose solely by a sudden urge to PRAY. The Holy Spirit would supernaturally gather our small group of about 5-10 into our prayer room, which was a garage. And there we laid hold of God until a golden peace would burst in the room. The weeping would lift all of a sudden, and we knew we had gotten what we prayed for.

MEETING LEONARD & MARTHA RAVENHILL



About this time, someone told Keith Green: “You MUST meet Leonard Ravenhill. He’s an expert on revival, and you guys are having a revival.” Ravenhill was a stranger to us. We heard he had written a book, “Why Revival Tarries,” (4) but that’s all we knew.

Several months later, Keith and Melody Green met Leonard and Martha Ravenhill. The Ravenhills opened their arms and hearts taking both Keith and Melody and our whole Christian community into their embrace. This was an appointment with destiny, and they became our spiritual grandparents.

Leonard was a prophet and evangelist, plus an intercessor. He acted as an anchoring weight for Keith who was a musician, prophet, and evangelist. The Ravenhills became a sounding board for Keith and Melody as their ministry grew.

In the final day, the treasure of Leonard’s prayers will be revealed. And the role his prayers played in launching Last Days Ministries, as well as Keith and Melody’s music ministry, will be seen in the light.

As God would have it, when Last Days Ministries moved its headquarters from Los Angeles to East Texas, we were just walking distance from the Ravenhill’s tiny house on the East Texas prairies.



Kathleen (pictured upper left) and other LDM members enjoying the East Texas countryside.

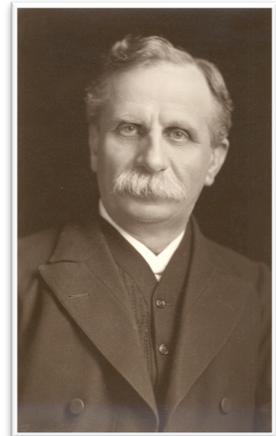
You Must Learn the Hymns!

One of the first things Leonard told us: “Unless you young people learn to sing the old hymns, I will not open my mouth to teach you.” *The old hymns?* “What are the old hymns?” We asked. Once we learned what the old hymns were, that hit some resistance in our “hang loose” California culture. He said, “Look, you will sing about salvation, about the rugged cross, about God’s throne and hope in Him alone.” Finally we gave in. Although it took some convincing by Leonard, we were so hungry for his teaching and leadership that we agreed. We even learned to love and sing the old hymns “till the stars themselves could hear us.”

Being in the same room with Leonard Ravenhill was like being swept up in a lightning storm. There was so much power, intensity, and radiant presence of God that He carried. You could see it on his face, hear it in his voice, and feel it when he was in a room.

He carried the fire of God in his heart for awakening in America. Just as John Knox cried, “Give me Scotland or I die,” Leonard carried the same desperate cry for the United States.

Leonard Ravenhill was from Britain and a student of famed Samuel Chadwick. Ravenhill lead revival meetings during World War II and had huge crowds that came under conviction. Many people got saved at his big tent gatherings and some dedicated themselves to foreign missions. (5) In 1950, Ravenhill and his family moved from Great Britain to the United States. They traveled across America working with A.W. Tozer and holding revival meetings in large tents. Leonard gave the rest of his life to see a spiritual awakening happen in America.



Samuel Chadwick lectured at Cliff College where Ravenhill received his ministry training. Chadwick wrote “The Way to Pentecost,” which went to print as he was dying in 1932.

Leonard Prayed 8 Hours a Day

When I heard that Leonard prayed eight hours a day, much of which was for revival in the United States, I didn’t believe it.

Since Last Days Ministries was down the street from the Ravenhills, I typically offered to go clean their house. One day, while I was busy dusting, I asked Martha: “Is it true that Leonard prays eight hours every day?” She smiled and pointed to the foot of their bed in the master-bedroom, “Oh yes dearie, he prays right there, everyday.” I looked at her and asked, “Do you also pray eight hours every day?” She looked at me and giggled. “Oh no dearie, I would never get anything done if I did that.”

Tea Time with Leonard and Martha

When I finished my house cleaning, the Ravenhills would sit me down at a table to enjoy tea time with them. Leonard wasn't much for dipping into small talk, so I always had a set of questions lined up to go along with our tea and sandwiches. I cherished these personal tea times and grew so fond of this couple. Though Leonard was intense, he was also patient and kind, so our tea times would pass like a sunny summer breeze bringing me insight and refreshment.

Leonard's Preaching

Leonard often preached and taught at Last Days Ministries (6) where our young Christian community sat, mesmerized under the piercing thunder of his voice. I grabbed and stashed many pearls of wisdom into my heart over those early years. His insights were keen, practical, and anointed. It helped me to rise above the constant pull of life's undercurrents.



And then there was the conviction. *Boom*. Leonard had a message titled, "The Judgment Seat of Christ." For me, this message stood head and shoulders above all of his other teachings, and was hands down the most powerful word I have ever heard in my 35 years of ministry life since then.

I cannot count the times I ran deep into the woods of East Texas to seek the face of God after that message. Tears streaming my face, heart in such agony I didn't even care about the poisonous copperheads and rattle snakes that lived there.

Let me share a bit of it with you from Leonard Ravenhill's article, "The Judgment Seat of Christ, the Judgement of Believers." (7):

"That final day is going to be awesome. Have you figured how you'll get on when you stand there? You and I will stand there alone on that day and be judged for every aspect of our lives - for our praying, our giving, our talking, and our doing.

We ought to live our lives conscious of eternity - ready to be cut off at any moment. If you were to stand before the Lord at this very moment, would you like your life story read by all the millions in eternity? None of the outcasts of hell are going to be there.

Won't it be wonderful - or will it? Or do you think you might shrink a bit when you hear how God used David Brainerd or John Wesley or some little washer-woman that had a life of intercession?

There's no burden too heavy, or no situation too hard for the one that you love. If we are love controlled, love motivated, and love energized, it will be all right when we stand up there, because if there's anything about love - it's obedient. We need to become a people who are baptized with obedience. We need to be submissive to the total will of God, not concerned about human opinion, and not asking for more to spend on ourselves. We need to say, 'Oh God, I want this life of mine to glorify You, so that when I stand in Your awesome presence, as John says, I shall not be ashamed at Your appearing.' (1 John 2:28)''

We began recording Leonard's teachings at Last Days Ministries and started getting many of them written into articles so we could share the wealth of the anointing with the Body of Christ around the world. You can still access these articles today at: www.lastdaysministries.com (8)

Prayer Meetings at the Brown's Farm House

Sometimes preachers like to talk about prayer, and then preach a lot and pray a little. That was not the case with Leonard Ravenhill. To hear him preach was to feel your bone marrow shrink from its casing. But to hear him pray was so fierce you wanted to hide your head and hold your breath so you didn't disturb his audience with God.

He knew God and he talked to God and when he prayed, you got to eavesdrop. And the surprising thing was you could hear God listening and there was this suspense of: "What's going to happen next?"

Leonard led a Friday night prayer meeting that became popular throughout the area. It was hosted by a lovely East Texas couple in their stonewall farm house, Dale and Betty Brown. About 50-100 of us would settle in the vaulted ceiling living room, finding a spot on the couches or the carpet. These were sacred times. Len started with a brief message from God's Word, then we would jump into prayer. There are several jewels of insight I collected during those teachings and I am not aware that he shared these in articles or other recorded messages anywhere. So, I'd like to share a handful of these jewels with you in a moment.

Once the prayer section of Friday night got rolling, we all had a chance to pray. I kept waiting for that moment when Leonard would open his mouth in prayer. And the stone walls themselves seemed to shake when he prayed. It wasn't the volume of his voice, it was the sheer authority he carried with God.



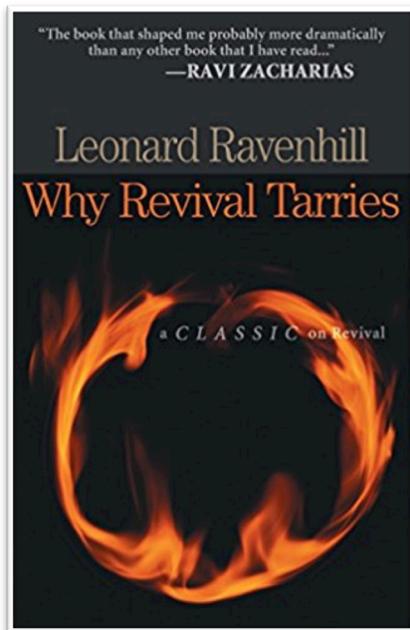
My late husband, Wayne, listens as Leonard's fierce prayers brought us in to the throne room of God.

(Photo courtesy of Terry Degraff)

Sometimes I wondered what the rest of us were doing when I compared Ravenhill's prayers with ours. We all seemed like little kittens in the presence of a towering tiger. Later Leonard addressed this and said, "It is not the mightiness of the prayers prayed that counts, what matters is the destination of those prayer. Into **WHOSE** presence do your prayers arrive?" Still, I thought, there's nothing that matches the roar of the tiger.

Prayer was the center of Leonard's life. If you haven't read his book, "Why Revival Tarries" (9), please take time to get a copy of that and dive in. Here are a few of my favorite quotes from Leonard on prayer that I thought you would enjoy.

I can still hear Leonard saying (10):



"No man, I don't care how colossal his intellect, no man is greater than his prayer life."

"A man who is intimate with God will never be intimidated by men."

"My main ambition in life is to be on the devil's most wanted list."

"The law of prayer is the law of harvest: sow sparingly in prayer, reap sparingly; sow bountifully in prayer, reap bountifully. The trouble is we are trying to get from our efforts what we never put into them."

"Prayer is not preparation for the battle; it is the battle!"

More Pearls

Leonard always shared revelation that he received fresh from his prayer closet with God. His insights left a deep mark. Our lives were transformed by these insights and the anointing they carried. Most of these teachings at the Friday night prayer meetings were not recorded so, I wanted to share a few treasures with you:

The Thermostat & the Thermometer

"You can either be a thermostat in your life or you can be a thermometer. A thermometer is the needle that goes up and down depending on outward circumstances. Whatever is happening on the outside, that needle is being pulled up or dropped by the temperature of outside events. However, it is different with the thermostat. The thermostat is set. It does not go up and down, but it determines what the environment will be, according to where it is set. The choice is yours. If you set yourself on Christ, you can determine the atmosphere no matter what is going on around you."

Don't let the Good Become the Enemy of the Best

“As you grow in Christ your ability to make an impact also grows. As this happens you need to be mindful not to allow good things to take precedence over the best things. This is one danger you must be aware of and intentional about. It is easy to be so busy with good things, that they override your ability to do the very best things.”

God is a Father, not a Grandfather

“Many are looking for God to be a Grandfather, slightly forgetful, doting and spoiling. As A.W. Tozer used to say, ‘God is a Father, he is not a Grandfather.’ You must understand that a Father brings you into account for your actions; he holds you responsible for your capacity and his calling on your life. A Father is not forgetful but alert. You have a father in God but you do not have a grandfather.”

This Life is Dress Rehearsal for Eternity

“The life you are living is nothing else but dress rehearsal for eternity. You are preparing to meet the King of everything. One day you will stand before Him. Will you be ready?”

Will you make the most of your life down here so you will be prepared for your life on eternity's side?”

The Mantle

The spirit of prayer that Leonard carried hit me hard and etched a tattoo on my soul: PRAY. There were times when I could almost hear Jesus Himself praying during my quiet times. Since the Bible says, “He lives ever to make intercession for us,” I was sure I had an audience with God when I prayed. And Leonard's words and example sealed that as an enduring reality in my life.



A mantle represents the authority of God to carry out His purposes. In Bible times, a cloak represented a prophet's mantle.

I was about 25 years old and had been married for two years, when God shocked me one night during prayer. I was out in a little bungalow that was set aside for prayer on our East Texas property, praying up a storm. When suddenly, the Lord spoke to me and said, “I want you to go ask Leonard Ravenhill who he is passing his mantle on to when he goes to heaven.”

Gulp. “But Lord”, I argued, “This is **Leonard Ravenhill!**” Then God answered, “And Who am I?”

In the 1980's the focus was on personal discipleship. So the teachings, books, workbooks and bible studies all leaned in that direction. There was NO talk about mantles and not much emphasis on mentoring either. Passing a mantle was an unusual idea indeed (see 2 Kings 2; Elijah passing his mantle to Elisha).

One thing I understood from all my discipleship from Ravenhill and Keith Green was that obedience was not optional. It was YES or NO - but HE wasn't your Lord if you didn't listen to Him.

So, I went to my amazing husband Wayne Dillard and did some begging. "Honey lovest thou me-est?" I got a bit King James and said, "Please, please, please wilt thou comest with me to talk to Leonard!" And he said, "Yes, I will come with you but I am not talking." His presence and God's was everything I could hope for.



Wayne & I in the early years of our marriage.

Once I set up the appointment with Leonard and Martha they laid out their customary British teatime and gathered us around the table. I had called for a meeting with them so without much delay I said, "Leonard while I was praying the Lord asked me to ask you a question: who are you passing your mantle on to?" He looked startled and then said, "No one, dearie." That, however, ignited the conversation and he spoke about issues related to this idea and moved into some other thoughts as well. I really had nothing else in the whole world to say to this towering spiritual giant except, "Thank you for your hospitality."

I obeyed. And I walked out of that afternoon with a great sense of relief. One month went by and I was out at the little prayer bungalow again seeking God. Suddenly He said, "I want you to go ask Leonard who he is passing his mantle onto." *Um, oh no!* I thought.

Then the arguments started: "Lord, it's only been one month since I asked him that question. Which is 30 days. I really don't think he forgot that question so soon." And on and on. And God was silent.

I knew this wasn't going to be a conversation. I had received another directive from His throne. An electric surge of panic tossed my stomach to the floor. How in the world was I going to do this a *second* time? Once again, I went to my husband and begged him to come with me. Once again he agreed with the statement: "I will come, but I am not talking."

The sky was grey that day, and hung like an omen buzzing my head. As I had predicted, the second meeting wasn't as smooth as the first one. And no, Leonard had not forgotten the first time I asked him this question. There was tension. I wish I were a

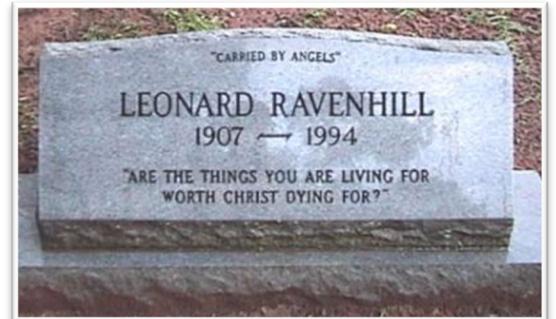
crab scuttling across a rock towards a big open ocean where I could jump in and **hide**. Questions were asked. Explanations were made. I sweated my deodorant sweat off. But we all survived, and I walked out of Ravenhill's home hoping God did not ask me to do this a third time.

Precious in the Sight of the Lord

A couple years before his passing, Leonard said: "The awakening I gave my life for in America never happened."

Ravenhill had become a spiritual grandfather to me - and both he and his wife Martha were dear to my heart. The minute I heard the news that Leonard had entered eternity on November 27, 1994, I threw myself on the ground and cried out to God: "Lord where's Leonard's mantle?!"

Immediately I saw a vivid vision of a large mantle rolling down from Heaven. The Lord said: "You see, Leonard had a lifetime to grow into this mantle. One man could not have stepped into this." I looked up and said, "Lord... then I **WANT A PIECE** of Leonard's prayer mantle." And I took it before the Lord.



Leonard finished his race. But reality for American believers is that *there is a mantle left behind for awakening in America.*

Will **YOU** take up your piece of the mantle? Will you embrace a season of spiritual wrestling before God's throne for His kingdom? Will you pray for His will to be done on the earth in America as it is in Heaven?

I heard Ravenhill often quote this poem by C.T. Studd, so, I leave it here for you:

*"Only one life, will soon be passed
Only what's done for Christ will last
and when I am dying how glad I will be
if the lamp of my life has been burned out for Thee."*

Today

I do pioneer mission work in Southeast Asia among unreached people groups in rough regions. Sometimes I am aware that God's power has catapulted me into locations of deep spiritual darkness, because my life is filled with the power of prayer... and I can feel Leonard's legacy raising me up.

In closing, I would like to share a poem with you that I dedicated to Leonard Ravenhill. This poem appears as the last entry in Mack Tomlinson's powerful book, "In Light of Eternity, the life of Leonard Ravenhill." (11)



Is There Incense at the Altar?

Is there incense at the altar,
where the blood of Christ was shed?
The fragrance of thanksgiving,
for the thorns that crowned His head.

Worship and devotion for the
scars of Calvary,
tear stained intercession,
for the harvest yet to be.

Is there incense at the altar,
where the perfect Lamb was slain?
The perfume of petition,
offered in His Holy name.

A bearing of His burden,
to proclaim His sacrifice-
supreme and all sufficient
for He paid the sacred price.

Is there incense at the altar,
where Christ intercedes right now?
Grief, and praise, and pleading,
for the souls that knit His brow.

A heart-felt holy effort,
God's mighty power brings-
gather for the Lamb,
"the reward of His sufferings."

Conclusion

In recent years, I have conducted meetings across America releasing the prayer mantle of Leonard Ravenhill. It's about an encounter with the anointing Leonard carried to see awakening in America. And the Lord has moved in visitation again and again in sanctuaries, government buildings, and living rooms as believers said: "Yes! I want to take a piece of this anointing forward to see revival hit America."



State Legislative Building, conference room, Raleigh, North Carolina. God's Presence filled participants with power to pray for the United States as they received Leonard Ravenhill's mantle.

If you would like me to come do a meeting like this with your group, feel free to contact me at: prayerteam@prayercentral.net



Would you like to join me and a team of brothers and sisters in heartfelt prayer for spiritual breakthrough in the remote mountaintops of the Himalayas?



Help us to sustain prayer for the High Places by joining the 31-day prayer journey!

www.highplacesprayer.com

Additional Resources

The Official Website for Leonard Ravenhill is: www.ravenhill.org

Here is a lovely tribute capturing Leonard's message.

You will need to manually click through it, so you can view it at your own speed:

<https://prezi.com/i4x5z-rqzknh/leonard-ravehill/>

Articles by Leonard Ravenhill, Published by Last Days Ministries, online titles:

www.lastdaysministries.com/Groups/1000087718/Last_Days_Ministries/Articles/By_Leonard_Ravenhill/By_Leonard_Ravenhill.aspx

- *Be ye Angry and Sin Not*
- **The Judgment Seat of Christ*
- *Prayer*
- *The Taming of the Tongue*
- *We Wrestle Not*
- *What do I still Lack*
- *Where are the Elijahs of God?*
- *Your Day in Court*
- *Zeal: Love Ablaze*

YouTube:

The Judgment Seat of Christ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-l1x2X3Cro>

YouTube, Other Ravenhill Titles:

- *Hell has no Exits*
- *A Burning Heart*
- *The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me*
- *What is Your Life?*
- *The Fear of God*
- *The Prophet Elijah*
- *The Real Cost*

“No Compromise, the life story of Keith Green” by Melody Green and David Hazard, copyright 2008, Thomas Nelson.

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/KeithGreenMusic/ and www.facebook.com/MelodyGreenOfficialPage/



Take it to the King

with Kathleen Dillard

ENCOUNTER GOD. IGNITE YOUR DESTINY.



Kathleen Dillard, an “ice breaker and way maker,” has 35 years of experience serving Christ as intercessor, prophetic voice, writer and teacher. She travels the world to speak to churches and ministries, set up prayer initiatives, strategize with church planters and give spiritual counsel to business and secular leaders, bringing a Kingdom perspective for the sake of the Gospel of Christ.

Kathleen is the President of “Take It To The King Ministries”- a non-profit ministry incorporated in Virginia, and recognized by the IRS as a 501-c3 organization. All gifts are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

To give by check, make payable to Take it to the King and send to:

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If you would like to receive my prayer and ministry reports through the mail, email your snail mail address to: **kathleen@prayercentral.net** or write to the address above.

Secure Giving App:



Footnotes

(1) www.lastdaysministries.com

(2) www.melodygreen.com

(3) “How to Promote A Revival”

www.gospeltruth.net/finney-101/how2revtxt/how2promrev.htm

(4) “Why Revival Tarries” by Leonard Ravenhill, Bethany House Publishers, copyright 1959, 1987.

(5) www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonard_Ravenhill

(6) www.lastdaysministries.com

(7) “The Judgment Seat of Christ” article excerpt used with permission by Melody Green: www.melodygreen.com

(8) Ravenhill’s articles: www.lastdaysministries.com

(9) “Why Revival Tarries” by Leonard Ravenhill, Bethany House Publishers, copyright 1959, 1987.

(10) www.azquotes.com/author/38314-Leonard_Ravenhill?p=2

(11) *In Light of Eternity, the life of Leonard Ravenhill* by Mack Tomlinson, Free Grace Press, 1st edition 2010.