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Defining Moments: Rees Howells

6. Rees Howells: Prophetic Intercession

A biography of Welsh intercessor Rees Howells (1879–1950), tracing his conversion, his total surrender to the Holy Spirit, and his life of prophetic intercession. It argues that Howells's power in prayer flowed from a single defining moment of consecration, and uses his story to teach how believers fight 'from' victory rather than 'for' it.

Key takeaways

- Howells was converted in America through the testimony of a Jewish believer, Maurice Reuben, seeing Calvary and that Jesus died for him personally.
- His turning point was the 1906 'Llandrindod experience': after five days of struggle, he surrendered fully to the Holy Spirit at 5:59 p.m., one minute before the deadline God set. From then on he 'decreased' so the Spirit could 'increase.'
- He distinguished a prayer warrior from an intercessor: an intercessor takes ownership, is willing to be the answer himself, and cannot rest until the objective is gained.
- He carried the Welsh Revival to southern Africa (Gazaland, 1915), seeing revival, healings, protection from influenza, and over ten thousand conversions.

- Returning to Wales with about fifteen cents, he founded the Bible College of Wales in 1924, funded entirely through prayer and faith.
- From 1934 the college became a 'house of prayer for all nations,' interceding over WWII crises—praying against Hitler and for the protection of Moscow.
- Author's lesson: Christ's finished victory does not end the spiritual battle; we still apply it in prayer. Consecration like Howells's comes only from a genuine encounter, not from imitation or theology alone.

Passages worth keeping

> *"Each day he cleansed and purged me so that I could never go back again to my former life, and finally he gave me one hour to decide whether I, myself, was to live on, or he was to live in me."*

The heart of his total-surrender consecration, which the chapter holds up as its model.

> *"There is all the difference in the world between your surrendered life in My hands, and Me living My life in your body."*

The deeper call revealed in the 1937 college visitation—surrender versus God living through you.

How it connects

Howells's gift of hearing God's plans and declaring outcomes ahead of time echoes the Old Testament prophets who warned Israel's kings of enemy schemes; the chapter also likens his encounter to Paul's on the Damascus road, where a defining meeting with Christ, not technique, produced a consecrated life.

Scripture referenced

- **Romans 8:26–30** -- Sparked his search to be 'glorified,' not only justified.
- **Hebrews 10:19** -- Verse given at his moment of surrender—boldness to enter the holiest by Christ's blood.
- **Isaiah 56:7** -- The college as a 'house of prayer for all nations.'
- **Ephesians 6:12** -- Our struggle is against powers of darkness, not people—framing spiritual warfare.
- **1 Peter 5:8** -- Cited to show believers are still in a real battle with the enemy.
- **2 Corinthians 10:5** -- Taking thoughts captive as part of battling in prayer.