

War & Prayer

Extract from [KINGDOM MENTALITY](#) by T. R. Post.

Throughout history, Christians changed world events not so much through physical force but on their knees. World War II in particular was the setting for some of the most dramatic accounts of intercession. Rees Howells, founder of the Bible College of Wales, had his intercessors crying out to Heaven for divine intervention during the Battle of Britain. The German Luftwaffe pounded England in preparation for an invasion. The courageous Royal Air Force stood between the British Isles and the Germans. Yet as the British Spitfires went up in the air to face a foe of far superior numbers, an unseen hand shifted the outcome of the battle.

Here's the conclusion of the battle as described in the book "Rees Howells: Intercessor"...

Mr. Churchill, in his War Memoirs, gives September 15 (1940) as "the culminating date" in that Battle of the Air. He tells how he visited the Operations Room of the Air. He tells how he visited the Operations Room of the R.A.F. that day and watched as the enemy squadrons poured over and ours went up to meet them, until the moment came when he asked the Air Marshal, "What other reserves have we?" "There are none," he answered, and reported afterwards how grave Mr. Churchill looked, "and well I might," added Churchill. Then another five minutes passed, and "it appeared the enemy were going home. The shifting of the discs on the table showed a continuous eastward movement of German bombers and fighters. No new attack appeared. In another ten minutes the action was ended." There seemed no reason why the Luftwaffe should have turned for home, just at the moment when victory was in their grasp. But we know why.

After the war, Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, Commander-in-Chief of Fighter Command in the Battle of Britain, made this significant comment: "Even during the battle one realized from day to day how much external support was coming in. At the end of the battle one had the sort of feeling that there had been some special Divine intervention to alter some sequence of events which would otherwise have occurred."

In his book "Shaping History Through Prayer and Fasting", the late Derek Prince wrote about the time he was a British officer in World War II during the critical North African campaign. A British defeat could have resulted in the Jewish community in the Holy Land falling into the hands of Nazi Germany. In response to what he discerned as a lack of leadership, Derek prayed a simple prayer: "Lord, give us leaders such that it will be for your glory to give us victory through them." Just a short while later, Winston Churchill appointed B. L. Montgomery, the son of an evangelical Anglican bishop as commander of British troops. Montgomery rallied the troops and led them to victory over Rommel's corps at El Alamein. Here's how Prince described the answer to his prayer:

Without a doubt, the Battle of El Alamein was the turning point of the war in North Africa. Two or three days after the battle, I found myself in the desert a few miles behind the advancing Allied forces. A small portable radio beside me on the tailboard of a military truck was relaying a news commentator's description of the scene at Montgomery's headquarters as he had witnessed it on the eve of the battle. He recalled how Montgomery publicly called his officers and men to prayer, saying, "Let us ask the Lord, mighty in battle, to give us the victory." As these words came through that portable radio, God spoke very clearly to my spirit, "That is the answer to your prayer."

This is ironic, for the Anzacs have been one of the major contributors towards the modern day restoration of Israel, during both World Wars, and the destinies of both countries seem to be somehow linked.