



Getting Soft?

Straining, striving, pushing, and pulling! When I am routinely working out, I know I am getting better—increasing my strength, stamina and stability. Sadly, the opposite is true as well. When I put it off for a few weeks, I am certain that I am decreasing - losing strength, stamina and stability. Are we getting spiritually soft?

In August of the year 1900, China was under a huge political fight. China was divided along the lines of westernization. One side was dead set against anything western including Christianity. One of these ultra conservative anti-western groups was called “The Righteous and Harmonious Fists” better known as the “Boxers”. Their HQ was located in the Shansi province and from there staged the “Boxer Rebellion”.

In Shansi province no Christian missionaries were safe. William and Helen Peat along with their two daughters were a missionary family in that province.

They were forced to flee to the caves in the hillside. For three weeks they hid in these caves. Missionary William Peat wrote his final letter to his relatives from those caves in August of 1900:

The soldiers are just on us, and I have only time to say, “Good bye” to you all. We shall soon be with Christ, which is very far better for us. I can only now be sorry for you who are left behind and our dear native Christians. Good bye! At longest it is only, “till He come.” We rejoice that we are made partakers of the sufferings of Christ, that when His glory shall be revealed, we may “rejoice also with exceeding joy.”

On August 30th, 1900, William and Helen Peat along with their two daughters were killed for following Jesus Christ as their Lord. Throughout China, 188 missionaries along with their families were killed during the Boxer Rebellion.

I wonder today how we would do when push came to shove for following Jesus Christ as Lord. I wonder why it is so easy for people to get excited about sports teams which might win a few meaningless games and so hard to find excitement about hearing and learning the victory news of Jesus Christ’s redemption for the souls of every sinner! Are we getting soft spiritually? We need to fight and work out our spiritual muscles in reading, hearing, learning and talking about the good news of Jesus Christ, God’s Son! If not, when the time comes for us to fight for Christ, we will be found lacking and soft. Here is an excerpt from Isaiah 35, please take the time to read the entire chapter this week for your own personal spiritual workout. Stay Strong!

3 Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; 4 say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to save you."