



Spickard on... Prayer

***"How Men ought always ...
to Prayand Presevere..."***

***"The First Need of our Christian Life is...
Fellowship with God."*** - Andrew Murray.

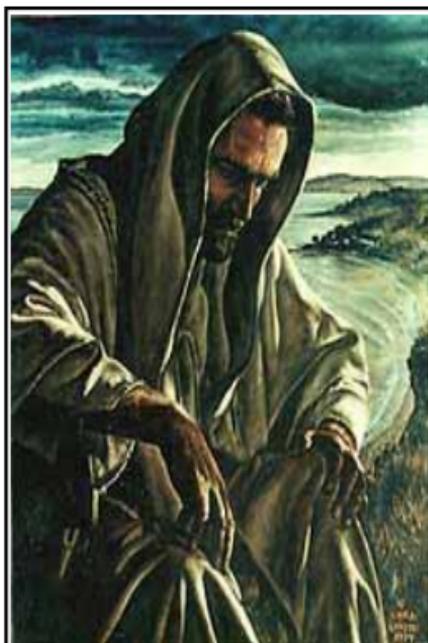
***"Ask yourself why you are not as pious as
the Primitive Christians were, and your
heart will tell you, it is neither through in-
ability or ignorance, but purely, because
you never fully intended it."*** - C.S. Lewis.

***"I pray because I can't help myself; I pray
because I am helpless..the need flows out of
me all the time, awake or asleep. Prayer
doesn't change God..it changes me."*** - Ibid.

***"Is Prayer your steering wheel, or your
spare Tire."*** - Corrie Ten Boom.

***"We are told to pray without ceasing, to
pray for others and those in authority, etc.,
But **Most** of all, we are **Commanded** to Pray!
Prayer brings you to the place of God's flow
in your life."*** - Mickey Bonner.

***"True Religion is intimate communion with
God in all our dealings."*** - Daniel Rowland



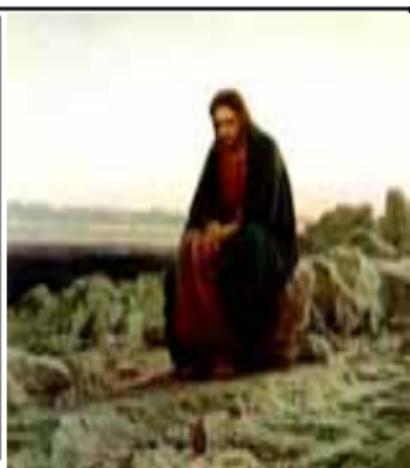
***< CHRIST in PRAYER...
Prayer was an important
facet of Christ's minis-
try. Without it, He was
not prepared to face
the demands and trials
that He encountered. He
arose early in the morn-
before the Disciples to
find strength and com-
fort from the Father. For
more further guidance,
He would pray all night.
Prayer was not a chore,
but a necessity for life.***

Prayer : Communicating with God

All Christians would agree that every Christian must have a relationship to God, our Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ. As consistent with all relationships, there must be communication. Without communication, there is little prospect for a successful relationship. Indeed, the relationship will flounder and fail if communication should be interrupted, neglected, or ended. How much more our relationship with God if we are not in constant fellowship or communication with God. Despite the overwhelming agreement of Christians that a personal relationship with Christ and God is mandatory... there is hardly any information on how to attain it.

Isn't this a conundrum ? Apparently, there is a great gap in talking and doing... One of the reasons that individual Christians fail in the way of their spiritual journey is that they do not rely on God through Prayer. After all, Prayer is a real commitment. Many can go up to an altar bench or make a commitment to Christ and become "saved." But how many can make a daily commitment that Christ commanded ? Jesus said, *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me"* (Luke 9:23). One of the prerequisites of living the Christian life is trusting God and being dependent upon Him through our communication, fellowship, or prayer, with Him.

> CHRIST in PRAYER :
Jesus taught that prayer was necessary in our daily walk with God. He taught that prayer was to be private, personal, and aloud. This is why Jesus went out from the Disciples to mountains or secluded areas to pray.



The Lord's Prayer : A Prayer Model

The Disciples studied Jesus fairly closely. They saw his mode and manner of prayer. One day, they got together and asked Him how to pray. They evidently saw that He derived a great strength, and virtue, and comfort, through prayer that made them not only curious, but envious, as well. Jesus replied to them in a model of which we use yet today. Jesus did not tell them exactly how to pray...he used a model instead. He did not intend for this to be a prayer as beautiful as it is. It is only a model for prayer.



^ ON PRAYER :
Jesus taught in concise terms, with precise meaning. You cannot read what Jesus says. It must be studied...instead. It is revealed to the heart by the Holy Spirit by study or seeking....What is Jesus saying to your heart ? He is still speaking..He is a Quickening Spirit.

In this model, Jesus taught that we first should recognize God as Who He is...this same example is given in Hebrews 11:6 which reads, *"For without faith it is impossible to please God : for he that cometh (or prays) to God, must believe that He Is (God), and that He is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."* Jesus taught that we should recognize His Kingdom also in contrast with our present world that we live in. And His Will should be recognized too, also in contrast with our own. We are then told to ask for our daily sustenance. Then we are asked to confess and repent of our sins, and ask for forgiveness, and to forgive others who have wronged and sinned against us. We are also asked to "watch and pray," that we do not enter into temptation. The prayer is then finished by again, acknowledging God's great power and ability to bless the petitioner and to answer prayer. Several things are evident in Jesus' meaning in this short model. One, is that prayer is a daily exercise and communication with God. It should be a certain length of time, and private. It is

to be aloud... as in the example of Christ's prayer in the Garden of Gethesmane. The main focus of prayer is not just asking for, or petitioning God for things and blessings, but rather to maintain a *"right"* relationship with God. Then, with a clear channel to God, spiritual intimacy can be developed. This is the greatest blessing in prayer: *developing spiritual intimacy and deep feelings in communing with God.* With such, then it is possible to truly know God and His Will in the scope of your life. You will not need to read books by men who wish to become millionaires about purpose-driven lives...or "having your best life now." When you can intimately know God, then you are profoundly well ahead of the "wanna-be's" and their shortcuts, such as the so-called "prayer of Jabez," which has mislead millions.

The Spirit of Prayer

The Bible does not speak of this in a specific manner, but there is such a thing as a "spirit of prayer." This is rather simple. It just means that a familiarity and closeness exist between man and God that when one prays, there is an immediate rapport. There is no struggle to find words or topics to pray about. God is already there and has met you and reveals to you what you need to pray about and what He desires to hear. God may also put a "burden of prayer" upon you. This is just a specific leading to pray about something that God has put on your heart to petition Him for. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will pray within us, as Paul described in Romans 8:26-27. One of the greatest fulfillments in prayer is intercessory prayer. Praying for others and for God's purposes will often release you from spiritual bonds and fetters more than anything else.

Answered Prayer, or "Praying Through"

How do we know when God has heard our prayers ? One sure thing, is that we no longer possess the same concern or burden in prayer about our petition. Indeed, it is as though that God is no longer inspiring us to pray about that petition, and directs our attentions to other prayer matters. This is also referred to by the old "Holiness" saints, as "praying through." A short study of George Muller's life will give further understanding of this phenomenon. He enjoyed such effective and quick answers to prayer, that he often obtained the answer before he got started ! John Wesley told of how deeply he was impressed by the faith and prayers of the Moravian brethren that were on the same ship as he when on a journey. In the midst of howling winds and storms that cowered Wesley into fears of death, the Moravians stood steadfastly without any trepidation. This convicted Wesley greatly and caused a greater effect of conversion upon him as he wanted the peace and fearlessness that John Bohler and the Moravians had.

Truly, one of the signs of Christian maturity is answered prayer !



Muller- William Booth- Smith Wigglesworth-TenBoom

^ HEROES OF FAITH are Heroes in Prayer as well ! One must go with the other ! How can a person with great faith not have, a great dependency upon God through prayer. The secret to believing faith is prevailing prayer. Prayer, however, is a discipline at the first. Then, it becomes the mainspring to the inner life as a Christian. It is as a spiritual reflex. Whenever something comes up that is not expected ...prayer is the means to deal with it ...

Prayer, at First, a Discipline, then a Delight

One of the great secrets of Prayer is that, at first, it is a discipline. The Power of the Air will do all that He can to discourage, distract, and dissuade you from daily prayer. But after you have gotten past the "earthly plane," into a heavenly one, prayer becomes a necessity and something you cannot do without. Indeed, you are in great remorse over the time wasted in not knowing and taking advantage of the virtue and portal to God through prayer. It is one of the great regrets in my life is that for a long time, I did not know how valuable prayer was. The day that I found God through daily prayer is the day that it seemed like I put on "wings." Everything got so much easier, and the words of Jesus became true... *"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest for your being"* (Matthew 11:28-29).

Do not be spiritually lazy a moment longer. Set aside a set time and length of time each day for prayer. At first, it may not be any length of time to brag about. But as you grow in your prayer discipline, you will find your prayer time lengthen too, and as well, if you need to pray more often than once each day. The Disciples went to prayer three times a day. I pray early in the morning as the Bible implies. I pray sitting down. Praying on your knees is very uncomfortable. Comfort is important in prayer. Persevere in your Prayer life... you will not regret it once it takes root.

For more information, contact:

Joseph Spickard

P O Box 1131

Lake Ozark MO 65049

email :

revelation1462002@yahoo.com

