

PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE • II CHRON. 7:14



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Challenging Christians to Pray — September 2006

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*“Intercessors are like eagles,
they don't flock, you find
them one at a time.”*

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From The Heart Of An Intercessor

The Magnificent Designer

“From everlasting to everlasting thou art God” (Psalms 90:2). The creation of the world is brilliantly conceived and flawlessly executed and God’s creative genius is breathtaking and beyond human comprehension. The sovereign God apologizes to no one for executing His righteous rule in the universe. All men can be moved at His command. C.S. Lewis, the former agnostic in his powerful testimony – “surprised by joy” – calls God a divine “Chest Player.”

The creator is in the forefront. He is never relegated to the background. Every believer should stand firmly on the certitude that ultimate victory belongs to God. The proudest cities of the world will be laid low. The luxury palaces upon which the world’s mighty have lavished their wealth in order to satisfy their inordinate lust and power will be destroyed. All men are equal when they come face to face with death and death treats all men equal. We can never dodge or avoid death by our wisdom, money, education, scientific know-how, status or any other secular means. The world’s mighty men of valor, wealthiest people, eminent scientists, learned doctors, brilliant scholars, persons of great authority and power will have to stand before the One Who possesses all knowledge, power, glory and wisdom. Nothing escapes God. In our culture, people want to remake God. They want to change His standard to fit their situation and the rules to fit their lifestyle. We live in an age that denigrates God and dignifies man.

God is not surprised at anything we do. We cannot educate God about life and its various facets. Let us stop acting like we know more than He does. We are not the light of the world, we are only a reflection of that light as Jesus said, *“I am the Light of the world and those who walk in me shall not walk in darkness.”* We have forgotten how to show reverence for the creator and respect for His Word. When the overriding perception of our world is that life is a cosmic accident rather than a divine incident, it is no wonder reverence for the Almighty is at a low ebb. We are not called upon to defend the honor of God; He is big enough to take care of His own reputation no matter what the tempo of the world might be. *“God can hit straight licks with crooked sticks.”* We achieve our creative purpose not by accident but by design. It is God who gives direction and purpose and meaning to our mortal existence. He is the underlining, motivating force of life. The mysteries of life belong to God and the cosmic beauties are His. The earth is to be used – not owned. God is infinite and we are finite. *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.”* Without knowing the creator, it is impossible to manage the creation.

The God who created all things from nothing definitely needs no help or helpers. Are we attempting to lend Him a helping hand in the administration of the universe that He commands. Many have come to assume that God is reputable only if He wins in the cosmic seesaw battle between right and wrong. We place such a burden on God, always demanding that He should perform a miracle. If He doesn't, then He becomes powerless in our mind and how can we place our faith in a powerless deity? What would people say if God doesn't turn stones into bread? There is a prevailing attitude among some that God may not win out in the end, and therefore, they are searching for alternative solutions.

Some speak of God as though as He is vacillating, weak and insipid who is always at the mercy of man. We are guilty of creating a charitable God who depends on our donation and without it He is financially ruined. We treat God Almighty like a performer feasting on our applause. He doesn't need our applause or approval. Such a notion is childish, silly, ridiculous and warrants no worthy consideration – none whatsoever. God needs no changing and never differs from Himself. The problem is not in the truth of God's Word or His sovereign majesty but in our egotistical and sin-damaged mind. The wrong idea about God corrupts one's mind and prevents his ability to think critically. What is the greatest form of idolatry in the world today? It is not recognizing God as sovereign, the majestic and infinite creator of the universe. Many, including some Christians, retain such a preposterous notion that God has realigned Himself with modern man for the purpose of appeasement because He is very much impressed with our techno-culture. Poor God! When He receives charity, He has to please His benefactors, doesn't He?

God is outside of any changes that occur in the universe. The Lord is eternally the same. The self-existent God is also the self-sufficient One. The lesser cannot produce the greater. I do not claim to be an expert, but I know the One Who knows everything, and He is not fighting or struggling for power. God is bigger than us; He is bigger than the biggest. He is bigger than the cosmos, the galaxies and the stars. Wise people never attempt to neutralize God. In fact, they are driven to Him by a sense of reverence and humility as they contemplate on His imperial majesty. "*God shall be my hope, my stay, my guide and lantern to my feet.*" (William Shakespeare) I am saddened that the present generation is not moved by the fact that our God reigns supreme. Is it any wonder that we have lost the "sense of awe" of walking with God. As for me, I serve an awesome God Who loves me enough to become my Savior and that is a humbling thought! I give all the glory and praise to the One Who won the victory for me!

*No canvas is big enough to capture the beauty
of God's majestic creation;
no mortal mind is brilliant enough to conceive His imperial majesty.
God has a thousand sovereign attributes.
And all of these should humble and bring us down to our knees!*

SPEAKING PRAYERFULLY *by Matthew Skariah*

If prayer is an important part of your life, or if you want it to be, then get with a few believing Christians at least once or twice a week to pray. God's power manifests in praying people. Actions of the heart is better than flipping of the lip. In prayer, there are blessings – untold spiritual blessings.

The Chameleon Christian

The greatest problem with modern Christianity can be described in two words: Chameleon Christianity. It is more devastating than secularism, atheism, communism and all other "isms" put together. The new compromise is very subtle and it is brilliantly buttressed in isolated Scriptures, clever metaphysics and crass materialism.

Today's compromising Church is bent on providing cheap thrills. This is an indication as to how unhealthy we have become spiritually, physically and emotionally. When we are not walking in the power of God, we always go for cheap thrills, and consequently church leaders have learned to capitalize the value of marketing Jesus to the highest bidder through the means of "cheap theatrics and shallow entertainment." The glory of attendance records displaces the glory of the attendance of His inimitable presence. The honor which the secular society confers is more sought after than the honor that comes from God, the holy One of Israel.

There is a relentless effort on the part of some church leaders to change traditional worship service merely for the purpose of appeasing a generation of generic worshipers. So we have removed the pulpit, abandoned sacred hymns and replaced it with tawdry cocktail lounge music, Gregorian chant, and seven eleven songs. The peril of inconsistency is the lack of tenacity to endure and the resolve to go forward and the courage to resist temptation. We tend to take the print and the patterns of the modern age and attempt to incorporate them into our church services for the celebration of man. We have adopted a "commercial view" into our services. If we do not contend for the faith of our fathers, it becomes stale and incongruous. Believe me, nothing can destroy Christianity, if we Christians live like Christians.

- Matthew Skariah

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