

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



World Prayer Band®

Prayergram®

Challenging Christians to Pray — October 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

Matthew
Skariah



The Prayer Furnace

As Christians, for too long we've paid lip service to the power of prayer. Now it's time to put our money where our heart is and meet with God in the **prayer furnace**. In many churches, prayer meeting is virtually extinct and mere theological reference is being made to the power of prayer. Today's church promotes all kinds of programs, seminars and book studies, but not prayer. Why? *I have a hunch*. Because it would never draw the crowd and the turn out would be so pitiful. How could those embarrassed pastors explain their large auditoriums being mostly empty on prayer meeting night as a handful of hungry souls came to wait upon God, when the very night before many hundreds or even thousands came for a gospel concert or to hear a famous Christian speaker?

The **prayer furnace** speaks death to the person of self and pleasure. In private prayer, one comes to know how insignificant he really is when compared to the holiness of God. Today we depend too much on the arm of the flesh. The tenacity to stand, to fight, to conquer and to drive the foe from the field will be discovered by those who spend much time in the **prayer furnace**. In contemporary worship, we are often persuaded to think that noise is far better than silence and carnal activities are more appealing than the privilege of prayer. Listen quietly. Cultivate silence. God speaks in silence. When we wait upon the Lord in silence, it gives us the opportunity to forge an intimate union with Him, and exhilarate our spiritual passion. Let's pray with real urgency and importunity! Importunity invites God's intervention.

Imagine, God, the creator asks us to wait in His presence with a sense of awe and pure delight. Every life needs an altar! What we whisper in the **prayer furnace** shall be reverberated from the housetops. Yes, when we spend time in the **prayer furnace**, others may not see or applaud us but the impact of our prayers will be felt around the world. We may never go beyond one room, and yet we may become one of the most awesome forces for good in our country and in the world. We may never see the powerful work we do, but God sees it, evil sees it. Oh, it is a blessed life, the life of the one who stays in the furnace of prayer. It is amazing how many people would love to claim the victory when they have never been in battle. If we would know what ignites our passion for Christ, we must certainly pass through the fire of His holiness. If we want renewal, then we must be in the furnace; if we want spiritual victory there must be death to self and pleasure.

Does not the sin of our nation and the world, ever "slouching toward Sodom and Gomorrah," propel us to plead with God for renewal and restoration? Does not the present day carnality among God's people cause us to agonize before the God of heaven Who alone has the power to awaken us from our ubiquitous slumber? The lack of perseverance in the **prayer furnace** holds back the

blessings of God. The prayer program of the church cannot await the arrival of a colorful religious personality. Let us cry mightily unto the God of heaven: *“Oh, Lord, my house is in ruin, please come and repair it.”* Where is the “mourners' bench” in our churches? The church that has more ballgames and potluck dinners during the week than prayer meetings will never experience visitations from on high. Let's not talk about “spiritual awakening” unless we're willing to light up the **prayer furnace** in our churches and homes.

The ministry of the **prayer furnace** is the steadfast, unflinching desire to sacrifice personal comforts and run risk and not be sidetracked by seminars and programs that are popular among generic Christians. It is in the **prayer furnace** we come to know God and ourselves better than any of our earthly friends. The praying people don't wait around for the next evangelical program or book to sweep us into glory. Prayer is more about knowing God than getting things or enlarging one's territory. Seeking God's face is not a matter of spending two minutes a day asking Him to bless us. It means waiting in His presence until we are inebriated with His majestic presence.

The healing power of prayer is immeasurable. People of God, don't panic but pray. Let's rise to higher heights than we have known before. Prayer is inestimable. So keep on praying, incessantly. The moral climate of America needs our prayers now. So let's live prayerfully, not fearfully. Let's cry out to our Father and we will be heard. Suffice it to say, there is a loving and caring Father who waits to hear from His children. Oh, Lord, build the “fires of passion,” in our hearts and set our lives ablaze with Your majestic presence as we wait upon You in the prayer furnace. Preachers and fellow Christians, do not despise the ministry of the **prayer furnace**. ***Prayer is quintessential to the survival of the modern church.***

Prayer is not fluff and bluff. It is not pabulum, or over-cooked predigested and filtered religious fast food, dished out to provide minimum satisfaction to the maximum number of religious customers. Intercession is always satisfying and uplifting. ***What's the secret of the prayer furnace?*** Perseverance and passion, of course!

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The more we enjoy the incredible sweetness of Jesus
in the prayer furnace, the more we long to be in the furnace.

Jehovah, Our Provider

God supplies our needs not grudgingly but in full measure. Isn't it better to plead with God than with man? God's blessings manifest in obedient people. Our joy comes from what we give, not what we accumulate. It is a joy to depend upon Jehovah God, the Provider and the Patron of this ministry, the Reservoir of our lives Who is always on time with manna from on high.

Long ago, I ceased to care about the opinions of those who advocate or promote a hypothetical faith. I know my Lord by personal experience, and not by hearsay or second hand faith. Suffice it to say, there is a loving God Who cares for His children. God will do great things for us if we depend on Him. We shall always have our Lord's assistance and provision. He is the divine facilitator and enabler. There is none beside Him.

Faith produces trust. Trust produced by faith is unconquerable.
In our earthly pilgrimage, trusting is resting.

Books Ignite Revival

"I am experiencing personal revival as a result of reading your self-purging books, *Talk Less and Pray More* and *The Forbidden Zone*. Thank you for making a difference in my life. Also your monthly publication, *Prayergram* has become a source of spiritual help to many in my congregation.'

— Z.O. Daramola, Ekiti State, Nigeria

"I was happy to read one of your books, *Talk Less and Pray More*. The book has exhilarated my passion for intercession."

— Pastor Maiyeko Friday, Ogun State

"I read your book, *Talk Less and Pray More*. It has challenged me to seek a deeper walk with God. I am a young pastor, working in Northern Nigeria, and I covet your prayers very much as I labor in His vineyard."

— Pastor Innocent Akulewe, Kaduna State

"Three weeks ago, I purchased a copy of your book, *Talk Less and Pray More*. It moved me to tears and my prayer life has improved greatly."

— Pastor Lanre Olnwasina, Lagos State

"I had the privilege of reading all your books. I read *Talk Less and Pray More* many times over. You can only see two books in my hand, highlighted, digested and practiced. They are *The Holy Bible* and *Talk Less and Pray More*. They are my daily guide. *The Forbidden Zone* has done a powerful work of grace in my soul. Thank you for sharing the unvarnished truth."

— Pastor Nelson Emeonu, St. Matthew's Anglican Parish, Anambra State

SPEAKING WITH CLARITY *by Matthew Skariah*

God is on His throne in spite of the repertoire of human frustration, admixture of doubt, awful reality of the seductive culture, insatiable hunger for the unholy elements of greed, covetousness, and an uncontrollable lust for power. Yes, God is on His throne whether we approve it or not.

The passage of time doesn't change God. His name shall endure forever. The tide of time shall never alter His covenant. The ancient prophets said: "The way of the ungodly shall perish." Injustice will wreck a nation. Evil will topple any people. God's people do not crumble at the presence of evil. Evil does not have the last word. The final word belongs to our sovereign God. Blessed be His holy name!