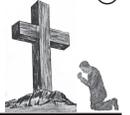




# Prayergram

Challenging Christians to Pray

May 2012



**Matthew Skariah**

## Kneeling in Triumph

Prayer navigates us through the celestial city, where we find intimacy with the Lord. In prayer, there is no browsing, no chat rooms, no surfing, and no cyberspace interactions. It is just US and GOD. It is heavenly interaction—pure and simple. We don't have to have a need or crisis experience to come

to the One Who loves to hear from us. Believe me, there are no specialists who can teach us how to pour out our heart before the Lord of glory. When everything goes into total chaos, let's put the wheels of prayer in motion and we will be heard. *"Our prayers are only as powerful as our lives... we pray only as we live."* (A. W. Tozer)

In the midst of all this cultural craziness, electronic gadgetry, and materialistic overtures, God will raise up a praying minority that will meet the social, and spiritual challenges of the day head-on because their faith is anchored on Christ, the solid Rock. Do not lower your expectation. *"My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him"* (Psalms 62:5). *"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him"* (Isaiah 59:19b). When we lose faith in God—we allow doubt and pessimism to plague us. Is that what we want? Is there not a cause? Is there not any fighting spirit left in us? Now, more than ever, we need to pray—pray with high altitude and desperate resolve. The Church in the West is floundering because of her refusal to tarry in the presence of the Lord. Persecution purifies the church; it may be what we need in these days of electronic preaching. Leonard Ravenhill

was prophetic when he said, *"The early church was not electronic, but electrifying."*

Our leaders (left and right) are scratching their head, looking for ways to keep people from going over the cliff. In the midst of economic uncertainties and twisted secular ideologies, with Satan on a crusade to swallow as many souls as he can—we who are washed in the blood of Christ have the glorious privilege of the ages to 'experience and showcase' the power of the ascended Lord as we *"soar on wings of faith"* beyond the limits of the knowable. Beloved, our world is in a moral and spiritual quandary and we need God in an hour such as this! We are in the midst of a war, a spiritual

war. Prayer is the catalyst that helps us win this war; so let's arm ourselves with the most powerful weapon ever—prayer. So powerful, it blasts away spiritual laziness and corrosion. I admire the United States for her moral and spiritual foundation, but I am deeply troubled by her moral decadence that threatens to infest the developing world. No civilization can afford to lose its soul.

The healing power of prayer is immeasurable. Let's rise to higher heights than we have known before. Prayer is inestimable. So keep on pray-

ing, incessantly and with authority and confidence in the greatness of God. Let's live prayerfully, not fearfully. Let's cry out to our Father and we will be heard. *Christians need to experience prayer that goes far beyond "asking and receiving."* Suffice it to say, there is a loving and caring Father who waits to hear from his children. Oh, Lord, light the *"fires of passion,"* in our hearts and set our lives ablaze with your majestic presence as we wait upon you on bended knees! *In prayer, God's purpose and man's purpose become one.*

*Oh, Lord, light the "fires of passion," in our hearts and set our lives ablaze with your majestic presence as we wait upon you on bended knees!*  
*In prayer, God's purpose and man's purpose become one.*

If you are like me, you must be tired of the great technological advances we celebrate at the expense of sacrificing sacred and venerable beliefs and practices that keep society and its citizens steady and noble. Our beliefs are instinctive, it is in our core. Let's be honest about who and what we are without vacillation! Do not take stock in earthly possessions, nor in our friends because they are powerful; but in God who helps us in our trials and difficulties. May we seek solace and comfort in the arms of God, through the vehicle of prayer and meditation! Prayer is minding the present and leaving the future to God, who does all things so well. So let's mold and crystallize our God-given privilege in prayer as we commune with the God of heaven in whom all answers lie. All committed Christians have the moral responsibility to pray for their own generation. They must live prayerfully and intrinsically in the present, as they learn how the past impacts the present and the future. Effective prayer is not so much a matter of mechanics and semantics, as of a heart-wrenching, pulsating, and intimate fellowship with the risen Lord.

As Christian soldiers, we don't shift into neutral when opposition comes, but stand tall and face every challenge in the power of the glorified Savior. When the world is in turmoil, we don't sit on our religious popularity admiring our beautiful facilities by passing compliments to each other, but rather we take the weapon of the power of prayer and get the ball rolling. Beloved, the enemy is upon us and is about to break lose. It seems that our problem is much deeper and more fundamental than what it appears. Many professing Christians refuse to form a healthy habit of prayer; because they are lazy and consequently, they frustrate the grace of God (Gal. 2:21). May we cry out to God over the lost with groaning and weeping and fasting and crying! I don't know about you, but I am home-sick for awakening. I want an awakening that, like a spring shower, will cleanse and purify and sanitize the very atmosphere of our churches and people everywhere. Revival is mainly church growth and Christians feeling good about themselves; but awakening is God transforming

the culture with apostolic power and purity. Have we seen this happening in our midst today?

I want to see a move of God that will re-emphasize the old-time morals and unconditional love for Jesus and His Word. I want a revival that will teach young people respect and reverence for God; something that will inject old-time integrity, veracity, purity, and negate worldliness, love of ease and occupation with silly social conventionalities among the women folks, covetousness and excess craving for sports, entertainment and worldly pleasures among the men folks, measuring

people by the salaries they receive and the position they occupy—and all these things are done in the name of progressive Christian thinking.

Beloved, nothing but the prayers of God's humble remnant in the power of the Holy Spirit can stem the tide. Once we live in the realm of prayer, we will know the gracious influence of God in our midst. I want an understanding with God, and I do have an understanding with my Father in heaven. I want to be right in the middle of the battle, while I have my being to intercede for a world that's about to be swept away by the tides of unbelief and rebellion. I plan to win this battle by the grace of God that is in me, and I am surrounded and supported by a cloud of witnesses who constantly inspire me to stay on my knees. I have been talking and writing about prayer for a long time, and sometimes I tend to upset a lot of folks who enjoy religious status-quo and speak with a forked-tongue on prayer because it fits with their template.

I believe current social and moral conditions present unusual opportunities for Christians to pray like never

before. May God help each one of us to act NOW judiciously before these precious opportunities slip away! What did the early Christians have that we don't possess today? The early Christians believed in unction from on high; they placed power over human influence and they did not circumvent pagans—they out-shined them. Christianity waged no campaigns to conquer paganism or the hedonistic practices of the irreligious. Instead, the believers of the first century out-thought, out-prayed, and out-lived the unbelievers.

*I believe current social and moral conditions present unusual opportunities for Christians to pray like never before. May God help each one of us to act NOW judiciously before these precious opportunities slip away! What did the early Christians have that we don't possess today? The early Christians believed in unction from on high; they placed power over human influence and they did not circumvent pagans—they out-shined them. Christianity waged no campaigns to conquer paganism or the hedonistic practices of the irreligious. Instead, the believers of the first century out-thought, out-prayed, and out-lived the unbelievers.*

The apostles had encountered their first opposition as they were ostracized by the Sanhedrin. They then turned to the gathered believers. What was their reaction? Did they try to establish a dialogue with the Sanhedrin, organize a protest march, or boycott against religious discrimination? They did not raise any money to overthrow the emperor. Instead, they prayed passionately, wept profusely, and proclaimed the message of the cross with holy boldness.

Great things happen when Christians bend their knees before God in prayer. It is high time to seek the Lord with every fiber of our being! Today, the Christians are despised, the ungodly are vociferous, young people are mesmerized and allured, and God's servants are in reproach, enemies of the cross are mocking the church, Christians are in hibernation, and apathy prevails. In similar difficult times, Daniel set his face to seek the Lord, with supplication and fasting. Why is there such an aversion to prayer and fasting among today's Christians and preachers? The early Christians used holy argument in prayer and the power of knee-bending to gain victory over the devil and the world. "Produce your

Oswald Chambers, the prolific devotional writer, put it succinctly, "Climbing in the spirit is accomplished by kneeling, and not by running; by surrender, and not by determination."

cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob" (Isaiah 41:21). Beware of squatting laziness, and let's bend our knees before God for a mighty invasion of His power and strength!

In writing about the early Church, historian Will Durant said, "Christ met Caesar in the arena—and Christ won." He is still with us, and there is no need for us to cave under secular pressure. Alexander Pope expressed his commitment in this manner, "Unblemished, let me live or die unknown. Give me an honest frame or give me none." God is not satisfied with our 'anemic and paltry' prayer efforts. He longs for our abiding supplication, compassionate pleading, and heart-wrenching soul-travail. For us to pretend otherwise is to deceive ourselves. So let's intercede NOW fervently and urgently. The Lord waits for us at His throne. Now is the time to 'kneel in triumph' and voice our prayers in defiance of the enemy. May we travail until we prevail! As D. L. Moody once said, "Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure."

**So let the kneeling begin!**

Copyright©2012 by World Prayer Band

---

**For more on the subject of Prayer, read Matthew Skariah's popular and thought provoking book. *Talk Less and Pray More*, foreword by Leonard Ravenhill.**

**Order your copy or copies from World Prayer Band Publishing. \$10<sup>00</sup> per copy, plus postage.**

---

### **"Lord, please excuse me."**

Lord, please excuse me, I must be going. My favorite TV show is about to start. I will talk to you next time when I have a need. I hope you understand my need for a little entertainment. By the way, if it makes any difference, I am a member of a local church and once in a great while, I attend a prayer meeting and Bible study session. After all, Lord, you can't expect me to pray all the time. I have other responsibilities, and I am under a lot of stress lately.

Again, nothing personal, Lord! It is just the way things are and I am a casualty of the culture in which I live. I will be calling on you when something unexpected happens and need your help.

The  
Confession of a  
Busy Christian  
by Matthew Skariah

Dear friend, you should never look upon prayer as drudgery or a duty or a morbid exercise, but a delightful and heart-warming exercise that transcends all other spiritual exercises. Visit the grand galleries of the celestial city as often as you can. Believe me; you'll come away with the stunning discovery of the magnificent and life-changing power of God. Beloved, don't be hardened by post-modern, philosophical and technocratic, and religious smoke-screens! Sad to say, to many, God has become a "blessing machine," nothing more and nothing less!

We expect the Lord to be faithful to us; but doesn't it take the same commitment on our part to be faithful to Him? Think about it, dear ones!

**No Pop-psychology, no New Age Pabulum, just the Gospel, Please!**

## Matthew Skariah on the **'Power and Purity' of the Gospel**

Please, no more condescending, aristocratic, politically-correct, show-and-tell, feel-good, psychosomatic, health-and-wealth, touch-everything and cover-nothing New Age lectures! Give us that powerful, pungent, poignant, pulsating, life-changing, ego-slashing, heart-wrenching and soul-invigorating "Gospel" of power and purity.

I am deeply concerned by the fact that many people who have been in the church for years and years have seemingly never been taught much about truly growing in God's grace and holiness. It's as though we have been taught that God is merciful, and since we're under grace and not under the law, we don't need to be so concerned about *'biblical integrity and heart purity.'* I believe this is the result of lowering the moral imperative in the church and lack of preaching on the efficacious sacrifice of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. Christianity is essentially a life changing force; and to turn it into a 'club for wealth and status' is to negate its true spiritual mission. What Christianity needs at the moment is a revolution, a revolution that will change the very atmosphere of our churches and Christians everywhere. History teaches us how the past impacts the present and future.

As to the apostle Paul, the Cross was everything; it was the heart of his missionary communication, and the basis of his spiritual power. The cross is the means of Christ's sacrifice, and it conveys the message of his awesome power. As it did to Paul, it should mean everything to us.

In today's evangelical circle, there seems to be a strenuous effort on the part of some to attract crowds without developing disciples. Is it any wonder that we are frantically pursuing the beautification of the trivia, and the evanescent canonization of the mundane? Christianity is not about status, style or size; it's about Christ who was rented on mount Calvary for the sins of the world. The Lord's call to discipleship is clear, uncompromising and unrelenting. We cannot serve a pure God with impure motives!

Living a pure life is a matter of choice, not an obligation. It is not an option to a believer but a way of life. The life of godliness is a life of power and purity no matter how we slice it. True godly living is not prompted by razzle-dazzle or fiddle-faddle. Cheap religious imitations and shallow entertainments are not its fountain source. Purity is the true essence of godliness. By the way, I am not talking about works or self-righteousness, or make-believe holiness, but a wholesome and responsible Christian lifestyle. Holiness evokes purity, a quality which seems to be in short supply among many evangelicals today. Thomas A. Kempis was succinct when he said, *"Without the way, there is no going; without the truth, there is no knowing; without the life, there is no living."*

Without heart purity, all our religious efforts will be futile—something like the shaky fingers of a paralytic craftsman on the finishing board.

Copyright©2012 by World Prayer Band

---

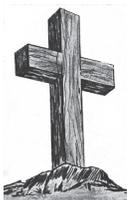
### Voice from The Past

On July 6, 1415, amid shouts and jeers, the church committed his soul to the devil. Hus was pushed by a crowd through the streets of Constance to the piled tinder, wrapped by the neck to a stake, and set ablaze. He died singing, *"Jesus, Son of the living God, have mercy on me."*

*"Do not believe that I have taught anything but the truth. I have taught no error. The truths I have taught I will seal with my blood."*

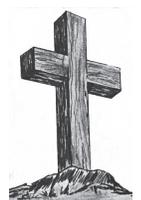
John Hus (1370-1415), Bohemian reformer and martyr

---



# The WPB Ministries

**PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE — 2 Chronicles 7:14**



◆ **Intercession** ◆ **Prayer Conferences** ◆ **Revivals**  
◆ **One to One Outreach** ◆ **Publications** ◆ **Overseas Crusades**

World Prayer Band • P. O. Box 686 • Roswell New Mexico 88202-0686 • U.S.A.  
(575) 623-6925 • E-mail: [mwpbs@yahoo.com](mailto:mwpbs@yahoo.com) • Website: [www.worldprayerband.com](http://www.worldprayerband.com)