

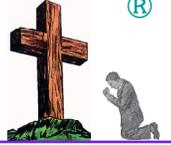


Challenging Christians to Pray

PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE — 2 Chronicles 7:14

Prayergram

October/November 2013



Is Anyone Out There Listening?



The profound words of Dr. Charles Malik, a Lebanese Christian scholar are worth remembering, **“Let God be known and loved, and the military requirements, the political problems, the economic needs, the scientific issues, and the vision of the intellect, will all take care of itself. On the crisis of God every other crisis depends.”** To a political leader, the nations financial woes are undeniably murky, and to an economist it appears a



Matthew Skariah

and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance” (Psalm 42:5). Our society is inundated with cynicism and fear, and as a result, an insidious paranoia is sweeping over the land; paranoia breeds fear, and fear debilitates the mind, and the mind is not something to be given over to seductive

spirits. Our adversary (Satan) is relentless in his attempt to push us into a state of utter panic and despair and hopelessness over the conditions in which we live.

Don't move away from the **“hope of the gospel.”** The message of the gospel is that Christ is alive and present in our midst. In His infinite love He shows us that He forgives sin. There is marvelous hope for the future and no child of God should be drinking from the well of ‘pessimism and hopelessness.’ I do not want to run down the future, because I am going to live there for the rest of my life. People often say,

“My situation is beyond repair, irretrievably hopeless, and I do not know what

To a political leader, the nation's financial woes are undeniably murky, and to an economist it appears a daunting and painful task to balance the budget, but to a humble believer—faith in God kicks in, and life begins to glow in the dark. What an amazing turn of event!

cause do I have to be cynical? I am not ‘down and out’ because my future is in God’s hand and I’m safe and secure in His care. The Psalmist David said, **“Why art thou cast down, O my soul?”**

Our society is inundated with cynicism and fear, and as a result, an insidious paranoia is sweeping over the land; paranoia breeds fear, and fear debilitates the mind, and the mind is not something to be given over to seductive spirits. Our adversary (Satan) is relentless in his attempt to push us into a state of utter panic and despair and hopelessness over the conditions in which we live.

Is Anyone Out There Listening? (Continued)

to do.” In the West there is a saying and it goes like this, **“When you’re rattled, don’t rush”**—in other words, **“When you don’t know what to do, don’t do it.”** It is blasphemy when I become bitter toward God; it is blasphemy when I blame God, **“Why did God do this to me?”** One person has said that the most profane of all words is the word **“hopeless.”**

Whenever we express hopelessness we are negating what the gospel of Jesus Christ stands for all the future. The secularist in our society tells us that we should not bring God into the picture! Society wants to solve all its problems without any supernatural intervention. No wonder, man has become an exasperated being, a wandering

The secularist in our society tells us that we should not bring God into the picture! Society wants to solve all its problems without any supernatural intervention. No wonder, man has become an exasperated being, a wandering soul, always seeking pleasures in created objects. Our culture is badly wounded; we must rebuild it for the sake of next generations. Don't hold back the biblical precepts when it comes to morality and decency.

soul, always seeking pleasures in created objects. Our culture is badly wounded; we must rebuild it for the sake of next generations. Don't hold back the biblical precepts when it comes to morality and decency. I would very much like to live in a world where everything is perfect and no one has need of anything. But since it is abundantly clear that I don't live in such a utopian world, I have to depend on God that He will carry me to safety and be my friend forever. Man makes mistakes; God corrects them. God is greatly grieved at the lack of trust among His children.

Obedience is the key to a life of contentment and peace. Many are under obedience more out of duty than love; and such individuals are prone to gripe and murmur and complain. If I follow Christ out of obligation,

necessity or duty, I am inclined to fuss and complain at every turn and find no pleasure in walking with God. This is not what our Lord asks of us to do. Jesus said, **“If a man**



loves me, he will keep my words...” (John 14:23). Beloved, we pay a hectic price for rebellion, and believe me, there is a rebellious streak in all of us when it comes to obedience to God and His precepts. The Word of God exerts no coercion; neither does it allow any compromise.

The hallmark of a true believer is his refusals to be weakened, hardened, or heartless, or soured, or made hopeless by external circumstances. No one can make you feel hopeless. The Word tells us, **“Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and he shall bring it to pass”** (Psalm 37:5). Always remember, we're messengers of hope in seemingly a confused world. Only God's wisdom can rightly decide anything—solve any problem, and settle any dispute. Men and women of undying faith and character are the unbreakable nails that hold society together. One supremely important message for this time is **“faith in God.”** Faith and hope are not momentary utopianism, as the cynics think, but powerful and germinative forces by which our generation experiences the greatness of God in a bewildered and frustrated era like ours. We want to talk about problems—but don't mention about sin and rebellion. Sin is no longer a national

topic of discussion—it is no longer discussed in religious realm as well. People become squeamish about sin and moral degradation. If you're a promoter of the social gospel, many inequalities in our society will frustrate you—we have a lot of frustrated people all around us. We look for the perfect politicians, perfect athletes, and perfect human beings—but sadly they do not exist. Jesus was the only perfect human being who ever lived. But, guess, what happened to Him—we nailed Him to a cross!

Suppose, if every citizen in the world becomes a millionaire over night—will that stop all the greed, covetousness, hate and prejudice? Let's get real. A Christian does not look for a perfect set of

Beloved, we pay a hectic price for rebellion, and believe me, there is a rebellious streak in all of us when it comes to obedience to God and His precepts. The Word of God exerts no coercion; neither does it allow any compromise.

Is Anyone Out There Listening? (Continued)

circumstances—he trusts in God regardless of the challenges he faces daily. That's Christianity in a nutshell! But let's look at the

modern Christian who dabbles in prosperity and the good life. He talks about Jesus as long as there is plenty of money, and all the comforts and conveniences of an industrial civilization, but when there is a change in his luxurious lifestyle, he will be the first one to bail out on Jesus. When we're asked to drink the 'bitter cup'—we refuse. Where is that 'religious debonair' who dazzled millions with his **"pillow preaching?"** The immortal words of Oswald Chambers come to mind, **"If God has given you a sweet cup, don't try and make it bitter;**

and if he has given you a bitter cup, don't try and make it sweet; take things as they come!" He who walks on the **"highway of holiness"** finds it very uncomfortable to walk on the curb. There are two forces at work in the world today. Sooner or later, man has to yield himself to God or the devil. **Our steely determination**



and will power will fail us, but Jesus never fails!

So let's rely on the Master! When we are under the sovereign rule of God and submissive to the Lordship of Christ, it is a delight to find harmony in the spirit despite our diversities ethnically, socially, educationally and denominationally. **So, rejoice, my fellow citizens! God is on His throne. Wonders are unfolding. The tomb is empty. Look up and see the Man in Glory!**

Let me share with you a secret: **Those who fear God fear no man; those who fear men have no fear of God.** We are raising a generation without the fear of God. Sadly, many in our culture do not fear God, and that's our problem in a nutshell! The "fear of the Lord" is pure, clean, clear and undiluted and it is born out of love, respect and reverence for God. May we give adherence to the words of the prophet Micah 6:8, **"...O man, what is good; and what doeth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"**

He who walks on the "highway of holiness" finds it very uncomfortable to walk on the curb. There are two forces at work in the world today. Sooner or later, man has to yield himself to God or the devil. Our steely determination and will power will fail us, but Jesus never fails!

Copyright © 2013 by World Prayer Band

Humility is not an accessory virtue, but a godly one and it is in our Christian DNA.

Voice from the Past

I knew Jesus, and He was very precious to my soul; but I found something in me that would not keep sweet and patient and kind. I did what I could keep it down, but it was there. I besought Jesus to do something for me, and, when I gave Him my will, He came to my heart, and took out all that would not be sweet, all that would not be kind, all that would not be patient, and then He shut the door.

George Fox (1624-1691)
Founder, Religious Society of Quakers
A seraphic man of prayer

SPEAKING PRAYERFULLY *By Matthew Skariah*

Prayer never meant it to be a 'slurp it down on the run exercise;' instead, it meant to be a heartfelt, passionate, and ceaseless spiritual exercise that has enormous benefit this side of eternity. Don't ever neglect the precious privilege of prayer—yearn for it and pursue it with all your God-given might and power. ***Never weary in prayer. So pray on, without ceasing. Prayer is immeasurable and incalculable. Eloquent words move men; but prayers offered in true brokenness and humility move God. A prayerful person is a mighty weapon in the hand of the living God. Prayer keeps us 'evergreen' even in the midst of winter.***

Wouldn't it be great if we can obtain the benefit of the '**power of prayer**' automatically by the flipping of a switch without any disciplinary effort on our

part? As for me, I will bend my knees gladly before Jehovah, the God of my heart, and my portion forever. But I must warn you, as an intercessor, you'll often lead a lonely life. ***"All men forsook me,"*** said Paul. It is a price you've to pay; there is loneliness in prayer. Yet you will not be alone, because you will be ministered to by the Spirit of God, as Elijah was ministered to at the brook Cherith. ***A true intercessor lives a burdened life. If he's the Lord's chosen vessel, he carries in his heart a burden for souls none can share but only those who know it firsthand. A life that's devoted to prayer will not give much credence to his negative circumstances nor sit and mope around the ashes of defeat! Every life needs an altar!***

"Who ever knew an eminently holy man who did not spend much of his time in prayer."

—C. H. Spurgeon

Culture Watch—Don't take the Bait

When we throw away the mantle of decency and reverence, we find ourselves crouching to secularists, and cowering before an enemy smirking at our unwelcome condition. When we disrespect the holy name of Jehovah, moral peril is inevitable. In God's sovereignty, He will brook no shared glory. It seems that man wants God to share His glory with him, and that's what the fuss is all about. ***"I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images"*** (Isaiah 42:8).

Watch out for the tendency for self-exaltation! We are tempted daily to take short cuts and compromise with the world just to get along so we won't appear awkward and

uncouth. Satan tempted Jesus to pursue goals other than His Father's will, but the Son of God never took the bait. Today, more than ever, Satan allures us with egotism, irreverence and rebellion, instead of resisting it—we end up with taking the bait.

What we applaud is what we approve. What we approve is what we celebrate. When we turn our back on the "God of glory," we remove all the fences of moral responsibility. When we attack Christianity, we attack the very foundation of America. When we break the laws of God, we only break ourselves. When conscience is pushed aside, we lose our moral mirror! It is not an exaggeration to say that America has lost her moral mirror.



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 • Cell Phone: (575) 626-5097

E-mail: mwpbs@yahoo.com

Website: www.worldprayerband.com