



# Prayergram<sup>®</sup>



Challenging Christians to Pray — August-September 2014



Matthew Skariah

## The Power of Silence

*“Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth” (Psalms 46:10).*

Today, more than ever, people in general, are seeking a sympathetic ear and do not find it among us who profess to be Christians, because we are always talking when we should be listening. We lend a helping hand to our brothers and sisters when we make a sincere effort to listen to them. But in reality so often believers, particularly preachers, think that our only mission is always to speak when we are together with other Christians. Compassion is the capacity to “weep” with those who weep and “rejoice” with those who rejoice. We need our brothers and sisters more than they need us. The immortal words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer come to mind, **“Christians who can no longer listen to one another will soon no longer be listening to God either; they will always be talking even in the presence of God. The death of the spiritual life starts here, and in the end there is nothing left but empty spiritual chatter and clerical condescension which chokes on pious words. We should listen with ears of God, so that we can speak the Word of God.”**

Spiritual discernment does not come to the noise-makers or rabble-rousers, but those who wait upon God with expectant silence. Think of our Savior before the mocking crowd, being struck, spat upon, and yet answering never a word—**never a word**. In spite of all the insult, Jesus remained calm and composed while exhibiting the example of perfect silence and self-control. Silence is the missing jewel in our modern-day worship services. How can we receive a word from the Lord when we do not respect His house and do not reverence His presence? We need to listen to His small, still voice and stop rambling on with our problems. Let’s meditate on His majestic presence, unconditional love, and endless patience!

In our culture of busyness, people are hungry to be loved, heard and understood, and no wonder, they seek escape in all the wrong places, hoping someone or something will fill their empty soul. Our society reminds me of the Simon and Garfunkel song,

*“People talking without speaking,  
People hearing without listening,  
People writing songs that voices never share,  
And no one dare disturb the sound of silence.”*

*Spiritual discernment does not come to the noise-makers or rabble-rousers, but those who wait upon God with expectant silence. Think of our Savior before the mocking crowd, being struck, spat upon, and yet answering never a word—never a word. In spite of all the insult, Jesus remained calm and composed while exhibiting the example of perfect silence and self-control. Silence is the missing jewel in our modern-day worship services. How can we receive a word from the Lord when we do not respect His house and do not reverence His presence? We need to listen to His small, still voice and stop rambling on with our problems. Let’s meditate on His majestic presence, unconditional love, and endless patience!*

*Those who live a quiet life are undermined by a society that caters to the rowdy crowd. In our culture of rowdiness, idle talk has gained much notoriety. Whatever has happened to real silence, real stillness, and really biting one's tongue? The profound words of Thomas A. Kempis come to mind. "No one speaks more confidently than the one who gladly remains silent." There is an 'unimaginable confidence' lies in the person who has the assurance of God's presence and the ability to hear and speak about Him at the appropriate time. Every conversation should have some validity, some correlation, and some spiritual value.*

In my humble opinion, much of modern living is unexamined living. **"The unexamined life is not worth the living,"** says Socrates. To live a satisfying life with real 'purpose and meaning' one must decide what is relevant and central in life. Someone describes this life as a **"rat race, but when it's all over, who wants to smell like a rat?"** We are surrounded by people who exercise no discipline or discretion when it comes to the power of the tongue; they do not grasp that words have consequences, and no wonder they act and behave like lose cannons. Someone has said, **"He who guards his lips guards his heart."** The Word of God tells us in Ecclesiastes 5:1-2, **"KEEP thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."** The remarkable strength of a Christian lies in his ability to be alone with God in the 'secret place of prayer' as he enjoys God's inimitable and unfettered presence.

Those who live a quiet life are undermined by a society that caters to the rowdy crowd. In our culture of rowdiness, idle talk has gained much notoriety. Whatever has happened to real silence, real stillness, and really biting one's tongue? The profound words of Thomas A. Kempis come to mind. **"No one speaks more confidently than the one who gladly remains silent."** There is an 'unimaginable confidence' lies in

the person who has the assurance of God's presence and the ability to hear and speak about Him at the appropriate time. Every conversation should have some validity, some correlation, and some spiritual value. Let's not waste our time talking about worthless stuff. Today much of our conversations center on nothing—it is cheap talk; obvious talk, idle talk, and talk that does not honor God. The Word of God tells us, **"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver"** (Proverbs 25:11). The current approval of obscenity in America illustrates an embarrassing trend: the subjugation of wholesome language and plain decency to a vociferous and outspoken few whose vocabulary is very soiled and limited.

I remember reading about the famous British Author Charles Lamb and his beloved sister Mary, who was stricken with a mental illness which led her to an asylum. Charles Lamb, Mary's famous brother would go in the early morning, or in the late evening, to take her out of the asylum for a walk through the English country-side. They said nothing to each other; they just walked the gloomy way, hand in hand, speechless and weeping, no criticism and no moralizing, just Christian love and fellowship. When Charles Lamb gave his afflicted sister the hand of a 'silent but bleeding sympathy' he was lifting to his lips the 'cup of compassion,' while entering into the "fellowship of his Lord's sufferings" as well. We are always using the "clumsy instrument of speech" to get our points

*I remember reading about the famous British Author Charles Lamb and his beloved sister Mary, who was stricken with a mental illness which led her to an asylum. Charles Lamb, Mary's famous brother would go in the early morning, or in the late evening, to take her out of the asylum for a walk through the English country-side. They said nothing to each other; they just walked the gloomy way, hand in hand, speechless and weeping, no criticism and no moralizing, just Christian love and fellowship. When Charles Lamb gave his afflicted sister the hand of a 'silent but bleeding sympathy' he was lifting to his lips the 'cup of compassion,' while entering into the "fellowship of his Lord's sufferings" as well.*

across. That is the peril of sermons, movies and television. We don't have to talk all the time for the sake of talking. **"Blessed are they that mourn,"** who have not lost their capacity to speak without words. Tears are the loving expression of a caring heart. The world needs to see the gentleness of our character and the firmness of our resolve.

Jesus went up into a mountain apart to pray: **"and when evening was come, he was there alone"** (Matthew 14:23). Solitude is not known to this generation. Oh, the rush, the hurry, the clamor, the noise, the nervousness, the hyper activities, all point to a life of trauma and turmoil as society plunges into a bottomless abyss. Inner strength does not reside in bluster and noise; it lies in solitude and quietness. For example, lions and eagles enjoy solitude; lions hunt alone and eagles fly alone and they do not flock. The Word of God tells us, **"... in quietness and in confidence shall be thy strength..."** (Isaiah 30:15) It seems that we have lost the capacity to sit at the feet of our Master in hallowed solitude.

Millions of words are spoken daily; much of what we utter is unnecessary, silly and insipid. But on the other hand, what is useful, inspiring and uplifting can be said in a few thoughtful words without hurling insults on others. We need to master the tongue; and loose lips always cause problems. The world does its best to alienate us from our God and our faith is tested daily. Ours is a generation that tries men's souls. Consequently character breaks down; hope dissipates, and faith vanishes. No wonder disillusionment and cynicism flourish; moral standards collapse and spirituality evaporate before our eyes and men cry, what's the use!

The divine voice is not always expressed in mere words; it is made relevant and meaningful as a heart consciousness. The human being cannot maintain a restful life unless he retreats daily into cessation, quietness, stillness and above all, communion with his maker. May we listen quietly, act circumspectly, and think deeply! Cultivate solitude; because God speaks in solitude. Silence is simply too powerful to blithely wish away. Always remember that "wholesome speech" is a source of comforts to all those who hear it. So make speech your servant, not your master. Silence is often more eloquent than speech. Rely less on words and more on deeds. Let our faith be less of a show and more of a living reality! Someone has very wisely said, **"The tongue is a window to the heart."**

*May we listen quietly, act circumspectly, and think deeply! Cultivate solitude; because God speaks in solitude. Silence is simply too powerful to blithely wish away. Always remember that "wholesome speech" is a source of comforts to all those who hear it. So make speech your servant, not your master. Silence is often more eloquent than speech. Rely less on words and more on deeds. Let our faith be less of a show and more of a living reality! Someone has very wisely said, "The tongue is a window to the heart."*

Copyright © 2014 by World Prayer Band

---

*"He who has graduated in the 'science of silence' is himself a wise man."*

---



## Who is an Intercessor?



**I**ntercessors are keepers of the flame. They're never asked to be recognized or applauded, and they don't mind who gets the credit. They're watchmen on the wall. The greatest thing a person can do for God and man is to PRAY. **"And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends"** (Job 42:10).

Beloved, let's pray as Christ, our Master has instructed in essence, **"pray for the friend who comes to you at midnight, pray for the saints of God, and pray for all men everywhere."** Intercession is transcendent worship. Oh, how desperately we need the selfless service of God's 'unsung and forgotten saints' at these perilous times in which we live! Don't ever cast God's intercessors aside!

# Speaking Prayerfully *by Matthew Skariah*

## Where have all the Praying Men and Fathers Gone?

God knows our prayer habits are not what they should be in private or public. The best way to teach on prayer is to pray on bended knees. Examples are better than lectures. A baby that doesn't cry is an abnormal baby; likewise, a Christian that doesn't enjoy 'God's presence' is an abnormal Christian. When it comes to prayer, a seeking soul should avoid all technicalities and excuses. Be earnest in prayer. Prayer is of various kinds, but of whatever kind, prayer builds intimacy with the Father who waits to hear from us. Have you ever experienced the 'power of prayer' without uttering a word? God's greatest blessings come through travailing prayer. **My father was not a theologian or a preacher, but a very quiet and humble believer who developed a powerful prayer life that became his legacy. He rose up very early in the morning to light up the "prayer furnace" in our home, and I was deeply touched by his godly example. He is with the Lord now, but I can still feel the strength of his 'prayer-influence' in my life.**

Today, there is no shortage on theological discussions on the topic of prayer, but when it comes to kneel in prayer, there is such an aversion on the part of many Christians. Prayer is the spiritual glue that holds families together in times of social and moral upheaval. Prayer transforms a house into a home where Christ is loved and worshipped preeminently. It is the responsibility of the father to lead his family into a prayer chamber like our Master did. Never doubt the "spiritual impact" of a praying father on his family! Indeed, it has proven many times over. When fathers take charge of the "prayer leadership" in their family... expect a spiritual revolution. Fathers, rise up under the Lordship of Christ and take your proper place as the high priest of your home. It is high and holy calling. A sobering responsibility indeed! I know the Lord will bless you for it.

*Prayer is the spiritual glue that holds families together in times of social and moral upheaval. Prayer transforms a house into a home where Christ is loved and worshipped preeminently. It is the responsibility of the father to lead his family into a prayer chamber like our Master did. Never doubt the "spiritual impact" of a praying father on his family! Indeed, it has proven many times over. When fathers take charge of the "prayer leadership" in their family... expect a spiritual revolution.*

Copyright © 2014 by World Prayer Band

*Fathers need to be humble and prayerful. Fatherhood is more than biological—it is emotional, moral, social and spiritual.*

**RENEWAL** with Matthew Skariah  
September 14-19 † Grace Baptist Church † Durant, Oklahoma  
Anthony Williams, Pastor



# 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 • Website: www.worldprayerband.com