



PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE — 2 Chronicles 7:14

Prayergram®



Challenging Christians to Pray — June-July 2015

Loss of Moral/Spiritual Memory

“And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.”
(Deuteronomy 8:2)

We are admonished in the Scriptures to “acknowledge” the Lord in all our ways. It is true when we are simple; we become discernable and do not fall into the trap of gullible optimism and foolish pride. The profound words of British historian Arnold Toynbee are worth remembering, **“Western civilization rests upon the foundation of the Christian faith.”**

Good governments evolve from Christian teaching, and if you don’t agree, look at history with an open mind and spiritual paradigm. The Word of God tells us, “When the righteous are in authority, then people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn” (Proverbs 29:2). When Christianity is treated as poison, destruction is inevitable, and is it any wonder that America is in a moral and spiritual quandary?

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Every misconception, every fallacious idea, every

fatal thinking, error in doctrine emanate from not having a right conception of God. The person who has a right conception of God is actually a person who lives a meaningful life; while others are tangled up in a web of self-deception and self-importance. Our puritan forefathers were visionaries and they understood the sovereignty of God unlike anyone else in modern times. The profound words of Jeremy Taylor come to mind, **“It is impossible for that man to despair who remembers that his helper is omnipotent.”** The Hebrew prophets understood God’s sovereignty and they did conduct themselves accordingly. They did not promote themselves; they simply buckled down and reminded the people with absolute and unmitigated certainty that they were dealing with Jehovah God. Today, many evangelicals do not influence; they simply imitate the world, and no wonder the world tries to neutralize their faith. Why should we pursue goals

Today, many evangelicals do not influence; they simply imitate the world, and no wonder the world tries to neutralize their faith. Why should we pursue goals which we never bother to examine critically? Let’s ask poignant questions by puncturing pretentious facades and passing fancies. Let us step aside and let the fashions of the world go by! Remember, as followers of Jesus of Nazareth, we are to be a peculiar people, with a different lifestyle, punctuated by Christ-centered motives and priorities.

Many people I know that they behave one way today and another tomorrow. May we remain firm and constant, showing ourselves to be faithful to God at all cost! Perhaps we need to go back in time and capture some of the simplicities of life that we seem to have lost at the moment. Life used to be much more stable; people were more reliable, friends were helpful and family members cared for one another. I happen to be one who respects the past; especially admire all those who have gone before me in the service of the Lord, and how they lived and loved their Master and Lord! The profound words of D. M. Patton come to mind, "The golden summary of our life is to be this: as to the past, a record of gratitude; as to the present, a record of service; and as to the future, a record of trust."

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It is very rare to find a person who is endowed with a photographic memory; even though it is not very common but occasionally we come across someone who is gifted with such ability. But as a whole, most of us have the tendency to forget things from time to time and when we do forget, God in His love and grace sends someone to remind us of His goodness and mercy. It is important for us to remember that Christ did not come to introduce any brand of new morality. Great moral teachers never do that; it is only quacks and cranks who do such things. As Dr. Johnson said, **"People need to be reminded more often than they need to be instructed."** As teachers

and preachers, our mission in life is to remind people about the simple biblical truths and precepts which we are so eager and anxious to forget. Today, more than ever, God is not looking for great people or well-known preachers, but He is searching for men and women who will dare to prove the greatness of their God by placing themselves at His disposal.

It is no exaggeration to say that we live in a culture of absurdity which is our inability to HEAR and OBEY God. The Word of God tells that obedience is better than sacrifice. Adam and Eve were the first deconstructionist because they had a good professor—Satan. Man is not governed by His senses—but by the living truth of God's eternal Word. When people become conscious of God, they become conscious of their environments and how they conduct themselves as they go about their daily task. The profound words of William Booth are worth remembering, **"The greatness of a man's power is the measure of his surrender."** It seems that

our world has become one wild jungle where people run around and do their things without regard to the One who created it. The present generation is afraid to look back with wisdom. We madly rush forward and call it progress.

Without God—man has to fabricate himself as immortal. We need to "fess up" that God alone is immortal. There is a dimension of reality, a wonderment and amazement when it comes to God and His divine presence in the world. In our topsy-turvy state of mind, how little credence we attach to constancy, firmness and faithfulness! Many people I know that they behave one way today and another tomorrow. May we remain firm and constant, showing ourselves to be faithful to God at all cost! Perhaps we need to go back in time and capture some of the simplicities of life that we seem to have lost at the moment. Life used to be much more stable; people were more

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Even with all the craziness around, I can only say that I have no wish to live in any other time than our own even though it is not always conducive to my liking. Furthermore, I do not want to put down the future because I am going to spend the rest of my life there with my Savior. Remember, the God of Israel goes before us! And therefore, all is well, and God is in the tomorrows. Something always puzzles me is that how soon we forget relationships and friendships! Our moral memory is very short. As we recall after 9-11 as a nation, we asked for divine help; politicians and

After 9-11, we were made to think that we were not immortal after all, our tallest buildings were brought down, and a sense of hopelessness crept over the nation. A new love and appreciation for God were on the horizon. It was an awesome feeling to watch how people of diverse background came together to give thanks to God. A single moment can change a man's life forever. Right now, in America, we're suffering from a "loss of moral spiritual memory." Once again, America has crawled back into her native land, kicking God to the curb and provoking the Holy One of Israel to anger. Nothing sticks fast, nothing holds firm; everything is here today and gone tomorrow. People do not value friendship and loyalty anymore; it seems in this world, every man is for himself and what suits him for the moment is embraced and revered.

others alike held hands and sang; churches were full for a few weeks, then we went back to business as usual. It seems that we cannot stay loyal and faithful to God even for a short time; it is a disease that we suffer from and the only cure is the blood of Christ. We have a tendency to love and hate, faithful and unfaithful, loyal and disloyal, thanksgiving and complaining.

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Every generation has a responsibility to remind the next generations about the goodness of the Lord, as the Hebrews were commanded to do so in the sacred Scriptures about the mighty exploits of Jehovah God. All great accomplishments need time, constancy, and memory, if not society degenerates into moral and social oblivion. In the midst of all life's social and moral problems, how can one remain sane and calm without blowing up? America is losing ground morally, socially and spiritually as a nation, and our cherished values and principles are under attack. Christians are in a precarious position. In sheer humility, we throw ourselves completely into the arms of our beloved Savior, not dwelling on our suffering and trials, but those of God in the world who are being persecuted for their faith in Christ—watching with Christ in Gethsemane. That, I believe, is very critical at this sad juncture of moral and social collapse! That is living the Christian faith, and that is how one becomes ever hopeful and victorious in a world of confusion and chaos.

We are not to take refuge in the arms of a President, or the Congress or the Senate, or the Supreme Court, or should I say, the Highest Court in the land, but in the arms of God. **"The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous of the land and His ears are open unto their cry" (Psalms 34:15), "but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."** Let me ask you, how can success make us so arrogant, and failure lead us astray, when we live and have our being in Him? In Christ, we have an impregnable position. It is priceless;

guard it with every fiber of your being. When we step outside the will of God, then self-realization enters in and down we go. We listen to so many experts religious and otherwise, talk to our friends and family about what the Lord is saying to us, and we end up losing the sight of God, and stop talking to Him altogether. We should allow the principles of Christ to work out in our lives as well as in our brains. Studies about Jesus Christ apart from His divinity simply bolster a philosophy that leads to despair and disenchantment.

Christianity teaches that love is better than hate; preserving life is better than killing, honesty is better than dishonesty and giving is better than hoarding. We may talk about the nobility of humanity and all the noble things we do, but there is something in human nature that nobody wants to talk about—selfishness and hate. In this world, there is so much darkness, loneliness, and it is infested with evil things; but thankfully, we do not pitch our tent here; we are pitching our tent overlooking the Eastern sky, and anticipating the glorious appearing of our Redeemer and King. It is undeniably true that when Christians lose their "moral/spiritual memory" of the blessings of God, they immediately begin to vacillate and become careless and ungrateful to all that God

has done for them. If you don't believe me, look around and see what's happening in your home, church and community! Thanksgiving should be a part of our Christian lifestyle, and if we do not know our heritage, how can we give thanks to God for past mercies and blessings!

There are some in our culture who are so eager to celebrate the demise of God, not realizing that no one can wage a successful campaign against the living God, and yet that is what America is doing at the moment. So I urge my fellow citizens not to give into pessimism or defeatism. Never give into hopelessness! A prayerful person can never be a defeated person. Lock your mind in the affirmative. God always wins—not according to our timing or methodology, but in the end He wins. **"...this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).** If a man lives in "faith and hope" when evil comes it will not conquer him. Let's be careful, dear ones, God may shake things up in our lives, and when He does, we need to humble ourselves before Jehovah God who alone holds infinity in the palm of His hand. Tremble with awe! God's kingdom remains unshaken! May I close this article with the profound words of Abraham Lincoln, our sixteenth President, **"My great concern is not whether God is on our side, my great concern is to be on God's side."** If America is to be a viable force in the world, she must remain faithful to God. An ancient proverb worth remembering, **"The taller the bamboo grows the lower it bends."**

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America must regain her spiritual and moral memory, if she is to recover from her current social and moral debacle!

Biblical Holiness, a Christian Lifestyle

Biblical holiness is not make-believe holiness. There are real dangers in self imposed holiness sanctioned by zealous people through man-made rules and regulations. Some speak very eloquently about holiness and do not live it at all. Then, there are others who dismiss the word "holiness" by saying, "it is for the uncultured and unpolished people."

With frigid error on the right, and frenzied error on the left, let us give puzzled people the authentic answer about true holiness! Any Church or doctrine, or theology that does not recognize the cleansing aspect of the precious Holy Spirit is absolutely false and completely counterfeit. Daniel Steel says, "The Holy Spirit is the Preserver of Orthodoxy." The Holy Spirit is not lopsided. It never goes off on a tangent. To be holy, some think, is to be hard, unreasonable, cantankerous and capricious. But true holiness is none of the above.

Loving devotion to Christ is not prompted by razzle-dazzle or fiddle-faddle. Cheap imitations and shallow entertainments are not its fountain source. Holiness is the opposite of humdrum!

LET'S REWIND THE TAPE!

"Holiness in us is the copy or transcript of the holiness that is in Christ."

PHILIP HENRY, POWERFUL EXPOSITOR

"Lord, make me as holy as a saved sinner can be."

ROBERT MURRAY McCHEYENE

SERAPHIC PREACHER OF DUNDEE, SCOTLAND

"My only aim in life is to secure personal holiness, for without being holy myself, I cannot promote real holiness in others."

JOHN WESLEY, OXFORD SCHOLAR

"The heaven I long for is a heaven of holiness."

JONATHAN EDWARDS, AMERICA'S MOST BRILLIANT THEOLOGIAN AND THINKER

"Character in a saint means the disposition of Jesus Christ persistently manifested."

OSWALD CHAMBERS, POWERFUL DEVOTIONAL WRITER OF ALL TIMES

"Holy living is the best argument that tells for God in an age of fact. Words have weight only when they have a man behind them."

THOMAS CARLYLE, 18TH CENTURY SCOTTISH ESSAYIST/POET

"The serene beauty of a holy life is the most profound influence in the world next to the power of God."

BLAISE PASCAL, THE 17TH CENTURY FRENCH MATHEMATICIAN, SCIENTIST, INVENTOR. CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHER

When we are being absorbed in His majestic presence, holiness becomes a delightful lifestyle rather than a chore or drudgery. **Without heart purity, all our human efforts will be futile— something like the shaky fingers of a paralytic craftsman on the finishing board.**

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"Holiness is not the way to Christ, but Christ is the way to holiness."

Voice from the Past

"A Christian is growing when he elevates his Master, talk less of what he himself is doing, and becomes smaller and smaller in his own esteem; until, like the morning star, he fades away before the rising Sun."

Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

Scottish Hymn Writer, Poet and Preacher



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