



PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE — 2 Chronicles 7:14

Prayergram



Challenging Christians to Pray — November-December 2015

Slumbering Church Needs a 'Prayer Revival'

Matthew Henry said, "When God intends to bless His people, the first thing He does is to set them on praying ground." D. L. Moody said, "Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure." Charles Finney said, "Unless I had the spirit of prayer, I could be nothing." Jonathan Edwards, the eminent Puritan thinker and theologian said, "Prayer is as natural an expression of faith as breathing is of life." Paul E. Billheimer said, "Satan does not care how many people read about prayer if only he can keep them from praying." Sidlow Baxter said, "Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers." Charles Spurgeon said, "I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach." Andrew Murray said, "The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history."

Is there something alarming and revealing about the soul of modern evangelicalism? It seems the whole reach of its spectrum has dwindled. Many looked for this movement to prevent the Church from further drift and apostasy, but tragically, evangelicalism is now itself adrift. Others were sure that "deeper life groups" within the evangelical circle would prevent the declension; but now they, too, are marred in the same sweeping cross-currents of compromise and cultural pandering.

Where are God's broken-hearted, soul-smitten, spirit-anointed evangelical prophets, today, to call His Church back to a disciplined life in prayer? In the recorded history of the Church there has never been a mighty revival which did not begin in protracted, persistent, prevailing prayer of a desperate people. Matthew Henry said, **"When God intends to bless His people, the first thing He does is to set them on praying ground."** D. L. Moody said, **"Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure."** Charles Finney said, **"Unless I had the spirit of prayer, I could be nothing."** Jonathan Edwards, the eminent Puritan thinker and theologian said, **"Prayer is as natural an expression of faith as breathing is of life."** Paul E. Billheimer said, **"Satan does not care how many people read about prayer if only he can keep them from praying."**

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The modern church as we know of today has become puzzled and uncertain about her message of redemption from sin. Many in the Christian leadership are wavering in the faithful presentation of their distinctive doctrines and the foundation of Christian virtues,

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ideals and biblical precepts; they are being influenced more or less by a culture that is hostile to the Christian message of hope and salvation. Consequently, the true faith is being undercut, compromised or mimicked almost as never before in history. The so-called emerging church has not altogether rejected the Apostles' Creed, but she has presumed to modify the Apostles' standards. She has theologially

To our dismay, the institutionalized church is becoming a 'monolithic tomb' of the spiritually dead; she is not acting like the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ; she is simply responding to the demand of the culture in which she conducts her daily affairs.

As Christians, we are the salt of the earth and salt irritates the wound and it needs to be applied where it hurts. Many in our Christian churches think God has human weaknesses, such as becoming angry, changing His mind, seeking the approval of man; and no wonder, they are on a crusade to change the image of God by manufacturing a 'plausible god' in their own image; a god who winks at sin and carnality. Interesting, isn't it?

retained the Cross as God's way of atonement but has denied it vehemently as His way of life. The early Christians turned the world upside down; today, the world turns us upside down. What a strange dichotomy?

Harnack, German theologian and historian, at the turn of the century said, **"The church influenced the world most when it was most unlike the world."** Decades of profligate and self-centered living and lack of godliness have taken their toll on many evangelical Christians. Years of prosperity teaching and the absence of **"holy living"** and self-denial have attenuated real faith. And now we have reached the moment of reality. Either we firm up, stand up, speak up, and pray with importunity, or we run the danger of becoming a mere shadow in the night, or an irreverent religious show. There must be a radical change and it must begin now. There is no other way. We need a prayer revolution immediately. But we cannot have such a revolution until the church gets a divorce from the world.

There are some who would argue that **"how are we supposed to attract the crowd if we do not provide**

some sort of carnal incentive?" To such argument, I raise the question as to how did the early church draw the people at Pentecost. By amusement, advertising, concerts, posters, radio and television? Of course not! The people were arrested by a power that was beyond human tricks and manipulations. Are people being arrested by such power today in our services? The people came willingly as they heard sounds from heaven, and believe me; the heavenly sounds are dying out in our churches **(Read Acts chapter 2)**. To our dismay, the institutionalized church is becoming a 'monolithic tomb' of the spiritually dead; she is not acting like the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ; she is simply responding to the demand of the culture in which she conducts her daily affairs. As Christians, we are the salt of the earth and salt irritates the wound and it needs to be applied where it hurts. Many in our Christian churches think God has human weaknesses, such as becoming angry, changing His mind, seeking the approval of man; and no wonder, they are on a crusade to change the image of God by manufacturing a 'plausible god' in their own image; a god who winks at sin and carnality. Interesting, isn't it?

Let me be frank with you! A Church that does not believe in the God of the Bible is a farce. Baal has become the god of the 21st century and those who attack sacred traditions have no concept of the purity of God. Dr. Charles Malik, a brilliant scholar and a humble Lebanese Christian was profound when he said, **"The Church is neither Western nor Eastern; she is neither Aryan nor Slav; she is neither Anglo-Saxon nor Latin; she is neither capitalist nor proletarian; she is neither white nor colored; she is neither European nor Asian nor African nor American; she is the Church of Jesus Christ by whose 'Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free' (1 Corinthians 12:13). Let the Church therefore remain faithful to the kingdom of God and His Christ."** Amen and Amen!

The greatest blunder in Christian existence is pride; man is the epitome of pride and conceit. Beloved it is time that every gospel preacher should **"weep between the porch and the altar"** crying, **"Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, where is their God?" (Joel 2:17)**. Many Christians seem to be sporadic in their prayer for revival because they

tend to grow weary. The Word of God tells us, **“But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing”** (2 Thessalonians 3:13).

Arise, believers, servants of God, arise! America, our land is about to be swept away by the tides of sin and debauchery and social meltdown and she is fast ripening for judgment. It could, however, soon be ripe for revival and restoration if **His people (us), who are called by His name, shall humble ourselves, and pray, and seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways; then God will hear from heaven, and will forgive our sin, and will heal our land”** (2 Chronicles 7:14). God forbid that we should fail in this critical hour when our nation is bleeding spiritually and morally and socially!

Beloved, we have not prayed for our land as we should. We watched our morals being shred into pieces; instead of waging war against the enemy of our soul, we’re waging war against the truth of God’s Word and our sacred traditions in the name of social and cultural engineering. Dear praying saints, blood-washed people of

God, let’s give ourselves to **“fasting and prayer!”** It is now or never, time to enlist ourselves in God’s praying army. Either we pray with passion for an ego-slashing revival or forever we hang our harps on the willows in utter helplessness and shame. The world is waiting for our next move. What will it be? This is the hour we have been waiting for. So on with our agony and soul-passion. God’s praying people are not weaklings; they are quintessential to the survival of the modern church and they are changing the spiritual landscape of the world.

Dear ones, are you satisfied with your prayer life? Are you conscious of your Father’s presence? Are you on speaking terms with God? God does not force His favors on us; He longs for us to ask, and then He is right there with all the resources of Heaven at His command. We can no longer be the timid little sheep who blindly accept the fondest notion of those who reject our Lord’s call to prayer. Prayer transcends race, nationality, age, gender and denominational affiliation. One blessed thing about prayer, of course, is that it has no need of human manipulations—it holds its unique power and greatness within itself. For me, prayer isn’t just a ministry or a religious ritual; it is my life, meat and drink. I am absolutely and undeniably incapable of inculcating upon your mind the “need, necessity, importance, and delight” of prayer. Prayer is, therefore, the most important spiritual component when it comes to reviving the “slumbering Church.” Indulge your passion for prayer now!

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The immortal words of Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage come to mind, “O you dead churches wake up! O Christ, descend! Scarred temple, take the crown! Bruised hand, take the sceptre! Wounded foot, step the throne! Thine is the kingdom.”

VOICE FROM THE PAST

“I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction” (Isaiah 48:10). Fear not, Christian; Jesus is with thee. In all thy fiery trials, His presence is both thy comfort and safety. He will never leave one whom He has chosen for His own. “Fear not, for I am with thee,” is His sure word of promise to His chosen ones in “the furnace of affliction.”

—Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-1892)

Who may be regarded as the last of the great Puritans.

Pray for the persecuted Christians worldwide

Imagine, the 21st century is supposed to be a century of understanding, mutual respect, progressive thinking, and tolerance for all religions and international brotherhood, where we all join hands and sing happy songs and live happily ever after! But reality proves otherwise! With the blessing of America and the so-called international community and the United Nations, Iran and other countries in the region are given 'carte blanche' to terrorize Christians for their faith in Christ as the world watches without any outrage. When evil behavior is rampant in society, silence becomes an indirect endorsement of such behavior. When we keep silence while the carnage and brutality against Christians go on unchecked, we become complicit.

Right now, there are many Iranian Christians in prison along with **Pastor Saeed Abedini**, an Iranian-born American Christian. Please pray for these believers and their families as they long for the release of their loved ones. Even though they are being kept in prison; they are standing 'tall and firm' in their love and devotion to Christ with unwavering tenacity and indomitable courage, and serve as a powerful example to us all as we follow the Man of Galilee. **Also, remember all the persecuted Christians worldwide.** Let's stand with our brothers and sisters in loving Christian solidarity!

"A church that does not remember its persecuted brethren is no church at all."

—Pastor Richard Wurmbrand (Author of *Tortured for Christ*)



Matthew Skariah

The Power of Kneeling

A prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian; perhaps he is a pastor, or an evangelist, or a conference speaker or a lay Christian who leads a busy life, a hurley-burley life, and talks a great deal about spiritual things in general; but such a life without a devoted and ongoing prayer life is far removed from the Lord Jesus Christ who sought the will of His Father in Gethsemane and wept over the city of Jerusalem.

Prayer navigates us through the celestial city where we find intimacy with the living God. In prayer, there's no browsing, no chat-room, no surfing, no cyberspace interactions. It is just us and God. It is heavenly interaction pure and simple. Remember, it's the spirit of prayer that takes the flint out of our carnal nature!

Oswald Chambers, the prolific devotional writer was so profound when he said, *"Climbing in the spirit is accomplished by kneeling, and not by running, by surrender, and not by determination."* Someone has wisely written, *"No man stumbles, when he's on his knees."*

"Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees."

—William Cowper (17th century English poet and hymn writer)

Renewal and Revival with Matthew Skariah

Washington County
Baptist Church

Lincoln, Arkansas

November 15

David Isaac, Pastor

Rocky Point
Baptist Church

Sallisaw, Oklahoma

November 16-17

Herman Jones, Pastor

Friendship
Baptist Church

Highland, Arkansas

November 22-24

Mike Stanley, Pastor



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