



Prayergram®



Challenging Christians to Pray — October-November 2018

The 'Kneeling' Christian

"No man stumbles when he is on his knees."

As we look at the history of the church, there has never been a mighty move of God which did not begin in agonizing prayer of a desperate people on their knees. Some of the greatest intercessors the world has ever known, never saw a computer, I-Pod, Smart-phone, and yet they were the most powerful men and women on their knees.

For example, ZINZENDORF, DAVID BRAINERD, GEORGE FOX, HENRY MARTYN, JOHN HYDE, JOHN WELCH, JOHN WESLEY, CHARLES SPURGEON, GEORGE MULLER, E. M. BOUNDS, ROBERT MURRAY MCCHEYNE, IRISH ANN, AMY CARMICHAEL and MADAME GUYON, to name just a few. MATTHEW HENRY said, "When God intends to bless His people, the first thing He does is to set them on praying ground."

Prayer navigates us through the celestial city, where we find intimacy with the Father. In prayer, there is no browsing, no chat rooms, no surfing, and no cyberspace interactions. It is **US** and **GOD**. It is heavenly interaction—pure and simple! We don't have to wait for a crisis in order to come to the One Who loves to hear from his children. Believe me, there are no specialists who can teach us how to pour out our heart before the Lord of glory. **"Our prayers are only as powerful as our lives . . . we pray only as we live. (A. W. TOZER)**

The need is tremendous, and the hour is very critical for the church to pray. Let's get serious with God in prayer! Anointed messages come from the heart of a man who spends time with the Lord lavishly, not grudgingly. Ministers and Christian workers are to be pitied who try by human efforts to change sinners into saints. The best talent and administration, the most up-to-date facilities, all of these are doomed to failure unless we really know how to bend our knees before God in the laboratory of soul-travail.

One has wisely written, **"Satan laughs at our toiling, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."**

One of Scotland's most devout men was **JOHN WELCH**, son-in-law of the great Scottish reformer, **JOHN KNOX**. **WELCH** was not as well known as his famous father-in-law, but he was a remarkable man of prayer. **DR. R. A. TORRY**, in his book, **The Power of Prayer**, states: Many people have the idea it was **JOHN KNOX** who prayed, **"Give me Scotland or I die."** It was not; it was **JOHN WELCH**, his son-in-law. Intercessors don't mind who gets the credit. **And who can forget the beloved HENRY MARTIN, scholar from Cambridge University, knelt on the coral sands of India agonizing, "Here let me burn out for God."** Such agonizing prayers are unheard of today's evangelical circles!

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. 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 religious prattle. I admire the United States for her moral and spiritual foundation unlike any other nation on earth, but I am deeply troubled by her moral decadence that threatens to infest the developing world.

Frankly, America has lost her moral “compass,” and she continues to slide morally and spiritually, as Jeremiah said, “a perpetual backsliding” (Jeremiah 8:5). The PSALMIST DAVID cried, “No man cared for my soul.” Are we guilty of not caring for the souls of mankind? Are we too short-sighted to see the impending judgment of God? Is it not time to “CRY aloud and spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins?” (Isaiah 58:1).

My fellow Christians, how long shall we go on without giving heed to the voice of God? Intercessory prayer is taxing and enduring; it has no glamour or religious perks as one would desire.

Whenever we speak about intercession, we always refer to it in the past tense, but where are the modern-day intercessors? I have great respect for the past, but we cannot continue to live on past victories.

Speaking of intercessory prayer; it has been shelved; for some reason it seems irrelevant and out of style. We seem to think our methods are better; our plans are innovative and ultra modern—and so why should we bother with an antiquated concept such as prayer? Have you talked to God lately about your spiritual condition? “And I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none” (Ezekiel 22:30). “And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor . . .” (Isaiah 59:16). “. . . The whole land is made desolate, because no man layeth it to heart” (Jeremiah 12:11). “There is none to plead thy cause . . .” (Jeremiah 30:13). To be an intercessor, one must go beyond himself, his needs, and his desires.

We must step into the furnace where we can take up the burden of our brothers and sisters in real anguish and soul-travail.

Prayerlessness is sin. “God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you” (1 Samuel 12:23). “For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers” (Romans 1:9).

As I view the prayerlessness of God's people, I want to weep a flood of tears. My heart bleeds and my spirit sinks within me as I look on the awful moral condition of the present world. Like Paul, **“I could wish myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh” (Romans 9:3).** How do we solve the problem of prayerlessness in our

midst? We keep asking, “Lord, how can we hold this restless generation interested in prayer and teach them the art and necessity of soul-travail?”

The time is now to “. . . arise, call upon thy God, and if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not” (Jonah 1:6).

I believe the current ‘social and moral’ conditions present unusual opportunities for Christians to pray as never before. What did the early Christians have that we don’t possess today? The early Christians believed in unction from on high; they placed God’s power over human influence and they did not circumvent the law. 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. 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. 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 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 Almighty power! Beloved, searching and perusing through the internet, looking for fancy websites and “snack-bar sermons” on prayer can never top one vital experience in prayer. **Am I old-fashioned, when it comes to prayer? You’d better believe it!** 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 us intercede **NOW fervently and urgently.** The Lord waits for us at His throne.

Now is the time to “kneel” in victory! Someone has wisely written, “When kneeling down stops—backsliding begins.” Let’s seek Him on our knees! As D. L. MOODY expressed it so well, “Every great movement of God can be traced to a ‘kneeling’ figure.”

So let the ‘kneeling’ begin!

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

—WILLIAM COWPER (17th century English poet and hymn writer)

More on the subject of prayer, read MATTHEW SKARIAH’S thought-provoking book, *Talk Less and Pray More*, foreworded by LEONARD RAVENHILL.

MATTHEW SKARIAH is the author of 6 books.

Can God?

We're told that history repeats itself, and it would be wise on our part to look back to history with wisdom. Every time, the Israelites were confronted with a need they said, "**Can God?**" They tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust; they spoke against God and His servant Moses, and he (Moses) became their "*punching bag*." They repeatedly said, "**Can He prepare a table in the wilderness?**" (*Psalms 78:18-19*). It is inherently and intrinsically wrong to question the wisdom of God.

The children of Israel saw more miracles than anyone else; yet unbelief was their daily diet and they constantly murmured and complained against the holy one of **ISRAEL**. Do we see a connection here as we look at ourselves and how we behave when confronted with difficulties and trials? We have to continue looking upward, trusting in God without doubt or trepidation, and the answers are clearly found in Him and Him alone. It is no exaggeration to say that we find in ourselves what God found in the children of Israel.

God Almighty delivered and brought the Israelites out of Egypt; He made a way for them through the Red Sea. He caused waters to flow from the rock to quench their thirst. Yet, when they were faced with a need they said, "*Can He prepare a table in the wilderness?*" We need to ask ourselves the same question, "**Can God?**" I trust your answer will be a resounding **YES**, in the most affirmative sense of the word. Let's approach Him with an attitude of faith, obedience and gratitude!

Beloved, if a man lives in "faith and obedience," when evil comes it will not conquer him. Lord, give us thy joy, that joy which no man, no poverty, no trials, no circumstances, and no adverse conditions can take from us!

Remember, when the world is in turmoil, we stand at total peace and tranquility, ready to tell them about our Rock, the blessed Lamb of God, who is more than sufficient. We want God to walk with us, and when He does, we often complain that He walks very slowly!

Sound familiar? Yes, it does!

Let our 'faith' be less of a 'religious slogan' and more of a 'living reality!'

**Voice
from
the
Past**

Only let it be trust in God, not in man, not in circumstances, not in any of your own exertions, but real trust in God and you will be helped in your various necessities. Not in circumstances, not in natural prospects, not in former donors, but solely in God. This is just that which brings the blessings. If our trust in the Lord is real, help will surely come. "**According unto thy faith be it unto thee.**"

—GEORGE MULLER (1805-1898),
Founder, Ashley Down Orphanage, Bristol, England



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