

I am reminded of VON HARTMANN'S dictum that "the activities of the busy world are only the shuddering of a fever."

Think of the multitudes that came to hear Jesus while He was on earth, wanting something, to be healed or taught or fed. He touched many and healed their diseases and comforted them in their sorrow and they were blessed and went away. But in the midst of such a large crowd there were some who were drawn to Jesus just to be near Him, just to be in His presence, to gaze upon Him, asking nothing and wanting nothing. Likewise, today, there are some who follow Christ simply for the miracles and blessings of various kinds, **but then, there are others who seek Him out, not for material vantage, not for teaching materials, or even for a message—but for Himself! God's servant A. B. SIMPSON wrote many years ago,**

**"Once it was the blessing; now it is the Lord.
Once it was the feeling; now it is His Word.
Once His gifts I wanted; now the Giver own.
Once I sought for healing, Now Himself alone."**

Beloved, is there such a longing in your heart to be near the Master? Someone wrote very wisely, **"All the hardships of earth will seem nothing—when I look in my dear Savior's face."** True prayer is being bathed in His **"holy and majestic"** presence, without any CD's, concordance, how-to-books, Lap-tops, or I-phones. No one can teach a person **"how to wait on God,"** except the Holy Spirit. There is no point by point presentation when you are in His presence. Some folks think that they are going to give a try and see if prayer works, and if not they can always say they tried and it didn't work at all. Is that how you approach prayer to see if it is going to work?

Beloved, prayer is not an experiment on God, our Father!

Let Christ be the rule and measure of all our prayers and praying. If one thinks he can be an intercessor over-night, he labors under a false pretense. Is it any wonder, today, we are not hearing much about some of the greatest intercessors of the Christian history, such as **ZINZERFORF, JOHN WELCH, GEORGE FOX, DAVID BRAINERD, HENRY MARTIN, JOHN HYDE, E. M. BOUNDS, GEORGE MULLER, EDWARD PAYSON, MADAME GUYON** and **AMY CARMICHAEL**, just to name a few?

There's not much curiosity left among the evangelicals of today!

God's greatest blessings come through much soul-travail. Do not face the day without prayer. Go in the power of His might, and you shall see the glory of God. There is a real danger in becoming so high-tech about everything, and we end up losing the simplicity of loving Jesus. Beloved, the first and the last word belong to the One Whom our whole life belongs. Prayer never meant it to be a **"slurp it down on the run exercise,"** it is meant to be a heart-felt and pleasurable spiritual exercise that has enormous benefit this side of eternity.

Wouldn't it be great if we can tap into the power of prayer automatically without any disciplinary effort on our part? We want the benefit of prayer; but no inconvenience to our customary way of life. There is something gloriously glorious about being in His majestic presence on bended knees; something cannot be explained in mere theological terms, one has to experience it without being cajoled or bribed. **No man is greater than his prayer life!** Today, it seems that prayer has become a **"theological mantra,"** something we often lecture rather than something we **"practice"** on our knees. Practice prayer daily, and you shall **"experience"** the undiminished and explosive power of God. Let's put the power of prayer in the center of our lives!

There is something awesome about communing with God. Whether we are experiencing spiritual ecstasies or going through a season of trials—we will always find comfort and solace in the majestic presence of God. We no longer have to wait for an appeal from a man to pray; Heaven has already issued a special trumpet call to our ever-longing heart and soul to pray.

I say, let's visit the grand-galleries of the celestial city as often as we can. Believe me; we'll come away with the "stunning discovery" of the magnificent and life-changing power of prayer! The best way to teach a congregation to pray is to take them to a "prayer chamber," just like our Master did! Examples are better than sermons and lectures on the subject of prayer! Remember, the fate of the world is in the hands of God's "nameless and unknown saints" who intercede before God day in and day out without any fanfare! An intercessor is the one who labors, pleads, insists, persists, importunes, wrestles, and agonizes. He is in "mourning/agony," before the Lord, day after day, and night after night.

When it comes to agonizing prayer, many Christians are indulging in self-revolving and self-introspection! In a nutshell, true prayer is "loving intimacy" with the Father. It is my sincere prayer that we wait in God's holy presence until we are saturated with the "dew of heaven!" Remember, DAVID BRAINERD was not a "prayer specialist;" he was an intercessor, who wept over the Native American Indians! His soul was on fire, and may God light a fire in our soul as well, is my ongoing prayer!

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Culture Watch

Matthew Skariah

Idealism, a Growing Trend in America

Idealism is a set of philosophical beliefs; one doesn't have to do anything, just talk about it. Talk is cheap but deeds are born out of vision. When man failed to communicate with his God; he naturally took refuge in words—the result was the creation of the "Tower of Babel." **May we rely less on idealism and more on deeds!** It would be wise on our part to make speech our servant, not our master. At the moment, it seems many of our young people are drawn into the canard that idealism is a good thing, and perhaps rightfully so; but what comes before idealism is something worth considering. I believe vision comes before idealism. **In vision**, there is a life of 'honesty and integrity' because it gives us the moral and spiritual incentive to do something apart from just talking about it.

A person who has the vision of God is not confined to a political order—he is committed to God Himself. The world is waiting for men and women of vision, not ideologue! Man rises by vision!

Many in our society thrive on idealism; Christians thrive on vision, really helping those who are in need of help. For example, building orphanages, digging wells, sponsoring soup-kitchens and other Christian outreaches. Think with me about a man (a servant of God), whose heart was filled with God's love for the "poor and needy" children of East London which propelled him to give birth to one of the greatest 'Christian charitable organizations' in the world, namely—**Salvation Army**. I am talking about **WILLIAM BOOTH** who was a visionary, not a speech maker. Idealism also focuses on "talking points," as how to spend other people's money. They are eager to propose ways and means to achieve such noble goals as long as it doesn't cost them anything. We hear often, I want to feed all the starving children of the world and it appeals to many but unfortunately, **I do not know anyone who wants to see children starve, do you?** It is a good phrase for "Graduation Speeches, Miss America and Miss Universe Pageants." When the contestants utter such phrases they get rousing "cheers and applause" from the audience.

It is in our human nature to help others who are in need of help without attracting attention to ourselves. In my opinion, Christians do a great job in that respect without any lectures from those who want to make a political statement.



We all know charity begins at home; for example, young people helping their aging parents in ways to make their lives a little bit easier and better, rather than ignoring them in their hour of need. To me, actions of the heart are better than flipping of the lips.



Lord, give us the courage and vision to help others as you instructed us in your Word, **“Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18)**. To have a righteous world we must do righteous deeds. The poignant words of **ROBERT RAINS**, come to mind, **“Lord, give me the courage of my convictions. Make me put up or shut up.”**



May God deliver us from the morbid habit of talking rather than doing!



Jehovah Cares for His Own

God has done great things for us in the past, and yet today, we stand facing similar obstacles. We look here and there and ask around and trouble our brain for a solution. All the time the Lord is standing right by us, waiting for us to get ready so He can perform the miracle. It seems so hard to see beyond our human resources; but what about the true and living God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Can we not see him there, too?



The heart-warming words of **SIMON WEIL** come to mind, **“It is not my business to think about myself. My business is to think about God. It is for God to think about me.”**



Tell me, when did God take something from a man without giving him untold blessings in return?



Jesus said, **“Do you believe that I am able to do this?” (Matthew 9:28)**, **“Yes, Lord. I believe, help thou mine unbelief!” (Mark 9:24)**. Let’s trust Him till the end and depend on Him for his help, and His provisions are always on time!



Isn’t it better to ask God than man? Trust and be not afraid! Be sure of His never-failing provision! Let’s live on God’s faithfulness!



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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