

## PRAYING ONE FOR ANOTHER

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Some Thoughts on Prayer.

Somehow, the simple act of prayer links a sovereign God to a finite man. When man prays, God responds. Difficult situations change. Unexplained miracles occur. (Dick Eastman, The Hour That Changes the World, Baker Book House).

In prayer you align yourselves to the purpose and power of God and He is able to do things through you that He couldn't do otherwise. For this is an open universe, where some things are left open, contingent upon our doing them. If we do not do them, they will never be done, for God has left certain things open to prayer - things which will never be done except as we pray. (Helen Smith Shoemaker quoting E. Stanley Jones, The Secret of Effective Prayer, Word Books).

Prayer is the slender nerve that moveth the muscles of omnipotence. (Charles Spurgeon, Twelve Sermons on Prayer, Baker Book House).

2. Eph. 6:18: "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints --"
3. Heb. 10:19-22: "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."
4. At the Ascension the Apostles Engaged in Corporate Prayer.
- A. Acts 1:14: "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."
5. Heb. 12:18-21: "For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: 'And if so much as a beast touches the mountain; it

shall be stoned or thrust through with an arrow.’ And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, ‘I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.’”

“Jesus Paid It All  
All to Him I Owe  
Sin Has Left a Crimson Stain  
He Washed It White as Snow.”

## I. WE MUST PRAY WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS.

- A. Rom. 12:12: “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.”
- B. Eph. 6:18: “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints --”
- C. Phil. 4:6: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”
- D. Col. 4:2: “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.”

Dick Eastman has written:

To learn prayer, men must pray. We learn prayer’s deepest depths in prayer, not from books. We reach prayer’s highest heights in prayer, not from sermons. The only place to learn prayer, is in prayer, bent and broken on our knees. Prayer is skill developed through experience. Learning to pray is like learning a trade. We are apprentices and must serve time at it. Consistent care, thought, practice, and time are needed to become a skillful prayer-er.

- E. Matt. 7:7: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”
- F. Luke 24:51-53: “And it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.”
- G. Acts 2:42-47: “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were

done by the apostles. And all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. And continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

- H. Acts 16:25: “And at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”
- I. Eph. 5:19-20: “speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- J. Psalm 47:6-7: “Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with understanding.”
- K. Psalm 66:1-4: “Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise glorious. Say to God, “How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power your enemies shall submit themselves to You. All the earth shall worship You and sing praises to You; they shall sing praises to Your name.”
- L. Acts 4:24-31: “And when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “‘Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: ‘Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ.’ For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You have anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. And now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”
- M. Prayer May Provoke Us to Ask:
  - 1. How can Jesus be both God and man?

2. How can God dwell in eternity and yet act in time?
3. How can the Bible be both divine and human in origin?
4. How can God be three Persons and yet one God?
5. How can God be sovereign and man still free to choose?

We could add another to this list:

How can prayer be reconciled with God's providence?

## II. PRAYERS ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL.

- A. John 5:14-15: "Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, 'See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.' The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well."
- B. Matt. 6:33: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."
- C. James 4:3: "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures."
- D. Phil. 4:6-7: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Charles Conn in his book entitled, Making It Happen, states this concept very well:

God's timing is always better than ours, He brings us along slowly and skillfully. We get impatient. We want it all now. Sometimes we set goals that may be good goals, worthy goals, but which we are not ready to handle. When we do, it only makes sense that a loving Father will keep those things out of our reach.

Only God knows what might be the implication for your overall well-being if you become famous or wealthy, if you married that girl, got that promotion, cut that hit record, or simply could afford to move to that neighborhood you've always wanted to live in. He knows.

And part of what it means to be God's children is to accept that He knows and that He will help bring what is really best into our lives - not what we want every time, but what is really best for us.

- E. James 5:14: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."
- F. Phil. 1:19-20: "For I know that this will turn out for my salvation through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death."
- G. Acts 12:5-15: "Peter therefore was kept in prison, but prayer for him was made to God without ceasing by the church. And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers; for the guards before the door were keeping the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, 'Arise quickly!' And his chains fell off his hands.

And the angel said to him, 'Gird yourself and tie on your sandals.' And so he did. And he said to him, 'Put on your garment and follow me.' And he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

And when Peter had come to himself, he said, 'Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me out of the hands of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.' And when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying. And as Peter knocked at the door in the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. And when she recognized Peter's voice, she did not open the gate for gladness, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. And they said to her, 'You are beside yourself!' But she kept insisting that it was so. Then they said, 'It is his angel.'"

- H. Acts 13:1-3: "Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with

Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid hand on them, they sent them away."

- I. Acts 14:23: "And when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they believed."

### III. PRAYER SHOULD BE WITH RIGHT MOTIVES.

- A. Matt. 6:16-18: "But when Herod heard, he said, 'This is John, whom I beheaded; he has been raised from the dead!' For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Phillip's wife; for he had married her. For John had said to Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.'"
- B. James 4:3: "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures."
- C. 1 Cor. 7:5: "Do not deprive one another, except with consent for a time that you might give yourselves to fasting and to prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."
- D. Paul Believed in Prayer.
  1. Acts 16:13-16: "And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God, heard us. The Lord opened her heart so that she heeded the things which were spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.' And she constrained us. Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling."
  2. Acts 20:36-37: "And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And they all wept greatly, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him."
  3. Acts 21:5: "And when we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they all

accompanied us, with wives and children, till we were out of the city. And we knelt down on the shore and prayed.”

4. Eph. 1:13, 16-18: “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”

“Do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.”

5. Eph. 3:14-19: “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height -- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

6. Col. 1:9-10: “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

7. Phil. 1:9: “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and in all discernment.”

8. Phil. 4:6-7: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

9. 1 Thess. 5:17-18: “Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in Prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a Friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Saviour, still our refuge -  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

OUR  
LORD  
IS  
A  
LORD  
WHO  
ANSWERS  
PRAYERS.

