

TWO FAITHFUL PRAYING FRIENDS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

--Irma B. Williams

Virginia Farmer and Fanny Byrd were not sisters by birth, but they were spiritual sisters by their rebirth in Christ Jesus. They had a strong and caring heart for others, and their ornament of a meek and quiet spirit was of great price in God's sight.

They both were full of wisdom and grace and power of the Holy Spirit. They were a powerhouse for the Lord's work and were two strong pillars in the Landmark Church of God in Statesville, NC.

Though Sister Virginia and Sister Fanny were diverse in their church duties, what they shared together was their compelling desire to pray fervently for the lost to come to Jesus and for the sick. They faithfully attended the weekly Prayer Meeting and spent hours in their individual prayer times.

Sister Fanny's husband, Walter Byrd, became a Christian early in their marriage because of her godly influence, faithful prayers. He walked in the ways of the Lord God, went to church, and was a strength to his family and the church. In fact, Brother Byrd grew in the Lord and became a stalwart, supportive prayer warrior himself.

Conversely, Sister Virginia suffered great distress in her soul and spirit because her husband tried to hinder her from going to church. Her difficulties seemed to increase her faith and made her strong in the Lord. When she was diagnosed with cancer, the people prayed, and she was miraculously healed. Another time she was diagnosed with brain tumors. They disappeared when the people prayed. The doctors were perplexed and astounded.

Nevertheless, Sister Virginia said, "Prayers are not always answered quickly." She prayed for almost a lifetime for her husband. Romans 4:18-21 describes her faith as she prayed for him, "Who against hope believed in hope...staggered not at the promise of God...but was strong in faith, giving glory to God...being fully persuaded that what He had promised, He was able to perform."

Near the end of her life her husband became sick. One day Pastor Eddie Williams visited him; he prayed the sinner's prayer of repentance. Though both Sister Virginia and Sister Fanny both have gone on to Heaven to be with the Lord, the weekly prayer meeting is still going on, and to Sister Virginia's honor, the person leading the Prayer Service now is her faithful son, Jasper.