



Challenging Christians to Pray

Prayergram®

March-April 2025



The Power of 'Kneeling'

No man stumbles when he is on his knees.

In the bitter cold of 1777, General George Washington retreated outside of Camp at Valley Forge, knelt in the snow-laden forest, prayed and sought for divine help from his commander-in-chief, Jehovah God. General George Washington's attitude toward kneeling in prayer was more than an act of symbolism; it was an attitude of true and utmost reverence to the One Who sits on the throne! You might ask, "do I have to kneel when I pray!" No, of course not! You can pray at any position you like, but the most important thing is that you pray, pray with faith and sincerity.

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 was a leader of the Moravian Church who played a critical role in initiating a significant revival in the 17th century through his dedicated prayer practices. From that historic Moravian revival, a prayer meeting began and lasted 100 years.

How can we forget Madam Guyon, the delightful 17th century French handmaiden of the Lord who touched the lives of many through her powerful prayer life! Think of David Brainerd, perhaps the greatest intercessor born in American soil who devoted his young life for the spiritual benefits of Native American Indians. Brainerd died at the age of 29 and yet he accomplished more in his short life than most people. This is what Jonathan Edwards, America's greatest theologian and thinker said about Brainerd, "God brought Brainerd to my home to die so I could hear his prayers." Need I say anymore! You may have heard of these individuals before, but we need to hear about them over and over because there is such a dire need in our present Christian culture for men and women who can stand in the GAP like Abraham pleading with God for Sodom and Gomorrah, and Moses standing in the BREACH for the children of Israel.

Prayer navigates us through the celestial city, where we find true fellowship with our Heavenly Father. In prayer, there is no browsing, no chat rooms, no surfing, and no cyber interactions: It is YOU and GOD. It is heavenly interaction—pure and simple. We don't have to wait for a crisis in our lives to come to the One Who loves to hear from us. Believe me, there are no prayer specialists

who can teach us how to pour out our heart before the Lord of glory. The timely words of A.W. Tozer come to mind, “Our prayers are only as powerful as our lives... we pray only as we live.” The need is tremendous, and the time is very critical for the church to pray! Anointed messages come from the heart of a man who spends time with the Lord delightfully, not grudgingly. The best talent and administration, the most up-to-date facilities, are doomed to failure unless we tap into the power of our risen Lord.

Who can forget the beloved Henry Martin, scholar from Cambridge University, who knelt on the coral sands of India agonizing, “Lord, here let me burn out for you.” Such fervent prayers are uncommon in many Christian circles. The Church worldwide is facing a formidable challenge from the technological revolution, and how can we meet the spiritual needs of men and women without God’s mighty power! Persecution and spiritual dryness have a way of purifying the Church in these days of electronic preaching. Leonard Ravenhill was prophetic when he said, “The early Church was not electronic, but electrifying.”

Our leaders are scratching their heads, 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 middle of 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 chips away doubts and fears. I admire the United States for her moral and spiritual foundation unlike any other nation in history, but I am deeply troubled by her shifting moral compass that threatens to undermine her spiritual influence the world over. No nation can survive spiritually without a moral compass, as Jeremiah the prophet said, “a perpetual backsliding,” (Jeremiah 8:5). Are we guilty of not caring for the souls of mankind? The Psalmist David cried, “No man cared for my soul.” 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)

Intercessory prayer is taxing and enduring; it has no glamour or religious attraction as one would desire. Whenever we speak of intercession, we often refer to it in the past tense. I am sure there are many present-day intercessors who may be unknown to the world but known to God. As you know, I have great respect for the past, but we cannot continue to live on past victories. Speaking of intercessory prayer, it has been set aside as irrelevant and old fashioned. We seem to think our methods are better; our plans are innovative and ultra-modern, so why should we bother with an antiquated practice of pleading with God! May we read the penetrating words of Amy Carmichael, one of God’s chosen servants of the past, “Make me thy fuel, O flame of God.” “As 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). God wondered then and He wonders now!

Prayerlessness is a 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). Beloved, the world can never hate us to the extent that our prayers will ever stop us from pleading with God for their salvation! Like the apostle Paul, “I could wish myself were accursed from Christ for

my brethren, my kinsman according to the flesh” (Romans 9:3. 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, they prayed fervently and passionately, believed in the power of the risen Christ, and boldly proclaimed the message of the cross.

Great things happen when Christians bend their knees before God in prayer. Today, Christians are despised, unbelievers are emboldened, and enemies of the cross are mocking the church. In similar difficult times, Daniel set his face to seek the Lord with supplication and fasting. Why is there such hesitation when it comes to prayer among believers? The early Christians prayed with expectation and refused to accept defeat at the hand of their detractors. Likewise, let’s be very bold as we pray and “expect great things from God!”

Beware of arguing and squabbling when it comes to prayer and kneeling. Beloved, if you can kneel, then kneel! Searching through the internet, looking for fancy websites and “ready-made sermons” on prayer can never top one vital experience in prayer. Yes, I am old-fashioned when it comes to prevailing in prayer! God longs for our abiding supplication, compassionate pleading, and heart-wrenching soul-travail. So let us intercede NOW fervently and urgently. Yes, now is the time to kneel in victory! Someone has wisely written, “When kneeling down stops—backsliding begins.” Let’s seek Him humbly and reverently 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/hymn writer)

--- Matthew Skariah

CAN GOD?

“Faithful is he that calleth you.”

We’re told that history repeats itself, and it would be wise on our part to look back with wisdom. If we do not know the past, how can we build a bridge to the future? Every time, the Israelites were confronted with a need they asked, “Can God?” They tempted God in the wilderness, and 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. Beloved, we are all guilty of our assumption of God when confronted with difficulties and insurmountable obstacles. I stand with you in confession of our inability to grasp the inner working of God in our lives, and as a result, we become frustrated and agitated. So, what can be done to overcome our spiritual paralysis? What we can do is to fall on our knees, plead for mercy and forgiveness from God, our Father!

As we know, 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 must continue looking upward, trusting in God without doubt or fear. It is no exaggeration to say that we find in ourselves what God did find 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 water to flow from the rock to quench their thirst. Yet, when they were faced with a need they asked, "Can God?" I trust that our answer will be a resounding YES, in the most affirmative sense of the word. Let us 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. Let us not focus on the events occurring in our daily life but view them as opportunities to depend upon Him and trust in His blessed promises! Always remember, whose we are and whom we serve! Indeed, we serve a risen Lord!

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!

Let our faith be less of a theological discussion and more of a living reality!

--- Matthew Skariah

India Trip --- April 3 - 17

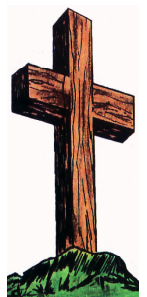
I would deeply appreciate your prayers for my trip to India. Thank you and God Bless you.



PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE -- 2 Chronicles 7:14

Website: www.worldprayerband.com

E-mail: mwpbs@yahoo.com



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Phone: (575) 626-5097 • World Prayer Band P.O. Box 92953 • Southlake, Texas 76092