



Challenging Christians to Pray

Prayergram®

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Prayer: A Powerful Force

“Prayer is a mine which is never exhausted. It is the root, the fountain, and the mother of a thousand blessings.” ---St. John Chrysostom, the greatest orator in the early Church.

“Come now, let’s reason together, says the Lord...” (Isaiah 1:18) As Christians, we look at the future and have reasons to be concerned, such as wars, conflict, and societal issues that lead to anxiety and fear. Now, indeed, is the time when we must come together in prayer! Let us hear the heartwarming words of Hudson Taylor, pioneer missionary to China, “**The sun has never risen in China without finding me on my knees.**” The Christian missionary movements were led by men and women who sought the wisdom of God on their knees. **George Muller of Bristol, England once said, “I consider it my greatest need before God and men to get my soul happy before the Lord each day before I see anybody,”** a statement that inspires me deeply. Today more than ever, we need such resolve to seek the face of God for our nation and the world. Imagine, a world without the prayers of such believing men and women! That’s why we’re instructed in 2nd Chronicles 7:14, “**If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.**” Prayer is where we meet God, and without God nothing good can happen.

But if we ask some of our modern-day skeptics, the paragons of contemporary wisdom, ‘what are the sensible remedies that we should render at this sad juncture,’ their answers would be a series of apologetic cliches and warmed-over platitudes. One who longs for peace in the world must be prepared to pray for peace. The world needs our prayers. It is time for us to unite in prayer by casting aside those things which would divide us and cause friction among us. Praying for the world helps us rise above cynicism, broadens our perspective, sparks our understanding about global events, and provides us a sense of spiritual guidance. The world needs an immediate call to prayer, where its citizens can come together in the love of God and for the sake of helping others. Yes, prayer is truly one of the greatest demonstrations of love.

Prayer, the mighty weapon, can convert enemies into friends. We are to pray for every nation and its people. Each prayer is like a ray of sunshine piercing the darkness that we ourselves may not be aware of. When we pray, God’s power enables us to **forsake hatred and prejudice, practice love, abandon selfishness and show compassion toward others.** Much is being said about who is right and who is wrong. This is no time for fault-finding, but to pray for one another. Opinions are easily given, but seldom they offer constructive solutions. Everyone agrees that our nation, indeed our world, is facing a crisis, but only a few are willing to define its nature, discover its causes or bring about a lasting solution. Bleak pessimism abounds on every side.

Our society seldom encourages or inspires people. Someone has wisely said, **“Encouragement is oxygen to the soul.”** Positive change begins with each one of us, making a firm commitment to be a part of the answer. The person who seeks divine help can never be disheartened. In a world of confusion and chaos, prayers of God’s people will be heard and answered.

Great leaders have not hesitated to bow before God. Many of our forefathers were men of prayer, and when they were confronted with enormous problems that were beyond their powers to resolve, they went to God and prayed for divine intervention. The founding documents of our Republic were composed under the benediction of prayer. In this scientific age, we have learned to harness the power of atom, but very few of us have learned that a **“man is more powerful on his knees than behind the most powerful weapons that can be developed.”** Prayer can nourish our souls as our meals nourish our bodies. Pray as though everything seems working against you. Pray during dark times and soon the darkness will pass. No one can deny what happens when Christians unite themselves in prayer!

There is a source of hope for our people and healing for our land, **“One nation under God.”** It is time for God’s people to place themselves in the hand of God, and in this hour of spiritual confusion and moral depravity, let’s look to our sovereign God for moral clarity and righteousness. Prayer requires dedication, discipline, and sincere commitment; however, the benefits it yields far exceed the effort invested. To pray is the right thing to do in every situation. **“No man is greater than his prayer life.”** Let no one belittle the precious life and ministry of prayer! All God’s true servants have been distinguished by one great quality: they were all men of prayer. It is important to recognize that prayer is intended not as a last resort, but as a sustaining practice to support all aspects of life. The future of our nation and the world depends upon the prayers of God’s faithful and praying minority. Let’s use the **mighty weapon of the power of prayer** before it’s too late! **Remember that prayer was not given to us to use when all else fails, but it was given to us to keep all else from failing!**

Beloved, I plead with you to pray for the world before it’s too late! When Christians cease to pray, Christians cease to be victorious. Let’s cry out to God in the name of our ascended Lord to expose the ‘false gods’ of this world and reveal the ‘true God’ of heaven! Arise, brothers and sisters, arise! Not only our nation but the whole world is past ripening for judgment. It could, however, soon be ready for a cleansing revival if we would seek the face of God in true humility. When national revival is needed, God’s praying people step up to the plate. We are in a mortal combat with Satan, our adversary, and prayer is the divine sword that slays the enemy. When situations are at their worst, we will find God’s praying remnant at their best. Let’s arm ourselves with the most potent weapon ever—prayer. So potent, it blasts away unbelief, lethargy, complacency and stagnation. Beloved, the storm is gathering and is about to break loose. Nothing but the prayers of God’s humble remnant in the power of the Holy Spirit can stem the tide.

As Mrs. William Booth, the mother of Salvation Army, one of God’s great warriors, said in her dying moment: “The waters are rising, but I am not sinking.” As Christians, we shall never be defeated unless we defeat ourselves! Every challenge presents us a chance to become better and inspiring. **Let’s pray with passion and urgency! Now is the time to reclaim our spiritual heritage! Let’s be faithful in our supplications to our heavenly Father! May we show no resignation on our part when it comes to faith and prayer!**

--- Matthew Skariah

For more on prayer, read Matthew Skariah’s book Talk Less and Pray More, foreword by the late Rev. Leonard Ravenhill.

Prayer That Yields Revival

A prayer revival in the leadership means a prayer revival in the pews. Revival comes when God's people want spiritual rejuvenation more than anything else and are willing to pay the price to have it. When true revival comes, pride is the first thing to go. The price may mean humiliation or a bitter knowledge of our self-sufficiency. **John Knox was a Reformer and a great preacher. But Queen Mary admitted that it was his prayers she feared more than his preaching. John Fletcher of Madeley, England was a godly man, but he refused to go to the pulpit until he was sure that Christ's presence was there with him. The apostle Paul was a scholar, very proud of his pedigree, his Hebrew ancestry, and his resume. His main legacy was his reputation for persecuting Christians, which shifted after he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus. (Acts 9:4-5) Furthermore, he was known as the great apostle to the Gentiles, but his heart was heavy for his people as he said, "I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsman according to the flesh." (Romans 9:2-3) Let us direct our sorrow toward assisting individuals who are separated from God. When was the last time, someone who waited on God on his knees and failed his people or nation! As Leonard Ravenhill once said, "It takes a broken man to break men." When believers earnestly seek and pray for revival, God hears them as He did in the past. Let's continue praying for revival, even without immediate results!**

God, give us men and women who can weep over the prevailing moral and social conditions of the nation and the world, is my prayer!

--- Matthew Skariah

On Being Steadfast

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord." (1 Cor.15:58).

Jesus, our emancipator, emerged triumphantly from the grave in the power of God. There were no chains strong enough to tie Him down. He broke them all like delicate threads. Beloved, there is no grave mighty enough to keep the Son of God. The powers of the world cannot destroy our faith. The empty tomb is a constant reminder of our hope in a risen Christ.

When we find ourselves thinking that the world is attempting to devour us, stop and look up and see the face of our God who does have the whole world in his hand. Let us remain confident and not let external circumstances intimidate us. "Therefore, be steadfast and unmovable." Despite challenges, continue preaching and living by God's Word, serving with gladness, and sharing His goodness with future generations. The wisdom of God shall prevail in this misguided and perverse generation, and our labor of love shall "not be vain in the Lord." **Let's remain faithful to our Lord regardless of the changes that occur in life!**

--- Matthew Skariah

Inner Landscape

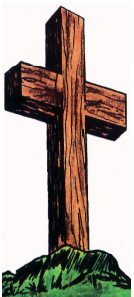
“Every man wants to change the world, but only the best wants to change himself.”
---Leo Tolstoy, Russian philosopher, thinker and author

Brokenness is a sincere desire of the heart to submit ourselves to divine pruning. Pruning is a process of purification which calls for separation from all that is foreign to the nature of God. Brokenness is not a popular subject to talk about, especially when you're around people who think brokenness is outmoded. Well, it's not! Complete surrender of every moment to God is the very foundation of true brokenness. The Word of God teaches us to look within ourselves as God sees it. It means letting the light of Jesus shine within us.

Outer landscape involves the weeding, pruning, edging and the disposing of all discarded materials to be burned or recycled. Likewise, the inner landscape involves spiritual pruning, weeding, edging and disposing of all that is carnal. In the spiritual realm, progress happens step by step as we keep our focus on Jesus. We ask for blessing, well then, are we ready for spiritual pruning and dissection? That is the need of the hour and only those who are in earnest will respond to it. God's blessings are the unfathomable expression of His love and kindness toward His children. He loves us so much to the extent that He puts us through the process of pruning. What a Savior!

Prayer for inner cleansing: Oh, Lord, work on every smudge, every stain, every carnality, every pretense, every facade that might **dim and flicker** Your light and glory in us! Master, please don't let thy glory ever depart from us. **Amen!**

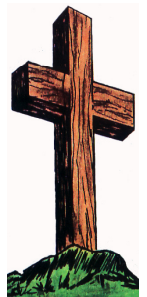
For more on 'dying to self,' read Matthew Skariah's book The Forbidden Zone, foreword by the late Dr. Gene Winfrey.



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

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