

Challenging Christians to Pray
PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE
2 CHRONICLES 7:14



Prayergram[®]

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Time Honored Traditions

**“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”
(George Santayana, 1905)**

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The other day, I was thinking about how things and traditions have changed over the years; some are good and some are not so good. For example, there were a time people who were more humane and compassionate toward their fellowmen. Since the eruption of technology, we are apt to become more of a robotic culture with no human interaction. These subtle changes have invaded every segment of our society, including our spiritual institutions. **When human beings are isolated with no contact, sooner or later, society will collapse and there is going to be a hectic price to pay.** As Christians we often make the mistake of thinking that we have to go along with everything that comes down the pike in order to be in step with the world. I would say, no—we don’t have to when it comes to singing the songs of the world if that means abandoning our cherished biblical principles. Call me an old-fashioned ‘fuddy-duddy’ or “Biblicist,’ it won’t break my spirit or change my mind. **Beloved, the present culture is hard at work to expunge the spiritual influence and power of Christianity from society with impunity.**

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Often, I hear Church leaders say that something new has been added to the service, but at the same time something very old has been lost. Sometimes a personal visit is much more meaningful than a computer generated e-mail. There is no substitute for personal interaction. Whatever has happened to our common humanity? It seems the world is full of beings, but without humanity. Jesus was human in all aspects. He identified with us; He became one of us. I am so thankful that we are not turbo-charged apes, but human beings with the capacity to **“love and care.”** Modern technology and social media have been very busy in destroying the moral and spiritual fabric of our nation and the world, under the guise of progress.

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When we treat **GOD** as a problem to be solved rather than a glory to be absorbed, worshipped and adored, we end up losing our faith and devotion to the One who created us! Today, man with his brains, denying and ignoring the very God who keeps Him alive, is feverishly working against His maker with unmitigated arrogance and inveterate pride. And by doing so, he’s making a mess of the world. **Are we relying too much on our self and ‘naïve puffery’, and not on the power and the wisdom of God?** It’s absolutely astounding how ignorant we are about ourselves. The biggest blunder in human nature is conceit, and man is the epitome of conceit. People who rule the world without faith in God are blinded by an enemy lurking in the background, devoted to their demise. **Today, more than ever, our decaying world needs the salt of Jesus.** When we become the **“salt”** of the earth; **Jesus becomes the water of life.** Salt makes people thirsty—real thirsty for Jesus. So we could sing with Horatio Bonar, **“I came to Jesus as a thirsty traveler, and I drank of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in Him.”**

Preaching the message of “**hope and salvation**” is a time-honored tradition, and no matter what happens in our culture. There will always be changes on the horizon, and we need to be wise as to how we approach such changes in society without giving up our core values. We can’t be true to ourselves if we continue to “**deny and denigrate**” the traditional message of the cross. It would be very difficult for us to bring others to Jesus if we continue to slumber and stager, limp and frown at every turn! If our lives bear the fruit of the Spirit, people will want to discover the eternal spring that nourishes our Christian roots and spiritual traditions.

Adjusting to a culture that’s hostile to the Christian faith is not something to be sneezed at; it requires a great deal of spiritual insight, discipline, and prayerful consideration. **If we do not exhibit the tenacity and courage of the early Christians, we find ourselves compromising with the enemy and then attempt to rationalize or excuse ourselves from our questionable behavior.** The Covid-19 has affected the Churches more than any other institutions in America at an alarming rate. Now people are comfortable in staying home to watch services on line. **Beloved, (corporate and personal) worship of the living God is man’s highest purpose of existence here on earth.**

As Christians, we’ve benefited a great deal from a “**spiritual tradition**” that goes back for centuries that gives one a feeling of “**comfort and assurance**” when at a time our world has no respect for such honored traditions. We need to be strong in preserving our biblical values without being arrogant, critical or harsh. I, for one, appreciate the faith and heritage that has been passed on to me by my godly parents, elders, and teachers, and most of all, a host of men and women who walked with God through the centuries. **Ellen Glasgow, the American novelist once wrote, “Not all changes are good and not all movements are forward.” The greatest need in America is for forward and mature thinking leadership that can navigate this nation into the next century and beyond.”**

We need people of humility and faith, and let’s never forget that we become “**great by becoming small.**” When we look at America’s spiritual heritage, it would inspire one to think of the price our founding fathers paid in order to secure a nation with freedom as her bastion, and faith in God an irreplaceable spiritual component that’s still relevant and necessary for generations to come. **Whether we believe it or not, it’s an irrefutable fact that needs no apology or detraction.** As believers, we are endowed by the loving memory of a glorious and noble past, which cannot be erased by the present cultural elite that does not “**revere or respect**” the presence and the power of Almighty God.

Today, many evangelicals do not influence the culture; they simply imitate the culture, and no wonder the world tries to neutralize our faith. Why should we pursue goals which we never bother to examine critically? Let’s ask poignant questions by puncturing pretentious facades and passing fancies. **Remember, as followers of Jesus of Nazareth, we are to be a peculiar people, with a different lifestyle, punctuated by Christ-centered motives and priorities.** As people become prosperous, they have an inbred tendency to forget God’s blessings and when they forget, God sends someone to remind them of His goodness. As teachers and preachers, our mission in life is to remind people about the simple biblical truths and precepts which we are so eager and anxious to forget.

Beloved, do not surrender your faith, your values, your rich and noble traditions of the past to the iconoclasts or the present day cultural warriors who are bent on breaking your spirit. Remember, history is on your side. **What we have in Christ is priceless, and no power on earth can take it away from you! Let’s believe the words of Christ! Proclaim it! Live by it and proceed prayerfully with indomitable faith/courage.**

May I close this article with the profound words of Alexis d Tocqueville, “**When the past no longer illuminates the future, the spirit walks in darkness.**” How can we build a bridge to the future, if we do not know the past?

—Matthew Skariah

“When a nation goes down... one condition may always be found; they forget where they came from.” (Carl Sandburg)

POINT TO PONDER

Do we ever quarrel with God?

“Woe unto him that quarrels with his maker” (Isaiah 45:9).

When the famous naturalist and poet Henry David Thoreau was on his deathbed, a minister of the gospel came in for a visit and wanted to make sure that Mr. Thoreau made his peace with his maker. To that which he (Thoreau) replied,

“I don’t quarrel with my maker.”

“I wonder why God made me,” said Mrs. Faber bitterly. **“I am sure I don’t see much purpose in my existence!”** **“Perhaps not much yet,”** said Dorothy, **“but then He hasn’t done with you yet. He is making you now, and you are quarreling with the process.”**

Everyone who reads this article knows that Christian life is a journey and a process. **Who among us has never experienced any trials, setbacks or sorrows?** They will come when we least expect them; but we can be certain that our heavenly Father has promised that **“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5).** As I listen to people from all walks of life, sharing their sorrows, burdens and needs, my heart goes out to them, knowing that they need more than my sympathy; they need God’s over arching presence to cover them under His protective wings.

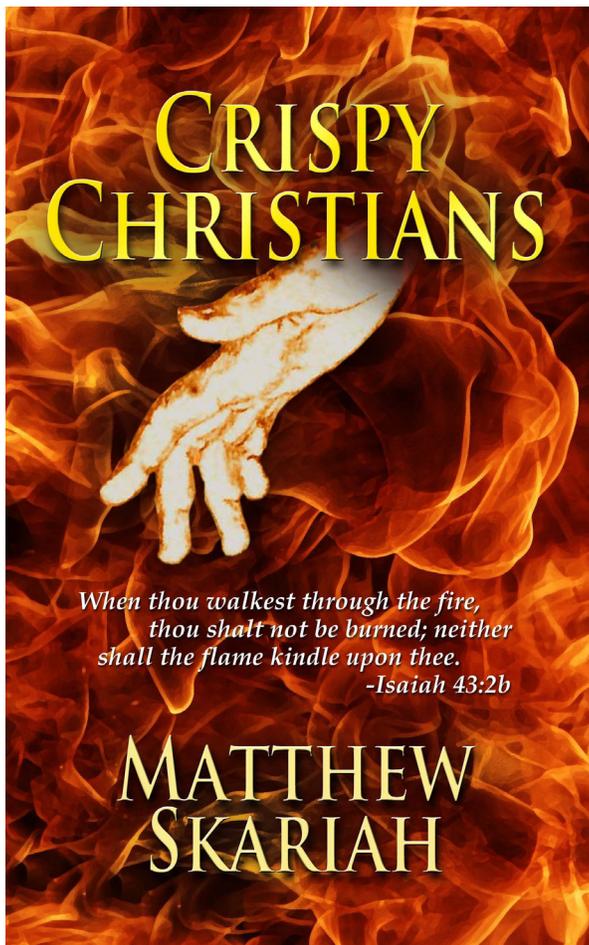
Sometimes, God allows a stinging blow to fall on us. The vision blurs. The nerves shrink. The hand shakes. The soul cries out in agony and anguish. The process seems to us a terrible ordeal. **Why is it necessary for me to go through this, we ask?** What’s the point of it all? Beloved, the process may be hard and severe, but always remember that God is our friend. **“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (John 15:14).** The enemy never surrenders his hold without a bruising fight. As Job said, **“He knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23:10).** God will light our way home if we keep our eyes on Jesus, not on circumstances. The immortal words of Tertullian come to mind, **“The leg doesn’t feel the chains when the mind is in heaven.”**

May we never push our desire over God’s delight! Let’s never attempt to jump start on God. Whenever there is a restraint in our spirit, let’s wait in His presence until we hear the gentle voice of our God, **“This is the way, walk ye in it...”** If we are to maintain our spirit of optimism and prayer, we need to rest upon the Faithful One, the Lord Jesus Christ. Let’s be careful about **“conditional praise; comparative prosperity and circumstantial joy.”** **If you’re a follower of Christ, trials will find you but will never conquer you. We do not know what tomorrow might bring but today we will watch and listen to Him who goes before us. His path that we will follow; His Word that we will obey; and His voice we will hear, no matter what life may dish out. So,**

“God help me, here I stand!” (Martin Luther)

As in the immortal words of George Matheson, the blind preacher of Scotland, who once said, “Lord, I thanked thee many times for the beautiful roses, but never once I thanked thee for the thorns in it.”

— Matthew Şkariah



**For more on the subject of
'unshakable faith,' read**

**Matthew Skariah's book,
'Crispy Christians.'**

**In this book, the
author debunks the
common practice of
'easy believism' in the
Church.**

**Find out what makes
us 'crispy' in a
'half-baked' world!**

Our Pledge

The articles in the *Prayergram* are written with an un-compromising style. We believe that our readers are mature enough to deal with 'honest and probing questions' and we also know that they are growing in grace daily.

We will not short-change the message of our Savior for temporary gain. God supplies our needs not grudgingly, but in full measure. Here at World Prayer Band, we are devoted to "intercession and revival." We simply attempt to make Jesus known. That's all folks!

----- Matthew Skariah



The WPB Ministries

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