



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

Prayergram[®]

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Why not a 'Prayer' Revolution in America?

“Oh, watchmen, what of the night?”

“**Cry** aloud, 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). “Oh, watchmen, what of the night?” Watchmen are God’s appointed men and women who cry out to Him day and night for the restoration of His pristine honor and glory. America is spiritually adrift and under a sentence of judgment and that judgment can be averted, or forgiven only by a merciful God. The power of prayer is such a potent spiritual force and yet for some reason, it remains out of reach. Prayer is powerful, yet too elusive. So the question is: Do we exercise the “**privilege of prayer**” or just complain about the declining morals and spiritual debacle in our culture?

The reason why many of us pay lip service to the power of prayer is perhaps we have only sentimental interest in prayer. It sounds very Christian to say that we believe in prayer; we read books on prayer, admire those who pray, but to “**pray without ceasing**” is asking too much. Today, Christians are so divided and they find it very difficult to come together in the spirit of heartfelt prayer for the nation and the world in general. It’s no exaggeration to say that God’s people are scattered throughout the battlefield, fighting their own individual battles while the forces of evil are well funded and mobilized. It seems prayer has become the Cinderella in many of our churches and homes.

God wants us to echo the call, and sound the trumpet like the prophets of old who thundered the voice of God with a sense of divine urgency. John the Baptist was a prophet sent from God with a message of repentance. Rev. Ravenhill was profound when he said, “**John the Baptist was trained in God’s university of silence, sun-scorched, fire-baptized, and desert-bred prophet.**” God, send us a prophet who can strike at the very conscience of this wanton nation! Can you imagine, a prophet of God keeping silence when our nation’s morals are being decapitated by God-haters. A prophet who is sent from God knows his mission and what is expected of him. He also knows what’s at stake, and therefore, he lays it all on the line.

It’s obvious that America is in a moral and spiritual crisis; unless God intervenes, soon we’ll find ourselves in a heap of trouble. We’re in the midst of a cultural and spiritual war; we’re not going to win this war by editing God’s Word for social approval, but only by a praying minority committed in holy desperation. We need a generation of men and women who take their spiritual leadership in the home/church by creating an atmosphere of “**faith and prayer.**” In today’s fast-paced society, we seldom see believers on their knees weeping before the Lord in a manner that pleases Him. A home without the presence of true praying moms and dads will atrophy and die. It seems that the baby-boomer generation did not take their “**faith**” seriously, and consequently, we’ve lost an entire generation. To some degree, the young people today are irreligious because their parents, elders and teachers have been either reluctant or unwilling or unable to transmit faith to them. If adults are not walking with God, then how can we expect young people to pray and walk with God? Rebellion breeds rebellion. Recently someone asked a young person in New York City, “**What do you think about God?**” His reply was, “**I never heard of him.**” The immortal words of C. S. Lewis are worth remembering, “**None can give to another what he does not possess.**” We’ve forsaken the man—Christ Jesus, and are searching for self-help experts, gurus, yogis, prosperity preachers, media pundits, billionaires and pandering politicians, seeking answers to fill our empty soul. The eminent psychiatrist Dr. Carl Jung was profound when he said, “**The central neurosis of our time is emptiness.**” Remember, without Christ, we’re empty.

We have Internet, but no inner peace; cell phones but no celestial communication. Much of today's social media conversation centers on nothing. We listen very little and say too much without saying anything at all. Shakespeare was right when he said, *"Brevity is the soul of wit."* It is all about us. We have much time on our hand and much of what we say is carnal, thoughtless, or even hurtful. Our society thrives on innuendos, juicy tid-bits, and injurious remarks. Beloved, if you spend more time on social media than spending time in the presence of Jehovah God, you're losing intimacy with Him. You can have thousands of social media friends, but in your hour of need, you need Jesus to hold your hands and speak words of comfort to sooth your already wounded soul. We are always chasing after some new revelation, new truth, and some warm/fuzzy feelings. We seem so anxious to abandon the faith of our fathers, and the principles of God's unchanging Word for temporary benefits. Never yield an ounce of truth you've already gained in the spiritual realm. It seems that the devil wants to rub our nose in the dirt and defeat us at every angle. We must not be complacent or unaware of his tactics. The enemy has many faces and is insidious.



The resilient intercession has given birth to a mighty awakening. The sleepless nights have produced great joy in the city and inflexible resolve in the human heart. Importunate prayer can overtake the forces of evil and defy satanic inquisition, transforms defeat into victory and cause triumph over the gloomy despair of doubt and hopelessness. Remember, it's believing prayer that keeps us above the water so we don't get pounded and sucked under. If Christians intercede with desperate resolve and *"faint not,"* as Jesus commanded, we shall truly experience a mighty renewal of hope in America today. But heartless, tearless, passionless, feeble and doubting prayers will get only feeble answers. We serve a risen Savior, not a defeated Savior. Has Calvary failed, of course not? Why not get desperate for revival, why not pray with real apostolic passion and power? God's intercessors never slumber nor sleep! They are appointed watchmen on the wall. It seems that we do not press into God with tears of agony and urgency. I am afraid that we have become too worldly, casual, status conscious, dogmatic and materialistic. A praying person can never be a defeated person. Prayer enthalls us into the very throne of God where we see Him in all His glory. Ravenhill was concise when he said, *"No man is greater than his prayer life."*



Surprisingly, there are an alarming number of people who are not interested in prayer no matter what they see or hear. They could care less about America's moral and social debacle as long as they have the latest electronic toys. That's regrettable and suicidal. In the past, God's people had an insatiable hunger for soul-travail. Not anymore. Today we're engaged in a plethora of Bible studies, satellite services and motivational diatribe to see how many blessings we can extract from God by probing into His promises while living a life of self-indulgence and secret sympathy with the world. **We should not bend the Word of God for personal comforts and conveniences.** The moral climate of America needs the selfless prayers of God's true intercessors. Sometimes I sound like a broken record and feel that I am failing in my feeble effort to convince God's people the importance and necessity of interceding for our nation and the world. Beloved, I plead with you once again to pray for our nation and the world before it's too late!



Arise, brothers and sisters, arise! Not only our nation but the entire world is ripening for judgment. It could, however, soon be ready for harvest 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'll find God's praying remnant at their best. Let's arm ourselves with the most potent weapon ever—the power of prayer! Beloved, the enemy is upon us. The storm is gathering and is about to break. 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."* **We shall never be defeated unless we defeat ourselves!**



Where are God's courageous saints, prayer-hungry servants of God, today, to call His people back to a disciplined life of prayer? **Secularism can never invade the mind that's wholly devoted to God! Atomic missiles without a "praying citizenry" cannot save America and the world. It's time for "the priests, and the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare they people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them..."** (Joel 2:17) **When God intends great mercy for His people, says Matthew Henry, "the first thing He does is to set them praying."** Let me make it perfectly clear that people who experience and practice the power of prayer daily aren't

deterred by opposition, loneliness, or trials but are optimized and energized by it. When we do His will and walk in the power of the spirit, the mouths of critics, the legions of demons—for they will attack—but will not prevail. So now is the time to lay aside the garments that are spotted by the world and put on the garments of righteousness, truth, justice and mercy and reclaim America's tattered spiritual tapestry at once!



Beloved, let's initiate a "Prayer Revolution" in America before it's too late! It's very hard for the devil to defeat a praying Christian because where there is prayer there is power. Now is the time to rise out of complacency and apathy to "weep" before the Lord for a mighty awakening in our Land. Remember, we have not torn any fabric that cannot be mended.

Will you stand in the gap for America, and be a watchman on the wall at this sad juncture of moral and spiritual decay? Oh, slumbering Churches and Christians, wake up! Our nation is wounded and needs healing. Oh, Blessed Savior, help us! Just imagine, America without God's true intercessors! Will we act in time? God forbid that we should fail!

-----**Matthew Skariah**

For more on the subject of 'prayer and intercession,' read Matthew Skariah's challenging and heart-warming book, 'Talk Less and Pray More,' foreword by Rev. Leonard Ravenhill.

Matthew Skariah is the author of 6 books.



SPEAKING PRAYERFULLY

By Matthew Skariah



The Godly Walk

"Godliness with contentment is great gain" (I Timothy 6:6).



"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men" (11 Corinthians 3:2).

Christians must earn the reputation of being godly. This in reality will help us carry the good news of the gospel to a world that is hostile to Christianity. We venerate the image of Christ whether we like it or not. Dean Inge, the famous British historian once said, "Religion is caught, not taught." The most effective argument for Christianity is a living Christian. A believer may forget the doctrines, dogmas of the faith, but he carries in his heart the fragrance of Christ and the blessed fruit of the Christian life. *Thomas Carlyle, the 18th century Scottish poet and essayist was profound when he said, "Holy living is the best argument that tells for God in an age of fact." Was it not the same man who said, "Words have weight only when they have a man behind them?"*

The wife of Dr. Andrew Bonar was led to the Lord by the saintly McCheyne of Scotland whose life has been an inspiration to multitudes. Mrs. Bonar always said, "It was not his matter or his manner that impressed me, but it was just the living epistle of Christ—a picture so lovely that I would have given the world to be such as he is."

A minister in the north of Scotland met McCheyne and was in his company for a little while. He said he never met a more Jesus-like man in the world and he went into his room to "weep" and pray and give himself to God. McCheyne had the capacity to draw near to the heart of God through his majestic "prayer life." **What a splendid experience!**

It's no exaggeration to say that we live in a pagan culture and pagans have no morals. The question before us is a very logical one—is it possible to live a godly life in a "not-so-godly" world? Remember, the world is not our model; Jesus is our model. As believers, we're called to be holy, and to walk before God in righteousness and truth. To build a righteous nation requires a nation of godly people. It's important to remember that personal godliness is the foundation of all Christian behavior. **Oh, to be like Thee, Blessed Redeemer! Beloved, make sure our life will "tally" with what we proclaim.**

When we walk on the 'highway of holiness,' we'll not meander through the potholes of human carnality.



POINT TO PONDER
By Matthew Skariah

Just asking, “How many worlds are there?”

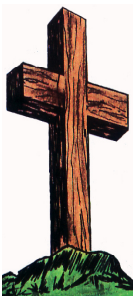
It's becoming increasingly difficult to read an article, or listen to a lecture or a sermon, without having the “Third-world” cliché thrown at you. To all those who use such phrase, May I humbly ask: “How many worlds are there?”



God does not measure nations by the efflorescence of assiduous culture and material affluence. Men divide the human race horizontally—upper class, middle class, lower class, untouchables, First world and Third world. God sees the human race vertically—the saved and the unsaved. No citizen of heaven shall be subjected to any disability or deprivation merely by reason of his ‘national origin or social status.’ **Christianity is not an American or European faith; it's universal in scope and voluntary in its acceptance. In fact, right now, the Western culture is moving away from the Christian faith while the Eastern and African block of nations are moving toward Jesus.** That's the divine paradox; a spiritual shift is taking place, and I am encouraged to believe that the next great revival perhaps will come from Asian and African countries. God is no respecter of persons, and the message of the Cross transcends all human boundaries.



In heaven, there will be no special compartments, no special dining rooms, and no country-club membership. In this world, we're being judged by our “status and affluence’, **but in heaven we're received strictly on the merit of the shed blood of Christ. Whatever our social status or background, remember, there's a God who loves us implicitly, passionately and supremely. And, that's something to rave about, isn't it?** May God deliver us from our inbred myopia, self-importance and parochialism! God speaks to all of us. The cross is no one's private property. In fact, it belongs to us all! **To God, there's no such place— a Third World. The Creator loves the world that He created with an everlasting love. “The earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein” (Psalm 24:1).** Let's see the world through the prism of our “ever loving and never failing” God!



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