



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

Prayergram[®]

June-July 2023



Master, Please Break Me

Confession • Repentance • Brokenness

“Every man wants to change the world, but only
the best wants to change himself.”

---Leo Tolstoy



I am praying that someday, somewhere, a servant of the Lord would be willing and courageous and broken enough to lay aside the prepared text (sermon), and call the “body of Christ” to the altar to seek the face of God in true humility, repentance and brokenness. When that happens we will have heaven’s outpouring! It’s no exaggeration to say that we all suffer from the “tyranny of our own ego,” and yet unwilling or afraid to admit it. Brokenness brings about ‘personal cleansing’ and cleansing is the result of “dying to self.” **Socrates was profound when he said, “An unexamined life doesn’t worth the living.”**



When I was a lad, I used to hang around my uncle’s sugar mills where huge steel cylinders with blunt spike pulverized the cane as it came off the conveyer belt. Likewise, a real Christian undergoes the pulverizing process of Almighty God by placing his “ego and pride” on the conveyer belt of God’s grace and mercy. The world looks upon broken things with disdain, but God looks upon broken things with delight. Jesus is advancing His Kingdom with “broken vessels.” Just imagine heaven is populated with earth’s broken lives. We are squeamish about the doctrine of “dying to self.” “Oh, yes, I believe it,” we say, but who has the fortitude and tenacity to undergo its grueling process in a day when we cater to the flesh and all its ingratiating propositions! To walk with God in loving intimacy, we must have an awareness of who we are and where we are in our Christian journey--- what we call--- “Self-introspection.” **The immortal words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer come to mind, “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”**



Dying to Self, A religious frustration... or a spiritual jubilee? Every day, all day long, Christians the world over are faced with many choices, good and not so good. Many people, including the writer of this article, grapple with the toughest theological question of all: “**How does one die to self?**” To die means to exist no more—gone forever! **Our usefulness in the service of the Lord depends a great deal upon our willingness to lay everything on the “altar of God.”** It is a delightful process, one that is sweetened by the will of God, modulated by the influence of His grace, and surrendered to His glory. But be warned that there will always be opposition to the practice of self-renunciation, which is necessary for “spiritual jubilee.” Rebellion towards God will not go away on its own; it must be broken by a heartfelt contrition that we have broken the heart of God, our heavenly Father who never breaks our hearts. Flesh always cries out for self-glory.

A “**death to self**” experience is a viable path to an absolute surrender to God. It cannot be forced upon anyone; it must be experienced on a voluntary basis. If we have a ravenous hunger for God, we can then find a sure way to the heart of God. The beginning of all reform must start within us. To reform one’s self, one must release the imprisoned God within, and by doing so, discover that the outward has changed too. **The person who experiences “death to self” will crumple up the theory of conventional wisdom and will prove it to the world that living for Christ is the most glorious life one can embark on.**



Any time we say even a word about “dying to self,” we’re in jeopardy. Nevertheless, this inevitable concern of dealing with self is normal, understandable, and even commendable. The surge of “self” must be dealt with even as our hearts race and our stomach churn within ourselves. A broken Christian is a loving Christian; he loves God with a love that neither precipitates nor evaporates. This type of costly love is defined by William Douglas Chamberlin, a Bible expositor, as **“the love that gives itself without counting the cost.”**



Beloved, what price are we willing to pay in order to undergo the spiritual process we call, “Dying to self?” Jesus said, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone: but if it die, it brings forth much fruit (John 12:24). The husk must perish before the seed can germinate. Before the farmer can plant the seed, he has to plough the ground and that will definitely disturb the natural beauty. Someone asked George Muller, a faithful servant of God, the secret of his devoted life. “One day,” he said simply, “George Muller died.” The late evangelist D.L. Moody had a similar experience. On one occasion, as he was walking down a street in New York, he denounced all rights to himself and to his own life. In essence, he died. He died to “self and all its treacherous ways.” The well-known evangelist Christmas Evans died to himself in writing. He wrote out a lengthy contract with God, beginning with the words: **“I give my soul and body to Jesus...” He died to all rights to Christmas Evans.**



Dying to self means, **“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me...” (Galatians 2:20)** The cost is ever the same; it says nothing of power, ease, and comfort; rather, it reveals the ugliness of the selfish life and calls the believer to awake, to humble, and to renounce carnality and follow Christ unconditionally. As we become serious in our walk with Christ, the Spirit of God may show us fatal flaws in our lives such as lack of obedience, unfaithful witness, self-centered living, boasting, and neglect of the cross. The daily practice of self-renunciation is absolutely essential in the procurement of our relationship with God. The point of dying to self is that the deeper we delve into our “private zone,” the more we come to acknowledge the utter wretchedness of the self-centered life. We do not seek this experience, per say, but we seek the One who makes this precious experience possible. In this, the Spirit of Christ becomes the enforcer and procurer of the dying to self experience, as we look beneath the surface of our lives to discover new and fresh discoveries of God’s infinite mercy and love.

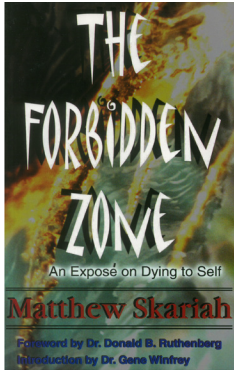


In today’s materialistic culture, Christians and non-Christians are taught to rely on the arm of the flesh to get the job done. It seems that self-reliance is elevated and God-reliance is down graded. That is why there are few books on “self-denial” and “dying to self.” It cuts through the very fabric of our religious and social existence. When Christians become too materialistic, they lose their moral and spiritual compass. If we refuse to become a broken vessel, we have lost our effectiveness as Christians, and no amount of rationalization can justify such a careless attitude. The pursuit of self-extrication must begin at the point of spiritual conception, for true humility elevates one to reverence God. By exerting our will, we forfeit God’s will and purpose.

Many years ago, there were two sisters whose lives were filled with immorality and shame, but that was all changed one day when the Lord captured them and they were gloriously converted. Several months after their conversion, they received an invitation to attend a party from the people whom they used to hang around with. In response to the invitation, they sent the following message: **“We regret to inform you that we’ve recently ‘died’; therefore, we cannot come to the party. We’re very sorry.”** What did they mean by that? They meant that they experienced “dying to self” and all its pleasurable and sinful ways. Here is the message of “dying to self” in a nutshell!

“Only those who are prepared to ‘die’ are really prepared to live.”

---Matthew Skariah



For more on the subject of “dying to self,” read Matthew Skariah’s ‘insightful’ book, ‘The Forbidden Zone, an Exposé’ on Dying to Self, published and copyrighted by World Prayer Band, 1998

For all those who are Cynical ...

By Matthew Skariah

You say that you’re ‘cynical’ about everything but let me ask you a simple question: “What has cynicism done for the world, and for you lately?” Recently, we are hearing a great deal about the collapse of the U.S. dollar, and consequently, an insidious paranoia is taking deep root in many lives, not realizing that God is the blessed controller of every situation. Ambiguous and unfocused predictions of the future events always produce a “hysteria” which debilitates our ability to function as God’s positive people in a negative world.



Secular and even some religious leaders can play on peoples fears, and in the process, they do more harm than good. As Christians, our job is to prepare people for eternity, not for Wall Street jitters. In this topsy-turvy world of ours, a real Christian remains faithful to Jesus Christ by not tying himself to the fate of systems, governments and cultures. He affirms his faith forthrightly and unapologetically in God Almighty, and refuses to listen to the ponderous chatter of so-called prognosticators who are so eager and ready to celebrate the demise of Christianity. We can get ourselves overworked about the state of the world, and thus become paranoid. We should relax and trust God more knowing that nothing escapes Him. Do you think that God has actually lost His divine power? **Has He lost His direction as we have, of course not!?** Then, why should we press the panic button?



Recently, a poll was taken and the result was very disturbing. The summary of the poll was that many Americans are losing their faith in God and interest in Christianity. The latest findings gave a window for many non-religious prognosticators an opportunity to take a swipe at Christianity. Consequently, the God-haters of our nation were extremely “gleeful” about the findings and they were so delighted to celebrate the demise of God. In their sin-damaged mind, God is dead and Christianity is finished and now they can breathe easily, a sigh of relief, indeed! The same poll tells us that even though many Americans are losing their faith in God while their desire for wealth is increasing. Amazing, isn’t it? **By the way, are they carrying God’s “COFFIN” around in jubilation?** Now let me ask you! What’s Christianity? Christianity is Christ and Christ

is Christianity. If Christianity fails, Christ fails. So what do you think? Has Calvary failed, never!? Just imagine God is sitting on His throne “wringing” His hands in absolute “worry and utter dismay” that some Americans are losing their faith in Him! Oh, the nerve! So go ahead, celebrate the demise of God, and see how far it takes you in life! **America, don't bet against God! We reject God at our own peril!**



As a Christian, you don't have to fear depression, a technological breakdown, or the loss of any provision or security. Remember, you've been given iron-clad promises that will enable you to live in quiet confidence, no matter what comes your way. Always remember, we are under His care, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise! Let's never forget that we stand with God Almighty! **“I hold the world in my hand, but I can also hold you,” says the Lord.**



Heaven is not built on cynicism. Cynicism is a “negation” of our God-infused optimism. The trouble with the world is that **“half of the people telling us that we are doomed and the other half listen and believe.”**

Reality Check...

‘Sheer Arrogance’

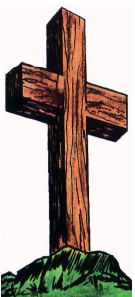
Many people in our culture who feel they are superior and above God and could do very nicely without Him, except for one thing... death and dying. One may live without God, but none can die without Him. The day of death is the ‘moment of truth’ as we leave this world alone. “Naked we came and naked we go.” No one can change that, no technology, no power, no politics, no friends, and no amount of wealth. Sooner or later, we have to face God. **The words of C.S. Lewis come to mind, “Aim at heaven and you'll get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth you get neither.”** Are we prepared for the “moment of truth,” and I doubt it!? There are a lot of “nice and happy people” in the world who are very proud of their “niceness and happiness,” and yet, they are unwilling or afraid to pound their PRIDE in the dust, and humble enough to call on God for help, and I wonder why!



Man has a compelling desire to be immortal, but he cannot... and therefore, he is truly frustrated. God is the greatest reality in the world. Nothing ever stays permanent in this life, including man who lives here for a while and then he disappears as Isaiah, the prophet said, **“Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils...” (Isaiah 2:22).**



Why suffer from the ‘paralyses of pride’ when we can enjoy and reap the blessings of heaven!?

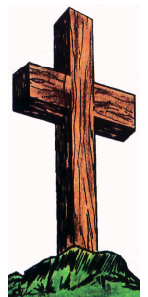


The WPB Ministries

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

Website: www.worldprayerband.com

E-mail: mwpbs@yahoo.com



Intercession★Prayer Conferences★Revivals

One to One Outreach★Publications

World Prayer Band • P.O. Box 686 • Roswell, New Mexico 88202-0686 • USA
Phone: (575) 626-5097