

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



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OCT. - NOV. 2022



America's New Crusade to 'Remake' God

"To remake God is to unmake God"

In our culture, people want to remake God; they want to change His divine laws to fit their situation and the rules to fit their behavior. The truth is that God's standard never changes and the veracity of His Word will stand the test of time. The Scripture says, **"For I am the Lord, I change not..."** (Malachi 3:6) The present generation is trying to manufacture a plausible god who goes along with their social and moral frame of mind. For example, Voltaire, the French atheist once said, **"If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent Him."** Tragically, it seems many in our culture have taken his advice and inventing their own gods.

Have you ever seen so much frantic activities to rearrange God's creation as we see it in modern America today? God knew from the beginning, that man, who was created in the image of God, will dabble in foolish fancies, unthinkable stupidities, arrogant overtures, mind-numbing actions, calling **"good evil and evil good."** Why are we so surprised? What used to be normal has become abnormal and we are now living through it. God is not surprised at anything we do. He knows our frame and our existence and whereabouts, and don't be on a crusade to **"educate or remake God."** Man, with all his know-how, pride, arrogance, conceit, absurdities, cries out like a baby when he is alone, **"Who shall deliver me from my inner-depravity, inner-hypocrisy and self-deception?"** All our technological advancement is a pretext for man's innate desire to fashion himself to be like God.

Remember, we are not the light of the world, we are only a reflection of the light as Jesus said, **"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life"** (John 8:12). When the overriding perception of our world is that life is a **"cosmic accident"** rather than a **"divine incident,"** it is no wonder that reverence for the Almighty is at low ebb. We are not called upon to defend the honor of His majesty; He is big enough to take care of His own reputation no matter what the tempo of the world might be. **"God can hit strait licks with crooked sticks."** God is infinite and we are finite. Loving God is a matter of surrender. What's the purpose of studying more, searching for more knowledge—biblical or otherwise, if we refuse to surrender our lives to God? **Without knowing and loving the Creator, how can we know and manage the creation?**

Man wants to change the untamable universe, and while we are at it, we look like Jeremy Taylor's picture of a man clapping his shoulder to the ground trying to stop an earthquake. It's rather amusing to me that **"when small men try to cast long shadows, the sun is about to set."** Some speak of God as though he is vacillating, weak and who is always at the mercy of man. Are we not guilty of creating such a charitable God who depends on our donation and without it He is financially ruined? We treat God like an onstage performer, feasting on our applause. Friend, God doesn't seek after human applause; He does not covet the praises of men—He inhabits the praises of men.

Why do we insist that God should change Himself to accommodate sinful people like us? Dear friend, all changes must be on our part. God needs no changing or remaking and He never differs from Himself. Man is under God's law, not the other way around. The problem is not in the truth of God's Word, but in our egotistical and sin-damaged mind. The obstruction of morals begins in the mind first, and man is guilty of minimizing God's power while maximizing his own puny power. He is guilty of having a low **"view point"** of God while maintaining a

"higher view" of him. He is guilty of thinking that God is just like him, capable of doing foolish and wicked things. "When they knew God," wrote Paul, "they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (Romans 1:21).

Changes and decays are everywhere when we look at the culture in which we live. The world and its politics, its economy, its people... they are all transitory, but, however, there is another set of words we can rely on... they are God's Word, **unchangeable, permanent and eternal. As a believer, I cannot dwell on pessimism, glum surveys and gloomy forecasts. Pessimism is wallowing in self-pity. God maintains His people regardless of circumstances. It is never ever risky to place our lives in the hands of the Almighty. It's very clear that circumstances and events of the day influence our emotions, and when we are influenced by our emotions and current events, we are not allowing our mind to work or think properly.**

Almost every man who quarrels with God flatters himself with all his credentials and achievements. A man is a fool who attempts to deceive either God or himself. Honest thinking cannot even begin without humility. The citizens of the world need a spirit of humility, rather than a spirit of arrogance, a spirit of brokenness, rather than a spirit of haughtiness. A Chinese proverb says it well, **"The taller the bamboo grows the lower it bends."**

Our world is never outside of God's care, never removed from His sphere of influence. Only God is infinite in the superlative sense, and others are admirable only in their relation to Him. God alone is concrete and real and everything else is abstract and potential. The God who created all things from nothing definitely needs no help or helpers. He is the everlasting undefended One. Are we attempting to lend Him a helping hand in the administration of the universe He commands? Many in our world have come to assume that **"God is reputable only if He wins in the 'cosmic seesaw battle' between good and evil." We place such a burden on God, always demanding that He should perform a miracle, if He doesn't, then, He becomes powerless in our mind and how can we place our faith in such a powerless deity? What would people say if God cannot turn stones into bread?**

The present generation has forgotten the admonition of the Lord, **"Be still and know that I am God." Our worship of God should be vertical not horizontal. Once we understand the sovereignty of God, we no longer attempt to brow-beat Him with our schemes and plans and demands. A Christian is the one who trusts the wits and wisdom of God. The decline of the knowledge of the holy has dealt with a deadly blow in today's culture. When Christ becomes Lord of our lives, slowly and surely, we begin to live a life of ineffable order of biblical holiness and purity.**

It seems that man is always on a collision course with God; he thinks that God is in competition with him and jealous of his success which is a fallacious thinking indeed! Yes, we can have the applause of the world and material success in life without God. Our talents, our skills, our expertise, our tricks, and manipulations are sufficient even to fool the most acclaimed person who drinks from the well of self-sufficiency. Those who attempt to change the image of a holy God are just wasting their time. It is ironic that we don't want to change ourselves but at the same time keep insisting that God should change Himself according to our whims and fancies. Amazing, isn't it?

The modern man has relinquished once his majestic thought of an infinite God and has replaced it with a popularized version of a **"cream of wheat" god. This has been a gradual process of undermining the sovereign rule of God as man advances in science and technology he is prone to covet honor for himself. So he sets himself on a voyage to seek honor that comes from man while negating the honor which comes from God Himself. Progress is the word the enemy uses to allure men away from God. When we are in love with the world, we manufacture a **"robotic god" who thinks just like us.** Such a manipulative scheme is designed to **"sooth and massage" the human ego, and raise the affections of natural men, who attempt to exclude God from their lives. Friend, watch out for the "tendency and itch," to remake God in the image of fickle men who thrive on arrogance! "The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD" (Proverbs 19:3). Consider these words: Foolishness, Perversion, and Fretting.****

For all those who are feverishly and foolishly attempting to "remake" God in their own image, please know that **"There is no wisdom, nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD" (Proverbs 21:30). What is built by the hand of God can never be destroyed by the hand of man. As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ know that His kingdom shall stand forever, but we must not remain ignorant of the perversion of man to "fashion himself into the image of God."**

Speaking Candidly

by Matthew Skariah

Stuck in the Mud?

The social, political, economical problems of the world are out of control and beyond our grasp. Most solutions are being offered at the moment are secular, not spiritual or rational. With Christ, we are alive and without Him we are like a withered branch ready to be burned in the fire. It seems to me that the car is stuck in the mud, the wheels are spinning and turning at a higher rate of speed, but cannot pull the car out of the mud.

In our whacky culture—it is wrong to be right and right to be wrong. Decency and common sense are uncommon today, and rational people are not readily found. When we see the world is in turmoil and chaos, and out control, the people of God should at once step up to the plate plead with God for His divine intervention. Christianity is not a religion, not in the most profound sense. The world is full of religions and one more religion wouldn't make much difference at all. Jesus offers relationship and He transforms lives. **God did not become a cow, tree or a mountain. He became a human in order to call humanity back to God.** He calls us like a father who calls his children; He seeks us like a shepherd who seeks a lost sheep.

Caesar used to reform men by changing his environment; Jesus changes society by transforming men. **The presence of Jesus awakens us.** When we're stuck in the mud, spinning our wheels, and unable to extricate ourselves, then we need to call on God and let Him pull us out of the mud and establish our feet on Him, the solid Rock. In this chaotic world of ours, we should be men and women, in whom God lives in whom God is forming. Pascal, the French philosopher addressed the problem of seeking happiness and fulfillment from things that can never satisfy when he wrote in Pensees, **"But these are all inadequate because the infinite abyss can only be fulfilled by an infinite and immutable object, that is to say, only by God Himself."**

God is the center of all things; He must be recognized and loved as the sovereign God of the universe in whom all things exist. It is logical and sensible to **"love and worship"** God at all times with a gracious heart of **"thanksgiving and absolute fidelity."** Beloved, when we are stuck in the mud, please don't argue with the Rescuer, but simply submit ourselves to His rescue effort, and be thankful!

Speaking Prayerfully

By Matthew Skariah

Let the 'Kneeling' Begin Now!

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.

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, the believers of the first century **out-thought, out-prayed, and out-lived** the unbelievers. The apostles had encountered their first opposition as they were ostracized by the Sanhedrin. What was their reaction? Did they try to organize a protest march, or boycott against religious discrimination? They did not raise money to overthrow the emperor. Instead, **they prayed passionately, wept profusely, and proclaimed the message of the cross with holy boldness.**

Great things happen when Christians bend their knees before God in prayer. Today, the Christians are despised, the ungodly are vociferous, young people are mesmerized and allured, and the enemies of the cross are mocking the church and apathy prevails. In similar difficult times, Daniel set his face to seek the Lord with supplication and fasting. Why is there such an aversion to **"prayer and fasting"** among today's evangelical Christians?

Beware of squatting sluggishness; and let's bend our knees before God for a mighty invasion of His Almighty power! Beloved, searching and perusing thorough the internet, looking for fancy websites and "snack-bar sermons" on prayer can never top one vital experience in prayer. **Am I old-fashioned, when it comes to prayer, you'd better believe it!?**

God is not satisfied with our **"anemic and paltry"** prayer efforts. He longs for our abiding supplication, passionate pleading, and heart-wrenching soul-travail. For us to pretend otherwise is to deceive ourselves. So let's pray **NOW** fervently and urgently!

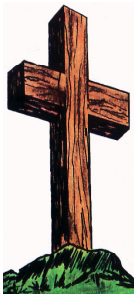
The early Christians used **'holy argument'** in prayer and the power of knee-bending to gain victory over the devil and the world.

"PRODUCE YOUR CAUSE, SAITH THE LORD, BRING FORTH YOUR STRONG REASONS, SAITH THE KING OF JACOB" (ISAIAH 41:21).

Now is the time to **"kneel"** in victory! Someone has wisely written, **"When kneeling down stops—backsliding begins."**

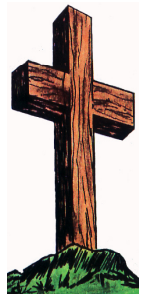
AS D.L. MOODY EXPRESSED IT SO WELL, "EVERY GREAT MOVEMENT OF GOD CAN BE TRACED TO A KNEELING FIGURE."

So let the 'kneeling' begin now! In Christian life, 'kneeling' is rising!



The WPB Ministries

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

Email: mwpbs@yahoo.com

Website: www.worldprayerband.com