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Newsletter for March 2006 Vol. 4 No. 3



## Praise's of the Month



The first praise of this month is a personal one to the pastor. Communication has been opened by the Lord again with a dear brother and friend in Christ. This has been in the my prayers for a year and the Lord opened the doors for this reconciliation. I Just praise the Lord for His timing is just perfect. The second praise is that in both February and March we have sent out all the Bibles, New Testaments and teaching aids we had. We are also praising the Lord because the Ministry has found a direct source for both the Bibles and New Testaments for our Bible outreach. This has been in our prayers for a long time. We never know how far the word will go. Remember what our Lord said, Isaiah 55:10-11 (NLT)  $^{10}$ "The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. <sup>11</sup>It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. Just like throwing a stone in the middle of calm stream. We just do not know where those ripples will go. The third praise of the month is just how good the Lord is! He had been laying it on Mary's heart to start sending out encouraging teachings to the prayer warriors. She has been sharing our personal triumphs, loses, and learning experiences. It has amazed both Mary and I with the positive response. It just proves again Jesus' words "Don't be afraid. Just trust me." Things are on the move with the Lord as usual. This month at the ministry we are evaluating all radio outreach ministry's. The Ministry has been in contact with Pan American Broadcasting for several months. They cover the world with their current stations. As all of you know we have been broadcasting the Gospel in mainly Africa and America. This could open the world to the program where the rubber meets the road. Only the Lord knows

where it will all end. Our final praise for the month. PRAISE HIM we just got home from the hospital about an hour and a half ago and when the EMT's laid aaliyah in her bed she looked around and smiled. she now has a med port and a trach and is on NO oxygen and her saturations are 99-100 % we do have stand by oxygen for the sleep apnea and seizures BUT while in the hospital she only desatted to 88%. here is a pic of the little girl i found when i went back up to the hospital after she "died". the entire hospital are still in awe with the miracle of aaliyah. thank you all for all your love, thoughts and prayers. we serve one Awesome Father.



sue For those who do not know according to the doctors this little girl was supposed to be dead right now. Go prayer warriors go!! PRAISE THE LORD!!!!!!!!!

God Bless Pastor A. J.



**Luke 6:12 (ASV)** <sup>12</sup>And it came to pass in these days, that he went out into the mountain to pray; and he continued all night in prayer to God.

If it was good, enough for our Savior is it good enough for you? This pastor can honestly admit it has been too long since I spent the whole night in prayer. I have always believed that the tithe, the 10% not only applies to our funds but also our time. How many of us can even say they give to our Lord 2.4 hours of each day? I mean if it is good enough for the Son of God why not us? Do we somehow feel that because Jesus was going through so much here on earth and was going to die for our sins that He needed more prayer time than we do? This is the Son of God and had a direct line to His Father. I want to take a closer look at one of the deeper prayer times of Jesus. Luke 22:39-44(ASV) <sup>39</sup>And he came out, and went, as his custom was, unto the mount of Olives; and the disciples also followed him. <sup>40</sup>And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. <sup>41</sup>And he was parted from them about a stone's cast; and he kneeled down and prayed, <sup>42</sup>saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. <sup>43</sup>And there appeared unto him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. <sup>44</sup>And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became as it were great drops of blood falling down upon the ground.

I want you to notice two things here. The first is that though Jesus knew what was coming he told his disciples to "Pray that ye enter not into temptation." Here are the men that walked and talked with Jesus each day. They listened to the words and saw the miracles and yet Jesus gives them a warning to pray that they did not fall into temptation. If they needed to pray, can you not see how much more we need that line of communication? Second, even though Jesus was in such agony that his physical body was coming apart at the seams (his sweat became as it were great drops of blood falling down upon the ground). This is a proven medical condition caused by great stress on the human body. I can tell you no matter what stress I have been under, no matter how much pain I have been in I have never sweated Blood! However, even under these conditions what did Jesus say (not my will, but thine, be done). If our Lord knew how important prayer was why don't we? If we want to see a change in our nation, our church, our neighborhood, ourselves we need to rediscover the power of prayer. I will leave you with two verses to chew on. James 5:16 (NLT) <sup>16</sup>Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.

**Revelation 8:3-4 (NLT)** <sup>3</sup>Then another angel with a gold incense burner came and stood at the altar. And a great quantity of incense was given to him to mix with the prayers of God's people, to be offered on the gold altar before the throne. <sup>4</sup>The smoke of the incense, mixed with the prayers of the saints, ascended up to God from the altar where the angel had poured them out.

## Mary's Thoughts for the Month

## The Day Is At Hand

One of the biggest mysteries in the Bible concerns the timing of Jesus Christ's return to earth. The Bible clearly tells us no one knows the hour or the day when the Lord will return, but that doesn't seem to stop people from setting a date. God's Word is filled with many signs that we can study in order to see how close we are to the season of the Lord's return. The following scriptures give us some insight into how soon the Day of the Lord is they remind us, that He could literally return at any moment! Brothers and Sisters, be ready every day to meet your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

There are numerous signs in Scripture, but I want to share just one with you here.

1.God's Word says that in that day there will be scoffers: 2nd Peter 3:3-4: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying,

Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

Have you encountered any scoffers lately? I'd be willing to wager that you have! In your own circle of friends and family members you will probably find a few scoffers, these are people who like the scripture says walk after their own lusts and say "Where is the promise of His coming?" In every denomination and religion of man there are people who fit into this category. Yes, they claim they are believers, but the way they live says something totally different to the world. The only thing that will ever save any of us is the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross of Calvary. The only thing that will save you from being one of these scoffers is to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? The Day is at Hand, what are you doing for the Lord?

How are you spending your time waiting? Don't let fear rule your hearts. Instead, since we can see the day approaching, let the Lord find us not only watching and waiting, but let Him find us laboring in the fields. The harvest is ripe child of God, and the workers are few. Work for the night draws nigh and there are scoffers everywhere who need the Lord Jesus Christ.



Dear Pastor Arial

I want you to pray for us and our program which is schedule in March 10 onward in Ilam district. Maoists attacked my home town in east Nepal, Ilam, and 4 Maoists, 3 armies including 2 ordinary people lives ended. Government offices are destroyed. My family have some official work in government offices and we have to inaugurate one of the four churches in Ilam. Most of the leaders coming for leadership seminar are from this region. Pray that God's will be done and our sheeduled program may not be effected and besides all this we have decided to go there.

Your Brother In Nepal Pastor Reuben & Rita with Rosanna and Reuel

## Toddler shock on reality show

SOFIA (Reuters) - Bulgarian media and broadcasting authorities criticized a popular reality television show on Thursday for letting a toddler live in a house with 12 frolicking adults.

Media were initially delighted to find the cast of moderately famous Bulgarians on "VIP Brother" included self-described "sex hedonists," an ex-Playboy playmate, and former Miss Bulgaria Violeta Zdravkova. But opinion shifted when Zdravkova brought her 3-year-old daughter Danaya to the show, which in previous years has featured nudity, sex and short-lived affairs between housemates. "Little Danaya listens to sex lessons!" said the headline of a disapproving article in daily Trud. Bulgaria's broadcasting regulator sent a letter expressing concern to Nova TV, the station airing the show. "We are extremely worried at the presence in the house of a three-year-old, who has become an unwitting witness of indecent acts," it said, urging Nova to bring the show up to "public perceptions of moral standards." Fans of the show have also complained. But Nova said it would not kick the girl off the set. "Only her mother can decide whether she should keep her daughter in the house," said the station's public relations officer Galina Dzhoreva.

## Pastor's Corner

# The shepherds are leading the sheep astray Or what ever happened to believing the word of God?

Hosea 4:4- (NLT) <sup>4</sup>"Don't point your finger at someone else and try to pass the blame! Look, you priests, my complaint is with you! <sup>5</sup>As a sentence for your crimes, you will stumble in broad daylight, just as you might at night, and so will your false prophets. And I will destroy your mother, Israel. <sup>6</sup>My people are being destroyed because they don't know me. It is all your fault, you priests, for you yourselves refuse to know me. Now I refuse to recognize you as my priests. Since you have forgotten the laws of your God, I will forget to bless your children. <sup>7</sup>The more priests there are, the more they sin against me. They have exchanged the glory of God for the disgrace of idols. <sup>8</sup>"The priests get fed when the people sin and bring their sin offerings to them. So the priests are glad when the people sin!

I see a very sad trend my friends. I see increasingly the Christian community is accepting a softened Gospel, more comfortable Gospel. They seem to be going the way that Paul warned us about. I was reading a devotional that was written over a 100 years ago but hit it straight on the head. "When we lose sight of God, we become hard and dogmatic. We throw our petitions at His throne and dictate to Him what we want Him to do. We don't worship God, nor do we seek to conform our minds to the mind of Christ. And if we are hard toward God, we will become hard toward other people". I see the words of Paul becoming truer each day, Ephesians 4:14 (NLT) 14Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or because someone has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth. Paul here is talking about spiritual growth and it seems that we are going backwards not forward. I cannot count how much e-mail I get a day from ministry partners, sending me the latest and greatest prophecy from their favorite false prophet. The Bible is very clear if some one says the message is from the Lord and it does not come true, he or she is a false prophet. Yet, no matter how many times I send them example after example of wrong prophecies of an individual they still follow them. It seems that Christians have stopped using their spiritual common sense because someone gives "a Word" they like. It does not matter if this man or woman has been wrong most of the time they still want to hang on their every word. Why not hang on every word of God? Jesus said it. Matthew 4:4 (ASV) <sup>4</sup>But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Solomon said it: Proverbs 30:5-7 (NLT) <sup>5</sup>Every word of God proves true. He defends all who come to him for protection. Do not add to his words, or he may rebuke you, and you will be found a liar. And Moses said what God told him to say about it: Deuteronomy 8:2-3 (NKJV) And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

Notice, none of these men said "man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of man"!!! Jude gave us a very sober warning. **Jude 1:17-19 (NLT)** <sup>17</sup>But you, my dear friends, must remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ told you, <sup>18</sup>that in the last times there would be scoffers whose purpose in life is to enjoy themselves in every evil way imaginable. <sup>19</sup>Now they are here, and they are the ones who are creating divisions among you. They live by natural instinct because they do not have God's Spirit living in them. You can say that Jude is not talking about the church but he says they are "creating divisions among you." My friends this exactly what is happening in the church today. Many of the "great men of God" today, all the "great prophets of God" today have caused more division in the church since the beginning of its history. If you do not believe me just pick one well-known name it and claim it pastor and do an Internet search. You will find hundreds and hundreds of sites, either supporting them as some

great man of God or sites using scriptures to prove them wrong. If that is not division I do not know what it is. Peter goes one step further. **2 Peter 2:17-19 (NLT)** <sup>17</sup>These people are as useless as dried-up springs of water or as clouds blown away by the wind—promising much and delivering nothing. They are doomed to blackest darkness. <sup>18</sup>They brag about themselves with empty, foolish boasting. With lustful desire as their bait, they lure back into sin those who have just escaped from such wicked living. <sup>19</sup>They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves to sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you.

But it is up to you my friend do you want to get back to the basics of God's word or continue being blown by every new face on the block. I will leave you with Peters words. **1 Peter 4:17-18 (TLB)** <sup>17</sup>For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin first among God's own children. And if even we who are Christians must be judged, what terrible fate awaits those who have never believed in the Lord? <sup>18</sup>If the righteous are barely saved, what chance will the godless have?

Think About it my friend. God Bless Pastor A. J.



There's a new poll out which points to a growing rejection among Evangelicals that Jesus is the only way of salvation. For years, most evangelical Christians have been taught and accepted the words of Jesus in John 14:6, where He states, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no man cometh unto the Father but my Me." But now a new Newsweek/Beliefnet poll is showing a shocking number of people who call themselves evangelical and born-again have come to reject those words. The question in the poll read: "Can a good person who isn't of your religious faith go to heaven or attain salvation, or not?" According to the poll results of more than 1,000 adults 18 years of age and older, 68 percent of evangelical Christians believe "good" people of other faiths can also go to heaven. Nationally, 79 percent of those surveyed said the same thing, with an "astounding" 91 percent agreement among Catholics, notes Beliefnet. Beliefnet spokesman Steven Waldman calls the results "pretty amazing." The darkness is coming and slowly covering the eyes of the lukewarm Christians. You will never convince me that an on fire for Jesus Christian can or will believe that Jesus' words no longer are true. This fits perfectly into Mary's vision of the Darkness devouring the Lukewarm Christians. As far as this pastor goes you can hang me upside down on a cross and I will not deny or question the validity of my Saviors words. There is only one way to heaven and it is through Jesus. *Pastor A. J.* 

An alarming number of Christians are staying home on Sunday mornings and the trend is affecting today's church. Believers who have become "stayaway saints" are alternately worrying and exciting church leaders, pointing to what is being seen as either a serious threat to the spread of the gospel or the actual cusp of a revolution that could usher in the sort of revival many have prayed for and dreamed of for years. A recent study found that about 13 million Americans whom the researchers identified as being born again were "unchurched ... not having attended a Christian church service, other than for a holiday ... at any time in the past six months." There is a very good book just published about this it is by Barnum called the Revolution.

The proportion of Americans who say they have no religious affiliation doubled over the last decade and now stands at 16% of the population, according to a new study on religious identity. Only Catholics (24%) and Baptists (17%) outnumber the so-called "non-identifiers," or "nones," said the report. Based on telephone interviews with more than 10,000 randomly selected people, said about one in six answered "none" or "no religion" or described themselves as secular, humanist, ethical-culturalist, agnostic or atheist. Their ranks will continue to grow, and they'll soon outnumber Baptists. Do you notice anything wrong with this picture? This can only happen

because the darkness has turned us into a bunch of lukewarm wimps. Where are all the miracles? Where is the fire? Could it be that because we no longer believe the word of God with all our hearts that our hearts fire has gone out?

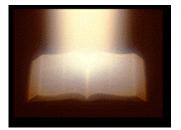
### St. Paul City Office Boots Easter Bunny

#### ST. PAUL, Minn. - The Easter Bunny has been sent packing at St. Paul City Hall.

A toy rabbit, pastel-colored eggs and a sign with the words ``Happy Easter" were removed from the lobby of the City Council offices, because of concerns they might offend non-Christians. A council secretary had put up the decorations. They were not bought with city money. St. Paul's human rights director, Tyrone Terrill, asked that the decorations be removed, saying they could be offensive to non-Christians. But City Council member Dave Thune says removing the decorations went too far, and he wonders why they can't celebrate spring with ``bunnies and fake grass."

I cannot speak for you but I can't find anywhere in the Bible anything about the "Easter Bunny". I personally dislike the whole Easter festivities I will only refer to it as Resurrection Sunday. Easter was again one of those pagan rituals that the church tried to change into a Christian holiday. How many of you realize by letting your children hunt Easter eggs etc are letting them participate in a pagan Fertility ritual. **Pastor A. J.** 

## This Months Bible Moment



### There will always be some among you who are poor.

**James 2:14-16 (NLT)** <sup>14</sup>Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone. <sup>15</sup>Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, <sup>16</sup>and you say, "Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? <sup>17</sup>But if anyone has enough money to live well, and sees a brother or sister in need and refuses to help—how can God's love be in that person?

I cannot count how many times I have heard some one quote Jesus' words, "you will always have the poor with you" They use this as some pat answer as to why they just cannot help the poor. We once knew a "Spirit filled" Church who's whole outreach to the poor was to call other churches in the area for them. Mary and I were in the office when the pastors wife told us "they are not a charity!" If someone called needing help, she would give them the numbers of the other churches in town. I must sadly admit that I once co-pastored that church and praise the Lord He got us out of there as we realized the problems were too deep seated to fix.

Mary and I were in a bible study one Wednesday Evening with another group of so called Spirit Filled Believers. We were discussing several of the poorer people that we had helped at some of the churches we have worked with. One of the woman who was the Church bookkeeper

for the church having the bible, study told us, quite proudly, her story of the poor hippie that visited her church. The Church she was talking about was in the richest community in Wyoming. She told us how the young man who had not taken a bath in weeks, had dirty clothes, long hair and smelled came to church one morning. The pastor did not embrace the young man and tell him about Jesus. No! the pastor went into the bathroom and got a bar of soap and told the young man to come back when he was clean. **Proverbs 21:13 (NLT)** <sup>13</sup>Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need.

God promises us three times in the Word that if we will take care of the poor He will take Deuteronomy 15:7-11 (NLT) <sup>7</sup>"But if there are any poor people in your towns when you arrive in the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tightfisted toward them. 8Instead, be generous and lend them whatever they need. 9Do not be meanspirited and refuse someone a loan because the year of release is close at hand. If you refuse to make the loan and the needy person cries out to the LORD, you will be considered guilty of sin. <sup>10</sup>Give freely without begrudging it, and the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do. <sup>11</sup>There will always be some among you who are poor. That is why I am commanding you to share your resources freely with the poor and with other Israelites in need. And Proverbs 28:27 **(KJV)** <sup>2</sup> He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse. Do you notice that here the Lord tells us that if we freely give He will bless us in everything we do. In Proverbs, we are told we shall not lack if we help the poor. You see although God told us we would always have the poor with us He also had a way to help them and to bless those who do in return. The one I like the best is found in Proverbs chapter 19. Proverbs 19:17 (NLT) <sup>17</sup>If you help the poor, you are lending to the LORD—and he will repay you! Do you get it? God is telling us that the way He looks at you and I helping the poor is that we are lending our resources to Him. In other words no matter what you do for the poor He will give, it back to you. It's a win-win situation. Think about it, if you believe the word of God like I do then no matter how much you help the poor God will return it to you. Mary and I have seen this in our lives repeatedly. One time when we were working minimum wage jobs just to get by, we were in the downtown area of our old home near the bus station. We ran into a young woman who was out of money and just need a few dollars for a bus ticket to get home for Christmas. We gave her all the money we had on our persons. We never missed that money within a short time the Lord made it up and did return it. The Brooklyn Tabernacle Church was an inner city church that was dying. When the pastor took over the Lord, lead him to make it two things. The first was a house of prayer and the second was an outreach to the poor and destitute in the inner city. That church has grown exponentially and has started numerous satellite churches. Remember Paul's words to the Corinthians 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NKJV) 1Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love. I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal, <sup>2</sup>And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Just like Lord said in Deuteronomy "Give freely without begrudging it," It does no good to give if you feel you have to. Give with a joyful heart and the Lord will repay your efforts.

Love Ya Pastor A. J.

## Give me that old time religion!!

## Teach Us To Pray

Billy Sunday

We live and develop physically by exercise. We are saved by faith, but we must work out our salvation by doing the things God wills. The more we do for God, the more God will do through us. Faith will increase by experience. If you are a stranger to prayer you are a stranger to the

greatest test source of power known to human beings. If we cared for our physical life in the same lackadaisical way that we care for, our spiritual, we would be as weak physically as we are spiritually. You go week in and week out without prayer. I want to be a giant for God. You don't even sing; you let the choir do it. You go to prayer-meeting and offer no testimony. You are a stranger to the great privilege that is offered to human beings. Some of the greatest blessings that people enjoy come from prayer. In earnest prayer you think as the Lord directs, and lose yourself in him. Some people say: "It's no use to pray. The Lord knows everything, anyway." That's true. He does. He is not limited, as I am limited. He knows everything and has known it since before the world was. We don't know everybody who is going to be converted at this revival, but that doesn't relieve us of our duty. We don't know, and we must do the work he has commanded us to do. Others say: "But I don't get what I pray for." Well, there's a cause for everything. Get at the cause and you'll be all right. If you are sick and send for the doctor, he pays no attention to the disease, but looks at what produced it. If you have a headache, don't rub your forehead. In Matthew it is written, "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you" (Matt. 7:7). If your prayers are not answered, you are not right with God. If you have no faith, if your motive is wrong, then your prayers will be in vain. Many times when people pray they are selfish. They are not gripping the word. I believe that when many a wife prays for the conversion of her husband it isn't because she really desires the salvation of his soul, but because she thinks if he were converted things would be easier for her personally. Pray for your neighbors as well as your own family. The pastor of one church does not pray for the congregation of another denomination. I'm not saying anything against denominations. I believe in them. I believe they are of God. Denominations represent different temperaments. A man with warm emotions would not make a good Episcopalian, but he would make a crackerjack Methodist. Oh, the curse of selfishness! The Church is dying for religion, for religion pure and undefiled. Pure religion and undefiled is visiting the widow and the fatherless (James 1:27) and doing the will of God without so much thought of yourself. I tell you, a lot of people are going to be fooled the Day of Judgment. Isaiah says the hand of God is not shortened and his ear is not deaf (Isa. 59:1). No, his hand is not shortened so that it cannot save. He has provided agencies by which we can be saved. If he had made no provision for your salvation, then the trouble would be with God; but he has, so if you go to hell the trouble will be with you. In Ezekiel we read that men have taken idols into their hearts and put stumbling-blocks before their faces (Ezek. 14:3). God is not going to hear you if you place clothes, money, pride of relationship before him. You know there is sin in your life. Many people know there is sin in their lives, yet ask God to bless them. They ought first to get down on their knees and pray, "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13). Some people are too contemptibly stingy for God to hear them. God won't hear you if you stop your ears to the cries of the poor. You drag along here for three weeks and raise a paltry sum that a circus would take out of town in two hours. When they give things to the poor they rip off the buttons and the fine braid. Some people pick out old clothes that the moths have made into sieves and give them to the poor and think they are charitable. That isn't charity. no sir; it's charity when you'll give something you'll miss. It's charity when you feel it to give.

And when you stand praying, forgive if you have aught [anything] against anyone. It's no use to pray if you have a mean, miserable disposition, if you are grouchy, if you quarrel in your home or with your neighbors.

It's no use to pray for a blessing when you have a fuss on with your neighbors. It doesn't do you any good. You go to a sewing society meeting to make mosquito netting for the Eskimo and blankets for the Hottentots, and instead you sit and chew the rag and rip some woman up the back. The spirit of God flees from strife and discord. People say: "She is a good woman, but a worldly Christian." What? Might as well speak of a heavenly devil. Might as well expect a mummy to speak and bear children as that kind to move the world God-ward. Prayer draws you nearer to God.

#### **Learning of Christ**

"Teach us to pray," implies that I want to be taught. It's a great privilege to be taught by Jesus. A friend of mine was preaching out in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and had to go to a hospital in Chicago for an operation, and I was asked to go and preach in his place. Alexander was leading the singing, and one night Charles [Butler] called a little girl out of the audience to sing. She didn't look over four or five years of age, though she might have been a little older. I thought, "What's

the use? Her little voice can never be heard over this crowd." But Charlie stood her up in a chair by the pulpit and she threw back her head and out rolled some of the sweetest music I have ever heard. It was wonderful, I sat there and the tears streamed down my cheeks. That little girl was the daughter of a Northwestern engineer and he took her to Chicago when her mother was away. Some one took her to Patti. Patti took the little girl to one of her suite of rooms and told her to stand there and sing. Then she went to the other end of the suite and sat down on a divan and listened. The song moved her to tears. She ran and hugged and kissed the little girl and sat her down on the divan and said to her: "Now you sit here and I'll go over there and sing." She took up her position where the child had stood, and she lifted her magnificent voice and she sang "Home, Sweet Home" and "The Last Rose of Summer" sang them for that little girl! And Patti used to get a thousand dollars for a song, too. She always knew how many songs she was to sing, for she had a check before she went on the platform. It was a great privilege the little daughter of that Northwestern engineer had, but it's a greater privilege to learn from Jesus Christ how to pray. A friend of mine told me he went to hear Paganini, and the great violinist broke one of the strings of his instrument, then another, then another, until he had only one left, and on that one he played so wonderfully that his audience burst into terrific applause. It was a privilege to hear that, but it's a greater privilege to have Jesus teach you to pray. Let us take a few examples from the life of Christ. In Mark we learn that he rose up early in the morning and went out to a solitary place and prayed (Mark 1:35). He began every day with prayer. You never get up without dressing. You never forget to wash your face and comb your hair. You always think of breakfast. You feed your physical body. Why do you starve your spiritual body? If nine-tenths of you were as weak physically as you are spiritually, you couldn't walk. When I was assistant secretary of the Y.M.C.A. at Chicago, John G. Paton came home from the New Hebrides and was lecturing and collecting money. He was raising money to buy a sea-going steam yacht, for his work took him from island to island and he had to use a row-boat, and sometimes it was dangerous when the weather was bad, so he wanted the yacht. We had him for a week, and it was my privilege to go to lunch with him. We would go out to a restaurant at noon and he would talk to us. Sometimes there would be as many as fifteen or twenty preachers in the crowd, and now and then some of us were so interested in what he told us of the work for Jesus in those far-away islands that we forgot to eat. I remember that he said one day: "All that I am I owe to my Christian father and mother. My father was one of the most prayerful men I ever knew. Often in the daytime he would slip into his closet, and he would drop a handkerchief outside the door, and when we children saw the white sentinel we knew that father was talking with his God and would go quietly away. It is largely because of the life and influence of that same saintly father that I am preaching to the cannibals in the South Seas." It is an insult to God and a disgrace to allow children to grow up without throwing Christian influences around them. Seven-tenths of professing Christians have no family prayers and do not read the Bible. It is no wonder boys and girls are going to hell. It is no wonder the damnable ball-rooms are wrecking the virtue of our girls. In the fourteenth chapter of Matthew it is told that when Jesus had sent the multitudes away he went up into the mountain and was there alone with God. Jesus Christ never forgot to thank God for answering his prayers. Jesus asked him to help him feed the multitude, and he didn't neglect to thank him for it. Next time you pray don't ask God for anything. Just try to think of all the things you have to be thankful for, and tell him about them.

#### **Pride Hinders Prayer**

Pride keeps us from proper prayer. Being chesty and big-headed is responsible for more failures than anything else in this world. It has spoiled many a preacher, just as it has spoiled many an employee. Some fellows get a job and in about two weeks they think they know more about the business than the boss does. They think he is all wrong. It never occurs to them that it took some brains and some knowledge to build that business up and keep it running till they got there. Here's two things to guard against. Don't get chesty over success, or discouraged over a seeming defeat. "And when he prayed he said: 'Lazarus, come forth'; and he that was dead came forth' (John 11:43). If we prayed right we would raise men from sin and bring them forth into the light of righteousness. "And as he prayed the fashion of his countenance was altered" (Luke 9:29). Ladies, do you want to look pretty? If some of you women would spend less on dope and cold cream and get down on your knees and pray, God would make you prettier. Why, I can look into your faces and tell what sort of lives you live. If you are devoting your time and thoughts to

society, your countenances will show it. If you pray, I can see that. Every man who has helped to light up the dark places of the world has been a praying man. I never preach a sermon until I've soaked it in prayer. Never. Then I never forget to thank God for helping me when I preach. I don't care whether you read your prayers out of a book or whether you just say them, so long as you mean them. A man can read his prayers and go to heaven, or he may just say his prayers and go to hell. We've got to face conditions. When I read I find that all the saintly men who have done things from Pentecost until today, have known how to pray. It was a master stroke of the devil when he got the church to give up prayer. One of the biggest farces today is the average prayer-meeting.

### **Praying in Secret**

Matthew says, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father, which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." (Matt. 6:6) Two men came to the Temple to pray (Luke 18:10) - the first was the Pharisee. He was nice and smooth, and his attitude was nice and smooth. He prayed: "God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican [tax-collector]. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all I possess," and he went out. I can imagine a lot of people sitting around the church and saying: "That is my idea of religion; that is it. I am no sensationalist; I don't want anything vulgar, no slang." Why don't you use a little, bud, so that something will come your way? And it will come as straight as two and two make four. Services rendered in such opposite directions cannot meet with the same results. If two men were on the top of a tall building and one should jump and one come down the fire escape they couldn't expect to meet with the same degree of safety. The Pharisee said, "Thank God, I am not as other men are," and the publican said, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." The first man went to his house the same as when he came out of it. "God be merciful to me, a sinner." That man was justified. I am justified in my faith in Jesus Christ. I am no longer a sinner. I am justified as though I had never sinned, by faith in the Son of God. That man went down to his house justified.

#### **Praying in Humility**

How many people pray in a real sense? How many people pray in humility and truth? Some men pray for humility when it is pride they want. Many a man gets down on his knees and says: "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name: thy kingdom come - " (Matt. 6:9) That is not so; they don't want God's kingdom to come. It is not so with half the people that pray. I say to you when you pray in the church pew and say that, it don't count a snap of my finger if you don't live it: You pray, "Thy kingdom come," and then you go out and do something to prevent that kingdom from coming. No man can get down and pray "The kingdom come," and have a beer wagon back up to his door and put beer in the ice box. No man can get down on his knees and pray "Thy kingdom come." and look through the bottom of a beer glass. God won't stand for it. If you wanted God's will done you would do God's will, even if it took every drop of blood in your body to do it. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." When you say this in your pew on Sunday it means nothing unless you live it on Monday. You say "Thy kingdom come," and then go out and do the very thing that will prevent God's kingdom from coming. Your prayers or anything you do in the church on Sunday mean nothing if you don't do the same thing in business on Monday. I don't care how loud your wind-jamming in prayer-meeting may be if you go out and skin somebody in a horse deal the next day.

The man who truly prays, "Thy kingdom come," cannot take his heart out of his prayer when he is out of the church. The man who truly prays "Thy kingdom come," will not be shrinking his measures at the store; the load of coal he sends to you won't be half slate. The man who truly prays "Thy kingdom come" won't cut off his yardstick when he measures you a piece of calico. It will not take the pure-food law to keep a man who truly prays "Thy kingdom come" from putting chalk in the flour, sand in the sugar, brick dust in red pepper, ground peanut shells in breakfast food. The man who truly prays "Thy kingdom come" cannot pass a saloon and not ask himself the question, "What can I do to get rid of that thing that is blighting the lives of thousands of young men, that is wrecking homes, and that is dragging men and women down to hell?" You cannot pray "Thy kingdom come," and then rush to the polls and vote for the thing that is preventing that kingdom from coming. You cannot pray "Thy kingdom come" and then go and do the things that make the devil laugh. For the man who truly prays "Thy kingdom come" it would be impossible to have one kind of religion on his knees and another when he behind the counter; it would be

impossible to have one kind of religion in the pew and another in politics. When a man truly prays "Thy kingdom come" he means it in everything or in nothing. A lot of church members are praying wrong. You should pray first, "God be merciful to me a sinner," and then "Thy kingdom come." Saying a prayer is one thing: doing God's will is another. Both should be synonymous. Angels are angels because they do God's will. When they refuse to do God's will they become devils. Many a man prays when he gets in a hole. Many a man prays when he is up against it. Many a man prays in the time of trouble, but when he can stick his thumbs in his armholes [i.e., swagger] and take a pair of scissors and cut his coupons off [collect his interest], then it is "Good-bye, God; I'll see you later." Many a man will make promises to God in his extremity, but forget them in his prosperity. Many a man will make promises to God when the hearse is backed up to the door to carry the baby out, but wilt soon forget the promises made in the days of adversity. Many a man will make promises when lying on his back, thinking he is going to die, and load up just the same when he is on his feet.

#### Men of Prayer

Every man and every woman that God has used to halt this sin-cursed world and set it going Godward has been a Christian of prayer. Martin Luther arose from his bed and prayed all night, and when the break of day came he called his wife and said to her, "It has come." History records that on that very day King Charles granted religious toleration, a thing for which Luther had prayed. John Knox, whom his gueen feared more than any other man, was in such agony of prayer that he ran out into the street and fell on his face and cried, "O God, give me Scotland or I'll die." And God gave him Scotland and not only that, he threw England in for good measure. When Jonathan Edwards was about to preach his greatest sermon on "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," he prayed for days; and when he stood before the congregation and preached it, men caught at the seats in their terror, and some fell to the floor; and the people cried out in their fear, "Mr. Edwards, tell us how we can be saved!" The critical period of American history was between 1784 and 1789. There was no common coinage, no common defense. When the colonies sent men to a constitutional convention, Benjamin Franklin, rising with the weight of his four score years, asked that the convention open with prayer, and George Washington there sealed the bargain with God. In that winter in Valley Forge, Washington led his men in prayer and he got down on his knees to do it. When the battle of Gettysburg was on, Lincoln, old Abe Lincoln, was on his knees with God; yes, he was on his knees from five o'clock in the afternoon till four o'clock in the morning, and Bishop Simpson was with him. "And whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13). No man can ever be saved without Jesus Christ. There's no way to God unless you come through Jesus Christ. It's Jesus Christ or nothing.

"Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1)



#### LET THEM SEE YOU

In the tiny acts of daily service, in all that I do, How I pray Lord Jesus that others would see You, Whether in my home with loved ones at my side, Or when I am out in public where the world abides, In every single thing that I say or do, No other is so lovely, so wonderful or True, So, as I go about my routines along the way, And when I get caught up in chores of life each day, Let me remember Jesus that others watch and learn, With me out of the way, it is for You that they will yearn, How I pray Lord Jesus that others would see You, Never let me take the credit, for Lord it belongs You, No other is as worthy, no other as sweet or kind, You made the lame walk and brought sight to the blind, In the tiny acts of daily service, in all that I do, How I pray Lord Jesus that others would see You, In the tiny acts of daily service, in all I say and do, How I pray Lord Jesus that others would see You.

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### John 3:16 (NLT)

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. <sup>18</sup>"There is no judgment awaiting those who trust him. But those who do not trust him have already been judged for not believing in the only Son of God.