

Prayer Is The Keynote

Job 42:10, "And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends; also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before."

But, you see, when they ask these things, and ask for this, they don't ask as Jesus said. **We try to make God a mascot, like an errand boy, "Lord, You do this for me! And You do this for me! And You go do that," tell Him what to do.** [1]

Our prayers have become a tradition. We kneel down at night and say, "Lord, bless So-and-so, and bless So-and-so, and do this. And help John do all this." **We try to order God, what to do for us.** [2]

Jesus said, "When you pray, pray like this manner, 'Our Father Who Art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thine will be done.'" (*Matt. 6:9-13*). Who, find where we do that? **We're always wanting God to run errands for us, or do something for us. But when we're willing to say, "Thy will be done," commit ourselves to Him, commit our ways to Him.** All that we are, commit it to Him. **That's when God will move, when you're willing to let Him work on you, not you work on Him. Let Him tell you, not you tell Him.** [1]

Now, see what prayer does? **Prayer is not exactly bringing God down to man. It's bringing man up to God. See? As you pray, you lose sight of these earthly things.** You sway out into somewhere else, way beyond, and on and on and on, **till you be come into His Presence.** And then a faith that you have laid it out before God, said, "Now here, God, here it is. **And I want to get well for this cause.**" Or, "I want You to do this for me, for this cause. I want You to heal me from this cancer, or this TB or this anemia condition," or whatever it is. "I will walk before You, I will do everything I can. I will give this testimony everywhere I go. I will be happy to do that, Lord. **And I will use my life, not for myself. I will use it for Your glory, to help others to see You.**" [3]

Now, I'd imagine when a trial come up... What's the first thing a child of God has for refuge when a trial comes? **The greatest weapon was ever put in the hands of mankind: prayer. It even changes everything. It even changed the mind of God one time. God told His prophet go up and tell the king he was going to die.** And the king turned his face to the

wall, and said, "Lord, I beseech you to consider me. I have walked before you with a perfect heart. I need fifteen years longer." And God spared his life fifteen years longer (*II Kings 20:1-7*). **Prayer changes things.** [4]

Prayer is not a perhaps. Prayer is a sincere thing. Prayer is talking to God. Prayer is not get down, shut your eyes, and thinking about your washing or your work you're doing, say, "Lord, help me and John, and heal Miss Jones and so forth." That's not prayer. That's repeating some words. **But prayer is to come into an atmosphere where you realize that you're in the Presence of God and you're moving to then in the deepest of sincerity.** First you say a little worship, "O Jehovah, how I love You." You see it? Then after the worship of prayer, then you come **with a sincere heart asking.**

"If ye abide in Me," not go out from behind the curtains in the world today and run around and try to get back in the curtains tonight. *"If ye abide in Me, My words abide in you..." (John 15:7)*. Otherwise, if you're like Aaron's rod that's pulled up to the Shekinah Glory by the golden pot of manna where you can eat it any time... And **your soul is refreshed and blooming and yielding.** Abiding. *"If ye abide in Me, My words abide in you, then ask what you will, it'll be given to you."* [5]

Do we know what we really need? **Sometimes we want, we pray for our desires, and sometimes our desires is not our need.** We must realize that we do not understand what we need; we think we do. **But God promised to supply our needs, and that He'll do** (*Matt. 6:25-34*). [6]

A man said, "Sir, I can't pray." He said, "I have never prayed, but I had a praying mother and father, which is done gone on to heaven." And said, "Mother, she died when I was such a little boy, but I remember hearing her, when she was in trouble, **she went to the Lord and she prayed.** And she died when I was so young; she couldn't teach me to pray, and I have been given into the hands of an unkind person who beats me and mistreats me. And I thought maybe after I had learned my abc's, if I could take all the words and say all the letters, maybe He could put it together and understand what I meant."

That's the prayer of sincerity. Certainly He could put them together. It's not how we pray in our lips; it's the motive of our heart is what God hears. He sometimes doesn't hear our lips; He hears our intention, the motive of our heart. [7]

We've got to be so in love with Christ, till when we ask for something, and **He doesn't give it to us, that doesn't shake us a bit.** See? Why? **And the only way you can do that, is to become partakers of His Divine nature, then you'll understand the reason He can't give it to you** (*II Peter 1:3-11*). [8]

And if we would study what we're doing when we're going to get married, when we choose our wife, our husband, if we'd study it over! **A man should pray earnestly, for he could ruin his entire life.** Remember, the vow is "until death do we part," and he could ruin his life by making the wrong choice. But if he knows what, he making the wrong choice and is marrying a woman that isn't fit to be his wife, and he does it anyhow, **then it's his fault.** If the woman takes a husband and knows that he's not fit to be a husband to you, then that's your own fault, **after you know what's right and wrong. So, you shouldn't do it until you thoroughly pray through.**

The same applies by choosing a church. Now, you must pray over the church that you are fellowshipping in. Remember, churches carry a spirit.

Now, I don't want to be critical. But I realize that I'm an old man, and I got to leave here, one of these days. I've got to answer at the Day of the Judgment for what I say tonight or any other time. And I, therefore, I got to be dead earnest and truly convicted.

But, you go into a church, **and if you'll watch the behavior of that church, you just watch the pastor awhile, and you'll usually find that the church acts like the pastor.** Sometime, I wonder if we just don't get one another's spirit in the stead of the Holy Spirit. You get to a place where a pastor is real radical and carrying on, you'll find out the congregation is the same way. I'll bring you to a church where I see the pastor stand, jerk their heads back and forth. You watch the congregation, they do the same thing. You take a pastor, just gulp down anything, usually the church will do the same thing. **So, if I was choosing a church, I'd choose a genuine, fundamental, Full Gospel, Bible church,** I was choosing one to put my family in. Choose. [9]

We should never pray to change God's mind; we should pray to change our mind. God's mind doesn't need any changing.

I know a young Catholic boy, one time, he had a prayer book, saying prayers, for his mother to live. And she died, and he threw the prayer book in the fire. Well, see, I don't go for the prayer book; but, anyhow, see, **you take the wrong attitude. You're trying to tell God what to do.**

Prayer should be, "Lord, change me to fit Your Word." Not, "let me change Your mind." **"You change my mind. You change my mind to Your will. And Your will is written here in the Book.** And, Lord, don't let me go till You got my mind set just like Your mind. And then when my mind is set like Your mind, then I'll believe every Word You wrote. And You said, in there, **You'd make 'everything work together for good' to them that loves You.** And I love You, Lord. It's all working together for the good" (*Rom. 8:28-29*). [10]

And remember, **at the great day of the judgment, your prayers will be counted** just as much in that revival, **as my efforts would be to go bring them. We're co-workers together in Christ Jesus.** Is that right? Your prayers...

Remember **Dwight Moody**, what he said when he was converted down there? **That little old wash woman been praying for him.** Who got the credit? **The wash woman. She was the one led Moody to Christ.** John Smith, Calvin, Knox, many of the great reformers, **was all come by prayer.** [11]

Maybe you're sitting here, an old mother, who's raising a bunch of children. Raise them up as much as Susanna Wesley. She had seventeen children, **yet she could find two or three hours a day to pray and lead them to Christ.** That's the reason she had a Charles and a John. Nowadays we push a button, wash the dishes; push a button, wash the clothes; **and haven't got time for nothing. See, something wrong somewhere.** Now, oh how the devil can do the people. [12]

You notice, most of the women today have wash machines, and electric ironers, and push button dishwashers, and everything like that; and yet they got less time to pray than they ever had. [13]

Our dear Lord Jesus, Himself, **in the world's greatest battleground, Gethsemane, He cried out, in despair** (*Matt. 26:36-46*). Should He take the sins of the world, or should He just remain on earth with His beloved disciples, what He wanted to do? **But watch His humility as He humbled Himself, "Not My will but Thine be done," humbled Himself to the Word, the promised Word of the God of Heaven** (*Luke 18:14*).

Notice, then, He went a little further. And if He went a little farther, **how much more ought we to go a little farther?** See? And notice, the Scripture says here, in Luke, **that He prayed earnestly.** Brother, sister, **if Jesus had to pray earnestly, how much more have we got to pray earnestly. If Christ, the God of Heaven, made flesh, had to pray**

earnestly, then how much more are we, sinners saved by grace, pray earnestly! If the decision threw the Son of God into despair, what will it do to you and I? **Desperately we must cry.** [14]

Now, **Elijah** was not an Angel; he was a man. And **he had his ups-and-downs, and his troubles like we do.** And he had his passions. The Bible said he was a man with like passions--**subject to like passions as we are.** He was just as apt to make a mistake as you are or I am. **He's just as apt to do something wrong as you are or I am.**

But he prayed earnestly that it might not rain (*James 5:17-19*). And it rained not for the space of three years and six months. Think of that. **God listened to a mortal's prayer.** And I say this with all true reverence: **there is not another force on earth; there's not nothing on earth, no matter what it is, what kind of gifts it is; there's nothing in the world that will come ahead of prayer. Prayer is what does the work.** [15]

When we pray, we must have the Token to present with our prayer.

If you say, "I pray, Lord, but really I haven't..." Well, you don't. Just might as well stop, see... **Go ahead, first, get the Token** (*Eph. 1:13-14*), **'cause that Token is what He'll recognize.**

When we pray, then we must present the Token, "Lord, I have obeyed You, fully (*Acts 5:32*). **I have repented of my sins. I feel that You have forgiven me.** I've been baptized into the Name of Jesus Christ (*Acts 2:36-41*). **The Holy Spirit is upon me. Now I have need of certain things for Your glory. Lord, I ask for it. It's mine now."** [16]

Now, that's what we do. Sometimes we go off on a tantrum somewhere and not think about God, not pray over it, ask the Lord whether we should do it or not, and we find out that our supply of blessings is cut off. **Then we wonder sometime, "Well, wonder why I can't have no more blessings." You don't watch, you let down in your prayer life.** You say, "Well, I'm a Christian." Well, that's the more sign you should pray, more than ever. **Read the Bible every day! Pray every day! Don't make any decisions too harshly or too quickly, without first considering God about it.** Ask Him, "Shall I do this, Father?" Ask Him, "Is it Your will for me to do this?" **Then see what the Holy Spirit will speak to you.** He might not give you a vision, **but He will speak in some way to you, to let you know, if you'll be sincere and ask Him.** [17]

When Jesus went away from that home, with Martha and Mary, sickness and sorrow come in, and when Jesus goes away from your home, sickness and sorrow will come in. Yes, sir. Watch. If you turn Jesus down at your home, quit having family prayer, **quit having Bible readings, and so forth in your home, look for trouble to come in.** That's right. It's on its road right then. [18]

And I tell you, don't let the world creep into you. Don't let the world get into your churches, brethren. **Pray it out, fast it out until God comes down and takes a hold.** That's right. **Keep the joy of the Lord among the saints** (*Neh. 8:10b*). Keep them prayed up. And guard every little place. If Noah seen a leak in his ark, why, he put some pitch in it. And so that's about the best thing I know to keep the leak out, the world out, is to stop up the leak, is the best thing that I know to do. **Only one way to do it; that's prayer. Prayer stops the leak. Prayer changes things.** [19]

And that's what prayer does for the believer. That's what keeps the world out of you, is when you pitch yourself on your knees, and say, "Lord Jesus." And the Blood comes down and seals you all up so the devil can't get you. See, that's right. See? So then, oh, many times the people go around and say "it's awful," but that doesn't make any difference; it keeps you safe. See? **That's the main thing: keep safe.** Say you're old fashion, but, that doesn't matter; **it keeps you safe.** [20]

You see, when you go to praying for somebody, something goes to taking place. **There is where we fail, friends, not praying. Prayer is the keynote.** "*Ask and you shall receive. You have not because you ask not* (*James 4:2-3*); *you ask not because you believe not. Ask abundance, that your joys may be full. Ask and believe that you receive what you've asked for* (*John 16:23-24*)." **Then hold onto it. Don't leave it.** If it's a promise in the Bible, **and it's been revealed to you that God is going to give it to you, hold to it.** [21]

You know, sometime people when they pray, **they get tired.** Don't they? Oh, get so tired. Brother Branham sometimes gets so tired I almost faint **when I go to praying a long time; just get faint, go without eating and things, for days, and pray and pray and pray, and preach, I just get to a place I'm going to faint, nearly.** And sometimes people get that way. **That's no time to give up. Keep on. God will answer.** Yes, sir. **Keep holding on.** Yes, sir. [20]

Now, if you want God to hear your prayer, send an Angel to your home, live right, do right, treat everybody right, be right before God, and God will grant that to you. [22]

Prayer changes death to life. Prayer changes sickness to health, changes sinners to saints. It's prayer.

You may laugh too much. You may shout too much. You may eat too much, **but you'll never pray too much.** The Bible said, "*I would that man pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands*" (1 Tim. 2:8). **So you'll never be able to pray too much.** [23]

What difference will the prayer make? **Prayer changes things.** Prayer changed Hezekiah from death to life. Prayer changed William Branham from death to life. **Prayer changed every sinner in here from death to life.** Certainly it does. It's prayer that does it. [24]

Now, Jesus being man, physically, was tired, weary. Now laying there, tired; virtue had gone from Him. And then Him being God, He could only do what...

Now you say, **"How could He be God and be man?" See, there is the mystery. See, in body He was man, in Spirit He was God.**

Someone asked me, said, "Then how did, Who did He pray to in the garden of Gethsemane?" I said, "I'll answer you that when you answer this: Do you believe you have the Holy Ghost?" "Yes." I said, "Then Who do you pray to? **Where is He at when you are praying to Him? When, you claim you have Him, and yet you're praying to Him.**" See? People just get some little idea and run wild with it, you see, that's the way it goes. [25]

Now, here He said, "No man has come down from Heaven, but the Son of man which now is in Heaven." (*John 3:13*).

A lady asked me, one time, a question, "Who did Jesus pray to, in the garden of Gethsemane?"

I said, "Who was He talking about when He said, 'No man has ascended to Heaven, but He that come down from Heaven, even the Son of man which now is in Heaven'? Who?" [26]

And when Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego walked into the fiery furnace, under trial, under a test, they held true to the end (*Daniel 3:19-30*). But God was there just in a spare of a moment, and He delivered them. **They knew that they were prayed up; their sins were confessed.** They knew they'd met every requirement, and yet He seemed to be silent. **He's only silent to test you, to see really what you are, what's on the**

inside of you, see if you really mean from your heart what you're saying with your lips. Let that go deep. **We can say with our lips, but is our heart saying it?** [27]

Dear God, You don't take things unless it's totally delivered. **You cannot receive a sacrifice with a blemish on it. You would never receive a prayer that there's sin back in the life of that person** (*John 9:31; James 5:15-16*). You just could not do it, Lord. You didn't do it in the ages gone by, and You can't do it today. **But the sacrifice must be without blemish.** And, Lord God, as we lay ourselves on the altar as sacrificed life, take from us, O Lord, all blemishes of sin. I'll completely lay my soul and my body and my strength and my efforts, with this church on the altar. **Cleanse us by Thy Blood, and forgive us of every sin that we have did.** And may the great Holy Spirit so richly abide in us, and His Presence go with us, that we'll know within ourselves that He has forgiven us. And then the prayer will be, *"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us"* (*Matt. 6:12*). Grant it, Lord. [28]

Reference:

- [1] "The World Is Again Falling Apart" (63-1127), par. 77-79
- [2] "Pardon" (63-1028), par. 89
- [3] "Thou Knowest All Things" (52-0716), par. E-17
- [4] "And Thy Seed Shall Possess The Gate Of His Enemies" (61-0212E), par. E-30
- [5] "The Supernatural" (56-0129), par. E-34
- [6] "The Falling Apart of the World" (62-1216), par. 130
- [7] "The Impersonation of Christianity" (57-0120M), par. 16-17
- [8] "The Stature of a Perfect Man" (62-1014M), par. 45-46
- [9] "The Choosing of a Bride" (65-0429E), par. 51-54
- [10] "Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word" (65-0822M), par. 33-35
- [11] "Speak To The Rock" (53-0512), par. E-38
- [12] "Conferences" (61-0410), par. E-65
- [13] "The Unchangeable God Working in an Unexpected Way" (62-0120), par. 35
- [14] "Desperations" (63-0901E), par. 126-127
- [15] "Get The People To Believe" (52-0717), par. E-5
- [16] "Token" (63-0901M), par. 347-349
- [17] "The Prophet Elisha" (54-0723), par. E-10
- [18] "Believest Thou This" (53-0906A), par. E-72
- [19] "The Arrow of God's Deliverance Shot from a Bow" (56-0801), par. E-22
- [20] "Teaching On Moses" (56-0513), par. 196; 134
- [21] "Who Is Jesus" (64-0620B), par. 100
- [22] "The Resurrection of Lazarus" (50-0813A), par. E-21
- [23] "Faith" (56-0427), par. E-5
- [24] "Thirsting For Life" (57-0613), par. E-39
- [25] "Calling Jesus on the Scene" (63-0804E), par. 48-52
- [26] "Blasphemous Names" (62-1104M), par. 271-273
- [27] "Elijah And The Meal Offering" (60-0310), par. 57
- [28] "A Total Deliverance" (59-0712), par. 98

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There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.
[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]