

THE IMPACT OF PRAYER

Read | 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

Prayer is the lifeblood of an intimate relationship with the Father. But believers often have questions about its power and effectiveness. Don't hesitate to take your queries to the Lord, dig into Scripture for answers, and seek the counsel of a trusted spiritual mentor. Prayer is too important to neglect.

Will God's plans fail if I don't pray? God is not subservient to believers or dependent upon their prayers. The time we invest in speaking with Him involves us in the work that He is doing in our lives and in the world, but He will carry on without us. Laboring alongside the Lord is our privilege.

Does my prayer (or lack thereof) impact God's work? I believe that Scripture indicates the answer to this question is both yes and no, depending upon the situation. There are times when God's purpose is set. He is in control and has determined the best course. In the Old Testament, the Lord often prophesied what He would do and then brought those events to pass.

In other cases, "you do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2). There are some good things that He holds back until we put out prayerful hands to receive them. But because God is a loving Father, He also pours our blessings that we wouldn't even think to request.

Believer's prayers have tremendous impact, particularly on their own faith and life. Do you understand what an awesome privilege it is to kneel before the all-powerful Father and know that He listens and will respond? God loves to

be good to His children and answer their prayers.

Thessalonians 5:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷(A)pray without ceasing;
¹⁸in everything (B)give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Cross references:

- A. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 : Eph 6:18
- B. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 : Eph 5:20

Believer's prayers have tremendous impact, particularly on their own faith and life. Do you understand what an awesome privilege it is to kneel before the all-powerful Father and know that He listens and will respond? God loves to be good to His children and answer their prayers. God for the growing state of the love and patience of the Thessalonians.

The apostles bless God for growing the state of love and patience of the Thessalonians.

We are to rejoice in creature-comforts, as if we rejoiced not, and must not expect to live many years, and rejoice in them all; but if we do rejoice in God, we may do that evermore. A truly religious life is a life of constant joy. And we should rejoice more, if we prayed more. Prayer will help forward all lawful business, and every good work. If we pray without ceasing, we shall not want matter for thanksgiving in every thing. We shall see cause to give thanks for sparing and preventing, for common and uncommon, past and present, temporal and spiritual mercies. Not

Continued on page 2



When Do You Pray

Do not forsake me, O Lord!

[Psalms 38:21]

We frequently pray that God would not forsake us in the hour of trial and temptation, but we are prone to forget that we need to pray like this at *all times*. There is no moment of our life, however holy, in which we can do without His constant upholding. Whether in light or in darkness, in communion or in

Continued on page 2



Your Cold Prayers

Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer. **[Psalms 66:20]**

In looking back upon the character of our prayers, if we do it honestly, we shall be filled with wonder that God has ever answered them. There may be some who think their prayers worthy of acceptance--

Continued on page 2



IMPACT OF PRAYER

Continued from page 1

only for prosperous and pleasing, but also for afflicting providences, for chastisements and corrections; for God designs all for our good, though we at present see not how they tend to it. Quench not the Spirit. Christians are said to be baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire. He worketh as fire, by enlightening, enlivening, and purifying the souls of men. As fire is put out by taking away fuel, and as it is quenched by pouring water, or putting a great deal of earth upon it; so we must be careful not to quench the Holy Spirit, by indulging carnal lusts and affections, minding only earthly things. Believers often hinder their growth in grace, by not giving themselves up to the spiritual affections raised in their hearts by the Holy Spirit. By prophesying, here understand the preaching of the word, the interpreting and applying the Scriptures. We must not despise preaching, though it is plain, and we are told no more than what we knew before. We must search the Scriptures. And proving all things must be to hold fast that which is good. We should abstain from sin, and whatever looks like sin, leads to it, and borders upon it. He who is not shy of the appearances of sin, who shuns not the occasions of it, and who avoids not the temptations and approaches to it, will not long keep from doing sin.

[1Th 5:23-28]

Have Faith in Him

YOUR COLD PRAYERS

Continued from page 1

--as the Pharisee did; but the true Christian, who sees things clearly, must surely weep over his prayers, and if he could retrace his steps he would desire to pray more earnestly.

Remember, Christian, how *cold* your prayers have been. When in your closet you should have wrestled as Jacob did; but instead your petitions have been faint and few--far removed from that humble, believing, persevering faith that cries, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." Yet, how wonderful to know that God has heard these cold prayers of yours, and not only heard, but answered them.

Reflect also how *infrequent* have been your prayers unless you have been in trouble, and then you have gone often to the mercy-seat: But when deliverance has come, what happened to your constant supplication? Yet, even though you have stopped praying as you once did, God has not stopped blessing. When you have neglected the mercy-seat, God has not deserted it, but the bright light of His glory has remained visible between the wings of the cherubim. How marvelous that the Lord should pay attention to our intermittent spasms of prayerfulness that ebb and flow with our needs. What a God He is to hear the prayers of those who come to Him when they have pressing concerns but neglect Him when they have received a mercy; who approach Him when they are forced to come but who almost forget to address Him when benefits are plentiful and sorrows are few.

Let His gracious kindness in hearing such prayers touch our hearts, so that from now on we may be found "praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication."¹

¹Ephesians 6:18



WHEN DO YOU PRAY

Continued from page 1

temptation, we need always to pray, "Do not forsake me, O LORD!" "Hold me up, that I may be safe."¹

A little child, while learning to walk, always needs the nurse's aid. The ship left by the pilot drifts immediately off course. We cannot do without continued aid from above; let it then be your prayer today, "Do not forsake me. Father, do not forsake Your child, lest he fall by the hand of the enemy. Shepherd, do not forsake Your lamb, lest he wander from the safety of the fold. Farmer, do not forsake Your crops, lest they wither and die. 'Do not forsake me, O LORD,' now or at any moment of my life. Do not forsake me in my joys, lest they absorb my heart. Do not forsake me in my sorrows, lest I murmur against You. Do not forsake me in the day of my repentance, lest I lose the hope of pardon and fall into despair; and do not forsake me in the day of my strongest faith, lest faith degenerate into presumption. Do not forsake me, for without You I am weak, but with You I am strong. Do not forsake me, for my path is dangerous and full of snares, and I cannot do without Your guidance. As the hen does not forsake her brood, so You, O Lord protect me, and permit me to find my refuge in You. 'Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.'² Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!"³

Forever in our cleansed breast, May Thy Eternal Spirit rest; And make our secret soul to be A temple clean and pure for Thee.

¹Psalms 119:117

²Psalms 22:11

³Psalms 27:9

Prayer based upon the Word rises above the senses, contacts the Author of the Word and sets His spiritual laws into motion. It is not just saying prayers that gets results; it is spending time with the Father.

“The Shema” a Public Prayer

“Shema Yisrael, Adonai Eloheynu, Adonai Echad. Baruch Shem Kevod, Malchuto L’Olam Vaed”

“Hear, O Israel” the Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

Next to the Shabbat [Friday night services] “Shema Yisrael” is the most prominent confessions of a Hebric Roots identity – and it’s a concept that is quoted by Yeshua in the Gospel of Mark [12:29] and the Gospel of Matthew [22:37].

In the book of Mark, a young lawyer asks Yeshua what he considers to be the most important commandment.

Yeshua replies: “The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

In Matthew, a slightly condensed version appears in that Yeshua says: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.”

In studying the Shema, you can see that God advises us, as a common practice to pray at least three times a day: when you rise, when you sit in your house and walk by the way [in the midst of your day], when you lie down.

Both of the Matthew and Mark quotes are immediately a recognized reference to the Shema and in so doing, Yeshua confirms the importance of the Shema, as is practiced in the Hebrew Roots Movement of today.

We can tell the Apostle Paul also identified with the Shema in 1 Corinthians 8:4, when he said, “. . .and that there is none other God, but one.”



יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ:
יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְךָ:
יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ
וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם:

THE ARRONIC BLESSING

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace” [Numbers 6:23-27]

“This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. . . . This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.”

[Numbers 66:22-27]

If you are grafted in, shouldn’t you also call down His name?

“...like shoots of wild olive, you [pagans who are now Christian] have been grafted among the rest to share with them...”

[Romans 11:17]

Prayers and Blessings



I'm getting so old that all my friends in heaven will think I didn't make it

Incidentally, these scriptures are contained in a Mezuzah as a means to comply with the command of what of “write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates.”

“The Shema” is the most widely known and prayed public prayer in Hebrew.

THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST

The example of our Lord Jesus Christ is set before us. We must resemble Him in His life, if we would have the benefit of His death. Notice the two natures of Christ; his Divine nature, and human nature. Who being in the form of God, partaking the Divine nature, as the eternal and only-begotten Son of God, Joh 1:1, had not thought it a robbery to be equal with God, and to receive Divine worship from men. His human nature; herein he became like us in all things except sin. Thus low, of his own will, he stooped from the

glory he had with the Father before the world was. Christ's two states, of humiliation and exaltation, are noticed. Christ not only took upon him the likeness and fashion, or form of a man, but of one in a low state; not appearing in splendor. His whole life was a life of poverty and suffering. But the lowest step was his dying the death of the cross, the death of a malefactor and a slave; exposed to public hatred and scorn. The exaltation was of Christ's human nature, in union with the Divine. At the name of Jesus, not the mere sound of the word, but the authority of Jesus, all should pay solemn homage. It is to the glory of God the Father, to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord; for it is his will, that all men should honour the Son as they honour the Father, Joh 5:23. Here we see such motives to self-denying love as nothing else can supply. Do we thus love and obey the Son of God? [Philippians 2:12-18]

THE NAMES OF CHRIST

Read | Philippians 2:5-11

The Bible ascribes many different names to Jesus, all of which provide great insight into His character and person. Here are some from John's gospel that I find particularly revealing:

The Good Shepherd (10:11) protects his sheep at all cost from predators. They know His voice and follow Him.

The Door (vv. 7-9) is the only way to enter heaven. Whoever enters through the "gate" of Christ will be saved.

The Vine (15:1-10) is the source of our spiritual life. When we stay intimately connected to Jesus, we bear fruit. If we do not remain in Him, we wither.

The Bread of Life (6:25-35) the only one who can truly satisfy our hearts. Jesus feeds our souls with sustenance that never leaves us wanting for more.

The Light of the World (9:5) shines His light through our countenance as a ministry and testimony to a dark world.

The Way (14:6) to happiness, peace, joy, and eternal life is Jesus Christ.

The Truth (14:6) of His revelation, as recorded in the New Testament, is the reason we can know as much as we do about God.

The Life (14:6) Jesus imparts to believers is powerful, effective, and fruitful, not only in eternity but here on earth as well.

In biblical times, Israelites would choose a baby's name based on the child's characteristics or a hope or prayer of the parent. The names given to Jesus tell a great deal about His ministry on earth 2,000 years ago. The scriptural names describing Him reveal who He was and is and will be for eternity.

A Prayer for Our Nation



'Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and Set us free.

~ Amen!'

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on his radio program, 'The Rest of the Story,' and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired. With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so

CONTACT INFO

Pastor John Edmiston

❖ 310.748.9274

digitalopportunities@gmail.com

❖ Class Website:

www.newtestamentprayer.com/2012/

❖ **Prayer:**

Pastor John: 310.748.9274

Tamika: 310.930.8047

Class Registrar: Frank Bostrom

❖ 310.374.2188 [W]

❖ fbostrom@verizon.net

All Money Matters:

❖ George Bonahoom

310.625.6038 [C]

Class Hostess: [Help them out!]

❖ Rebecca Bostrom:

310.379.8147

❖ Lisa Lagahit :

310.951.8751

❖ Vicki Gonzalez:

310.514.9250

Today's Blessing

PRAYER OF MISFORTUNE

[Psalm of Repentance by David]

"Yahweh, hear my prayer, let my cry for help reach you; do not hide your face from me when I am in trouble; bend down to listen to me, when I call, be quick to answer Me! For my days are vanishing like smoke, my bones smoldering like logs, my heart shrivelling like scorched grass and my appetite has gone; whenever I heave a sigh, my bones stick through my skin. I live in a desert like the plover, in a ruin like the screech owl, I stay awake, lamenting like a lone bird on the roof; my enemies insult me all day long, those who used to praise me now use me as a curse."

[Psalm 102: 1-8]

And now may the Lord bless you, and may the Lord keep you, and may the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and may the Lord be gracious unto you and give you His peace.

[Numbers 6:24-26]

AMEN.

WEBSITE | PRAYER CLASS

www.newtestamentprayer.com/2012/