

Church in Regina

Living and Serving According to God's Economy Concerning the Church—Week 4

A Vow Concerning Our Prayer Life

In light of the fact that there is great resistance to praying, let us now consider in a **very practical way** how to persevere in prayer. Before you try to persevere in prayer, you should first **make a deal with the Lord** concerning your prayer life. **Pray to Him in a definite way** and say, "Lord, I mean business with You about this matter of prayer. I call heaven and earth to witness that from this time forth I will have a life of prayer. I will not be a prayerless person. Rather, I will be a praying person." If you do not have such a prayer to the Lord, you will not be able to persevere in prayer. We need to say to Him, "Lord, I am desperate about this. I offer myself to You so that I may have a prayer life. Lord, keep me in the spirit of prayer. If I forget this or neglect this, I know that You will not forget it. Remind me again and again about prayer." This kind of prayer may be regarded as a vow made to the Lord. We all need to make a vow to Him concerning our prayer life. We should tell the Lord, "Lord, I know that if I forget this vow, You will not forget it. From the very beginning, Lord, I want to clearly hand the responsibility over to You. Lord, don't let me go. Remind me to pray."

The Benefits of Prayer

Persevering in prayer has many benefits. By prayer we **set our mind on the things above**. In fact, prayer is **the only way** to have our mind set on the things in heaven. When we set our mind on things above by praying, we will not pray for trivial matters. Instead, our prayer will be occupied with Christ's heavenly intercession, ministry, and administration. Because Christ is interceding for the churches around the world, we also pray for the churches. Let the Lord take care of all the small matters in our living. Our responsibility is to seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness. Since the Father knows our need, He will take care of us and meet our need.

When we set our mind on the things above during our times of prayer, we **become a reflection of Christ's ministry in the heavens**. Through our prayer Christ, the Head, is given a way to carry out His administration through His Body. When we pray, we are a heavenly ambassador on earth with the extension of God's kingdom. However, when we are gossiping, we are not a heavenly ambassador at all. Only when we pray do we become an ambassador of the heavenly kingdom on earth in a practical way.

When we pray, we **enter into the Holy of Holies and approach the throne of grace**. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help." Prayer is the way to come forward to the throne of grace. Coming forward to the throne of grace, we receive mercy and grace to meet our timely need. When we pray, approaching the throne of grace, mercy and grace will become a river flowing in us and supplying us. How rewarding this is! **Receiving the flow of grace in prayer is actually more important than having our prayers answered**. Whether or not our prayer is answered is secondary. The primary thing is that grace flows like a river from the throne and into our being.

To receive this river of grace is to **have our spiritual battery charged** with heavenly current. The heavenly current, the divine electricity, is the Triune God as grace flowing out of the throne and into us. The supply and enjoyment this brings is unspeakable.

Christians today are weak because their spiritual batteries are not charged. Because they are short of prayer, they are short of the heavenly transmission. **Again and again during the day, we need to be charged with the divine electrical current**. This surely is a reward for persevering in prayer.

Another benefit of praying is related to **fellowship with the Lord**. We all love the Lord's presence and anointing, and we all love to have fellowship with Him. But how can we enjoy the Lord's presence and have fellowship with Him? The only way is to pray. **When we pray, we enter into fellowship with the Lord and become conscious of the fact that we are truly one spirit with Him and that He is actually one spirit with us**. The more we pray, the more we experience being one with the Lord, and the more we enjoy His presence and have fellowship with Him. What a marvelous reward!

It is always difficult at first to have a proper prayer life. But if you practice this for a long period of time, it will get easier and easier, for you will realize the rewards of praying (Excerpts from The Life-Study of Colossians (2nd ed.), ch. 65).

Local Announcements:

1. Prayer Mtg—Mar. 26 (Group 1—In person; Group 2—Zoom)
2. Brothers' Meeting—Mar. 24
3. Church Pursuit—Mar. 29
4. YP Conference—Mar. 29-31
5. College Training in Seattle, WA—July 17 to 21 (Registration deadline—April 15)

Conferences and Trainings Information:

1. Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference—Feb.10-11, Taipei, Taiwan
2. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Apr.12-14, Anaheim, CA
3. Memorial Day Blending Conference—May 24-27, Bellevue, WA
4. Summer Training—July 1-6, Anaheim, CA
5. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Oct.4-6, Warsaw, Poland
6. Thanksgiving Blending Conference—Nov.28-Dec.1, Atlanta, GA
7. Winter Training—Dec.23-28, Anaheim, CA

Prayer Burdens

1. Lord, teach us to “first of all – pray”. We exercise ourselves to have a prayer life, that the church will be living and uplifted. Save us from doing anything presumptuously.
2. Lord, we close our eyes and lift up our hands to pray. Bring us to a normal condition – being under the control of the Spirit in our spirit that our prayer life may be strengthened, and our church life may be transformed.
3. You are the reality of the Urim and the Thummin, the complete and perfect witness and testimony of God. Continue to inscribe Yourself into us, that we may experience Your inexhaustible riches and be luminaries in the world.
4. Thank You, Lord for the mingled spirit. Build us together so we can experience the reality of the breastplate. Add Yourself more into us and may we always be in Your presence. Grant us fresh light that we would know Your will.
5. Lord, shine in the midst of darkness. Expose any negative situation through Your speaking. Cause us to move according to Your judgment so we will know what Your present will is in the church life.
6. Lord, by Your mercy we are willing; by Your grace, we are empty. Save us from holding on to anything in the past. Make us fresh and make us people who persevere in prayer.

North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. Please pray for the Young People’s Conference in Calgary on March 29 to 31. Speak a fresh and living word to our next generation. Open up their hearts to You. Prepare them this week and sanctify them to receive the truth and love You more.

Church in Regina

1. Pray for the application and processing of the Church in Regina as a charitable institution.
2. Thanksgiving for the newly baptized saints—Bro. Wilson Orolfo, Sis. Jenny Orolfo and Bro. Daine Schurman. Grant them a new walk and a new living. Preserve them in the church life and bless them sevenfold with Yourself.
3. Pray for all the college students to be freed from any entanglements this Summer and be able to attend the College Training in Seattle from July 17 to 21.
4. Pray for positive and immediate approval of all the immigration papers of the newcomers and their settling down, that their personal lives will be blessed and that their church life will be enriched:
 - > Sorronda Family (Dana and Yeska)
 - > Alforte Family (Radam and Rosalina)
 - > Orolfo Family (Wilson and Jenny and their three children)
 - > Jerome Family (Pravin and Abinaya and their two children)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

- Lord’s Table & Prophesying—Lord’s Day 10:00-12:00PM
- Prayer Meeting—Tuesdays 7:00-8:00PM
- Chinese-Speaking Bible Reading—MW 8:30-9:00PM
- College Meetings—Fridays 7:30-8:30PM
- YP Meetings—Fridays 7:00-8:00 PM
- Children’s Meeting—Saturdays 10:00-11:00AM
- Small Group Meetings—Fridays/Saturdays 7:00-9:00PM

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