祈祷(壹)

Prayer (I)

祈祷是和读经并行的一件事,是基督徒必须实行,不可缺少的。对于基督徒的属灵生命,读经如吃饭,祈祷像呼吸。人几天不吃饭还可以,但人只要几分钟不呼吸,就不能活。一个基督徒若不祈祷,他属灵的生命就必死枯,不能活泼刚强。呼吸是人的身体所需要的。人要身体灵活健壮,必须有好的呼吸。照样,祈祷也是基督徒的灵命所需要的。基督徒要灵里新鲜,生命强壮,就必须有好的祈祷。并且我们基督徒里面的生命,乃是一个祈祷的生命。每一个生命都有一种的性能,使那个生命能作某种事,也愿作某种事。我们里面这个祈祷的生命,也有一个祈祷的性能,使我们能祈祷,也愿祈祷。这生命的祈祷性能,在我们里面要求我们祈祷,使我们有祈祷的心愿。我们若顺着这生命的祈祷性能,而时常祈祷,使这生命的性能得以发展,愿望得着满足,这生命在我们里面就不受委屈,而得以增强长大。否则,要这生命在我们里面增长,是不可能的。所以我们必须祈祷,必须实行祈祷,必须多多祈祷。

Prayer, like reading the Bible, is a practice that Christians should not lack. In a Christian's spiritual life reading the Bible is like eating, and praying is like breathing. A person can go for several days without eating, but he cannot live even a few minutes without breathing. If a Christian does not pray, his spiritual life will be deadened, and he will not be living and strong. Breathing is necessary for the human body. If a person wants an active body, his breathing must be healthy. In the same way, prayer is a necessity for a Christian's spiritual life. If a Christian wants to be fresh in spirit and strong in life, he must pray. The life within every Christian is a praying life, and every life has a capacity and a desire to function in certain ways. The life within us has a praying capacity that enables us to pray and that also causes us to desire to pray. This inward capacity requires us to pray and causes us to have a desire to pray. If we respond to this praying capacity and pray often, this capacity will be developed, and its desire will be satisfied. Then the life within us will be strengthened to grow, and it will not be grieved. If we do not obey this life, it will be impossible for it to grow. Therefore, we must pray and practice praying.

现在让我们照圣经的记载, 把祈祷的各方面, 比较仔细的查看一下。

Let us carefully look into different aspects of prayer according to the record of the Bible.

壹 祈祷的紧要

I. The Importance of Prayer

(一)'总要儆醒祷告,免得入了迷惑。'马太二十六章四十一节。

1. "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation" (Matt. 26:41).

这是主耶稣吩咐我们的话。这话给我们看见,祈祷对我们的紧要。祈祷能叫我们免受迷惑。我们今天活在世上,有许多的事常使我们受迷惑。魔鬼能藉着各样的事来迷惑我们。无论在衣食上,在职业上,在钱财上,在婚姻上,或是在其他的事上,他都能有机会来迷惑我们,并且他也是无时不在找机会、趁机会来迷惑我们。我们若要免受他的迷惑,就必须祷告,就必须时常祷告,就必须在各样的事上祷告。无论作什么,都必须祷告。无论是交朋友,或是进行婚姻,无论是花钱、作事,或是对待亲友,都必须祷告,都必须好好寻求神的意思,问问神,到底那件事,可作不可作,该作不该作,该如何作法,该作到何种程度。在每一件事上,都必须这样祷告。就是写一封信,都必须这样祷告,问问神,该写不该写,该怎样写法。这样在凡事上儆醒祷告,就必蒙神引导,保守免受魔鬼的迷惑。

The Lord Jesus' command in this verse shows the importance of prayer. Prayer keeps us from temptation. While we live in the world today, the devil tempts us with many things. He has the opportunity to tempt us in matters related to food and clothing, occupations, money, marriage, and many other matters. He is constantly looking for an opportunity to tempt us. If we want to avoid his temptation, we must pray. We must pray constantly concerning every matter. Whatever we do, we must pray. Whether our actions involve making friends, getting married, spending money, working, or dealing with friends and relatives, we must pray and diligently seek the Lord's will. We must ask God what we can do and what we cannot do. We should also ask how we should do something and to what extent we should do something. We must have this kind of prayer in everything. We must pray even when we write a letter. We should ask God whether or not we should write and what we should write. If we watch and pray in every matter, we will be preserved by the leading of God and will not enter into the temptation of the devil.

轮船在海里航行的时候,遇到雾气,常鸣汽笛,一面发出警告的声音,一面还能得到回声,藉以知道该如何向前航行。我们今天行在这茫茫的世海中,时常遇到雾气,使我们难识方向。在这样的时候,我们也该常作祷告,犹如鸣响汽笛,使我们免得遭遇危难,并得以知道怎样向前行走。否则,我们必在迷雾中失去正路,误入歧途,而遭到危难。

When a ship sails on the ocean and encounters fog, it sounds a foghorn. On the one hand, this sends out a warning, but on the other hand, it receives an echo, which directs its course. Today we are sailing in the vast ocean of this world. Sometimes we come across a patch of fog that makes it difficult for us to know the direction that we should take. At these times we should pray, as if we are sounding a foghorn, so that we can avoid danger and know how to move forward. If we do not, we will become lost in the fog, leave the proper course, and fall into error and danger.

(二) '穿戴…军装, …抵挡魔鬼, …祷告祈求。'以弗所六章十至十八节。

2. "Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil...by means of all prayer and petition" (Eph. 6:11, 18).

魔鬼是我们的仇敌,常来攻击我们,我们需要抵挡他。我们要抵挡他,必须穿戴神的军装,也必须多方祷告祈求。我们抵挡魔鬼,光靠神的军装,还不够,还必须藉着祷告祈求。祷告祈求,是我们使用神军装的方法,也是叫神的军装在我们身上发生效能的。所以我们要抵挡魔鬼,固然必须穿戴神的军装,但也必须多方祷告祈求。

The devil, our enemy, always attacks us. We need to stand against him. We must put on the whole armor of God and have much prayer and petition to stand against him. We must rely on the armor of God to stand against the enemy through prayer and petition. Prayer and petition are the way to utilize the armor of God and to cause the armor of God to have an effect upon us. In order to withstand the enemy, we must put on the armor of God by means of all prayer and petition.

魔鬼原是神的仇敌。神不自己对付他,神是要我们对付他,要我们祷告,求祂对付他。我们为这事祷告多少,神就对付他多少。我们为这事祷告到那里,神就对付他到那里,。没有我们祷告,神就不对付他,也不能对付他。所以魔鬼最怕我们祷告,最忌恨我们祷告。哦,弟兄姊妹,魔鬼最怕我们祷告!我们祷告会使魔鬼战栗。因为我们的祷告能捆绑他、赶逐他。他一看见我们屈膝祷告,就战兢惧怕。他最不喜欢、最忌恨我们祷告。就是为这缘故,他常用各种方法阻碍我们祷告,打扰我们祷告。许多时候,他扫除我们祷告的兴趣,消沉我们祷告的心灵,使我们不愿祷告,也不能祷告。他知道我们一祷告,他就必受对付,必受亏损。我们该识破他的诡计,反着我们扫兴的意味,下沉的心灵,以及外面许多打岔的事故,而多方祷告祈求,使他受对付、受亏损。

The devil is the enemy of God. However, God does not deal with the devil by Himself; He wants us to deal with him. He wants us to pray and ask Him to deal with the devil. God deals with the devil according to the prayers that we pray. God deals with the enemy to the extent of our prayer. If we do not pray, God will not and cannot deal with the devil. Therefore, the devil fears our prayer and hates our prayer to the uttermost. Brothers and sisters, the devil is afraid of our prayer! Our prayer causes the devil to tremble because our prayer can bind him and cast him out. When he sees us bend our knees to pray, he trembles in fear. He dislikes, even hates, our prayer to the uttermost. Therefore, he uses every means to block our prayer and to disturb us while we pray. Many times he takes away our interest in prayer and even depresses our heart of prayer. He makes us unable to pray and causes us to have no desire to pray. He knows that once we pray, he will be dealt with and suffer loss. We should see through his stratagems and stand against our indifference, our depressed spirit, and any outward distractions in order to pray and petition so that he would be bound and suffer loss.

神今天要我们在地上所作的一切工作,无论是传福音、救罪人,或是建立教会、造就圣徒,从一方面来说,都是对付魔鬼,赶逐魔鬼。这些工作必须藉着多方的祷告祈求,才能作出去,才能有效果。我们必须能祷告对付魔鬼,赶逐魔鬼,才能作神这些工作。神这些属灵的工作,需要属灵的争战。属灵的争战,必须藉着祷告才能制胜。祷告对于属灵的争战是必需的,所以对于属灵的工作也是必需的。

The work that God wants us to do on the earth today, whether it is preaching the gospel, saving sinners, building the church, or building up the saints, involves casting out the devil. In order to be effective, these must be carried out with much prayer and petition. We must pray to deal with and cast out the devil so that

we can carry out these works for God. Spiritual work requires spiritual warfare. Spiritual warfare must be fought through prayer in order to be victorious. Prayer is necessary for spiritual warfare; it is also necessary for spiritual work.

参读: 圣经要道, 三十二题: 祷告

Reference: Crucial Truths in the Holy Scriptures, Vol. 3, Ch. 32 Reading the Bible