

PRAYER

By Lynda Ryder

I believe that the world's greatest need today is prayer. God's word tells us that we should always pray and not to faint.

Let us as a band of Christian young people humble ourselves before God and ask him to make us just what He would have us to be, so that in the future we can be of some use to Him in the upbuilding of His kingdom and in the tearing down of the strongholds of Satan. He has promised if we ask we shall receive. So by God's grace let us take Him at His word, believing that He will answer our humble prayers.

Sometimes the devil will make the way seem so dark, and the burdens so heavy that it looks almost impossible to go on, but just then if we kneel in prayer, Jesus will lift the burdens and the dark clouds will turn to sunshine. Isn't it wonderful to know that we have a Saviour like that! Praise His precious name!

When we are tempted and tried, and it seems that we are left alone, I am glad that we have a friend by our side who will see us through if we trust Him.

If we expect God to answer our prayers, we must live in the centre of His will and we will have to be obedient to Him. One day a mother sent her little boy out to the seashore to play, and before leaving him she warned him not to go in the water, but very soon he returned all wet. His mother asked him why he had disobeyed her. He said well, Mummie, I went in the water, but I prayed that I wouldn't get wet.

I wonder if we are doing things that God has warned us not to do and still expect His smile upon us.

I do not believe that anyone can live a Christian life, as God would have us live it, and neglect prayer. For just as the flowers have to have sunshine and rain to keep them living, so we have to keep praying in order to keep spiritual.

We may not pray and still keep on professing, but we will lack the power that God has for us. He tells us that the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

If we trust God, some day he will bring us out more than conquerors through Christ who loved us and gave His life for us.

By praying and keeping true to God in the future may cost a great deal, but in the end it will mean joy, peace and life everlasting with Jesus.

In the Bible we read how that the Hebrew children were put in the furnace, and in Acts 16:23 how that Paul and Silas had to endure pain and imprisonment, but God gave them grace to keep true to Him and even to sing hymns in the night. It also cost Christ the death on the cross that we might know the joy of full salvation.

In that dark hour of Gethsemane, Jesus asked His disciples to watch and pray with Him one hour, but each time He came to them they were sleeping. Oh, I wonder are we watching for the coming of our Lord or are we as it were, somewhere asleep.

I feel that we as Young People should be somewhere working for our Lord.

I wonder how we are spending our time. Is it in foolishness, or are we out seeking the lost and dying? Just a word of cheer or a smile may help someone who may be almost discouraged to give up. The evil one knows that if he can get us to neglect prayer that we will become weak, and then when hard-

ships come our way, we won't be able to stand.

I read a little story one day and it said that each morning the camel would kneel down to have his master put the load on his back that he would have him carry for the day, and at night he would kneel again to have the burden lifted.

I believe that would be a good thing for us to practice—that each morning we should kneel and ask God to give us grace for the day, and after we have finished our task, to thank Him for keeping us true and protecting us from harm and ask Him for His loving care during the night. Oh, may we each one keep true and go on with the determination to live for Jesus, no matter what others do. And some day when our trials on earth are all over, we will hear Him say: Well done!

PRAYER: PREVENTION

Winifred Higginson

"In 1778 an aged saint and four sons lived on a mountain overlooking a beautiful valley in Wyoming, on the banks of the Susquehanna river. The barrel of meal being nearly empty, he bade his sons fill their sacks with grain and early in the morning descend the long road to the mill. But as the patriarch came forth from prayer next morning he said: 'Not today, my sons. I know not what it means, but in prayer my mind was deeply impressed with the words, 'Let them abide till the morrow.'"

"That night a horde of Indians swarmed down upon the valley and not a house, barn, church or school escaped the flames, and few escaped the tomahawk. From one end to the other of the valley the settlers were murdered with remorseless fury. In the morning the father and sons stood high upon the mountain and saw the ascending smoke and flames. Kneeling, they gave thanks to God, remembering the promise, 'The angel of the Lord encampeth around about them that fear Him.'"—The Evangelist.

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"An engineer pulled out of Springfield with about 200 excursionists enroute to Chicago. When about two miles from a wooden bridge he had an instantaneous vision of a vacant chasm where the bridge had been. He proceeded slowly and stopped the train thirty feet from the bridge. It had burned, and only the rails hung over the chasm. He said, 'I have been on the road twenty-five years and have never had a smash but I deserve no credit for this miraculous escape.'"—S. S. Illustrator.

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"My sister and I were itinerating in a lonely village in Japan. We started for home at dusk, committing ourselves to God. As we entered a thick wood two men appeared before us, and we felt they meant mischief. While we prayed a great black Newfoundland dog appeared between us and the men, barked fiercely at them as if to tear them to pieces, and drove them away. The dog guarded us the three miles to our door, came inside and lay all night inside, keeping vigil. In the morning it went away as mysteriously as it had appeared."—Glad Tidings.

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"A great express was thundering through the night. The engineer was compelled to leave his place of safety to adjust something. He missed his footing and would have fallen had he not caught something by which he swung himself to safety. How he saved himself he never knew. When he reached home he removed his boots and crept upstairs so as not to disturb the household. But his little daughter rushed out and flung herself in his arms: 'Oh, Daddy, Daddy! I'm so

glad to see you. I dreamed you were killed on the road. I got out of bed and knelt and asked God to keep you.' The father believes the child's prayer saved him."—Sel.

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"Mrs. Dan Crawford tells of a nine-year-old girl who persisted in running away to the local Bible school, only to be dragged back and beaten by her mother. Even the witch doctor could not frighten her. At length the desperate mother took her to the bush and tied her to a tree, thinking if the spirits helped the lions would frighten the Jesus faith out of her. She left her with the words: 'A worthless child thou art to me—but food for lions.' The dreadful black night enveloped the shivering little girl. When at dawn a Christian lad found her, lion tracks were numerous about the tree, but none closer than five yards. She had seen their glaring eyes, but remembered that the same God who made her, made the lions, and fear left her. God would not let the lions eat her."—Toronto Globe.

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"During the last earthquake in Chile a Christian woman was imprisoned. During the quake she, with two nuns, were the only ones spared in the entire jail. She had been explaining to the others the way of salvation."—Alliance Weekly.

WATERMARK OF ATONEMENT

If you have read carefully the life of Jesus as given in the Gospels, you have been impressed with the striking difference between these biographical sketches and the written life of any other man.

In the ordinary biography of a great person ninety-five to ninety-eight per cent of the space is given to the interesting things of the active life. Properly very little attention is given to the last days of usual weakness and death.

The birth, sayings and doings of Jesus were so important that literally thousands of volumes have been written upon them. Here was no lack of subject matter. Yet the proportional allotment of space to the various periods and days is amazing. The following tabulation of information is from one of the Pace cartoons in the Sunday School Times:

The total number of verses in the four Gospels (excluding the resurrection chapters) is 3,630. Of these, six per cent is given to certain events preceding His birth and to the first thirty years of His life. To the three years of His ministry is given sixty-three per cent of the record. To the last week is given thirty-one per cent. To the last day (included in the last week) is given sixteen per cent of the total. Then there are the resurrection chapters, about 149 verses—which of course could be in no other life.

The years of doings and teachings were important, but in the record produced under inspiration it is the death that receives the attention all out of proportion to the rest. This is just one of those "watermarks," in support of the great doctrine of atonement.—Free Methodist.

THE CRIME WAVE SWEEPING

Robert Babson says about the crime wave of the U. S.: "Rape is necessary to give a thrill to the movies; temperance and self control have become a joke; observance of and respect for the law is considered old-fashioned; honest labor is looked upon as something to be avoided; nasty magazines are building up great circulations, while the colleges, in some instances, are closing up their chapels, and in particular cases are opening smoking rooms for women students."—In P. H.