



The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

Miss Helen Sterritt
R. R. No. 1

"And an highway shall be there and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness."

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PUTTING PRAYER FIRST

By Wesley Duewel

"I exhort therefore that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men." 1 Tim. 2:1. "They are all in the plural form, supplications, prayers, and intercessions. They declare the many-sidedness, the endless diversity, and the necessity of going beyond the formal simplicity of a single prayer and press and add upon prayer, supplication to supplication, intercession over and over again, until the combined force of prayers in their most superlative modes, unite their aggregation and pressure with cumulative power to our praying. The unlimited superlative and the unlimited plural are the only measures of prayer."—Bounds.

In the New Testament

The New Testament puts prayer first in the Christian's ministry. "Continuing instant in prayer." "Pray without ceasing." "Continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving." "Be ye sober and watch unto prayer." "Watch and pray." "Be careful (anxious) for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God." "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you." "Ye have not because ye ask not." "Ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit." "I have chosen you, and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name He may give it you." "Hitherto ye have asked nothing in my name; ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." "Men ought always to pray." "First of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks should be made for all men."

No one can be a New Testament Christian unless he puts prayer in its rightful place in his life. Prayer is given a more important place than any other New Testament ministry. Prayer is placed before service, before witnessing, before preaching. The most important work that any Christian can ever do is to pray. The Christian can accomplish more by prayer than by any other way. His highest calling, his most fruitful ministry, and his most enduring service is prayer. To pray is the universal command. No other ministry is so emphatically and so frequently promised fruit. The whole tenor of Scriptural truth and Biblical example is to the effect that man ought to pray, ought to pray more, ought to put prayer first. No one can be a Bible Christian, much

less a minister of the New Covenant, who does not put prayer first in his life.

Christ Our Example

Christ Himself put prayer first. He began His earthly ministry at His baptism in prayer. At all the great crises and times of momentous decision in His life we find Him praying. He withdrew alone and prayed. He climbed the mountain to pray. He arose a great while before day and prayed. He continued all night in prayer. He prayed, and "He prayed yet more earnestly." He prayed "with strong crying and tears." He prayed until His sweat became as it were "Great drops of blood falling down to the ground." He prayed for His own. He prayed for His ministers. He prayed for a lost world. He prayed even to the cross. His last words before His death were prayer. Christ taught prayer. He preached prayer. He exhorted to prayer. He gave marvelous and astounding promises to prayer. He attributed His disciples' failures to their lack of prayer. And when at last His disciples had caught the import of His life's example and ministry, we find them assembled in one accord for ten days waiting before God in prayer. And from Pentecost on when we find the early church faced with persecution, revival challenge, and the need of an unsaved world we find them resorting to prayer. The apostles said, "We will give ourselves continually to prayer." They prayed until the prison doors were opened by earthquake power. They prayed until sinners quaked and souls were saved. They lived lives of prayer, and died "calling upon the Lord Jesus."

Paul and Prayer

Not only did Christ and the twelve put prayer first, but Paul like His Lord taught by his example and his teaching that prayer must have first place. The first picture we have of him after his conversion is, "Behold, he prayeth." That is the keynote of his life from then on. All his ministry was saturated with prayer. Before he reached cities we read that he was praying for them. When he ministered to them his life was an example of prayers and tears. We find him praying "in every church," in prison, by the river side, by the seaside, at the hour of prayer, at midnight, "without ceasing," and "always", "night and day." He is continually exhorting the Christians to pray, and repeatedly tells them how much he is depending upon their prayers. If there is any secret of Paul's success it is this that his was a life of prayer. If Paul was anything he was a man of prayer. The last picture we have of Paul before his death is that he is calling God to witness "with pure conscience that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my

prayers night and day." From first to last Paul was the Apostle of Prayer.

The New Testament puts prayer first. Christ the Son of God put prayer first. The early church, the apostles, and Paul put prayer first. What place does prayer have in your ministry? If you were honest with yourself, how many things would you have to acknowledge to be taking the precedence over prayer in your life? Dare you sit down and list them on a piece of paper? Dare you face the facts of your prayer life? If prayer was so essential to Christ is it any less to you? Are you hoping for Pauline results without his life of prayer? Have you been trying to satisfy yourself that after all you do pray some and long to pray more, when all the time the most tragic lack of your life has been the lack of prayer? Can you honestly expect God to bless your life and ministry with the little praying you are doing? May I ask you prayerfully to examine your heart alone before God and read and answer these preceding questions alone with Him. God may be wanting to show you how hopeless it is for you to go on in your ministry as you have been until you give prayer the place God asks of you.

And now to make a sincere step forward toward fruitfulness and revival blessing, what steps does God want you to take in your own life in order to put prayer in its rightful place? What is required in your church and in your work if prayer is to take first place? When we accept God's program and put Him first, He will put us and our needs first. Revival will come to your heart and through you to others when prayer is put first. "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray . . ." 2 Chron. 7:14.

—American Holiness Journal.

THE CONQUEROR

No matter how the storms may rage
Upon the sea of life,
No matter how the waves may beat—
No matter what the strife,
The Lord is just the same today
As when He walked the sea,
And He can conquer every storm
That life may bring to thee.
The waves are raging everywhere,
And men are sore distressed;
But all they need is found in Him
Who giveth perfect rest;
So cast your care upon the Lord,
Whose strength shall never fail;
He calms the waves for your frail bark,
His power shall e'er prevail. —Sel.