

The King's Highway

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The Preacher Who Prays

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What the church needs today is not more machinery or better organizations, but men filled with the Spirit, and whom the Holy Ghost can pray through to bring the will of God to pass in that church or individual. The church needs men mighty in prayer, in faith, who will not let go until the fire from heaven falls upon the altars of our Zion. He does not pour His Spirit on cold machinery, or even methods, but on men, and then Spirit-filled men can use whatever may be available to advance His kingdom and turn the lost to seek the Saviour. Oh, for a goodly number of men and women who not only know, but who do pray and cry for revival power until the whole church, community and state are shaken.

Someone has said, "Prayer makes the man; prayer makes the preacher; prayer makes the pastor." Give me a man or woman in charge of a pastorate who prays one hour or more a day and then goes out to put his prayers into practice, and I will show you a man or woman alive and whose messages will not be lifeless and dead, but penetrating to the hearts of the listeners.

Most of our preachers today are weak on praying. They have so much to do, and campaigns to put over, and calls here and there, that prayer life is at a low ebb in many places. Take time out, my soldier friend, and tarry with God in prayer until your own heart is aglow with contact with God's throne, and the truth will flash and burn in your messages and souls will be finding their way to God.

A preacher should pray an hour or more a day for his own spiritual well-being. A preacher who does not make prayer a must in his life and ministry will be a very weak soldier of the cross.

A preacher should pray an hour or more a day if he is to have free access to the people to whom he ministers. When he has talked to God about men, then he is able to talk to men about God. Since prayer is the mightiest weapon any preacher, layman, or anyone else can use, it should be used daily, and often during the day, to pave the way for the complete defeat of the devil.

The preacher should pray an hour or more a day as an example to his church and congregation. If the preacher prays little, his people pray little. If the preacher prays an hour a day or more, it will not be long until some of his people will catch the spirit and join him in a mighty cry for the coming of the Holy Ghost on the hearts of loved ones and friends now out of the ark of safety.

The preacher should pray an hour or more a day so that he can say to his flock, "We must do this or our loved ones and friends will be lost and the church creep along at such a slow pace no one will feel led to seek the Lord in the salvation of their souls."

The preacher should pray an hour or more a day, so that he may keep his own heart on fire with a divine passion for the lost. Then if he has let down in his experience, he need not go far until he will see the need and get back to God.

The preacher who prays an hour or more a day will not stop short of holiness of heart and life. A holy preacher in a holy pulpit, preaching the Holy Scriptures to the people in the pew, will soon see results which he can never see without the holy fire from God resting upon him and his people.

Oh, my brethren! Let us be men of much prayer, importunate prayer, intercessory prayer, without ceasing prayer, until Satan is defeated, sinners of the deepest dye are brought to Christ, and our own believers are made to see their need of holiness without which no man shall see the Lord; revivals will become the order of the day, and not the rarity they are now. God will answer prayer if we will meet conditions and hold on long enough.

"Then, there on eagle's wings we soar,
And sin and sense molest no more;
And heaven comes down our souls to greet,
While glory crowns the Mercy Seat.

"Here may we prove the power of prayer
To strengthen faith, and sweeten care;
To teach our faint desires to rise,
And bring all heaven before our eyes."

—In the Free Methodist

This perpetual hurry of business and company ruins me in soul if not in body. More solitude and earlier hours! I suspect I have been allotting habitually too little time to religious exercises, as private devotion and religious meditations, Scripture-reading, etc. Hence I am lean and cold and hard. I had better allot two hours or an hour and a half daily. I have been keeping too late hours, and hence have had but a hurried half hour in a morning to myself. Surely the experience of all good men confirms the proposition that without a due measure of private devotions the soul will grow lean. But all may be done through prayer — almighty prayer, I am ready to say — and why not? For that it is almighty is only through the gracious ordination of the God of love and truth. O then, pray, pray pray!

—William Wilberforce

Holiness Of Life

In the "Way of Faith"

Study, above all, holiness of life. Your whole usefulness depends on this, for your sermons last but an hour or two, your life preaches all the time and in every place you may be. If Satan can make a minister a lover of praise, of pleasure, of good eating, he has ruined his ministry. Let us give ourselves to prayer, and get our texts, our thoughts, our words from God. Martin Luther spent the best three hours of every day in prayer. If we but spent the first of our waking hours of the day in prayer to God our ministry would be much more fruitful.

What the church needs today is not more committees or better ones, not more organizations or more and novel methods, but men full of the Holy Ghost, men whom the Holy Ghost can use, men of prayer, yes, men mighty in prayer. The power of the Holy Spirit does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not anoint plans, but men—men of prayer.

The character as well as the results of the Gospel are committed to the preacher. He makes or mars the message from God to man. The preacher is the golden pipe through which the divine oil flows. The pipe must not only be golden, i. e., pure, but open and flawless, so that the oil may have a full unhindered, unwasted flow.

The preacher is more than the sermon, for the preacher makes the sermon. As the life-giving milk from the mother's bosom is but the mother's life, so all the preacher says is tintured, impregnated by what the preacher himself is. The treasure is in earthen vessels, and the taste of the vessel impregnates and may discolour. The man is behind the sermon and the sermon is not the work of an hour, but the outlay of a life. The sermon is holy because the man is holy. The sermon is forceful. The sermon is full of divine unction. When there is no holy influence and power in the man there will be none in his message. This is doubtless the reason why so many sermons are delivered without effect upon the hearers.

When men are filled with the Holy Spirit they practice the Spirit of Jesus. He who is thus filled with the Holy Spirit will give his time, money, strength and all for precious souls. His heart will be filled with that warm feeling for all those in distress or danger. That feeling is the feeling which filled the heart of Christ when He wept over Jerusalem.