

What Saith the Scripture?
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presents

THE INTERCESSION COLLECTION

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HELPS to INTERCESSION

by Andrew Murray
1828-1917

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Pray Without Ceasing. - Who can do this? How can one do it who is surrounded by the cares of daily life? How can a mother love her child without ceasing? How can the eyelid without ceasing hold itself ready to protect the eye? How can I breathe and feel and hear without ceasing? Because all these are the functions of a healthy, natural life. And so, if the spiritual life be healthy, under the full power of the Holy Spirit, praying without ceasing will be natural. Pray Without Ceasing. - Does it refer to continual acts of prayer, in which we are to persevere till we obtain, or to the spirit of prayerfulness that should animate us all the day? It includes both. The example of our Lord Jesus shows us this. We have to enter our closet for special seasons of prayer; we are at times to persevere there in importunate prayer. We are also all the day to walk in God's presence, with the whole heart set upon heavenly things. Without set times of prayer, the spirit of prayer will be dull and feeble. Without the continual prayerfulness, the set times will not avail.

Pray Without Ceasing. - Does that refer to prayer for ourselves or others? To both. It is because many confine it to

themselves that they fail so in practicing it. It is only when the branch gives itself to bear fruit, more fruit, much fruit, that it can live a healthy life, and expect a rich inflow of sap. The death of Christ brought Him to the place of everlasting intercession. Your death with Him to sin and self sets you free from the care of self, and elevates you to the dignity of intercessor - one who can get life and blessing from God for others. Know your calling; begin this your work. Give yourself wholly to it, and before you know it you will be finding something of this "Praying always" within you.

Pray Without Ceasing. - How can I learn it? The best way of learning to do a thing - in fact the only way - is to do it. Begin by setting apart some time every day, say ten or fifteen minutes, in which you say to God and to yourself, that you come to Him now as an intercessor for others. Let it be after your morning or evening prayer, or any other time. If you cannot secure the same time every day, do not be troubled. Only see that you do your work. Christ chose you and appointed you to pray for others. If at first you do not feel any special urgency or faith or power in your prayers, do not let that hinder you. Quietly tell your Lord Jesus of your feebleness; believe that the Holy Spirit is in you to teach you to pray, and be assured that if you begin, God will help you. God cannot help you unless you begin and keep on.

Pray Without Ceasing. - How do I know what to pray for? If once you begin, and think of all the needs around you, you will soon find enough. But to help you, this little book is issued with subjects and hints for prayer for a month. It is meant that we should use it month by month, until we know more fully how to follow the Spirit's leading, and have learned, if need be, to make our own list of subjects, and then can dispense with it. In regard to the use of these helps, a few words may be needed.

1. How to Pray. - You notice for every day two headings - the one *What to Pray*; the other, *How to Pray*. If the subjects only were given, one might fall into the routine of mentioning names and things before God, and the work would become a burden. The hints under the heading *How to Pray*, are meant to remind you of the spiritual nature of the work, of the need of Divine help, and to encourage faith in the certainty that God, through the Spirit, will give us grace to pray aright and will also hear our prayer. One does not at once learn to take his place boldly, and to dare to believe that he will be heard. Therefore take a few moments each day to listen to God's voice reminding you of how certainly even you will be heard, and calling on you to pray in that faith in your Father, to claim and take the blessing you plead for. And let these words about *How to Pray*, enter your hearts and occupy your thoughts at other times, too. The work of intercession is Christ's great work on earth, entrusted to Him because He gave Himself a sacrifice to God for men. The work of intercession is the greatest work a Christian can do. Give yourself as a sacrifice to God for men, and the work will become your glory and your joy, too.

2. What to Pray. - Scripture calls us to pray for many things: for all saints; for all men, for kings and all rulers; for all who are in adversity; for the sending forth of laborers; for those who labor in the gospel; for all converts; for believers who have fallen into sin; for one another in our own immediate circles. The Church is now so much larger than when the New Testament was written; the number of forms of work and workers is so much greater; the needs of the Church and the world are so much better known, that we need to take time and thought to see where prayer is needed, and to what our hearts are most drawn out. The Scriptural calls to prayer demand a large heart, taking in all saints, and all men, and all needs. An attempt has been made in these helps to indicate what the chief subjects are that need prayer, and that ought to interest every Christian.

It will be felt difficult by many to pray for such large spheres as are sometimes mentioned. Let it be understood that in each case we may make special intercession for our own circle of interest coming under that heading. And it is hardly needful to say, further, that where one subject appears of more special interest or urgency than another we are free for a time, day after day, to take up that subject. If only time be really given to intercession, and the spirit of believing intercession be cultivated, the object is attained. While, on the one hand, the heart must be enlarged at times to take in all, **the more pointed and definite our prayer can be, the better.** With this view paper is left blank on which we can write down special petitions we desire to urge before God.

3. Answers to Prayer. - More than one little book has been published in which Christians may keep a register of their petitions, and note when they are answered. Room has been left on every page for this, so that more definite petitions with regard to individual souls or special spheres of work may be recorded, and the answer expected. When we pray for all saints, or for missions in general, it is difficult to know when or how our prayer is answered, or whether our prayer has had any part in bringing the answer. It is of extreme importance that we should prove that God hears us, and to this end take note of what answers to look for, and when they come. On the day of praying for all saints, take the saints of your congregation, or in your prayer meeting, and ask for a revival among them. Take, in connection with missions, some special station or missionary you are interested in, or more than one, and plead for blessing. And expect and look for its coming, that you may praise God.

4. Prayer Circles. - In publishing this invitation to intercession, there is no desire to add another to the many existing prayer unions or praying bands. The first object is to stir the many Christians who practically, through ignorance of their calling or unbelief as to their prayer availing much, take but very little part in the work of intercession; and then to help those who do pray to some fuller apprehension of the greatness of the work, and the need of giving their whole strength to it. There is a circle of prayer which asks for prayer on the first day of every month for the fuller manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit throughout the Church. I have given the words of that invitation as subject for the first day, and taken the same thought as keynote throughout. The more one thinks of the need and the promise, and the greatness of the obstacles to be overcome in prayer, the more one feels it must become our life work day by day, that to which every other interest is subordinated.

But while not forming a large prayer union, it is suggested that it may be found helpful to have small prayer circles to unite in prayer, either for one month, with some special object introduced daily along with the others, or through a year or longer, with the view of strengthening each other in the grace of intercession. If a minister were to invite some of his neighboring brethren to join for some special requests along with the printed subjects for supplication, or a number of the more earnest members of his congregation to unite in prayer for revival, some might be trained to take their place in the great work of intercession, who now stand idle because no man hath hired them.

5. Who is Sufficient for These Things? - The more we study and try to practice this grace of intercession, the more we become overwhelmed by its greatness and our feebleness. Let every such impression lead us to listen: My grace is sufficient for thee, and to answer truthfully: Our sufficiency is of God. Take courage; it is in the intercession of Christ you are called to take part. The burden and the agony, the triumph and the victory are all His. Learn from Him, yield to His Spirit in you, to know how to pray. He gave Himself a sacrifice to God for men, that He might have the right and power of intercession. "He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." Let your faith rest boldly on His finished work. Let your heart wholly identify itself with Him in His death and His life. Like Him, give yourself to God a sacrifice for men; it is your highest nobility; it is your true and full union with Him; it will be to you, as to Him, your power of intercession. Beloved Christian! come and give your whole heart and life to intercession, and you will know its blessedness and its power. God asks nothing less; the world needs nothing less; Christ asks nothing less; let us offer to God nothing less.

FIRST DAY

What to Pray - *For the Power of the Holy Spirit.*

I bow my Knees unto the Father, that He would grant you that ye may be strengthened with power through His Spirit. - Eph. 3:14-16.

Wait for the promise of the Father. - Acts 1:4.

"the fuller manifestation of the grace and energy of the blessed Spirit of God, in the removal of all that is contrary to God's revealed will, so that we grieve not the Holy Spirit, but that He may work in mightier power in the Church, for the exaltation of Christ and the blessing of souls."

God has one promise to and through His exalted Son; our Lord has one gift to His Church; the Church has one need; all prayer unites in the one petition - the power of the Holy Spirit. Make it your one prayer.

How to Pray - *As a Child Asks a Father*

If a son ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone! How much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him? - Luke 11:11,13.

Ask as simply and trustfully as a child asks bread. You can do this because "God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts crying, Abba, Father." This Spirit is in you to give you childlike confidence. In the faith of His praying in you, ask for the power of that Holy Spirit everywhere. Mention places or circles where you specially ask it to be seen.

Special Petitions

SECOND DAY

What to Pray - *For the Spirit of Supplication*

The Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us. -Rom. 8:26.
I will pour out the Spirit of Supplication. -Zech. 12:10.

"The evangelization of the world depends first of all upon a revival of prayer. Deeper than the need of men - aye, deep down at the bottom of our spiritless life - is the need for the forgotten secret of prevailing, world-wide prayer."

Every child of God has the Holy Spirit in him to pray. God waits to give the Spirit in full measure. Ask for yourself, and all who join, the outpouring of the Spirit of Supplication. Ask it for your own prayer circle.

How to Pray - *In the Spirit*

With all prayer and supplication, praying at all seasons in the Spirit. -Eph.:18.
Praying in the Holy Spirit. -Jude 20.

Our Lord gave His disciples on His resurrection day the Holy Spirit to enable them to wait for the full outpouring on the day of Pentecost. It is only in the power of the Spirit already in us, acknowledged and yielded to, that we can pray for His fuller manifestation. Say to the Father, it is the Spirit of His Son in you urging you to plead His promise.

Special Petitions

THIRD DAY

What to Pray - *For All Saints*

With all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons, and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication for all saints. -Eph. 6: 18.

Every member of a body is interested in the welfare of the whole, and exists to help and complete the others. Believers are one body, and ought to pray, not so much for the welfare of their own church or society, but, first of all, for all saints. This large, unselfish love is the proof that Christ's Spirit and Love are teaching them to pray. Pray first for all and then for the believers around you.

How to Pray - *In the Love of the Spirit*

By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another. -John 13:35.
I pray that they all may be one, that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me. -John 17:21.
I beseech you, brethren, by the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me. -Rom. 15:30.
Above all things being fervent in your love among yourselves. -1 Pet. 4:8.

If we are to pray we must love. Let us say to God we do love all His saints; let us say we love specially every child of His we know. Let us pray with fervent love, in the love of the Spirit.

Special Petitions

FOURTH DAY

What to Pray - *For the Spirit Holiness*

God is the Holy One. His people is a holy people. He speaks: *I am holy: I am the Lord which make you holy.*
Christ prayed: *Sanctify them. Make them holy through Truth.* Paul prayed: *God establish your hearts*

unblameable in holiness. God sanctify you wholly!

Pray for all saints - God's holy ones - throughout the Church, that the Spirit of holiness may rule them. Specially for new converts. For the saints in your own neighborhood or congregation. For any you are specially interested in. Think of their special need, weakness, or sin, and pray that God may make them holy.

How to Pray - *Trusting in God 's Omnipotence*

The things that are impossible with men are possible with God. When we think of the great things we ask for, of how little likelihood there is of their coming, of our own insignificance, prayer is not only wishing, or asking, but believing and accepting. Be still before God and ask Him to let you know Him as the Almighty One, and leave your petitions with Him Who doeth wonders.

Special Petitions

FIFTH DAY

What to Pray - *That God's People May Be Kept from the World*

Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me. I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst Keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. -John 17:11, 15, 16.

In the last night Christ asked three things of His disciples: that they might be kept as those who are not of the world; that they might be sanctified; that they might be one in love. You cannot do better than pray as Jesus prayed. Ask for God's people that they may be kept separate from the world and its spirit; that they, by the Spirit, may live as those who are not of the world.

How to Pray - *Having Confidence before God*

Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. - 1 John 3:21, 22.

Learn these words by heart. Get them into your heart. Join the ranks of those who, with John, draw near to God with an assured heart, that does not condemn them, having confidence toward God. In this spirit pray for your brother who sins (1 John 5: 16). In the quiet confidence of an obedient child, plead for those of your brethren who may be giving way to sin. Pray for all to be kept from the evil. And say often, "What we ask, we receive, because we keep and do."

Special Petitions

SIXTH DAY

What to Pray - *For the Spirit of Love in the Church*

I pray that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them and Thou in Me; that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me . . . that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them. -John 17:22, 23, 26.
The fruit of the Spirit is love. -Gal. 5:22.

Believers are one in Christ, as He is one with the Father. The love of God rests on them, and can dwell in them. Pray that the power of the Holy Ghost may so work this love in believers, that the world may see and know God's love in them. Pray much for this.

How to Pray - *As One of God 's Remembrancers*

I have set watchmen on thy walls, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that are the Lord's remembrancers, keep not silence, and give Him no rest.-Isa. 62:6.

Study these words until your whole soul be filled with the consciousness, I am appointed intercessor. Enter God's presence in that faith. Study the world's need with that thought - it is my work to intercede; the Holy Spirit will teach me for what and how. Let it be an abiding consciousness: My great at lifework, like Christ's, is intercession - to pray for believers and those who do not yet know God.

Special Petitions

SEVENTH DAY

What to Pray - *For the Power of the Holy Spirit on Ministers*

I beseech you that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me. -Rom. 15 :30.
He will deliver us; ye also helping together on our behalf by your supplication.. -2 Cor. 1:10, 11.

What a great host of ministers there is in Christ's Church. What need they have of prayer. What a power they might be, if they were all clothed with the power of the Holy Ghost. Pray definitely for this; long for it. Think of your minister, and ask it very specially for him. Connect every thought of the ministry, in your town or neighborhood or the world, with the prayer that all may be filled with the Spirit. Plead for them the promise, "Tarry until ye be clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:49. "Ye shall receive power, when the Holy Ghost is come upon you. " Acts 1 :8.

How to Pray - *In Secret*

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy inner chamber, and having shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret. -Matt. 6:6.
He withdrew again into the mountain to pray, Himself alone. -Matt. 14:23; John 6:15.

Take time and realize, when you are alone with God: Here am I now, face to face with God, to intercede for His servants. Do not think you have no influence, or that your prayer will not be missed. Your prayer and faith will make a difference. Cry in secret to God for His ministers.

Special Petitions

EIGHTH DAY

What to Pray - *For the Spirit on All Christian Workers*

Ye also helping together on our behalf that for the gift bestowed upon us by means of many, thanks may be given by many on our behalf. -2 Cor. 1:11.

What multitudes of workers in connection with our churches and missions, our railways and postmen, our soldiers and sailors, our young men and young women, our fallen men and women, our poor and sick! God be praised for this! What could they not accomplish if each were living in the fullness of the Holy Spirit? Pray for them; it makes you a partner in their work, and you will praise God each time you hear of blessing anywhere.

How to Pray - *With Definite Petitions*

What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? - Luke 18:41.

The Lord knew what the man wanted, and yet He asked him. The utterance of our wish gives point to the transaction in which we are engaged with God, and so awakens faith and expectation. Be very definite in your petitions, so as to know what answer you may look for. Just think of the great host of workers, and ask and expect God definitely to bless them in answer to the prayer of His people. Then ask still more definitely for

workers around you. Intercession is not the breathing out of pious wishes; its aim is - in believing, persevering prayer - to receive and bring down blessing.

Special Petitions

NINTH DAY

What to Pray - *For God's Spirit on Our Mission Work*

The evangelization of the world depends first of all upon a revival of prayer. Deeper than the need for men - aye, deep down at the bottom of our spiritless life, is the need for the forgotten secret of prevailing, world-wide prayer.

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate Me Barnabas and Saul. Then when they had fasted and prayed, they sent them away. So they being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed. -Acts 13 3, 4.

Pray that our mission work may all be done in this spirit - waiting on God, hearing the voice of the Spirit, sending forth men with fasting and prayer. Pray that in our churches our mission interest and mission work may be in the power of the Holy Spirit and of prayer. It is a Spirit-filled, praying Church that will send out Spirit-filled missionaries, mightily in prayer.

How to Pray - *Take Time*

I give myself unto prayer. -Ps. 109:4.

We will give ourselves continually to prayer. -Acts 6:4.

Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God. -Eccles. 5:2.

And He continued all night in prayer to God. -Luke 6:12.

Time is one of the chief standards of value. The time we give is a proof of the interest we feel. We need time with God - to realize His presence; to wait for Him to make Himself known; to consider and feel the needs we plead for; to take our place in Christ; to pray till we can believe that we have received. Take time in prayer, and pray down blessing on the mission work of the Church .

Special Petitions

TENTH DAY

What to Pray - *For God's Spirit on Our Missionaries*

What the world needs today is not only more missionaries , but the outpouring of God 's Spirit on everyone whom He has sent out to work for Him in the foreign field.

Ye shall receive power, when the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be My witnesses unto the uttermost part of the earth. -Acts 1:8.

God always gives His servants power equal to the work He asks of them. Think of the greatness and difficulty of this work, - casting Satan out of his strongholds - and pray that everyone who takes part in it may receive and do all his work in the power of the Holy Ghost. Think of the difficulties of your missionaries, and pray for them.

How to Pray - *Trusting God 's Faithfulness*

He is faithful that promised. She counted Him faithful who promised. -Heb. 10:23; 11:11.

Just think of God's promises to His Son, concerning His kingdom; to the Church, concerning the heathen; to His servants, concerning their work; to yourself, concerning your prayer; and pray in the assurance that He is faithful, and only waits for prayer and faith to fulfil them. "Faithful is He that calleth you" (to pray), "who also will do it" (what He has promised). 1 Thess. 5:24.

Take up individual missionaries, make yourself one with them, and pray till you know that you are heard. Oh, begin to live for Christ's kingdom as the one thing worth living for!

Special Petitions

ELEVENTH DAY

What to Pray - *For More Laborers*

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He send forth labourers into His harvest. - Matt. 9:38.

What a remarkable call of the Lord Jesus for help from His disciples in getting the need supplied. What an honor put upon prayer. What a proof that God wants prayer and will hear it. Pray for laborers, for all students in theological seminaries, training homes, Bible institutes, that they may not go, unless He fits them and sends them forth; that our churches may train their students to seek for the sending forth of the Holy Spirit; that all believers may hold themselves ready to be sent forth, or to pray for those who can go.

How to Pray - *In Faith, Nothing Doubting*

Jesus saith unto them, Have faith in God. Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that what he saith shall come to pass, he shall have it. -Mark 11:22, 23.

Have faith in God! Ask Him to make Himself known to you as the faithful mighty God, who worketh all in all; and you will be encouraged to believe that He can give suitable and sufficient laborers, however impossible this appears. But, remember, in answer to prayer and faith. Apply this to every opening where a good worker is needed. The work is God's. He can give the right workman. But He must be asked and waited on.

Special Petitions

TWELFTH DAY

What to Pray - *For the Spirit to Convince the World of Sin*

I will send the Comforter to you. And He, when He is come, will convict the world in respect of sin. -John 1:7, 8.

God's one desire, the one object of Christ's being manifested, is to take away sin. The first work of the Spirit on the world is conviction of sin. Without that, no deep or abiding revival, no powerful conversion. Pray for it, that the gospel may be preached in such power of the Spirit, that men may see that they have rejected and crucified Christ, and cry out, What shall we do? Pray most earnestly for a mighty power of conviction of sin wherever the gospel is preached.

How to Pray - *Stir Up Yourself to Take Hold of God's Strength*

Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me. -Isa. 27:5.
There is none that calleth upon Thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of Thee. -Isa. 64:7.
Stir up the gift of God which is in thee. -2 Tim. 1:6.

First, take hold of God's strength. God is a Spirit. I cannot take hold of Him, and hold Him fast, but by the Spirit. Take hold of God's strength, and hold on till it has done for you what He has promised. Pray for the power of the Spirit to convict of sin.
Second, stir up yourself - the power is in you by the Holy Spirit -- to take hold. Give your whole heart and will to it, and say, I will not let Thee go except Thou bless me.

Special Petitions

THIRTEENTH DAY

What to Pray - *For the Spirit of Burning*

And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion shall be called holy: when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, by the Spirit of Judgment and the Spirit of Burning. -Isa. 4:3.

A washing by fire! a cleansing by judgment! He that has passed through this shall be called holy. The power of blessing for the world, the power of work and intercession that will avail, depends upon the spiritual state of the Church; and that can only rise higher as sin is discovered and put away. Judgment must begin at the house of God. There must be conviction of sin for sanctification. Beseech God to give His Spirit as a Spirit of Judgment and a Spirit of Burning - to discover and burn out sin in His people.

How to Pray - *In the Name of Christ*

Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do. If ye shall ask Me anything in My name, that will I do. -John 4:13, 14.

Ask in the name of your Redeemer God, who sits upon the throne. Ask what He has promised, what He gave His blood for, that sin may be put away from among His people, Ask - the prayer is after His own heart - for the spirit of deep conviction of sin to come among His people. Ask for the spirit of burning. Ask in the faith of His name - the faith of what He wills, of what He can do - and look for the answer. Pray that the Church may be blessed, to be made a blessing in the world.

Special Petitions

FOURTEENTH DAY

What to Pray - *For the Church of the Future*

That the children might not be as their fathers, a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God. -Ps. 78:8.

I will pour My Spirit upon thy seed, and My blessing upon thy offspring. -Isa. 44:3.

Pray for the rising generation, who are to come after us. Think of the young men and women and children of this age, and pray for all the agencies at work among them; that in associations and societies and unions, in homes and schools, Christ may be honored, and the Holy Spirit get possession of them. Pray for the young of your neighborhood.

How to Pray - *With the Whole Heart*

The Lord grant thee according to thine own heart. -Ps. 20:4.

Thou hast given him his heart's desire. -Ps. 21:2.

I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord. -Ps. 119:145.

God lives, and listens to every petition with His whole heart. Each time we pray the whole Infinite God is there to hear. He asks that in each prayer the whole man shall be there too; that we shall cry with our whole heart. Christ gave Himself to God for men; and so He takes up every need into His intercession. If once we seek God with our whole heart, the whole heart will be in every prayer with which we come to this God. Pray with your whole heart for the young.

Special Petitions

FIFTEENTH DAY

What to Pray - For Schools and Colleges

As for Me, this is My Covenant with them, saith the Lord: My Spirit that is upon thee and My Words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever. -Isa. 59:21.

The future of the Church and the world depends, to an extent we little conceive, on the education of the day. The Church may be seeking to evangelize the heathen, and be giving up her own children to secular and materialistic influences. Pray for schools and colleges, and that the Church may realize and fulfill its momentous duty of caring for its children. Pray for godly teachers.

How to Pray - Not Limiting God

They limited the Holy One of Israel. -Ps. 78:41.

He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief. -Matt. 13:5.

Is anything too hard for the Lord! -Gen. 1 8. 14.

Ah, Lord God! Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power; there is nothing too hard for Thee. Behold, I am the Lord: is there anything too hard for Me! -Jer. 32:17, 27.

Beware, in your prayer, above everything, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things, above all that we ask or think. Each time you intercede, be quiet first and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, of how He delights to hear Christ, of your place in Christ, and expect great things.

Special Petitions

SIXTEENTH DAY

What to Pray - For the Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Sunday Schools

Thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and will save thy children. -Isa. 49:25.

Every part of the work of God's Church is His work. He must do it. Prayer is the confession that He will - the surrender of ourselves into His hands to let Him - work in us and through us. Pray for the hundreds of thousands of Sunday School teachers, that those who know God may be filled with His Spirit. Pray for your own Sunday School. Pray for the salvation of the children.

How to Pray - Boldly

We have a great High Priest, Jesus the Son of God. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace. -Heb. 4: 14, 16.

These hints to help us in our work of intercession - what are they doing for us? Making us conscious of our feebleness in prayer? Thank God for this. It is the very first lesson we need on the way to pray the effectual prayer that availeth much. Let us persevere, taking each subject boldly to the throne of grace. As we pray we shall learn to pray and to believe and to expect with increasing boldness. Hold fast your assurance: it is at God's command you come as an intercessor. Christ will give you grace to pray aright.

Special Petitions

SEVENTEENTH DAY

What to Pray - For Kings and Rulers

I exhort therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgiving, be made for all men; for kings and all that are in high places; that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and gravity. -1

Tim. 2:1,2.

What a faith in the power of prayer! A few feeble and despised Christians are to influence the mighty Roman emperors, and help in securing peace and quietness. Let us believe that prayer is a power that is taken up by God in His rule of the world. Let us pray for our country and its rulers; for all the rulers of the world; for rulers in cities or districts in which we are interested. When God's people unite in this, they may count upon their prayers effecting in the unseen world more than they know. Let faith hold this fast.

How to Pray - *The Prayer before God as Incense*

And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should add it unto the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel taketh the censer; and he filled it with the fire upon the altar, and cast it upon the earth: and there followed thunder, and voices, and lightning, and an earthquake. -Rev. 8:3-5.

The same censer brings the prayer of the saints before God and casts fire upon the earth. The prayers that go up to heaven have their share in the history of this earth. Be sure that thy prayers enter God's presence.

Special Petitions

EIGHTEENTH DAY

What to Pray - *For Peace*

I exhort therefore first of all, that supplications be made for Kings and all that are in high places; that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and gravity. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour. -1 Tim. 2:1-3.

He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth. -Ps. 46:9

What a terrible sight! - the military armaments in which the nations find their pride. What a terrible thought! - the evil passions that may at any moment bring on war. And what a prospect for suffering and desolation that must come. God can, in answer to the prayer of His people, give peace. Let us pray for it, and for the rule of righteousness on which alone it can be established.

How to Pray - *With the Understanding*

What is it then will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding. -1 Cor. 14: 15.

We need to pray with the spirit, as the vehicle of the intercession of God's Spirit, if we are to take hold of God in faith and power. We need to pray with the understanding, if we are really to enter deeply into the needs we bring before Him. Take time to apprehend intelligently, in each subject, the nature, the extent, the urgency of the request, the ground and way and certainty of God's promise as revealed in His Word. Let the mind affect the heart. Pray with the understanding and with the spirit.

Special Petitions

NINETEENTH DAY

What to Pray - *For the Holy Spirit on Christendom*

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. -2 Tim. 3:5.

Thou hast a name that thou livest, and thou art dead. -Rev. 3: 1.

There are five hundred million nominal Christians. The state of the majority is unspeakably awful. Formality, worldliness, ungodliness, rejection of Christ's service, ignorance, and indifference - to what an extent does all this prevail. We pray for the heathen - oh! do let us pray for those bearing Christ's name - many in worse than

heathen darkness.

Does not one feel as if one ought to begin to give up his life, and to cry day and night to God for souls? In answer to prayer God gives the power of the Holy Ghost.

How to Pray - In Deep Stillness of Soul

My soul is silent unto God: from Him cometh my salvation. -Ps. 62:1.

Prayer has its power in God alone. The nearer a man comes to God Himself, the deeper he enters into God's will; the more he takes hold of God, the more power in prayer. God must reveal Himself. If it please Him to make Himself known, He can make the heart conscious of His presence. Our posture must be that of holy reverence, of quiet waiting and adoration.

As your month of intercession passes on, and you feel the greatness of your work, be still before God. Thus you will get power to pray.

Special Petitions

TWENTIETH DAY

What to Pray - For God's Spirit on the Heathen

Behold, these shall come from far; and these from the land of Sinim. -Isa. 49: 12.

Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall haste to stretch out her hands to God. -Ps. 68:31.

I the Lord will hasten it in his time. -Isa. 60:22.

Pray for the heathen, who are yet without the Word. Think of China, with her three hundred millions - a million a month dying without Christ. Think of Dark Africa, with its two hundred millions. Think of thirty millions a year going down into the thick darkness. If Christ gave His life for them, will you not do so? You can give yourself up to intercede for them. Just begin, if you have never yet begun, with this simple monthly school of intercession. The ten minutes you give will make you feel this is not enough. God's Spirit will draw you on. Persevere, however feeble you are. Ask God to give you some country or tribe to pray for. Can anything be nobler than to do as Christ did? Give your life for the heathen.

How to Pray - With Confident Expectation of an Answer

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and will shew thee great things and difficult, which thou knowest not. -Jer. 33:3.

Thus saith the Lord God: I will yet be inquired of, that I do it. -Ezek. 3:37.

Both texts refer to promises definitely made, but their fulfillment would depend upon prayer: God would be inquired of to do it.

Pray for God's fulfillment of His promises to His Son and His Church, and expect the answer. Plead for the heathen: plead God's promises.

Special Petitions

TWENTY-FIRST DAY

What to Pray - For God's Spirit on the Jews

I will pour out upon the house of David, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and supplications; and they shall look unto Me whom they pierced. -Zech. 12: 10.

Brethren, my heart's desire and my supplication to God is for them, that they may be saved. -Rom. 10:1.

Pray for the Jews. Their return to the God of their fathers stands connected, in a way we cannot tell, with wonderful blessing to the Church, and with the coming of our Lord Jesus. Let us not think that God has foreordained all this, and that we cannot hasten it. In a divine and mysterious way God has connected his

fulfillment of His promise with our prayer. His Spirit's intercession in us is God's forerunner of blessing. Pray for Israel and the work done among them. And pray too: Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

How to Pray - *With the Intercession of the Holy Spirit*

We know not how to pray as we ought; but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. -Rom. 8:26.

In your ignorance and feebleness believe in the secret indwelling and intercession of the Holy Spirit within you. Yield yourself to His life and leading habitually. He will help your infirmities in prayer. Plead the promises of God even where you do not see how they are to be fulfilled. God knows the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Pray with the simplicity of a little child; pray with the holy awe and reverence of one in whom God's Spirit dwells and prays.

Special Petitions

TWENTY-SECOND DAY

What to Pray - *For All Who Are in Suffering*

Remembering them that are in bonds, as bound with them; them that are evil entreated, as being yourselves in the body. -Heb. 13:3.

What a world of suffering we live in! How Jesus sacrificed all and identified Himself with it! Let us in our measure do so too. The persecuted, the Jews, the famine-stricken millions of India, the hidden slavery of Africa, the poverty and wretchedness of our great cities - and so much more: what suffering among those who know God and who know Him not. And then in smaller circles, in ten thousand homes and hearts, what sorrow. In our own neighborhood, how many needing help or comfort. Let us have a heart for, let us think of the suffering. It will stir us to pray, to work, to hope, to love more. And in a way and time we know not God will hear our prayer.

How to Pray - *Praying always and not fainting*

He spake unto them a parable to the end that they ought always to pray, and not to faint. -Luke 18:1.

Do you not begin to feel prayer is really the help for this sinful world? What a need there is of unceasing prayer! The very greatness of the task makes us despair! What can our ten minutes intercession avail? It is right we feel this: this is the way in which God is calling and preparing us to give our life to prayer. Give yourself wholly to God for men, and amid all your work, your heart will be drawn out to men in love, and drawn up to God in dependence and expectation. To a heart thus led by the Holy Spirit, it is possible to pray always and not to faint.

Special Petitions

TWENTY-THIRD DAY

What to Pray - *For the Holy Spirit in Your Own Work*

I labour, striving according to His working, which worketh in me mightily. -Col. 1:29.

You have your own special work; make it a work of intercession. Paul labored, striving according to the working of God in him. Remember, God is not only the Creator, but the Great Workman, who worketh all in all. You can only do your work in His strength, by His working in you through the Spirit. Intercede much for those among whom you work, till God gives you life for them. Let us all intercede too for each other, for every worker throughout God's Church, however solitary or unknown.

How to Pray - *In God's Very Presence*

Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Jas. 4:8.

The nearness of God gives rest and power in prayer. The nearness of God is given to him who makes it his first object. "Draw nigh to God" seek the nearness to Him, and He will give it; "He will draw nigh to you." Then it becomes easy to pray in faith.

Remember that when first God takes you into the school of intercession it is almost more for your own sake than that of others. You have to be trained to love, and wait, and pray, and believe. Only persevere. Learn to set yourself in His presence, to wait quietly for the assurance that He draws nigh. Enter His holy presence, tarry there, and spread your work before Him. Intercede for the souls you are working among. Get a blessing from God, His Spirit into your own heart, for them.

Special Petitions

TWENTY-FOURTH DAY

What to Pray - *For the Spirit on Your Own Congregation*

Beginning at Jerusalem. -Luke 24:47.

Each one of us is connected with some congregation or circle of believers, who are to us the part of Christ's body with which we come into most direct contact. They have a special claim on our intercession. Let it be a settled matter between God and you that you are to labor in prayer on its behalf. Pray for the minister and all leaders or workers in it. Pray for the believers according to their needs. Pray for conversions. Pray for the power of the Spirit to manifest itself. Band yourself with others to join in secret in definite petitions. Let intercession be a definite work, carried on as systematically as preaching or Sunday School. And pray, expecting an answer.

How to Pray - *Continually*

Watchmen, that shall never hold their peace day or night. -Isa. 62:6.

His own elect, that cry to Him day and night. -Luke 18:7

Night and day praying exceedingly that we may perfect that which is lacking in your faith. -1 Thess.3:10.

A widow indeed, hath her hope set in God, and continueth in supplications night and day. -i Tim. 5:5.

When the glory of God, and the love of Christ, and the need of souls are revealed to us, the fire of this unceasing intercession will begin to burn in us for those who are near and those who are far off.

Special Petitions

TWENTY-FIFTH DAY

What to Pray - *For More Conversions*

He is able to save completely, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession. -Heb. 7:25.

We will give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word . . . And the Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied exceedingly. -Acts 6:4, 7.

Christ's power to save, and save completely, depends on His unceasing intercession. The apostles' withdrawing themselves from other work to give themselves continually to prayer was followed by the number of the disciples multiplying exceedingly. As we, in our day, give ourselves to intercession, we shall have more and mightier conversions. Let us plead for this. Christ is exalted to give repentance. The Church exists with the Divine purpose and promise of having conversions. Let us not be ashamed to confess our sins and feebleness, and cry to God for more conversions in Christian and heathen lands, of those too whom you know and love. Plead for the salvation of sinners.

How to Pray - *In Deep Humility*

Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs . . . O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.
-Matt. 15:27,28.

You feel unworthy and unable to pray aright. To accept this heartily, and to be content still to come and be blest in your unworthiness, is true humility. It proves its integrity by not seeking for anything, but simply trusting His grace. And so it is the very strength of a great faith, and gets a full answer. "Yet the dogs" - let that be your plea as you persevere for someone possibly possessed of the devil. Let not your littleness hinder you for a moment.

Special Petitions

TWENTY-SIXTH DAY

What to Pray - *For the Holy Spirit on Young Converts*

Peter and John prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost; for as yet He was fallen upon none of them: only they had been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. - Acts 8:15, 16.

Now He which establisheth us with you in Christ, and anointed us, is God; who also gave us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. -2 Cor. 1:21,22.

How many new converts who remain feeble; how many who fall into sin; how many who backslide entirely. If we pray for the Church, its growth in holiness and devotion to God's service, pray especially for the young converts. How many stand alone, surrounded by temptation; how many have no teaching on the Spirit in them, and the power of God to establish them; how many in heathen lands, surrounded by Satan's power. If you pray for the power of the Spirit in the Church, pray especially that every young convert may know that he may claim and receive the fullness of the Spirit.

How to Pray - *Without Ceasing*

As for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you. -1 Sam. 12:23.

It is sin against the Lord to escape praying for others. When once we begin to see how absolutely indispensable intercession is, just as much a duty as loving God or believing in Christ, and how we are called and bound to it as believers, we shall feel that to cease intercession is grievous sin. Let us ask for grace to take up our place as priests with joy, and give our lives to bring down the blessing of Heaven.

Special Petitions

TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY

What to Pray - *That God's People May Realize Their Calling*

I will bless thee; and be thou a blessing: IN THEE shall ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH be blessed.
-Gen. 12:2, 3.

God be merciful UNTO US, and bless US, and cause His face to shine UPON US. That Thy way may be known UPON EARTH, Thy saving health AMONG ALL NATIONS. -Ps. 67: 1,2.

Abraham was only blessed that he might be a blessing to all the earth. Israel prays for blessing, that God may be known among all nations. Every believer, just as much as Abraham, is only blessed that he may carry God's blessing to the world.

Cry to God that His people may know this, that every believer is only to live for the interests of God and His kingdom. If this truth were preached and believed and practiced, what a revolution it would bring in our mission work. What a host of willing intercessors we should have. Plead with God to work it by the Holy Spirit.

How to Pray - *As One Who Has Accepted for Himself What He Asks for Others*

Peter said What I have, I give unto thee ... The Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning ... God gave them the like gift, as He gave unto us. -Acts 3:6; 9:15, 17.

As you pray for this great blessing on God's people, the Holy Spirit taking entire possession of them for God's service, yield yourself to God, and claim the gift anew in faith. Let each thought of feebleness or shortcoming only make you the more urgent in prayer for others; as the blessing comes to them, you too will be helped. With every prayer for conversions or mission work, pray that God's people may know wholly they belong to Him.

Special Petitions

TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY

What to Pray - *That all God's People May Know the Holy Spirit*

The Spirit of Truth, Whom the world knoweth not; but ye know Him; for He abideth with you, and shall be in you. -John 14:17.

Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost? -1 Cor. 6: 19.

The Holy Spirit is the power of God for the salvation of men. He only works as He dwells in the Church. He is given to enable believers to live wholly as God would have them live, in the full experience and witness of Him who saves completely. Pray God that everyone of His people may know the Holy Spirit! That He, in all His fullness, is given to them! That they cannot expect to live as their Father would have, without having Him in His fullness, without being filled with Him! Pray that all God's people, even away in churches gathered out of heathendom, may learn to say: I believe in the Holy Ghost.

How to Pray - *Laboring Fervently in Prayer*

Who is one of you, saluteth you, always reverently you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. - Col. 4:12.

To a healthy man labor is a delight; in what interests him he labors fervently. The believer who is in full health, whose heart is filled with God's Spirit, labors fervently in prayer. For what? That his brethren may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God; that they may know what God wills for them how He calls them to live, and be led and walk by the Holy Ghost. Labor fervently in prayer that all God's children may know this, as possible, as divinely sure.

Special Petitions

TWENTY-NINTH DAY

What to Pray - *For the Spirit of Intercession*

I chose you, and appointed you, that ye should go and bear fruit; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it to you. -John 15:16.

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name, In that day ye shall ask in My name. -John 6:24, 26.

Has not our school of intercession taught us how little we have prayed in the name of Jesus? He promised His disciples: In that day, when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, ye shall ask in My name. Are there not tens of thousands with us mourning the lack of the power of intercession? Let our intercession today be for them and all God's children, that Christ may teach us that the Holy Spirit is in us; and what it is to live in His fullness, and to yield ourselves to His intercessional work within us. The Church and the world need nothing so much as a mighty Spirit of Intercession to bring down the power of God on earth. Pray for the descent from heaven of the Spirit of Intercession for a great prayer revival.

How to Pray - *Abiding in Christ*

If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatsoever ye will, and it shall be done to you. -John 15:7.

Our acceptance with God, our access to Him, is all in Christ. As we consciously abide in Him we have the liberty, not a liberty to our old nature or self-will, but the Divine liberty **from** all self-will, to ask what we will, in the power of the new nature, and it shall be done. Let us keep this place, and believe even now that our intercession is heard, and that the Spirit of Supplication will be given all around us.

Special Petitions

THIRTIETH DAY

What to Pray - *For the Holy Spirit with the Word of God*

Our Gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance. -1 Thess. 1:5.

Those who preached unto you the Gospel with the Holy Ghost sent forth from Heaven. -1 Pet. 1:12.

What numbers of Bibles are being circulated. What numbers of sermons on the Bible are being preached. What numbers of Bibles are being read in home and school. How little blessing when it comes "in word" only; what Divine blessing and power when it comes "in the Holy Ghost," when it is preached "with the Holy Ghost sent forth from Heaven." Pray for Bible circulation, and preaching and teaching and reading, that it may all be in the Holy Ghost, with much prayer. Pray for the power of the Spirit with the Word in your own neighborhood, wherever it is being read or heard. Let every mention of "The Word of God" waken intercession.

How to Pray - *Watching and Praying*

Continue steadfastly in prayer watching therein with thanksgiving; withal praying for us also, that God may open unto us a door for the Word. -Col. 4:2, 3.

Do you not see how all depends upon God and prayer? As long as He lives and loves, and hears and works, as long as there are souls with hearts closed to the Word, as long as there is work to be done in carrying the Word - Pray without ceasing. Continue steadfastly in prayer, watching therein with thanksgiving. These words are for every Christian.

Special Petitions

THIRTY-FIRST DAY

What to Pray - *For the Spirit of Christ in His people*

I am the Vine, ye are the branches. -John 15:5.

That ye should do as I have done to you. -John 13:15.

As branches we are to be so like the Vine, so entirely identified with it, that all may see that we have the same nature, and life, and Spirit. When we pray for the Spirit, let us not only think of a Spirit of power, but the very disposition and temper of Christ Jesus. Ask and expect nothing less: for yourself, and all God's children, cry for it.

How to Pray - *Striving in Prayer*

That ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me. -Rom. 15:30.

I would ye knew what great conflict I have for you. -Col. 2:1.

All the powers of evil seek to hinder us in prayer. Prayer is a conflict with opposing forces. It needs the whole

heart and all our strength. May God give us grace to strive in prayer till we prevail.

Special Petitions

The End.

Intercession Promises: Casting The Net Or, Help in Becoming Fishers of Men

"And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after Me, and I will make you to become fishers of men"
(Mark 1:17).

by Katie Stewart

Preface

When the LORD Jesus Christ subjected Himself to men, it was to fulfill the yearning of His heart, "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). He desires us to follow His lead. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps" (1Peter 2:21). In following His steps, you become obedient to His will. Thus you fulfill the conditions necessary for claiming the Precious Promises, which He Providentially puts into your path. There are always conditions to be met in any contract. And participating with the LORD Jesus in the "Better Covenant" with "Better Promises" means obedience on your part. But no contract/covenant was ever fulfilled in such heart-felt abundance, as the **benefits** that come from a partnership with the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY. "He is The Mediator of a **Better** Covenant, which was established upon **Better** Promises" (Hebrews 8:6).

And "what shall I render unto the LORD for all His benefits toward me? I will take the cup of Salvation [for myself, and by intercession, for others], and call upon the Name of the LORD" (Psalm 116:12-13). Our LORD beckons to us to enter into an Intercessory Covenant with Him. His Love He supplies as the foundational premise. His Blood He puts down to cover the debt. His Intercession for us ensures our success. And all that's required for us to begin this "joint venture", is, in love, to **follow Him**. "As He walked by the sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, **Come ye after Me, and I will make you to become fishers of men**. And straightway they forsook **their** nets, and **followed Him**" (Mark 1:16-18). If we want to please our LORD, and follow His example, then we must leave-off using our own useless nets. Imitate the ways of our Saviour. Make Him to be the object of our attention, our vision, because without Him, "there is no vision, [and] "the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). But in "looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2), we not only find Our Way, but The Way for others. And we will find that His "free Gift... the Gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, **hath abounded unto many**" (Romans 5:15). The souls of men are the reward of His increase. For if Jesus Christ is the Net with which we use to catch men, then they will be truly and eternally caught!

*"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His **benefits**"*
(Psalm 103:2).

His Promises Are The Threads In His Net

Since faith is the only thing that we can do to please God, for "without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a Rewarder of them that **diligently** seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6), and since our King Jesus honours His Word above **all** of His wonderful Name, "for Thou hast magnified Thy WORD above all Thy Name" (Psalm 138:2), then **there is no more pleasing thing we can do for Him than to believe in the Absolute Strength of His Promise**. And the Absolute Strength of His Promise equals the Absolute Strength that our Net will have as we cast His WORD over the souls of men and He draws them in to Himself.

"Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly,

While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last."*

This Omnipotent Net will never break. He will not lose that which is H(Isaiah "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our LORD" (Romans 8:38-39). If the Promise is Sure, then the Net is Strong, and your confidence Secure. "And this is the **confidence that we have in Him**, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us" (1John 5:14). Thus equipped with an Eternally Strong Net, we now ask, "How do we cast this Wonderfully Strong Net?"

The Net of His Promises: Cast Over the Souls of Men by *Intercession*

The LORD Jesus is **our** Great Intercessor.

- (1John 2:1) "If any man sin, **we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ The Righteous.**"
- (John 14:16) "And I [Jesus] **will pray the Father, and He shall give you** another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever."
- (Romans 8:34) "**It is Christ** that died, yea rather, that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, **Who also maketh intercession for us.**"
- (1Timothy 2:5) "For there is one God, and **one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.**"
- (Jeremiah 2:9) "Wherefore **I will yet plead with you, saith the LORD, and with your children's children will I plead.**"
- (Hebrews 7:25) "Wherefore He [Jesus] is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing **He ever liveth to make intercession for them.**"
- (Hebrews 9:24) "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands... but into Heaven itself, now **to appear in the presence of God for us.**"
- (Psalms 55:22) "**Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.**"
- (1John 2:12) "...your sins are forgiven you **for His Name's sake.**"
- (Isaiah 63:9) "**In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them: in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bare them, and carried them all the days of old.**"

The LORD Jesus understands how often we have failed Him in the past.

- (2Chronicles 16:9) "For the eyes of the LORD **run to and fro throughout the whole Earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him.**"
- (Isaiah 59:16) "And He saw that there was no man, and wondered that **there was no intercessor.**"
- (Isaiah 63:5) "And I looked, and there was **none to help;** and I wondered that there was **none to uphold.**"
- (Philippians 2:20-21) "For I have **no man like-minded,** who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's."
- (Ezekiel 22:30) "And I sought for a man among them, that should **make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before Me for the land,** that I should not destroy it: but **I found none.**"

- (Ezekiel. 13:5) "Ye have not gone up **into the gaps**, neither **made up the hedge** for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the Day of the LORD."
- (Psalms 142:4) "I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was **no man** that would know me... **no man cared** for my soul."
- (Ecclesiastes 4:1) "So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and **they had no comforter**; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; **but they had no comforter.**"

The LORD Jesus needs us in this partnership of intercession.

- (Isaiah 58:6) "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to **loose the bands of wickedness**, to **undo the heavy burdens**, and to **let the oppressed go free**, and **that ye break every yoke?**"
- (Genesis 45:7) "And **God sent me before you to preserve you** a posterity in the Earth, and to **save your lives** by a great deliverance."
- (Isaiah 1:17) "Learn to do well; **seek** judgment, **relieve** the oppressed, **judge** the fatherless, **plead** for the widow."
- (Galatians 4:19) "My little children, of whom **I travail in birth again** until Christ be formed in you."
- (1Corinthians 4:15) "...in Christ Jesus **I have begotten you** through the Gospel."
- (1Corinthians 9:1,19) "...are not **ye my work** in the LORD? ...For though I be free from all men, yet have **I made myself servant unto all**, that I might gain the more."
- (Galatians 6:2) "**Bear ye one another's burdens**, and so fulfil the law of Christ."
- (2Corinthians 4:5) "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the LORD; and **ourselves your servants** for Jesus' sake."
- (Galatians 5:13) "...by love **serve** one another."
- (Psalms 126:5) "They that sow in tears **shall reap in joy.**"
- (Luke 10:34) "And **went to him**, and **bound up** his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and **set him** on his own beast, and **brought him** to an inn, and **took care** of him."
- (Matthew 7:7-8) "**Ask**, and it shall be given you; **seek**, and ye shall find; **knock**, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh **receiveth**; and he that seeketh **findeth**; and to him that knocketh **it shall be opened.**"

Intercession is the act of,

First, putting yourself sacrificially in someone else's situation by having compassion on their physical and spiritual conditions, willingly sacrificing for others: your time, your effort, and pain-- even physical life itself, if Providence dictates-- in like fashion as Jesus did for us. "Greater **love** hath no man than this, that a man **lay down his life** for his friends" (John 15:13).

Second, laying claim to the Promises which will so richly answer the problem. "Let the WORD of Christ **dwell in you richly** in all Wisdom" (Colossians 3:16).

Third, persevering in faith until the petition is answered. "**I will not let thee go**, except Thou bless me" (Genesis 32:26). And,

Fourth, being led by the Spirit of God to those who are "**heirs of Salvation?**" (Hebrews 1:14) and "**elect** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father" (1Peter 1:2).

Putting Yourself Sacrificially In Someone Else's Situation

As the Saviour of a sinning world, our Jesus had to enter this world **in the same way** that those of us who need His help have entered.

- (Romans 1:3) "Concerning His [God the Father's] Son Jesus Christ our LORD, which was **made of the seed of David according to the flesh...**"
- (John 1:14) "And the Word was **made flesh**, and dwelt **among us**."
- (John 18:37) "To this end was I **born**, and for this cause **came I into the world**, that I should bear witness unto the Truth."
- (Galatians 4:4) "God sent forth His Son, **made of a woman**, made under the Law."
- (Philippians 2:7) "But made Himself of **no reputation**, and took upon Him **the form of a servant**, and was **made in the likeness of men**."

As the Saviour of a sinning world, our Jesus **stood in the place** of sinning men-- never sinning Himself, yet bearing sin's penalty for all who did sin.

- (Philippians 2:8) "And being found in fashion as a man, He **humbled Himself**, and **became obedient unto death**, even the death of the Cross."
- (Hebrews 2:14) "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, **He also Himself likewise took part of the same**; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil."

Following his Saviour's example, Paul stood in the place of sinning men when he said,

- (Romans 9:3) "I could wish **that myself were accursed from Christ** for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh."
- (Romans 11:14) "If **by any means I may provoke to emulation** them which are my flesh, and might save some of them."
- (1Corinthians 9:1,19,22) "...are not **ye my work** in the LORD? ...yet have **I made myself servant unto all**, that I might gain the more... To the weak **became I as weak**, that I might gain the weak: **I am made all things to all men**, that I might by all means **save some**."
- (1Corinthians 10:33) "Even as **I please all men in all things**, not seeking mine own profit, but **the profit of many**, that they **may be saved**."

And, even though he preceded the LORD Jesus in the historical timeline of man, Moses knew his Saviour-- and imitated His intercession for others.

- (Exodus 32:31-33) "And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, **blot me, I pray Thee, out of Thy Book** which Thou hast written. And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My Book."

Jesus became one in bonds with those upon whom He had **compassion**.

- (Matthew 25:36) "Naked, and ye clothed **Me**: I was sick, and ye visited **Me**: I was in prison, and ye came unto **Me**."

Again, following his Saviour's example, Paul said,

- (Hebrews 13:3) "Remember them that are in bonds, **as bound with them**; and them which suffer adversity, **as being yourselves also in the body.**"
- (Hebrews 10:34) "For **ye had compassion of me in my bonds**, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods..."
- (Romans 15:1) "We then that are strong **ought to bear** the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves."

And James said,

- (James 2:15-16) "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding **ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?**"

And Jude,

- (Jude 1:22-23) "And **of some have compassion, making a difference**: And others **save with fear, pulling them out of the fire**; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

Laying Claim To The Promises: The Threads In His Net

Of course, be sure you are free of known sin-- coming before the Throne of Grace with a clean heart.

- (2Corinthians 7:1) "Having therefore these Promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from **all filthiness of the flesh and spirit**, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."
- (Psalms 66:18) "If I **regard iniquity in my heart**, the LORD will **not** hear me."
- (James 4:17) "Therefore to him that **knoweth** to do good, and **doeth it not**, to him it is **sin**."
- (2Peter 1:4) "Whereby are given unto us Exceeding Great And Precious Promises: that **by These ye might be partakers of the Divine Nature**, having **escaped the corruption** that is in the world through **lust**."

Once you understand the individual's trouble, you can then ask the LORD for His Wisdom in helping this person. While in prayer, ask the LORD for a Promise that fits the situation.

- (James 1:5) "If any of you lack Wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men **liberally**, and upbraideth not; and **It shall be given** him."

Have the **confidence** in your heart, which faith *will require*, in knowing that **ALL the Promises are available for ANY situation**. ALL the Promises are given to ALL the righteous for application to ALL the people, and ALL the problems, that the Holy Spirit directs you to have intercessory compassion upon.

- (2Corinthians 1:20) "For **all** the Promises of God in Him [Jesus] are **yea**, and in Him **Amen**, unto the glory of God **by us**."
- (2Timothy 3:16-17) "**All Scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and **is profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, **thoroughly furnished** unto **all** good works."
- (Hebrews 8:6) "But now hath He [Jesus Christ] obtained a **more** excellent ministry, by how much also He is The Mediator of a **Better** Covenant, which was established upon **Better** Promises."

Remember: **Faith requires confidence in Jesus Christ, Whose "Name is called The WORD of God"** (Revelation 19:13).

- (1John 5:14-15) "And this is the **confidence** that we have in Him, that, if we ask **any thing according to His will** [and His WORD is His will], **He heareth us**: And if we **know** that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we **know** that we **have the petitions** that we desired of Him."

Persevering In Faith Until The Petition Is Answered

The petition is the request for which you have claimed God's own WORD-- a Promise. The petition is, that He **will do** what **you claimed** His Promise said He would do for the person or problem.

- (Isaiah 45:11) "Thus saith the LORD... Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons, and concerning the work of My hands **command ye Me.**"
- (Psalms 20:5) "The LORD fulfil **all** thy petitions."
- (Acts 27:25) "Be of good cheer: for **I believe God**, that **it shall be** even as **it was told me.**"
- (Jeremiah 12:1) "Righteous art Thou, O LORD, **when I plead with Thee**: yet let me talk with Thee of Thy Judgments."

Persevering in faith, or prevailing in prayer, means that you won't give up faith to receive the desired result. You will "continue in faith" until the LORD does what **He promised** to do!

- (Colossians 1:23) "...**continue in the faith grounded and settled**, and be **not** moved away from **the hope...** which ye have heard, and which was preached..."
- (2Timothy 3:14) "But **continue** thou in the things which thou hast learned and **hast been assured of**, knowing of **whom** thou hast learned them."
- (2Timothy 1:12) "For **I know Whom I have believed**, and am persuaded that **He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him** against that day."
- (Acts 14:22) "**Confirming** the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them **to continue in the faith...**"
- (Colossians 4:2) "**Continue in prayer**, and watch in the same with thanksgiving."

Nothing outside of yourself can stop you-- nothing outside of yourself will stop you-- when your faith is anchored in the Promises made by God. But you can stop your own efforts-- by NOT continuing to believe God!

- (Hebrews 6:12) "That ye **be not slothful**, but followers of them who **through faith and patience** inherit the Promises."
- (Genesis 32:28) "...as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and **hast prevailed.**"
- (Proverbs 12:24) "The hand of the **diligent** shall bear rule."
- (Matthew 11:12) "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and **the violent take it by force.**"
- (Luke 18:5-7) "Yet because this widow **troubleth me**, I will avenge her, lest by her **continual coming** she weary me. And the Lord said, **Hear** what the unjust judge saith. And **shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them?**"
- (Ephesians 6:18) "Praying **always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and **watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication** for all saints."

Being Led By The Spirit To Those Who Are Elect

The LORD expects us to pray for **all** men.

- (1Timothy 2:1) "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for **all** men."

The petition should often be for Christians.

- (Romans 8:27) "He [the Spirit] maketh intercession **for the saints** according to the will of God."
- (Galatians 6:10) "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, **especially** unto them who are of the household of faith."

Inasmuch as, "God so **loved the world**, that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16), He did also say, "I have created the waster **to destroy**" (Isaiah 54:16). It is by the Holy Spirit that we "by reason of use have [our] senses exercised to **discern** both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14). How much of the unsaved world can we claim Salvation for? How wide can our Net be cast?

While it is true that during The Millennium, **all the world** will worship our LORD...

- (Psalms 22:27) "**All the ends of the world** shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and **all the kindreds of the nations** shall worship before Thee."
- (Psalms 67:7) "God shall bless us; and **all the ends of the earth** shall fear Him."

...it is also true, that **before** Christ's Millennium starts, He has shown us that we are **not** to pray for, nor expect, the Salvation of the **entire** world--

- (John 17:9) "I pray for them: I pray **not** for the world, **but for them which Thou hast given Me**; for they are Thine."
- (Mark 16:16) "He that believeth and is baptized **shall be saved**; but he that believeth not **shall be damned**."

Interceding for an individual you know personally gives you an advantage of tailoring the Promises perfectly to the needs of that person.

Example--

- For a **fearful** person: (John 14:27) "**Peace** I leave with you, **My peace** I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. **Let not** your heart be troubled, **neither let it** be afraid."
- For a **lonely** person: (Hebrews 13:5) "He hath said, I will **never leave** thee, **nor forsake** thee."
- For a **sick** person: (Matthew 8:17) "Himself **took** our infirmities, and **bare** our sicknesses."

Interceding for a group complicates the tailoring of the Promises, but can still be easily achieved by the broad range the LORD has provided in many of His general Promises.

- (John 14:13-14) "And **whatsoever** ye shall ask in My Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask **any thing** in My Name, I will do it."
- (John 16:23) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whatsoever** ye shall ask the Father in My Name, He will give it you."
- (Matthew 21:22) "And **all** things, **whatsoever** ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

- (John 15:7) "If ye abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ye shall ask **what ye will**, and it shall be done unto you."
- (Ephesians 3:20) "Now unto Him that is able to do **exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that worketh in us..."
- (Hebrews 4:16) "Let us therefore come **boldly** unto the Throne of Grace, that we may **obtain mercy**, and **find grace** to help in time of need."

How do you know the Holy Spirit is directing you to a certain person or problem?

- (Isaiah 30:21) "And thine ears shall hear a WORD behind thee, saying, **This is The Way, walk ye in it**, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."
- (Proverbs 16:9) "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD **directeth** his ste(Psalms"
- (Proverbs 3:5-6) "Trust in the LORD with **all** thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways **acknowledge Him**, and **He shall direct thy paths.**"

Desires are clues of **who** to pray for, because the LORD Jesus directs His people by Providence, and **righteous desires are Providential.**

Prepared by the LORD--

- (Proverbs 16:1) "The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, **is from the LORD.**"
- (Psalms 33:11) "The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, **the thoughts of His heart** to all generations."
- (Ezra 7:27) "Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, which **hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart...**"
- (Psalms 10:17) "LORD, Thou hast heard the desire of the humble: Thou wilt **prepare their heart**, Thou wilt cause Thine ear to hear."
- (1Chronicles 29:18) "O LORD God... **keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people**, and **prepare their heart** unto Thee."

Secured by the LORD--

- (Psalms 37:4) "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and **He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.**"
- (Proverbs 10:24) "The desire of the righteous **shall be granted.**"
- (Psalms 145:19) "**He will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him**: He also will hear their cry, and will save them."
- (Isaiah 57:19) "**I create** the fruit of the li(Psalms"
- (Psalms 21:2) "Thou hast **given him his heart's desire**, and hast **not withholden** the request of his lips."
- (Proverbs 15:8) "The prayer of the upright **is His delight.**"
- (Proverbs 11:23) "The desire of the righteous is **only good.**"
- (Proverbs 10:28) "The hope of the righteous shall **be gladness.**"

Suggested Ways in Which the Net May Be Cast Over the Elect- A Wide Cast Or, Ideas On How To Use Scripture For Intercession

When you pray, whether its for an individual or a group, take into consideration the Christ-like merits the individual or group may have, which can work for their good. For example, if a person has had a **generous** tendency in their character, then remind the LORD that He said He would reward people according to their works and faith, and ask for a **generous** portion of mercy in their behalf. Perhaps you don't know the person or group well enough to know of any merits to advocate in their behalf, then all you can ask is for a "space to repent" (Revelation 2:21).

- (Revelation 22:12) "And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, **to give every man according as his work shall be.**"
- (1Corinthians 3:8) "every man shall receive his own reward **according to his own labour.**"
- (Matthew 9:29) "Then touched He their eyes, saying, **According to your faith be it unto you.**"
- (Romans 12:3) "think soberly, according as God **hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**"
- (Titus 1:1-3) "**According to the faith of God's elect**, and the acknowledging of the Truth which is after Godliness; in hope of Eternal Life, **which God, that cannot lie, promised** before the world began; but hath in **due times** manifested His Word."

Christ's finished work of Redemption on His Cross is the foundation for the advocacy work He carries on for us. Without the Precious Sacrifice of His Life-Giving Blood we would have no chance, no advocacy floor on which to stand. But since "he that winneth souls is Wise" (Proverbs 11:30) in the Wisdom and Counsel of the WORD, we know that it is the LORD Himself that offers the intercessor the opportunity to plead for the Godless elect-- not "*established*" on the basis of any Christ-like (yet unrepentant) characteristics they may have yielded to in their lives-- but yet, **influenced** by whatever Godly tendencies the person did **allow** in their lives. This is a very generous tool for the LORD to allow us to have in our work of intercession.

- (Nehemiah 13:14,22) "Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done... Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me **according to the greatness of Thy mercy.**"
- (Psalms 106:4) "Remember me, O LORD, with the **favour** that Thou bearest unto Thy people: O **visit me with Thy Salvation.**"
- (Luke 23:42) "And he said unto Jesus, LORD, **remember me** when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom."

The desired goal of our intercession for the unrepentant is that, one day, they will cry out themselves to the LORD, SOLELY on the basis of **His** Character--

- (Psalms 51:1) A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, **after** he had gone in to Bathsheba. "*Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*"
- (Psalms 106:45) "And **He remembered for them** His Covenant, and repented **according to the multitude of His mercies.**"
- (Psalms 109:26) "Help me, O LORD my God: O save me **according to Thy mercy.**"
- (Psalms 119:88) "Quicken me **after Thy lovingkindness**; so shall I keep the Testimony of Thy mouth."
- (Psalms 119:149) "Hear my voice **according unto Thy lovingkindness**: O LORD, quicken me **according to Thy Judgment.**"

A few examples of Scripture-based Intercession--

For the brethren:

- (Ephesians 1:16-19) "Cease not to give thanks for you, **making mention of you in my prayers**; That the God of our LORD Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give unto you the Spirit of Wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him**: The eyes of your understanding **being enlightened**; that ye **may know what is the hope of His calling**, and **what the riches of the glory of His inheritance** in the saints, And **what is the exceeding greatness of His Power to us-ward who believe**, according to **the working of His mighty Power**."
- (Jude 24) "Unto Him that is able **to keep you from falling**, and **to present you faultless** before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy..."
- (2Peter 1:10) "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to **make your calling and election sure**: for if ye do these things, **ye shall never fall**."
- (2Peter 3:17) "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, **beware** lest ye also, **being led away** with the error of the wicked, **fall from your own steadfastness**."

For the Backslider:

- (Ezekiel 17:20) "And **I will spread My Net upon him**, and **he shall be taken in My Snare**, and I will bring him to Babylon, and **will plead with him there** for his trespass that he hath trespassed against Me."
- (Ezekiel 20:35-36) "And **I will bring you into the wilderness** of the people, and **there will I plead with you face to face**. Like as **I pleaded with your fathers** in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, **so will I plead with you, saith the LORD GOD**."
- (Isaiah 1:4,18) "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward... **Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD**: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."
- (Jeremiah 2:19) "**Thine own wickedness shall correct thee**, and **thy backslidings shall reprove thee**: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that My fear is not in thee, saith the LORD GOD of hosts."
- (1Corinthians 5:5) "To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, **that the spirit may be saved** in the Day of the LORD Jesus."
- (Philippians 1:6) "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you **will perform it until the Day of Jesus Christ**."

Salvation for the elect of the world, in general:

- (Acts 16:31) "And they said, Believe on the LORD Jesus Christ, and **thou shalt be saved, and thy house**."
- (Psalms 20:5) "**We will rejoice in thy Salvation**, and in the Name of our God we will set up our banners..."
- (Romans 9:23) "And that He might make known the riches of His glory **on the vessels of mercy**, which He had afore **prepared unto glory**."

For the elect sinner:

- (Psalms 25:8) "Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will He **teach sinners** in the way."

For the elect people on the edge of death:

- (Numbers 23:10) "Let me die the death **of the righteous**, and let my last end **be like his**!"

- (Psalms 48:14) "For **this God is our God** for ever and ever: **He will be our Guide even unto death.**"

For the elect meek:

- (Psalms 25:9) "The meek will He **guide in judgment**: and the meek will He **teach His way.**"

For the elect divisive:

- (Isaiah 29:24) "They also that erred in spirit **shall come to understanding**, and they that murmured **shall learn doctrine.**"

For the elect hopeless:

- (Isaiah 35:8) "And **an highway shall be there, and a way**, and it shall be called The way of holiness..."

For the elect blind-- spiritually blind, as well as physically blind:

- (Isaiah 42:16) "And **I will bring the blind** by a way that they knew not; **I will lead them** in paths that they have not known: **I will make darkness light before them**, and **crooked things straight**. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them."
- (1Peter 2:9) "But **ye are a chosen generation**, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that **ye** should show forth the praises of Him Who hath **called you out of darkness into His marvellous Light.**"

For the elect prisoners:

- (Psalms 107:9-10) "For He **satisfieth the longing soul**, and **fileth the hungry soul** with goodness. Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron."
- (Psalms 146:7) "The LORD **looseth** the prisoners."
- (Isaiah 61:1) "The Spirit of the LORD GOD is upon me... to proclaim **liberty to the captives**, and the **opening of the prison** to them that are bound."

For the Helpful:

- (Genesis 12:3) "And I will **bless them** that bless thee."
- (1Thessalonians 5:13) "And to **esteem them very highly in love** for their work's sake."
- (Psalms 62:12) "O LORD... Thou renderest to every man **according to his work.**"

For the elect descendants of your favorite hymn writers:

- (Isaiah 26:19) "**Awake and sing**, ye that dwell in dust."
- (Psalms 96:1) "O sing unto the LORD a **new** song."

For friendly grocery workers:

- (Psalms 78:19,25) "Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?... Man **did eat angels' food.**"

For a brother:

- (Luke 15:32) "It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this **thy brother was dead, and is alive** again; and **was lost, and is found.**"

For a sister:

- (1Corinthians 9:5) "Have we not **power to lead** about a sister...?"

For your children:

- (Proverbs 22:6) "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, **he will not depart** from it."
- (Psalms 12:7) "Thou shalt **keep them, O LORD**, thou shalt **preserve them from this generation for ever.**"
- (Genesis 18:19) "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and **they shall keep the way of the LORD**, to do justice and judgment."
- (Deuteronomy 6:6-7) "And these words, which I command thee this day, **shall be in thine heart**: and thou shalt teach them **diligently** unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."
- (2Timothy 3:15) "And that **from a child thou hast known** the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee **wise unto Salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

For elect movie stars:

- (Romans 13:7-8) "Render therefore to all their **dues**... Owe no man any thing, but to **love** one another."
- (Acts 3:6) "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have **give I thee: In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up**..."
- (Genesis 22:17) "I will **bless** thee... as the stars of the **heaven**..."

For elect survivors of the Holocaust:

- (Romans 11:5) "Even so then at this present time [by Providence] also there is **a remnant according to the election of grace.**"
- (Job 29:2) "...as in the days when **God preserved me**..."
- (Isaiah 49:6) "...to **restore the preserved** of Israel..."
- (2Corinthians 4:9-10) "Persecuted, but **not forsaken**; cast down, but **not destroyed**; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the LORD Jesus, **that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest** in our body."

For the elect undefiled at the Last Trump:

- (Psalms 119:1) "**Blessed** are the undefiled **in The Way**, who walk in the Law of the LORD."
- (1Peter 1:4-5) "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in Heaven for you**, who are **kept by the power of God through faith unto Salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time."

For the elect worldwide that are in never-ending comas:

- (Isaiah 6:5,7) "...mine eyes **have seen** the King, the LORD of hosts... thine iniquity **is taken away**, and **thy sin purged.**"
- (Psalms 17:15) "As for me, **I will behold Thy face in righteousness**: I shall be satisfied, when I **awake, with Thy likeness.**"

- (1Corinthians 15:34) "**Awake to righteousness.**"
- (Psalms 121:1) "**I will lift up mine eyes** unto the hills, from whence cometh my Help."

For elect war vets that have been preserved in traumatic combat:

- (2Corinthians 7:5-6) "...we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears. Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, **comforted us...**"
- (Psalms 72:14) "He shall **redeem their soul from deceit and violence:** and precious shall their blood be in His sight."

For the elect forgotten old people who have showed mercy in their lives:

- (Matthew 5:7) "Blessed are the merciful: for **they shall obtain mercy.**"
- (Proverbs 16:31) "The hoary head **is a crown of glory**, if it be found in the way of righteousness."
- (Psalms 103:2,4-5) "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits... Who **redeemeth** thy life from destruction; Who **crowneth** thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who **satisfieth** thy mouth with good things; **so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.**"

For the Tribulation Martyrs:

- (Psalms 40:3) "And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: **many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.**"
- (Psalms 22:25) "My praise shall be of Thee **in the great congregation:**"

For a great harvest at the Rapture:

- (Psalms 126:6) "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, **bringing his sheaves with him.**"
- (Exodus 3:21-22) "I will give this people favour... and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, **ye shall not go empty... ye shall spoil** the Egyptians."

That Israel's blindness be lifted:

- (Romans 11:25-27) "That blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so **all Israel shall be saved:** as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is My Covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins."
- (Isaiah 66:8) "Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for **as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.**"
- (Nehemiah 12:43) "They offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for **God had made them rejoice with great joy:** the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off."

Conclusion

Hopefully, there is time left for us to help at least **one** person. There is not much time. But wouldn't it be wonderful if even just **one** person could know and love our LORD? If they could know His generous nature, His tenderness and watchfulness of us. No detail in life is beyond His notice. His ever-present Comforter guides us on all our journey's way. His love for us, proved and tested, showers over us continually, in this life and in the Eternal Heavenly Mansions. His Hand works in all areas to promote us service, for in that way we honour and glorify the Father. But to those who don't know Him, tomorrow holds

uncertainty and fear. "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14).

A Christian's life is not his own. "For to me to live **is Christ**, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies **a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your **reasonable service**" (Romans 12:1). Don't deny "the LORD that **bought**" you-- at the costly price of His own Blood (2Peter 2:1).

A Vision of the Lost

William Booth
(1829 - 1912)
Founder of the Salvation Army

"**On one of my recent journeys**, as I gazed from the coach window, I was led into a train of thought concerning the condition of the multitudes around me. They were living carelessly in the most open and shameless rebellion against God, without a thought for their eternal welfare. As I looked out of the window, I seemed to see them all... millions of people all around me given up to their drink and their pleasure, their dancing and their music, their business and their anxieties, their politics and their troubles. Ignorant- willfully ignorant in many cases- and in other instances knowing all about the truth and not caring at all. But all of them, the whole mass of them, sweeping on and up in their blasphemies and devilries to the Throne of God. While my mind was thus engaged, I had a vision.

I saw a dark and stormy ocean. Over it the black clouds hung heavily; through them every now and then vivid lightning flashed and loud thunder rolled, while the winds moaned, and the waves rose and foamed, towered and broke, only to rise and foam, tower and break again.

In that ocean I thought I saw myriads of poor human beings plunging and floating, shouting and shrieking, cursing and struggling and drowning; and as they cursed and screamed they rose and shrieked again, and then some sank to rise no more.

And I saw out of this dark angry ocean, a mighty rock that rose up with its summit towering high above the black clouds that overhung the stormy sea. And all around the base of this great rock I saw a vast platform. Onto this platform, I saw with delight a number of the poor struggling, drowning wretches continually climbing out of the angry ocean. And I saw that a few of those who were already safe on the platform were helping the poor creatures still in the angry waters to reach the place of safety.

On looking more closely I found a number of those who had been rescued, industriously working and scheming by ladders, ropes, boats and other means more effective, to deliver the poor strugglers out of the sea. Here and there were some who actually jumped into the water, regardless of the consequences in their passion to 'rescue the perishing.' And I hardly know which gladdened me the most- the sight of the poor drowning people climbing onto the rocks reaching a place of safety, or the devotion and self-sacrifice of those whose whole being was wrapped up in the effort for their deliverance.

As I looked on, I saw that the occupants of that platform were quite a mixed company. That is, they were divided into different 'sets' or classes, and they occupied themselves with different pleasures and employments. But only a very few of them seemed to make it their business to get the people out of the sea.

But what puzzled me most was the fact that though all of them had been rescued at one time or another from the ocean, nearly everyone seemed to have forgotten all about it. Anyway, it seemed the memory of its darkness and danger no longer troubled them at all. And what seemed equally strange and perplexing to me was that these people did not even seem to have any care- that is any agonizing care- about the poor perishing ones who were struggling and drowning right before their very eyes... many of whom were their own husbands and wives, brothers and sisters and even their own children.

Now this astonishing unconcern could not have been the result of ignorance or lack of knowledge, because they lived right there in full sight of it all and even talked about it sometimes. Many even went regularly to hear lectures and sermons in which the awful state of these poor drowning creatures was described.

I have always said that the occupants of this platform were engaged in different pursuits and pastimes. Some

of them were absorbed day and night in trading and business in order to make gain, storing up their savings in boxes, safes and the like.

Many spent their time in amusing themselves with growing flowers on the side of the rock, others in painting pieces of cloth or in playing music, or in dressing themselves up in different styles and walking about to be admired. Some occupied themselves chiefly in eating and drinking, others were taken up with arguing about the poor drowning creatures that had already been rescued.

But the thing to me that seemed the most amazing was that those on the platform to whom He called, who heard His voice and felt that they ought to obey it- at least they said they did- those who confessed to love Him much were in full sympathy with Him in the task He had undertaken- who worshipped Him or who professed to do so- were so taken up with their trades and professions, their money saving and pleasures, their families and circles, their religions and arguments about it, and their preparation for going to the mainland, that they did not listen to the cry that came to them from this Wonderful Being who had Himself gone down into the sea. Anyway, if they heard it they did not heed it. They did not care. And so the multitude went on right before them struggling and shrieking and drowning in the darkness.

And then I saw something that seemed to me even more strange than anything that had gone on before in this strange vision. I saw that some of these people on the platform whom this Wonderful Being had called to, wanting them to come and help Him in His difficult task of saving these perishing creatures, were always praying and crying out to Him to come to them!

Some wanted Him to come and stay with them, and spend His time and strength in making them happier. Others wanted Him to come and take away various doubts and misgivings they had concerning the truth of some letters He had written them. Some wanted Him to come and make them feel more secure on the rock- so secure that they would be quite sure that they should never slip off again into the ocean. Numbers of others wanted Him to make them feel quite certain that they would really get off the rock and onto the mainland someday: because as a matter of fact, it was well known that some had walked so carelessly as to lose their footing, and had fallen back again into the stormy waters.

So these people used to meet and get up as high on the rock as they could, and looking towards the mainland (where they thought the Great Being was) they would cry out, 'Come to us! Come and help us!' And all the while He was down (by His Spirit) among the poor struggling, drowning creatures in the angry deep, with His arms around them trying to drag them out, and looking up- oh! so longingly but all in vain- to those on the rock, crying to them with His voice all hoarse from calling, 'Come to Me! Come, and help Me!

And then I understood it all. It was plain enough. The sea was the ocean of life- the sea of real, actual human existence. That lightening was the gleaming of piercing truth coming from Jehovah's Throne. That thunder was the distant echoing of the wrath of God. Those multitudes of people shrieking, struggling and agonizing in the stormy sea, was the thousands and thousands of poor harlots and harlot-makers, of drunkards and drunkard makers, of thieves, liars, blasphemers and ungodly people of every kindred, tongue and nation.

Oh what a black sea it was! And oh, what multitudes of rich and poor, ignorant and educated were there. They were all so unlike in their outward circumstances and conditions, yet all alike in one thing- all sinners before God- all held by, and holding onto, some iniquity, fascinated by some idol, the slaves of some devilish lust, and ruled by the foul fiend from the bottomless pit!

'All alike in one thing?' No, all alike in two things- not only the same in their wickedness but, unless rescued, the same in their sinking, sinking... down, down, down... to the same terrible doom. That great sheltering rock represented Calvary, the place where Jesus had died for them. And the people on it were those who had been rescued. The way they used their energies, gifts and time represented the occupations and amusements of those who professed to be saved from sin and hell- followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. The handful of fierce, determined ones, who were risking their own lives in saving the perishing were true soldiers of the cross of Jesus. That Mighty Being who was calling to them from the midst of the angry waters was the Son of God, 'the same yesterday, today and forever' who is still struggling and interceding to save the dying multitudes about us from this terrible doom of damnation, and whose voice can be heard above the music, machinery, and noise of life, calling on the rescued to come and help Him save the world.

My friends in Christ, you are rescued from the waters, you are on the rock, He is in the dark sea calling on you to come to Him and help Him. Will you go? Look for yourselves. The surging sea of life, crowded with

perishing multitudes rolls up to the very spot on which you stand. Leaving the vision, I now come to speak of the fact- a fact that is as real as the Bible, as real as the Christ who hung upon the cross, as real as the judgment day will be, and as real as the heaven and hell that will follow it.

Look! Don't be deceived by appearances- men and things are not what they seem. All who are not on the rock are in the sea! Look at them from the standpoint of the great White Throne, and what a sight you have! Jesus Christ, the Son of God is, through His Spirit, in the midst of this dying multitude, struggling to save them. And He is calling on you to jump into the sea- to go right away to His side and help Him in the holy strife. Will you jump? That is, will you go to His feet and place yourself absolutely at His disposal?

A young Christian once came to me, and told me that for some time she had been giving the Lord her profession and prayers and money, but now she wanted to give Him her life. She wanted to go right into the fight. In other words, she wanted to go to His assistance in the sea. As when a man from the shore, seeing another struggling in the water, takes off those outer garments that would hinder his efforts and leaps to the rescue, so will you who still linger on the bank, thinking and singing and praying about the poor perishing souls, lay aside your shame, your pride, your cares about other people's opinions, your love of ease and all the selfish loves that have kept you back for so long, and rush to the rescue of this multitude of dying men and women.

Does the surging sea look dark and dangerous? Unquestionably it is so. There is no doubt that the leap for you, as for everyone who takes it, means difficulty and scorn and suffering. For you it may mean more than th(Isaiah It may mean death. He who beckons you from the sea however, knows what it will mean - and knowing, He still calls to you and bids to you to come.

You must do it! You cannot hold back. You have enjoyed yourself in Christianity long enough. You have had pleasant feelings, pleasant songs, pleasant meetings, pleasant prospects. There has been much of human happiness, much clapping of hands and shouting of praises- very much of heaven on earth.

Now then, go to God and tell Him you are prepared as much as necessary to turn your back upon it all, and that you are willing to spend the rest of your days struggling in the midst of these perishing multitudes, whatever it may cost you.

You must do it. With the light that is now broken in upon your mind and the call that is now sounding in your ears, and the beckoning hands that are now before your eyes, you have no alternative. To go down among the perishing crowds is your duty. Your happiness from now on will consist in sharing their misery, your ease in sharing their pain, your crown in helping them to bear their cross, and your heaven in going into the very jaws of hell to rescue them.

Now what will you do?" --William Booth

If you see it in His WORD,
then **He was the One** who revealed it to you.
If you desire it as a result of His WORD,
then **He was the One** who put it in your heart.
For, "Every **good** gift and every **perfect** gift is from Above,
and cometh down **from the Father of Lights**"
(James 1:17).

*--from [Jesus, Lover of My Soul](http://www.jesusloverofmysoul.com),
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Exceeding Great and Precious Promises

Or, How God Has Ingeniously Designed His Promises to Sanctify His People

"Whereby are given unto us Exceeding Great and Precious Promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine Nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust"

(2Peter 1:4).

by Tom Stewart

Preface

Who but God could have been so clever as to design His Promises to have the sanctifying effect of transforming the Believer into the image of the Only Begotten Son of God? Every Believer has been predestinated to be like the Son. "For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son" (Romans 8:29). Sanctification is the process of becoming more and more like Jesus. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen" (2Peter 3:18). Our day-to-day needs have been ordained by God to cause us the necessity of discovering some new aspect of the character of the LORD Jesus that we may lay hold of by means of the Exceeding Great and Precious Promises. "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Only Faith Can Receive the Promises

Faith is the only thing that man can do to please God. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). Rees Howells, a Welsh coal miner who exemplified intercessory prayer, understood that need to please God and recorded: "Faith Is Substance". "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). God requires man to live by faith. "The just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him" (Hebrews 10:38).

All men have a moral likeness to their Creator. That likeness means the ability to make a moral decision of choosing or rejecting good or evil. "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them" (Genesis 1:27). No, that does not make one a child of God without repentance and faith. "Repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). But, even with this God-given capacity of every man to choose or reject God, man never does what he should without the gracious intervention of God. "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the Truth" (2Timothy 2:25).

Our claiming of the Promises only occurs with the continual help of God. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). In this fashion, God rightly demands us to exercise faith in our own salvation and sanctification, while giving us His help freely, as a Father to a child, to ensure our likeness to the Only Begotten Son. "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed" (Romans 4:16). Through Jesus "we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand" (Romans 5:2).

The Veracity of God

A promise assumes the veracity and ability of the one who makes the promise to keep it. "For when God made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, He sware by Himself" (Hebrews 6:13). What is Scripture but the account of a Faithful God dealing with man? "For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of His Counsel, confirmed it by an Oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us" (Hebrews 6:16-18).

What "two immutable things" are meant by Hebrews 6:18? God's "Counsel" and "Oath" (6:17) are the "two immutable things" intended. God's Counsel is the "Thus saith the LORD" (Isaiah 7:7) of the prophets. God's Counsel is the right advice. "There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the Counsel of the LORD, that shall stand" (Proverbs 19:21). God's Counsel is the leading that comes from the Spirit of Counsel and Might (Isaiah 11:2). God's purpose is to work "all things after the Counsel of His own will" (Ephesians 1:11).

God's "Oath" (Hebrews 6:17) is His confirmation that His counsel will come to pass. "By Myself have I sworn, saith the LORD" (Genesis 22:16). Man's oath is questionable, but God's Oath is certain. "God is not a man, that He should lie; neither

the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19).

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that **cannot** lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2). God cannot lie because He has **chosen** not to lie. "The Strength of Israel **will not** lie nor repent" (1Samuel 15:29). God is what He is because He has chosen to be so, not because someone else caused Him to be that way. "I am He: before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me" (Isaiah 43:10). Thus, He is what He has chosen to be, and deserves the greatest honor and credit for being the Faithful God. "Know therefore that the LORD thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth Covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His Commandments to a thousand generations" (Deuteronomy 7:9).

The Cooperation of Man

God's Promises are checks drawn on the Bank of Heaven, backed by the unlimited resources of God. "Prove Me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10). The Father has made the deposit. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son" (John 3:16). His authorizing signature is His Word. "For all the Promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen" (2Corinthians 1:20). The amount of the check is the Kingly sum of "According to Your Faith" (Matthew 9:29).

Your name has been carefully included on the line, "Pay to the Order of". To ensure no difficulty in your cashing of the check, our Loving Heavenly Father has written your name as "Whosoever Will"-- "whosoever will, let him take the Water of Life freely" (Revelation 22:17). All that remains is your cooperation, in endorsing your signature on the back of the check, to tell the Bank that you have accepted the check. This can only be done by faith. "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24).

What hinders us from claiming the Promises of God? The absence of faith. Sometimes we refuse to believe what God has said-- for whatever selfish reason. That is sin. "Afterward He appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen Him after He was risen" (Mark 16:14). Other times, we simply lack the faith to honestly believe because we do not understand the Promise. "If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will He clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:28-32).

After we have claimed the Promises, we may falter because we become impatient. That too, is sin. "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (James 1:2-4). Gaining from God the very thing we desired and for which we prayed the Promises, has the added benefit of God perfecting us to be more like the LORD Jesus.

Although faith is the condition of all of God's Promises, our reception of His Promises is usually based upon some specifically stated condition. For instance, we have been promised prosperity and success, but on the condition that we abide in the Word of God. "This Book of the Law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Joshua 1:8). We have been promised a secure and happy family, but on the condition of fearing (i.e., reverently trusting) God. "Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD" (Psalm 128:3-4). We have been promised escape from the Tribulation Week (as understood from Daniel 9 and Matthew 24), but on the condition of our continual watching and praying that we would be accounted worthy to escape. "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36). The examples are endless.

God Has Always Kept His Promises

Even when the consequences are negative, God has always kept His Word. With all the love that He lavished upon our original parents in their Edenic Paradise, it must have truly pained Him to cause death to fall upon Adam and Eve after they ate the Forbidden Fruit. "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17).

Noah "being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house" (Hebrews 11:7). Jehovah said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth" (Genesis 6:7) because He "looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt" (Genesis 6:12). He promised Noah the delay of 120 years before the Flood would come, which was enough time to build the Ark. "And the LORD said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years" (Genesis 6:3). Noah fulfilled the conditions of God's promised deliverance from the coming Flood, by building the Ark.

The Promised Land is Israel. It received that name from the fact that the LORD promised Abraham "all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession" (Genesis 17:8). Though Abraham was promised to possess all the land on which he dwelled, he was still only "a stranger and a sojourner" (Genesis 23:41) as far as the practical ownership of the land was concerned. "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise" (Hebrews 11:8-9).

What motivated Abraham to continue living as a stranger in the land that God had promised him as a possession? "He looked for a City which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10). Abraham looked for an eternal dwelling with his God. "But now they desire a better country, that is, an Heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a City" (Hebrews 11:16). Abraham was looking for what the Apostle John called the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2). In other words, Abraham was patient about receiving the Promised Land from God because He was motivated by the higher desire to dwell with God forever.

Rahab is another excellent example of how God has kept His Promises. "By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace" (Hebrews 11:31). She perished not with the inhabitants of Jericho because she believed the promise God had given her through Joshua's two spies. "And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee" (Joshua 2:14). Rahab had a further condition to fulfill in addition to her silence about the whereabouts of the two spies. She was to bind a line of scarlet thread in the window of her room on the walls of Jericho, where she and her father, mother, brothers, and her father's household would be protected from Jericho's sure destruction. "Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him. And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear. And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window" (Joshua 2:18-21).

Because Rahab fulfilled the conditions for her promised preservation, she not only received her life in the bargain, but was one of the direct ancestors of King David and the LORD Jesus Christ. "And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse" (Matthew 1:5). Truly our God is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the Power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20). Thank God for the faith of Rahab!

God is Keeping His Promises

Our certainty about trusting the Promises of God is founded upon the character of God Himself. "For I am the LORD, I change not" (Malachi 3:6). Also, consider the fact that we can only stand on the Promises in the present tense. It is appropriate to say that we have stood on the Promises in the past and will stand upon them in the future, but only today can we say that we are Standing on the Promises of God. "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe [present tense] that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24).

If we cannot have a present victory in our dependance on the Promises of God, the past and the future lose significance. May we be as presently optimistic as Brother Paul when he announced to his fellow lost-at-sea shipmates their certain deliverance. "Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me" (Acts 27:25).

If God is presently sustaining us, then we have confidence in God. "But Christ as a Son over His own house; Whose house are we, **if** we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope **firm unto the end**" (Hebrews 3:6). Walking by faith, claiming the Promises, and believing God, all describe confidence in God. "For we are made partakers of Christ, **if** we hold the beginning of our confidence **stedfast unto the end**" (3:14). Pray that God will give us a strong grip on Himself. "Thy God hath commanded thy strength: strengthen, O God, that which Thou hast wrought for us" (Psalm 68:28). What a wonderful prayer that God will most willingly grant! "O God, strengthen my hands" (Nehemiah 6:9).

Can we lose our reward? Most certainly. "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward" (2John 8). Our confidence in God and in His Promises has great reward. "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward" (Hebrews 10:35). When we backslide from the LORD, we lose ground from where we were previously standing. "For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer" (Hosea 4:16). We need Promises from God to ensure our continual cleaving to His Promises! "I have stuck unto Thy Testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame" (Psalm 119:31). "He will keep the feet of His saints" (1Samuel 2:9). "Preserve me, O God: for in Thee do I put my trust" (Psalm 16:1).

Confidence in God and His Promises is essential for those who wait for the soon coming of the LORD. "And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming" (1John 2:28). How can we await an appointed time of departure from this earthly abode without confidence in God? "And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation" (Isaiah 25:9).

The certainty that we will leave in a Pre-Tribulational Rapture before the Tribulation Week begins is founded upon the LORD Jesus' promise and admonition to watch and pray that we would be accounted worthy to escape ALL things that shall come to pass. "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36). The promise of our LORD coming to take us before the Tribulation Week begins is further founded upon our confidence that He is able to subdue us to Himself. How could we be ready otherwise? "For our conversation is in Heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the LORD Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself" (Philippians 3:20-21). What an ecstatic relieving of a great burden will our departure be! "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (1Corinthians 2:9).

A present tense confidence in God and His Promises is **necessary** for our prayers to be answered. "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him" (1John 5:14-15). The mighty men of faith and prayer of the past such as George Muller and Hudson Taylor have taught the Church to expect great things from God-- and to attempt great things for God. "Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it" (Psalm 81:10). They will be waiting in Heaven with the Saviour to welcome us as soldiers of the Promises, who have come home. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2Timothy 4:7).

God Will Surely Keep His Prophecies

What else is a prophecy than God's promise of what He said will happen in the future? "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My Counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure" (Isaiah 46:10). The Immutability of God assures us that He will most assuredly perform all of His promised prophecies. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

God's Promises are to prevent us from taking anxious thought about the future. "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Matthew 6:34). But why should we be so unconcerned about the evil that could befall us tomorrow? Because our God is demonstrating His sustaining power through His Promises toward us today. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

How could we be in a state of Spiritual readiness as Wise Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13), if we are in an anxious state of fear, doubt, and perplexity concerning our immediate circumstances? "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (1John 4:18). By intelligent and thoughtful use of the Promises, cast all of your cares upon the LORD. "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you" (1Peter 5:7). Your faith in God honors Him, and He will likewise honor you with the fulfillment of His Promises in answer to your prayers. "Them that honour Me [the LORD God of Israel] I will honour" (1Samuel 2:30).

What has the LORD promised about the future? He has promised eternal happiness for His people. "Blessed are they that do His Commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the City" (Revelation 22:14). The wicked are promised eternal suffering. "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:30).

Those who are walking in righteousness are promised to be delivered from the upcoming Tribulation Week, while the backslidden and the wicked will not escape it. "The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead" (Proverbs 11:8). The Foolish Virgins (i.e., the backslidden) who enter into the Tribulation Week are promised to be refined by their experience. "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience" (Romans 5:3).

Israel is promised to return to Jehovah at the Second Coming of the LORD Jesus Christ. "Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children" (Isaiah 66:8). The Apostle Paul's heart desire for Israel will finally be realized. "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved" (Romans 10:1). All Israel is promised to be finally saved. "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob" (Romans 11:26).

Conclusion

A promise need not start with an "If" to be a promise. Your faith is the understood condition of all of the Promises of God. "And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform" (Romans 4:21). Further, anything from God's Word that you can reverently fashion into a promise from God without diminishing the rest of Scripture-- for "the Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35)-- is yours. "Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours" (1Corinthians 3:21). Ours is the God who has promised us Heaven. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10). He only awaits the prayerful cry of His children to meet their every need. "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3).

Since God has designed man from the "dust of the ground" (Genesis 2:7) and not as the Angels, we have our own unique problems and necessities. "Thou madest him a little lower than the angels" (Hebrews 2:7). Adam and Eve's sin has tainted all except the moral agency of man, which is the "image of God" (Genesis 1:27). That moral agency-- the capacity to choose between right and wrong-- is practically all that separates man from the animals, for they also were formed from the dust of the ground. "And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field" (Genesis 2:19). However, that moral agency is the avenue by which we have the glorious opportunity of being elevated to the Throne of God by His Exceeding Great and Precious Promises. "Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and His Maker, Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons, and concerning the work of My hands command ye Me" (Isaiah 45:11).

Confidence in the Promises of God is another way of saying confidence in God. After all, God is as good as His Word because He is His Word. "His name is called The Word of God" (Revelation 19:13). Our confidence in God binds us to Him by faith. "The just shall live by faith" (Galatians 3:11). Our Creator, who has become our Saviour, is also our Sanctifier. "But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1Corinthians 1:30). Truly, the LORD Jesus Christ is unto us "all things that pertain unto life and godliness" (2Peter 1:3). Our access to all of His divine attributes is through the "Exceeding Great and Precious Promises" (1:4). The result of the Promises is as complete of a union of God's people with Himself as Divinely possible. "And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be All in all" (1Corinthians 15:28).

THE POWER of PERSEVERING PRAYER

BY THE
REV. ANDREW MURRAY

And the Lord said, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint..."

There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:1-8)

Of all the mysteries of the prayer world the need of persevering prayer is one of the greatest. That the Lord, who is so loving and longing to bless, should have to be asked, time after time, sometimes year after year, before the answer comes, we cannot easily understand. It is also one of the greatest practical difficulties in the exercise of believing prayer. When, after persevering pleading, our prayer remains unanswered, it is often easiest for our lazy flesh, and it has all the appearance of pious submission, to think that we must now cease praying, because God may have His secret reason for withholding His answer to our request. It is by faith alone that the difficulty is overcome. When once faith has taken its stand on God's word and the Name of Jesus, and has yielded itself to the leading of the Spirit to seek God's will and honor alone in its prayer, it need not be discouraged by delay. It knows from Scripture that the power of believing prayer is simply irresistible; real faith can never be disappointed. It knows that just as water, to exercise the irresistible power it can have, must be gathered up and accumulated until the stream can come down in full force, so there must often be a heaping up of prayer until God sees that the measure is full, when the answer comes. It knows that just as the peasant farmer has to take his ten thousand steps to sow his tens of thousands seeds, each one a part of the preparation for the final harvest, so there is a need for often repeated persevering prayer, all working out some desired blessing. It knows for certain that not a single believing prayer can fail of its effect in heaven, but has its influence, and is treasured up to work out an answer in due time to him who perseveres to the end. It knows that it has to do, not with human thoughts or possibilities, but with the word of the living God. And so, even as Abraham through so many years "who against hope believed in hope" (Romans 4:18), and then "followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (Hebrews 6:12)

To enable us, when the answer to our prayer does not come at once, to combine quiet patience and joyful confidence in our persevering prayer, we must especially try to understand the words in which our Lord sets forth the character and conduct, not of the unjust judge, but of our God and Father, toward those whom He allows to cry day and night to Him: "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily." (Luke 18:8)

He will avenge them quickly, the Master says. The blessing is all prepared; He is not only willing, but most anxious, to give them what they ask; everlasting love burns with the longing desire to reveal itself fully to its beloved and to satisfy their needs. God will not delay one moment longer than is absolutely necessary; He will do all in His power to expedite and rush the answer.

But why, if this is true and His power is infinite, does it often take so long for the answer to prayer to come? And why must God's own elect so often, in the middle of suffering and conflict, cry day and night? He is waiting patiently while He listens to them. "Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain." (James 5:7) The farmer does, indeed, long for his harvest, but knows that it must have its full amount of sunshine and rain, and he has long patience. A child so often wants to pick the half-ripe fruit; the farmer knows how to wait until the proper time. Man, in his spiritual nature too, is under the law of gradual growth that reigns in all created life. It is only in the path of development that he can reach his divine destiny. And it is the Father, in whose hand are the times and seasons, who knows the moment when the soul or the Church is ripened to that fullness of faith in which it can really take and keep the blessing. Like a father who longs to have his only child home from school, and yet waits patiently until the time of training is completed, so it is with God and His children: He is the patient One, and answers quickly.

The insight into this truth leads the believer to cultivate the corresponding dispositions: patience and faith, waiting and anticipating, are the secret of his perseverance. By faith in the promise of God, we know that we have the petitions we have asked of Him. Faith takes and holds the answer in the promise as an unseen spiritual possession, rejoices in it, and praises for it. But there is a difference between the faith that thus holds the word and knows that it has the answer and the clearer, fuller, riper faith that obtains the promise as a present experience. It is in persevering, not unbelieving, but confident and praising prayer, that the soul grows up into that full union with its Lord in which it can enter upon the possession of the blessing in Him. There may be in these around us, there may be in that great system of being of which we are part, there may be in God's government, things that have to be put right through our prayer before the answer can fully come: the faith that has, according to the command, believed that it has received, can allow God to take His time; it knows it has prevailed and must prevail. In quiet, persistent, and determined perseverance it continues in prayer and thanksgiving until the blessing comes. And so we see combined what at first sight appears contradictory--the faith that rejoices in the answer of the unseen God as a present possession and the patience that cries day and night until it be revealed. The quickness of God's patience is met by the triumphant but patient faith of His waiting child.

Our great danger, in this school of the answer delayed, is the temptation to think that, after all, it may not be God's will to give us what we ask. If our prayer be according to God's word, and under the leading of the Spirit, let us not give way to these fears. Let us learn to give God time. God needs time with us. If only we give Him time, that is, time in the daily fellowship with Himself, for Him to exercise the full influence of His presence on us, and time, day by day, in the course of our being kept waiting, for faith to prove its reality and to fill our whole being, He Himself will lead us from faith to vision; we shall see the glory of God. Let no delay shake our faith. Of faith it holds good: first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear. Each believing prayer brings a step nearer the final victory. Each believing prayer helps to ripen the fruit and bring us nearer to it; it fills up the measure of prayer and faith known to God alone; it conquers the hindrances in the unseen world; it hastens the end. Child of God, give the Father time. He is patiently listening to you. He wants the blessing to be rich, and full, and sure; give Him time, while you cry day and night. Only remember the word: "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily." (Luke 18:8)

The blessing of such persevering prayer is unspeakable. There is nothing so heart-searching as the prayer of faith. It teaches you to discover and confess, and to give up everything that hinders the coming of the blessing, everything there may not be in accordance with the Father's will. It leads to closer fellowship with Him who alone can teach us to pray, to a more entire surrender to draw near under no covering but that of the blood and the Spirit. It calls for a closer and more simple abiding in Christ alone. Christian, give God time. He will perfect that which concerns you.

Let it be thus whether you pray for yourself or for others. All labor, bodily or mental, needs time and effort: we must give up ourselves up to it. Nature discovers her secrets and yields her treasures only to diligent and thoughtful labor. However little we can understand it, in the spiritual farming it is the same: the seed we sow in the soil of heaven, the efforts we put forth, and the influence we seek to exert in the world above, need our whole being: we must give ourselves to prayer. But let us hold firm the great confidence that in due season we will reap if we don't give up.

And let us especially learn the lesson as we pray for the Christ's Church. She is, indeed, like the poor widow, in the absence of her Lord, apparently at the mercy of her adversary, helpless to obtain restitution. Let us, when we pray for His Church or any portion of it, under the power of the world, asking Him to visit her with the mighty workings of His Spirit and to prepare her for His coming-- let us pray in the assured faith: prayer does help, praying always and not stopping will bring the answer. Only give God time. And then keep crying out day and night. "And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them?" (Luke 18:6-7).

Every One That Is Born of the Spirit

"The wind bloweth where it listeth." The wind has great liberty to go where it wants. It sweeps through the fields and over the tops of mountains. As it skims the water's surface it also cuts deep into the forests, reaching all nooks and crannies. It blows with all the power of The Almighty's blast or the softness of His whisper, influencing great and small, rich and poor, old and young.

"Thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth." The wind totally encompasses man with a tremendous roar, as from a bolting train, but yet is totally unable to determine its motivation, its cyclical beginning from its ending, its top from its bottom. overpowered by it, yet unable to hold it.

"so is every one that is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8).

by Katie Stewart

"There are Three that bear Record in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these Three are One" (1John 5:7). The Omnipotent Holy Wind, God's Spirit, abides ONLY in the person who PRESENTLY OBEYS God. "The Holy Ghost, Whom God hath given to them that obey (present tense) Him" (Acts 5:32). The obedient child of God and the Holy Spirit of the Father function in unity-- One with the Father and with the Son. "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me [the Son], and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us" (John 17:21). We are given to the Son by the Father. "Holy Father, keep through Thine Own Name those whom Thou hast given Me [the Son], that they may be one, as We are" (John 17:11). We are, by the Spirit, to "speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among [us]; but that [we] be perfectly

joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1Corinthians 1:10).

To be "born of the Spirit", Who "bloweth where [He] listeth", is to be "one" with Him. To be "one" with Him "in the same mind and in the same judgment" is to be "one" with Him in character and purpose. Therefore, "so is every one that is born of the Spirit." "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:6) to share His motives in where and why He "bloweth". The world can't see Him, can't understand Him, can't know Him. But He has not been "given" to them. "The Spirit of Truth; Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:17). The obedient children of Abba, through intercession, "bloweth where [He] listeth", having great liberty to go where He desires, sweeping through fields and over mountain tops, skimming the water's surface and cutting deep into forests, nooks and crannies, enabled with all the Power of The Almighty's blast or with the softness of His whisper, influencing great and small, rich and poor, old and young. The world "hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence [He] cometh, and whither [He] goeth", though they are totally surrounded by His tremendous roar, as from a bolting train, they are yet totally unable to determine His motivation, His cyclical beginning from ending, His top from His bottom. They are overpowered by Him, yet unable to hold Him. But He has not been "given to them". "The Holy Ghost, Whom God hath given to them that obey Him" are the ones who "know Him; for He dwelleth with [them], and shall be in [them]." "That [they] be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment", "perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2Corinthians 7:1). "So is every one that is born of the Spirit."

- Romans 8:26 "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit Itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."
- John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you Another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever."
- Romans 8:15-16 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit Of Adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."
- Ephesians 6:18 "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."
- 1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are Spiritually discerned."
- 1 John 4:6 "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the Spirit of Truth, and the spirit of error."

Be Not Discouraged In Prayer... Even For the Impossible!

by Amanda Collin
with excerpt by Dr. Andrew Murray (1828-1917)

"And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27). No one understood this better than Andrew Murray. His life was filled with the impossible. In the space of 59 years he wrote approximately 240 books-- some of which have been translated into as many as 15 languages. He labored tirelessly to benefit you and me-- members of the Body of Christ. He wrote to teach us, to comfort us, to exhort us, and to encourage us. And when it comes to praying for the impossible, we need all the encouragement we can get.

Nothing on this earthly sphere is as beautiful as a heart that is pliable and sensitive to the Spirit of God. "O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before Him, all the Earth" (Psalm 96:9). However, nothing is as hard and unbending as a heart that refuses to surrender to the Living God that created it. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings" (Jeremiah 17:9-10).

Discouragement in prayer comes in many forms. For those of us who have family members who profess Christ and do not bear the fruit of a Christian life, it is not a hard thing to be discouraged that they will ever repent of their backslidings. Sometimes, this seems an impossible prayer. "I am so helpless," you think, "I've said all I know how to say to them. I was even in tears, pleading with them to see the truth and to repent before it's too late. It's impossible!"

Here's what Andrew Murray had to say on this subject (excerpt from his book, "State of the Church"):

"Do we not know that throughout Scripture a chief element of faith in God is a sense of powerlessness and utter helplessness? I want to speak here on the place faith must have if we are to obtain that deep, intense, living vitality which we are longing for. If we are to appropriate the words, 'Fear not, only believe,' as really spoken by our Lord to ourselves, we must note well the attitude of the man to whom they were first given.

Jairus was in great trouble. His little daughter was at the point of death. He fell at Christ's feet and begged Him to come and lay His hand on her. Jesus went with him. But all at once there was an interruption by a woman who touched the hem of Christ's garment. Jairus began to fear that they might arrive too late. His worst fears were realized. A messenger met them, saying, 'Your daughter is dead; why trouble the Master any further?' It was to such a man in his deep distress, now brought to utter hopelessness, that Christ spoke the words: 'Fear not, only believe.' The soil had been broken deeply; the heart was prepared to believe. Christ's precious words entered in and took possession. If we are bearing the burden of a dead or a dying church, if we are going to take part in the work of rousing her and lifting her up into abundant life in Christ, we need a word like this. It will bring us the joyous assurance, day by day, that Christ is with us, that He will work through us, and that we can count upon Him to give the blessing.

But we must take the place that Jairus did, falling at Jesus' feet, pleading with Him intensely, graciously, and mightily to do something. Even when the word comes, 'There is no hope, death reigns, all our efforts are in vain,' we are still to be of good cheer and hold on to His word. 'Fear not, only believe' must be our watchword. But only, I say it once again, only to the man who waits at Christ's feet in prayer and looks to Him alone. There we shall learn that throughout all Scripture it is faith, in the midst of seeming impossibility, that waits and claims the fulfillment of the promise.

Think of Abraham, 'who waxed strong through faith, giving glory to God, being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform.' It is as we persevere in prayer and take hold of definite promises, and beseech Him greatly to fulfill them, that we shall, in spite of every obstacle, hold fast our confidence to the end. We may find that as time goes on, as the insight into the deadly state of the Church grows deeper, and as experience teaches us how very hard it is to rouse Christians to the full meaning of, and full surrender to, the claims of Christ, our hearts will often fail us for fear and grow faint. But if we have made our covenant with Christ that we dare not go back, and are determined to hold on, we shall find that just one word from our Lord hidden in the heart, and lived on day by day, will give strength in time of greatest darkness.

Just think of the Words of Christ in a situation that appeared to man, to be impossible. He had said of the young ruler, 'How hard it is for the rich to enter heaven.' The disciples had said, 'Who then can be saved?' Christ's answer was, 'With men it is impossible,' but, He added, 'with God all things are possible.' And elsewhere He said, 'All things are possible to him that believes.' These words are a threefold cord that cannot be broken.

First, 'With men it is impossible.' It seems easy to say, and yet how difficult to realize it and act it out. What is it that hinders the Church in this day from falling on its knees and beseeching God by His Holy Spirit to give revival? It is this: Men do not consider that the work they need to do is impossible with man. They consult and organize and labor, oh so diligently, and yet the members decline by the thousands. They cannot see that the work of winning men to become members of Christ and His Church is a work that God alone can do through men who have yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit. What a day that would be if the Church were to fall down before God and bow in the dust with the Cry: 'Oh God, it is impossible with man.' We should then be prepared for the second lesson, 'But not with God - all things are possible with God.' At first sight this word also appears easy to accept. We are so sure there is nothing impossible with such a God. And yet, when we ask

whether God's servants really believe it, and in the joyful confidence that He is going to do it wait upon Him and expect His working, we soon find out that it is not so. God is so little of a reality to us. How few men take time with God and secure His holy presence to fill their hearts and strengthen them in their work.

Oh, all you who are beginning to take the state of the Church to heart and to bear it as a burden before the Lord, do not be surprised if you have found it a hard thing. Fully grasp the truth, 'With God all things are possible.' Learn the lesson of bringing that truth into your daily prayer and your daily work. Let its light shine into your heart, on your sphere of labor, on the Church around you, on the weakest and most hopeless part of the Church, until all your thoughts have this as their keynote: 'But not with God - all things are possible with God.' He is fully able and willing to rouse the Church out of her apathy and lift Christians into the abundant life.

But now, comes the third and most difficult lesson: 'All things are possible to him that believes.' It is something great to really believe that all things are possible with God. Yet we may be anxious as to how and when it may come to pass. This word of Christ throws the responsibility on us. It is to him who believes that God makes all things possible. When Christ spoke that word to the father of the epileptic, the man felt his responsibility so deeply, and feared that he might not qualify, that he cried out, 'Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief.' And Christ heard that prayer. He is still waiting, even when our hearts shrink back from the thought, 'Is it going to depend upon me whether this mighty God will do the impossible thing? I do not dare bear the heavy burden of such a responsibility.' He who helped the father of the epileptic boy, He who said to Peter, 'I have prayed for you, that your faith will not fail,' Jesus Christ, who became man to bring us into fellowship with the omnipotent God, He will give us the confidence to believe that it is God's will, 'If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, then you shall ask what you will.' Let us live in fellowship with Christ who spoke these words. He will enable us to receive them until they become the joy and the strength of our heart.

If I have not succeeded in giving a deep impression of the sore need of the Holy Spirit and His power that the state of the Church demands, I should feel that I had failed in my purpose. But I should be still more disappointed if I were to part with the reader without having helped him to the confident assurance that God is able and willing, in answer to prayer, to work revival. He is also willing to fill the hearts of many of His children with a measure of the Holy Spirit such as they have never known. As we look out upon a Church so weak and faithless, do let us listen to the voice of Jesus as He says. 'Fear not, only believe.'

What I have already said, I say again: The Church around you may be in a dying state, with no possibility of being reached by human effort. I beseech you, Look up to God. Wait before Him in prayer until stronger desire is stirred in you and your faith rises to link itself to His omnipotence. Believe in the power of our Lord Jesus, and in His tender relationship to you, watching over your faith. Believe in the power of the Holy Spirit, the promise of the Father, the birthright of the Church. He surrounds you on every side and longs to get possession of you and those for whom you are praying. So let the study of the state of the Church give you a knowledge of God and a trust in Him beyond what you have ever known or thought." --Andrew Murray

"Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, ALL things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23).

The End

End of the Collection