

August 29, 2019

". . . one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray. . ."

Luke 11:1 (NKJV)

I believe it was 2001 when I went with some men from our church to a Promise Keepers conference: a men's discipleship gathering. One lady went with us. Helen. She had been asked to be one of the intercessors on the grounds. At the end of the event, our Pastor asked me to find Helen and escort her to the bus. An usher whose help I requested, led me into the bowels of the stadium where the intercessors had gathered. As we moved closer to their location, I noticed something was different. Nothing appeared different in the halls but the atmosphere had changed. This change became noticeably stronger as we continued moving forward. I realized then and still believe today that this was a tangible manifestation of God's Presence. We came to a door guarded by two men and the usher explained my reason for being there. The men escorted me into the room then one of them went to get Helen. As they brought her over, I saw her face. And even as the Israelites realized when Moses came down from Mt. Sinai, when I looked at Helen's countenance, I knew she had been in the Presence of God (Ex 34).

Helen, who went to be with her Lord many years ago, was what we call a prayer warrior. I've known many over the years and we all know some. Prayer warriors are those unique people who we know without a doubt will pray when a request comes their way. And they seem to have an "in" when it comes to having their prayers answered. If we are not careful, we tend to see intercessors as those who know how to ask God in just the right way to get the right answer. We view it as their gift.

Prayer is a gift. However, it is not a gifting. Prayer is our means of communicating with God. As such, it should be perceived as a gift from God to us. However, Scripture does not list prayer as a gift bestowed on individuals at the will of the Spirit. This means that the gift of prayer is for all of us.

So what's the difference? Given the premise that prayer is a gift (privilege) God has bestowed on all of us, why does there appear to be a difference in the results of our petitions? I believe at least part of the answer is found in the word itself. A viable picture of prayer that comes from the Hebrew word for prayer is below.

The lesser party of a covenant relationship (that's us) speaking out for the authority of the greater party (that's God) to be revealed.

Within that picture, prayer becomes a matter of attitude and motive. The attitude is no longer one of having a problem we need fixed and coming to the "problem solver". Our attitude is one of humility and faith before the Omnipotent Sovereign God of all that is as

we make our requests. The motive is no longer the sought solution to a problem or circumstance. It becomes an intense desire to see the authority and power of God revealed that His Glory would be displayed to all who will see.

Such a picture of petitioning God is seen throughout Scripture. You will find it when Moses stands in the gap for the Israelites when God would destroy them (Numbers 14:11-19) and when Elijah faces the prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18:20-38). You will also find this in Jesus' time and prayer in the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:41-42, John 17). In this, as in all things, He is our example.

What if? What if all of us emulated the example of Christ and our modern-day counterparts, the prayer warriors we know. What if each of us approached the Throne with proper attitude? What if we did not ask amiss but with proper motive? What if we stood in the gap for others with the Lord's reputation in mind? What if we stood before the masses seeking only for God to move and reveal Himself as God? What if we stood as Jesus did: accepting God's will when we would have preferred another answer? What if our petitions were solely made to request God to move on people and circumstances for no reason except that His Glory be seen? What if. . .?

I think the world would be a different place. And we would be a different people.

Thank you for your prayers for Judgement House. This outreach, facilitated by our home church (First Baptist in Marion, IL), lasted four days. Over this time, around 600 people saw then heard the Gospel presented! Each time the Gospel was presented, those hearing were given the opportunity to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. And the Holy Spirit moved; around twenty people placed their faith in the Lord Jesus! Please continue to pray for the seeds that were sown through this ministry; may God grow them to harvest in His time. Pray also for the spiritual growth of your new Brothers and Sisters in Christ. May the Lord become the delight of their heart as they grow in Him!

Cindy and I will be leaving shortly for Kansas to serve with our Brothers and Sisters there in the John 3:16 Horseshoe Ministry. This is always a time of blessing for us. Over the years, we have made many friends through our fellowship with this ministry and we get to renew these friendships even as we proclaim the Gospel with others during this time. I call that a win-win scenario!

I ask for your prayers for this outreach. We will be in a new location this year. May the ground we are on be consecrated by the Lord as holy for His purpose. May each Brother or Sister who participates in this ministry approach their service as a living sacrifice in worship of the King. And may all who have the Gospel shared with them truly hear the word of God that faith may be the result.

When we return, Cindy and I will head north for CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) training. This is a requirement to serve with Southern Baptist Disaster Relief teams in a chaplaincy role. This is new to us and we are just at the starting point. However, given the signs of the times, both of us believe that we are to make this opportunity to minister to the needs of others part of our ministry.

There are also additional trainings it will be necessary for us to take and in which we will need to remain current. May the Lord instill in us exactly what He would have us receive from all this to be useful to Him in this endeavor.

We ask for your prayers for the following opportunities to serve the Lord and proclaim the Gospel:

- **Block Party/Celebration** (Effingham, IL Sept. 28) - Cindy and I will be giving away Bibles and sharing the Gospel. This will be a multi-cultural setting.
- **Bible Study** - Cindy will be leading a ladies Bible study beginning in September entitled, "Becoming a Titus 2 Woman". This study will begin on Sunday, September 8th at 5 PM. It will be held at First Baptist in Marion. If you would like to join Cindy for this study, or if you have questions, you can reach Cindy at (618) 889-7687.
- **A Time to Ring** - We will be setting our schedule to "ring in" Christmas alongside the Salvation Army. We will begin this facet of our ministry in November. If you would like to join us for a day or a time, please contact one of us. Our numbers are at the top of this newsletter.
- **Mardi Gras 2020** - Please be in prayer as preparations begin for this outreach. Men, if you have never been a part of this outreach and the Lord is calling you to join us, contact me.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Everything the Lord calls us to do is done with your help and we are truly grateful you are a part of this ministry to the Lord. If He calls you to go on mission with us, wherever we go, or to help support a mission or any part of our ministry, please let us know. Likewise, if you or your church believe we could be of service to you as regards your evangelistic efforts, please contact us.

Until Jesus comes,

Dennis & Cindy Mohr

~Cindy's Bottom Line~

The Lord instructs us to pray without ceasing because of His great love for us! He answers our prayers because of His great mercy!

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. "

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

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