

They Don't Pray Enough

Colossians 4:2-4, "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak."

Listen what God's Prophet said about it:

You know, we could sing too much. We could shout too much till we got hoarse. And we could sing at the wrong time or shout at the wrong time, **but here's one thing we're never out of order: when we're praying.** [1]

Prayer changes things. Prayer changes death to life. Prayer changes sickness to health, changes sinners to saints. It's prayer. You may laugh too much. You may shout too much. You may eat too much, **but you'll never pray too much.** The Bible said, "I would that man pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands" (*I Tim. 2:8*). So you'll never be able to pray too much. [2]

Father, **it is the greatest privilege that a mortal ever had was to close his eyes, and open his heart, and speak to You.** And we know that You hear, if we could just believe that You hear. For Jesus said, "If you ask the Father anything in My Name it'll be granted." That was on conditions if we wouldn't doubt it (*Mark 11:24-25*). [1]

I love the Word. Oh, I just wished I could express it. **You know where I preach my best sermons? In my prayer room at home or somewhere, in the bed. I lay at nighttime and get anointed with the Holy Spirit; I preach a half a night to myself.** Oh, if I could just do it like that in the pulpit, but I get too quick, too fast, and in a little bit I run ahead of myself. I guess that's 'cause of being nervous, and kind of lose my thought.

Don't you like to get alone with the Lord? My, my, just be alone. We used to sing a little song, "There's sometimes I like to be all alone with Christ, my Lord." Did you ever hear it? **I can tell Him all my troubles all alone. And that's the way He wants to get you, alone to Himself. Your prayers, not so much as when you're, oh, maybe coming, you know, for instance be, well, out in the public when you're praying like in church or around the altar. Get alone! You'll pray a different prayer when you're by yourself than you do when you're in the public.** Slip alone, all of you; **go out and**

just have a real secret meeting place, where you and the Lord meet several times a day and pray (*Luke 22:39-46; 6:12; 9:18*). [3]

Preachers, a minister, **why we don't have burdens for lost souls.** I believe that it's a lacking of the revival. **I believe we should still try to pray to God to give us passions for lost souls until Jesus comes.** [4]

And remember, the astronaut is controlled by a radar power. You seen them bring John Glenn in. I looked down there at Cape Canaveral and seen that great big radar thing, and you couldn't even see him nowhere, but you could tell where he was by the way that radar was pointing. That's where he was at. See? **And we got a radar too: prayer. Prayer is the radar power that directs the astronaut.** "*Ask the Father anything in My Name; I'll do it.*" See? Just watch the way the prayer's going, you can see the way he's pointing. Amen. **Just watch the way the church is praying, you can see the way the missiles will fly.** You can tell it by the way the astronauts are traveling, **by the way the church is praying.** [5]

And now, I thank you for praying for me. I knew many of you'd be praying when you heard that I'd gotten hurt. And one little group that just... My daughter back there, Rebekah, wrote Sister Dauch that comes here at the church, a letter, and told her about it. And she called up Meda a couple nights after that, said, "I don't know whether it helped or not, **but all of us group up here got together.**" The Methodist minister, and Brother Brown, their relative **and all of them got together, prayed all night for me.** Said, "I don't know whether God heard or not, but we knowed that Brother Branham prayed for so many; **we thought we'd pray for him.**" **That's the kind He does hear,** (See? Yes, sir!) those kind like that.

Brother Crase, one of our brethren here, Satan after him just recently, hit a culvert, oh, it just cut his... completely. I don't see how he ever got out of it alive. And so he was laying out there in the hospital and said there was a little brother come in from New Albany, named Metcalf, and he said, "Brother Crase, I'm not worthy to come pray for you," but said, **"the Lord just put it on my heart, so I couldn't help it."** **And just come out and knelt down, and said a little prayer and went out. God healed Brother Crase right there. But see, it's the gift of healing in the Body of Christ, one member to another** (*I Cor. 12:4-11; 14-27*).

Don't think because you're just a lay member, that... **You're just as much member as anybody else.** That's just as much my finger as this arm is my arm, or this ear is my ear. See? It's just a member of the body. **If one**

member suffers, all members suffers with that (*I Cor. 12:26*). A unity, how a blessed unity. [6]

Isn't it strange that God wants the people to have part into it? When Jesus looked out upon the harvest, He said, "The harvest is ripe; the laborers are few. **You pray the Lord of the harvest (That was Him.)--you pray to Me, that I'll send laborers into My harvest.**" (*Matth. 9:36-38*). **It's some part you have to do. God's waiting for His church to call on Him** (*Rom. 10:12-13*). He's always did it. **God is waiting today for the people to call His servant into action.** And the servant can't get into action till the people prays.

Israel could not get into action down there with signs and wonders until they fell on their face and prayed for a deliverer (*Exodus 3:6-8*). God had His deliverer. God had a prophet hanging up there in the wilderness, kept him there for forty years **waiting for them to get right to pray. But when they got right and started praying, then God sent the deliverer.** God will do the same thing today, if the people will just get together, get to praying. All right. First they have to pray. God waits. [7]

God gives the answer to your prayer. You asked, and you shall receive. I could stop here for hours on men and women, Christians even, praying for something; and God gives the answer and they don't even recognize it.

And now, God gave them the answer. They wanting a Messiah. They knowed that they'd had Caesars, and they'd had Davids; they'd had Solomons the wise man; they'd had David the mighty warriors; they'd had all kinds; but they knowed they had to have help from heaven and they... God had promised them a Messiah. **And He sent them that Messiah in answer to their prayer, but they didn't want Him** (*Dan. 9:25-26; John 19:15; John 1:11*).

I wonder today, if our prayers... You hear them say, "Pray for a great revival. Pray for this. Pray for a breaking forth. Pray for unity." I wonder, if God would send such a program, if we would accept it. **I just wonder if we would accept what He sends to us.** The reason that we pray for these things, because we know it's needy. **But when God sends it in the way that He wants it, then it's not according to our taste, and therefore, we won't receive it.** And that's the way it was in that day. If He was not in the taste of their belief and their... **They would not receive Him again today.** That's the reason they asked this question, "Who is this? Who is this fellow that's coming?" [8]

A sign that's overlooked, the real sign, and they miss it. They always do. Back to the true church, the true Message! [9]

Jesus said, “*Whatever you ask the Father in My Name, that will I do.*” (John 16:23). **Did you ever realize what that means? Do you realize if we go before God in the Name of Jesus, it’s just the same as Jesus Himself praying? It isn’t me praying anymore.** If I come in His Name, and He recognizes His Name, and Jesus said, “*Whatever you ask the Father in My Name, that I do.*” And then I go to the Father in Jesus’ Name, **it isn’t me praying anymore; it’s Jesus. It’s His Spirit praying through me** (Romans 8:26-27).

And then I’ve got to receive what I ask for, because He said it, and it’s God’s Own Word. It can’t do nothing else but produce just what it said.

So then we believe that we are... **This is the confidence we have in God that we get what we ask for,** for He’s God, and cannot take back His Word. He’s got to stay with His Word (*I John 3:21-22*).

So then, “*If ye abide in Me and My Words abide in you, ask what you will, and it’ll be given unto you*” (John 15:7). Isn’t that simple? **Faith created. We were made for that purpose.** Then through the fall, why, we were taken away from that, **and then in redemption we were brought back to it again.**

[10]

Somebody said: “What do you pray to? I asked for so-and-so and certain things; I didn’t get it.”

I said, “You pray wrong. **We should never pray to change God’s mind; we should pray to change our mind. God’s mind doesn’t need any changing.** It’s right.” I said, “Not what you pray for...”

I know a young Catholic boy one time had a prayer book saying prayers for his mother to live. And she died, and he threw the prayer book in the fire. Well, see... I don’t go for the prayer book, but anyhow... **See, you take the wrong attitude. You’re trying to tell God what to do. Prayer should be, “Lord, change me to fit Your Word,” not change, not, “Let me change Your mind; You change my mind. You change my mind to Your will, and Your will’s written here in the Book.** And Lord, don’t let me go till You got my mind set just like Your mind. And then when my mind is set like Your mind, then I’ll believe every Word You wrote. **And You said in there You’d make everything work together for good to them that loves You, and I love You, Lord.** It’s all working together for the good” (Romans 8:28-29). [11]

You know, sometimes **when we are praying for others, we are the one that gets the help many times,** when you’re praying for others. [12]

Now, **Jesus, He didn’t say, “Lay hands on and pray.” He said, “These signs shall follow them that believe, if they lay hands on the sick”** (Mark 16:17-18). Never said, pray for them; just laid hands on them. The order of

praying is, “*Call the elders of the church, let them anoint them in oil and pray over them*” (*James 5:14-16*). That’s for the church. But the evangelistic gift of healing is just lay hands on the sick. We know that. Not pray for them, lay hands on them, these signs shall follow. [13]

Brother Branham was asked: “Tell us what we can do for you in any way to help lighten the load.” Now, isn’t that sweet. See?

“What can we do to lighten the load?” Yes, brother, sister, ever who it is writing this, **pray for me; that’s the best thing to do.** Thank you. I don’t need money. Enough of that comes in to take care of me. Thank the Lord for that. I don’t need clothes. Most the time people give me my clothes that I wear. And my friends and things give me clothes. And I get enough money to feed my family; that’s all we need. **And you can pray for me though, ‘cause I certainly need spiritual help.** [14]

So if the prayer of faith brings God’s blessings down, let’s continue to pray. [15]

And I listened to these, this young fellow and this other one over here, praying awhile ago, **with all that enthusiasm.** I thought, “You know, I used to be able to pray like that, without catching my breath, hardly.” **And then you get older, you kind of slow down a little, you know, and that.** You’re still moving, but you’re in second gear as I told Brother Wood out there. And then after while you get down into low gear, when you get about seventy or eighty, I guess. But, you know, you’re still moving though. **As long as you can move, what difference does it make? Just a little more time to get there.** [16]

Jesus at the house of Jairus didn’t have to pray (*Mark 5:21-24,35-43*); **He was the Word. I don’t have to pray, if I can see the vision, ‘cause the Word’s already made ready. I have to pray to get the Word, get what God says, then I can speak It after I get what He says.** But He was the Word. Amen! [17]

Now, in the Scripture once there was a man by the name of Jehoshaphat, a great man, a religious man. And he went over to another king, which was the King of Israel. And he, Jehoshaphat being the King of Judah, and he went down to Ahab, the King of Israel, and they got all buckled up together and made an alliance with one another to go fight up at Ramoth-gilead. (*I Kings 22:1-38*). **And they did it without first praying.**

Oh, if people could only realize! That’s why I come and ask you to remember me as I go overseas. **In all things, pray!** Someone come the other

day and said, “Brother Branham, do you think it’s wrong to do a certain thing?”

I said, “What are you questioning about?” See? **If there’s a question in your mind, leave it alone. Don’t do it at all! Just stay with that!** When you start to do anything, and if it’s a question whether it’s right or wrong, **stay away from it. Don’t go into it at all! Then you know you’re right.**

Now, all things ought to be considered prayerfully first. “*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these other things will be added*” (Matt. 6:33-34). I am positive sure if men **and women could only get into the position of where their soul, their thinking, their attitudes would be perfect in the sight of God, that would be one of the most powerful churches that ever existed.** [18]

I want to give you a little secret. The Lord has blessed me greatly, and to Whom I give praise, for praying for the sick. And I have watched it through these years, and I have found it to be the absolute truth. **I can never, never get my prayers through till actually I get right into the real fellowship with the person I’m praying for. You’ve got to get down and feel that person’s condition.**

Here not long ago, down in Mexico, poor, old Mexican man, black, hair gray, and his mustache gray, never had, a probably, a decent meal in his life, and there he come to the platform; Catholic, by faith; moving around with a little shawl over him, no shoes on, his feet wrinkled. He was asking for me. And when he knelt down before me. I picked him up by the hands. And he reached to find his beads, and old wore-out looking beads, he’d rubbed over them so much to say his prayers. And I said, “That’s not necessary, dad. You don’t have to do that. Just put that away, just for a minute.” The interpreter telling him. Then he felt around to me. I said, “Just come here, dad. I want you to believe on the Lord Jesus.” And he put his old hands up; he got ahold of my shoulders, and leaned his head across my shoulder. I looked down at them old wrinkled feet, dusty, dirty. I flipped off one of my shoes to see if it would fit him. I’d rather go bare-footed than to see him walk off like that. **See, and my heart went to him; he was blind** (James 2:13).

Now, there’s when you really get into it. All of our culture will fail. All of our signs will fail. All of our gifts will fail. **But love never faileth** (I Cor. 13:4-7). **That’s what takes to hold the grip.**

And I thought, “Poor, old fellow, about the age my daddy would be if he was living.” And I thought, “Maybe he’s got a child too somewhere.” And he was mumbling off something, and the interpreter didn’t give it to me. And I looked at the old fellow, I just couldn’t... Not in my eyes, but in my heart. I could just like teardrops dropping. “Poor, old thing,” I thought, “he’s probably never had a good meal in his life; ragged.” **And I entered in with him,**

entered into his affliction. I thought, “Besides being poor, besides his condition and his affliction, all that, yet in a dark world, can’t see: blind.” I thought, “O God, what if that was my daddy standing there?” **Then I got the feeling of Him.** I said, “Heavenly Father, be merciful to this poor blind man.” **It wasn’t praying from my head. It was Something in my heart praying for that.** See, but, love...

And I heard him going. And there the Mexicans, by the tens of thousands was screaming. I wondered what it was. He was screaming, “I can see! I can see!” Then he turned around and knelt down and started to rubbing my shoes, trying to pat me on the foot, and I raised him up. And he run up and down, the old fellow stooped over, hollering “I can see! I can see!”

What was it? Entering into the fellowship with him. Love, that’s what does it, no strain, just pure, unadulterated love. That’ll beat all the gifts of laying on of hands. That’ll beat all the interpretations and speaking with tongues (*I Cor. 13:8-13*). That’ll beat all the... I’d say it, the melodious voices of singing. **That’ll beat everything, if you’ll just enter into the love of God with the person you’re trying to win to the Lord Jesus.** And you get to studying about that poor lost friend of yours until you just simply can’t stand it day and night, **you just got to go to him in love.** Watch what the Holy Spirit will do. “*The love of God constrains us.*” (*II Cor. 5:14*).

That’s what a real Christian does. You pray and humble yourself, and keep before God day and night in order you might give yourself to somebody else ^[19], **just like I want somebody to hold for me and pray while I was going through my trials, and you want somebody for yours.**

^[20]

Not what you keep, it’s what you give that counts. You must give yourself out to others. That’s the way Jesus did. He gave Hisself to others.

^[19]

And I can’t love Christ until first I love His people. See? I’ve got to love His people. So if I love His people, then I love Him (*I John 3:14-18; 4:7-13*). ^[21]

Today men walk ignorantly; they don’t know that this Word is the Truth. They think it’s some kind of a ism. **They don’t dig down deep enough to get into the spirit of revelation. They don’t pray enough; they don’t call upon God enough. They just lightly take it, “Oh, well, I believe it’s God. Sure.”** The devil believes the same thing. The devil believes it more than some people claim to believe; the devil believes it and trembles (*James 2:19*). People just believe it and go on, but the devil trembles, knowing his judgment is coming. **And people believe it and don’t pay no attention that judgment that’s coming.** ^[22]

The Holy Spirit has no more right-of-way in the church than nothing. No more prayer meetings, no more agonizing with God to fulfill His Word. No more believing that the Word is still the same yesterday, today, and forever! [23]

A woman said, “Who did Jesus pray to in the garden of Gethsemane,” on a street meeting one time.

I said, “I want to ask you something. You testified you had the Holy Ghost. Where’s it at? **What do you pray to?” It’s on the inside of you, of course.**

Well, we have the Spirit with measure. He had it without measure. We are sons and daughters of God by measure, (*II Cor. 10:13; Rom. 12:3*) like taking a spoonful of water out of the ocean, and He’s the whole ocean. But the same chemicals that’s in the spoon is in the whole ocean. It’s quantity, but the same quality. Therefore, if Jesus Christ’s the same yesterday, today, and forever (*Heb. 13:8*), **God is in us.** Yes. [24]

Lord Jesus, we humbly **come confessing our wrong. We come confessing that we are worthy of sickness and death and sorrow, but we are accepting Your propitiation for our sins and our sickness** (*John 3:14-15*). And tonight these sons and daughters of God setting here, **and hear the correction of the Word**, and raising their hands, and wanting a closer walk. You said the prayer of faith shall save the sick and God shall raise him up; and if he’s did any sin, **it shall be forgiven him. Confessing your faults one to another, pray one for the other that you might be healed.** For the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much (*James 5:16*). [25]

Reference:

[1] “Birth Pains”, pg. 5

[2] “Faith”, par. E-5

[3] “Faith Once Delivered to the Saints”, pg E-8

[4] “Questions&Answers”, COD pg.1162, Q-398

[5] “Countdown”, par. 85

[6] “Possessing all Things”, par. 12-14

[7] “True Sign that’s Overlooked”, par. 141b-143

[8] “Who Do You Say This is?”, par. 55-57

[9] “True Sign that’s Overlooked”, par.186

[10] “Fundamental Foundation f. Faith”, par. 16-17

[11] “Christ Revealed in His own Word”,par.33-35

[12] “Why”, par. E-8 b

[13] “Let us See God”, par. 196

[14] “Questions&Answers”, COD pg.1162,Q-397

[15] “Revelation Chap.4, Pt.1”, par. 43

[16] “Warning then Judgment”, par. 10

[17] “Wisdom Versus Faith”, pg. 52

[18] “Enticing Spirits”, par. 42-45

[19] “Revelation Book of Symbols”, par.35-42;48

[20] “Indictment”, pg. 3

[21] “Letting off the Pressure”, par. 27 b

[22] “Indictment”, pg. 43

[23] “Seed not Heir with Shuck”, par. 126

[24] “Show us the Father”, par. E-68 b - E-69

[25] “Things that are to Be”, par. 153

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*There’s coming one with a Message that’s straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.
[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]*