



Let Us Pray by Watchman Nee  
Sundays 7:15-8:00pm - The Storehouse (H201)

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### Chapter 1 What is Prayer?

:: Prayer is the most wonderful act in the spiritual realm as well as a most mysterious affair.

:: The power of our prayers lies in how much our prayers are in accordance with the principle of prayer.

:: What do we want to accomplish for God in prayer?

:: Lots of questions!

- Why prayer?
- What is the use of praying?
- Is not God omniscient as well as omnipotent?
- Why must He wait till we pray before He commences work?
- Since He knows, why must we tell Him everything?
- Why should He need our prayers?

:: God never does anything against His own will.

:: Matthew 7:7 Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened.

:: Why does God wait until we knock before He opens the door and will He nevertheless open the door if we do not knock?

:: Does God restrain His will of opening doors by our not knocking?

:: If God is really able to accomplish His own will then why is His opening of doors (God's will) governed by our knocking (man's prayer)?

:: A principle of God's working is that God's people must pray before God himself will rise up and work.; the prayers of the believers are to accomplish His will.

:: Prayer is the union of the believer's thought with the will of God, speaking out the will of God through the mouth of the believer.

:: Prayer achieves what God has already foreordained; prayerlessness does effect change where many of His resolutions are suspended.

:: “Verily I say unto you, what things soever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and what things soever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 18:18-19

:: Whatever action God may take in heaven, be it binding or loosing, it is all done according to the command we give on earth.

:: Earth must bind first before heaven will bind; earth must loose first before heaven will loose.

:: God creates man so that the latter may be united with Him in defeating the works of satan.

:: However zealous God is towards His own will, He will temporarily permit Satan to be on the offensive should His people forget His will and fail to show sympathy by cooperating with Him.

:: How well are we praying, based on the state of the world?

:: The true meaning of prayer is for the one who prays to pray for the fulfillment of the will of the One to whom he prays.

:: Prayer means that our will is standing on God’s side.

:: Self-denial must be practiced everywhere; it is just as essential in prayer as it is in action.

:: God accomplishes His purposes through the prayers of believers.

:: The question is not whether your need is met but that God’s will is done; you now look for that God’s will in this particular personal matter of yours is done and not that your own need is supplied.

:: Our needs should be lost in God’s will.

:: We need to be completely weaned from ourselves and living absolutely for the Lord and seeking only His glory.

:: Prayer is the rail for God’s work (the locomotive).

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## Chapter 2 Pray According to God's Will

:: How do we do this?

:: And this is the boldness which we have toward him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14

:: How Daniel prayed:

- He was a person who prayed often.
- His will frequently entered into God's will, that is, his thought often entered God's thought.

:: Psalm 106:15 He gave them their request but sent leanness to their soul.

:: Numbers 11 God gave the Israelites their request for quail even though He was angry about it and then the quail became loathsome to the Israelites.

:: Sometimes God will hear and respond to your prayers for the sake of satisfying your own needs yet His own will is not fulfilled.

:: Since he habitually lives in God's presence, such a person is given to know God's will and His thought.

:: How we can practice knowing God's will and His thoughts:

- Our spirit should be calm and restful
- Bring our current situation to the Lord and consider in light of His countenance
- Meditate on God's Word
- Live before Him and try to touch His spirit

:: As we bring our will and our thoughts to God, His will and His thoughts begin to be reproduced in us.

:: Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

:: These words are reproduced in us when the Spirit of God brings our mind to God.

:: Two different kinds of prayer:

- Source is our own will based on our own thinking and expectations

- Source is God's will as we bring the matter before God and let His Spirit merge our will into God's will and our thoughts into God's thoughts

:: We want to have the same yearnings and burdens that God does and pray them out accordingly.

:: When we pray with such prayer, ie, with a burden according to God's will and His hearts desire, our prayer will shake up hell and affect satan.

:: satan will try to rise up and hinder such prayer through physical attacks to our bodies, attacks on our family or other areas in our lives.

:: Don't let satan thwart your participation in what God is doing through prayer, PRAY MORE!!

:: We need to persevere in prayer until God answers.

:: We need to draw near to God's presence, calm down before Him, lay aside our own thoughts and enter into His thoughts.

:: When God says this must be done we also say it must be done; when God says it must not exist, we too say it must not exist.

Practice for this week:

- Spending more dedicated time in God's presence to know Him and to know His will more and more.
- Spend time calming ourselves before the Lord through centering prayer or meditation on God's Word.
- Identify the burdens God is placing on our hearts and practice asking Him what is His will in this matter then praying it.

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### Chapter 3 Prayer and God's Work

:: When God works, He does so with specific law and definite principle.

:: Unquestionably, He can transcend all these laws and principles, for He is God and quite capable of acting according to His good pleasure.

:: God's working has a primal principle behind it: He wants man to pray and that He wants man to cooperate with Him through prayer.

:: Four steps in prayer:

- God conceives a thought which is His will
- God reveals His will to His children through the Holy Spirit
- God's children return His will to Him through prayer
- God will accomplish this very thing

:: All prayer with worth possess this element of returning God's will to Him.

:: God will wait until men agree with Him in prayer before He will work.

:: Ezekiel 36:37 This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Once again I will yield to Israel's plea and do this for them: I will make their people as numerous as sheep.

:: All spiritual works are decided by God and desired by His children-all are initiated by God and approved by His children.

:: God is willing to condescend himself to such a position of taking delight in fulfilling His will through His children.

:: We keep on praying until God accomplishes His work.

:: The content of God's will is decided entirely by Himself; we do not make it nor even participate in its decision.

:: Concerning the doing of His will, it is governed by our prayers.

:: If we do not take up the responsibility of prayer, we will hinder the fulfillment of God's will.

- :: There exist in the universe, three different wills: the will of God, the will of man, the will of satan.
- :: God wants man to cooperate with him in dealing with satan.
- :: If God does everything without involving us men, then there is absolutely no need for us to be here on earth nor do we need to know what God's will is.
- :: Every will of God must be done by us , as He calls our will to be one with His.
- :: There is no work more important than prayer because it accomplishes as well as expresses the will of God.
- :: All prayers that begin with us are of no spiritual worth.
- :: Every great revival has come through prayer, which shows us how prayer enables God to do what He desires to do.
- :: The Holy Spirit came down only after many disciples gathered and prayed.
- :: If anyone will rise up and devote himself to the work of prayer exclusively, how excellent that will be.
- :: If God wants His kingdom to come, why doesn't it come automatically? Why must His disciples pray "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done"?
- :: God has the power, but His desire is for our prayers to lay the tracks down for the train of His will to run on.
- :: We need to pray more specifically so that satan will find no holes through which to creep in.
- :: The work of prayer is real work; when there are those who earnestly and extensively pray for a certain thing, the thing is found to be done.
- :: The precious blood of Christ is the answer to all the works of the enemy.
- :: Our prayer is directed toward God, for men, against satan.
- :: When the Holy Spirit is urging you to pray, you should do so.
- :: If a burden grows too heavy and it cannot be discharged by prayer, then we should fast.

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### Chapter 4 The Principle of Praying Thrice

:: We must pray thoroughly until God hears us.

:: The principle of praying thrice is to pray through until we are clear on God's will, until we obtain His answer.

:: Let us not allow our prayer to jump about like a grasshopper, hopping to another matter before the first matter is thoroughly prayed through.

:: Every brother or sister who comes to a prayer meeting ought to have a burden to pray and should sense the burdens of our brothers and sisters.

:: We need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit to know how much and how long to pray for a burden.

:: We must learn to pray with one accord and this doesn't come automatically, it must be learned.

:: We must learn how to sense the feeling of others, learn to touch what is called the prayer of the church, learn when a prayer burden has been lifted and then we will know how to fulfill in the meeting, the ministry of prayer.



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### Chapter 5 Prayer that Resists Satan

:: Luke 18:1-8

:: Three aspects of prayer:

1. We ourselves
2. God to whom we pray
3. Our enemy, satan

:: When we come to pray, we naturally pray for our own needs, wants and expectations.

:: We should also pray for the glory of God and for heaven's rule over earth, that the Lord gets the glory and His will is done.

:: God will not answer prayer that is not in accordance with His will.

:: We need to be aware that what we ask and what God promises will ultimately hurt his enemy.

:: God in truth has the ultimate victory, nonetheless, in this age of ours before the millennial kingdom, satan continues to usurp power in the world to oppose God's work, will and interest.

:: The amount of gain we make is the amount of God's will done and the amount of loss satan suffers.

:: The spiritual progress of the saint can be judged by his emphasis in prayer.

:: In Luke 18:1-8, there are three person, the judge (in a negative way is God), the widow (Christians), the adversary (our enemy, the devil).

:: Much is contained in the one line of scripture where the widow says, "Avenge me of my adversary", who has inflicted wrongs and grievances and is oppressing the widow.

:: The one who stirs up trouble is the adversary ; he is the instigator of all confusion and affliction.

:: The judge is a picture of the power and authority of God, satan is still under the power and authority of God.

:: Although the world still lies under the evil one, it is totally illegal and temporary, God has appointed a day when the kingdom shall be retaken and His son will reign over this world for a thousand years.

:: satan is entirely restricted by God; he may harass the saints but only within certain limits and aside from what God permits, the enemy has no authority whatsoever.

:: So it is extraordinary even monstrous for satan who is under the rule of God to persecute the saints.

:: Shall we not receive that which we ask because of our constant prayer to God and because of His goodness?

:: Christians are exemplified by the widow and we are not to seek power and position in the world but to be humble and lowly expecting to be harassed by the world.

:: satan is the Lord's enemy and he is also our enemy since we are children of God.

:: We will incur the devil's hatred for the sake of his hatred toward the Lord.

:: Christians today are wronged by the devil and these wrongs must be avenged.

:: satan's work is done through people and things as he instigates people to act on his behalf:

- Weakens believers bodies and causes sickness
- Incites people to persecute believers
- Works in the environment causing hardship and danger
- Creates misunderstandings among Christians in an attempt to destroy the church
- Cuts off believers supplies
- Oppresses believers spirits
- Injects irrational fear
- Heaps things to do upon us to cause stress
- Lots more...

:: We need to identify the enemy through spiritual discernment.

:: satan's harassment is an injustice that must be avenged by asking for justice from our Father God in heaven.

:: Through prayer we can attack our enemy the devil and inflict great loss on his plan, work and power.

:: Example: O God, curse satan afresh so he cannot do as he pleases. You have crushed him in the garden of Eden. I ask you to curse him anew, placing him again under the power of the cross so as to immobilize him.

:: Other examples:

- Ask God to shut the mouths of those who are speaking words of misunderstanding and violence
- Ask God to forbid satan to speak to the congregation so that they will not resist the word of God
- Ask God to bind satan and render him powerless
- Ask God to destroy the work of the devil in situations that the Holy Spirit brings to light
- Rebuke the enemy when he oppresses us and worship God

:: Offer these prayers against the adversary continuously, without intermission.

:: The effect of these prayers is the restriction of the devil, his work is destroyed by the Lord and he suffers loss.

:: The ultimate vindication of believers is when the devil is imprisoned in the bottomless pit and cast into the lake of fire by our Lord Jesus.

:: Frequency in prayer will cause the Lord to avenge us speedily.

:: God does all things according to His will and He waits for his children to express sympathy with His will through prayer before He does anything.

:: Can we be the few faithful ones who, in the days when such prayer is so rare, offer up prayers against the devil so as to cause him to lose power and position?

:: There is no greater work which God's children could do than this work.

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### Chapter 6 Some Pointers on Prayer

:: God has given us sufficient provision in prayer in His Son and through the Holy Spirit by his trust and his help.

:: Trust is most essential in prayer and is based on Jesus Christ as we come to the Father in prayer through Jesus.

:: Our weakness is manifest through prayer and we have the Holy Spirit to help us in our times of infirmity and ignorance.

:: When we pray, let us depend upon Christ whom we believe and the Holy Spirit who is our help.

:: Satan attacks the prayers of the church by:

- Attacking our trust in the Lord so that we feel unworthy
- Attacking our bodies so that we feel we don't have the strength to pray
- Attacking our time so that we are too busy to pray
- Attacking our constant fellowship with the Lord so that it feels as if there is a barrier there
- Attacking our minds so that we fail to see the necessity to pray

:: In addition to personal prayer, we must have corporate prayer because what one person is unable to do in certain respects it is to be done through mutual and corporate help.

:: Praying for the kingdom of God is a colossal work and requires the strength of the whole church.

:: The portion of Christ is greater in a gathering of believers in the name of the Lord than in each individual.

:: These aspects of prayer need attention:

- Fellowship with the Lord in all things
- Ask and keep on asking
- Meditate and intercede
- Pray always
- Pray in the Lord's name
- Prayer warfare
- Prayer of faith
- Prayer burden

**:: The central purpose of prayer is to prepare for Christ a glorious church that is conformed to Him.**

**:: By the power of the Holy Spirit, the church ought to impress the world with the fact that she is indeed the channel of blessing for the world.**

**:: It is the determinate will of God that we should have more intelligent and intimate communion with Him.**

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### Chapter 7 The Wearing out Tactics of satan

:: satan has a work which is attacking the children of God gradually and slowly to wear them out, reducing them little by little until they are worn down completely.

:: satan tries to wear out Christians by attacking their physical bodies so that by eating less, sleeping less we are more tired and our health is shaken.

:: satan tries to attack Christians by wearing out our hearts and stealing our joy and peace and putting us in a state of fatigue and depression.

:: satan tries to wear out our spiritual life by stealing our prayer life little by little so that we trust in ourselves and not the Lord.

:: satan tries to wear out our time so that we waste it on trivial things so we must withstand him from causing us to do works that will have no beneficial results.

:: Ask God to open our eyes to see satan's wearing out tactics in our lives.

:: We must detest the wearing out work of satan and his evil spirits, not men.

:: We must loathe satan and be angry with him.

:: Many know how to lose their temper with men but do not know how to hurl their temper on satan.

:: If we would grow angry and open our mouths to oppose satan all would be well and we would cease experiencing the wearing out tactics of satan.

:: "I oppose you and will not have it!"

:: We should not be angry at people who are used by satan but be patient and even loving them.

:: Ask the Lord to open our eyes to the wearing out work of satan and then the anger becomes your power and as you open your mouth it causes him to flee.

:: "I reject it; I oppose it; I do not accept such wearing down!" as God gives us such a resistance, it instantly becomes effective.