# The Power of Prayer

#### Luke 11:1-10

The power is not my power. It is not your power. It is God's power in prayer. Prayer releases God to move mightily. Our prayerlessness binds God's power. "Ye have not, because ye ask not..." (James 4:2b). God's power is only released when we ask.

Thus, we need to pray. We do not need to pray so that we can do what we are able to do. We need to pray so that God will do what He has the power to do. Prayer releases God's power. When we understand that truth, we begin to grasp the potential of prayer.

Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18). Power--God's power--is released through our praying. By prayer we become partners with God. Learn this; and God will release His power. Great are the possibilities.

## The Power of Prayer

#### Luke 11:1-10

Have you heard about the lumberjack that sawed trees with one of those single-man, cross-cut saws? One day he went to have his saw sharpened and was sold a chainsaw so that he would be able to cut more trees faster and with less effort. A day or so later that lumberjack returned with the chainsaw. He was exhausted and sweating and frustrated. He complained that his chainsaw would not work and that it took forever to get one tree cut down! The salesman took the chainsaw and started it. The lumberjack jumped back shouting, "What is that noise all about?!"

I am afraid many of us are like that lumberjack with the chainsaw. We are hacking at the tree, but we have not started the chainsaw. That chainsaw had just as much potential when it was off as it did when it was turned on. However, it did not have as much practical use turned off as it did turned on. We need to understand that in prayer there is infinite power waiting to be released. That power--God's power--is not changed by our prayers. God's power is released by our prayers.

Prayer does not make us mighty. Prayer shows the mighty power of God. Paul Ritchey used to say, "I am nobody, but He is everybody. I am nothing, but He is everything."

## The Power of Prayer

Luke 11:1-10

The Creator and Sustainer of the Universe makes mighty power available to us through prayer. George Mueller could support 100 missionaries and 10,000 students in Christian schools around the world. He could feed, house, medicate, educate and clothe 2,000 orphans without asking anyone for a penny except God. God had the power to bring the money from other people's pockets. That money did not come only from Mueller's church. It came from all over.

When Hudson Taylor prayed, God heard. God sent money to George Mueller who would then send it to Hudson Taylor. Usually this process started before Hudson Taylor even prayed. Do you know that in prayer the answer may already be sent before you ask? God is wise enough to know whether you are going to ask, and He can start the answer before you start praying. You may be thinking, "Perhaps I do not need to pray." God knows what you are thinking. He will not start an answer to a prayer that you will not pray.

## The Power of Prayer

Luke 11:1-10

Prayer brings God on the scene. God comes in His mighty power. Jesus understood that. With all the power He had as the second member of the Trinity, He still spent time with the Father and the Holy Spirit in prayer. The disciples realized they needed to learn how to gain access to God's mighty power. They asked to be taught to pray. As Jewish children, they had learned to pray. The Lord Jesus had been teaching them for over a year on prayer, but they were not satisfied with what they knew. They wanted to be schooled further in prayer. The power-- God's mighty power-- is released through our praying.

General MacArthur did a wonderful thing when he liberated the Philippines. I do not know that he fired any shots. However, he was in touch with the military; and they did the job. When General MacArthur spoke, things happened. When we speak with God, things happen. God Himself operates through His people. He does it all. Oh, if we could understand the power of prayer!

## The Power of Prayer

Luke 11:1-10

"All power is given unto me..." (Matthew 28:18b). Can you imagine that power?

There was a car engine that was designed in an unusual way. I think it was a 12 cylinder, but it was fixed so that it only took two or four cylinders to operate when idling. When the driver stepped on the gas peddle for that car to move, all of the cylinders operated. Then when the driver cruised, the car operated only on the number of cylinders needed. The engine was a gas-saving device, but the designers were able to build extra power into it as well.

Here we are, coasting along and the One with us says, "There is power to spare, and it is all Mine." II Corinthians 10:4 tells us that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. What do you need God's power for today?

## **Presence in Prayer**

Luke 11:1-10

Prayer is neither mechanical nor magical. Effective prayer requires presence.

First, effective prayer requires the presence of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have access and boldness to come into the throne room of God because of the blood of the Lord Jesus. It has opened the way. If this truth is not reality in us, we will not be effective in prayer. If the blood is not real to us in cleansing power, in delivering power and in conquering power, it will not mean much to us in praying power.

Is there in your inner being any sense of the presence of the blood of Jesus? Is His blood real to you not just as historical fact and something nice to sing or talk about but as something glorious to experience? Have you sinned against the blood? Have you rejected the cleansing, delivering, conquering work of the blood in some part of your life? If this is the case, you will not have that sense of the presence of the blood of Jesus.

Do you pray in the presence of the blood of Jesus? The blood is what gives us victory over Satan. Revelation 12:11a declares, "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb!" We can defeat Satan by holding off his fiery darts using the Sword of the Spirit. We can also defeat him by prayer using the blood of Jesus. The blood is still doing its work, and it has never lost its power.

## **Presence in Prayer**

#### Luke 11:1-10

The second presence to consider for effective prayer is the presence of the Holy Spirit. I Corinthians 6:19 asks, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost?" Is it possible that you are saved and do not know of the Holy Spirit's presence? Places exist to which I would not want to go. Things exist that I would not want to see. Sounds exist that I would not want to hear. While my flesh might find some satisfaction in these places, things and sounds, they would be a great offense to the Holy Spirit. I cannot leave Him at the door.

Do we have a sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit inhabiting our bodies? (I am not asking whether we understand the doctrine of the indwelling Holy Spirit.) Not only are we in Christ, but the Holy Spirit is in us. He is there to lead us. He is there to guide us. He is there to calm us. He is there to empower us. He is there to fill us. He is there to give unction to us. He is there to anoint us. He is there to produce fruit through us.

The Holy Spirit is there to make intercession with groanings which cannot be uttered. (Romans 8) We do not know what to pray. However, the Teacher who is the author of the Holy Scriptures indwells each of our bodies. He is there to guide us and to help us in framing our requests. If we do not know the will of God, the Holy Spirit does. He can help us pray according to God's will when we may not fully understand His will. We need to have a constant sense of His presence.

## **Presence in Prayer**

Luke 11:1-10

To pray effectively, we realize that the blood is there to let us into the throne room of God. We realize that the Holy Spirit is there to guide us and to help us frame our requests.

Two great Puritan preachers in New England in the first century are vilified in our history books. One was called Increase Mather and the other was called Cotton Mather. Cotton was the son of Increase. Cotton Mather was a man of prayer, which is why the historians hate him. He stopped the witchcraft trials in Salem. He was a powerful preacher, and he knew how to pray.

One day the village received word that some Indians had been chased down by men from that village. Cotton went to pray with the widow of the man whom he had just heard had been killed. He started praying. He tried, but he could not pray for comfort for that widow. This bothered him. However, he knew enough about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to just pray as the Holy Spirit led him. Cotton started praying for another woman, though the report was that her husband was fine. Two days later the men from the village returned. It was discovered that the facts had gotten scrambled and the report was in error. In actuality, Cotton had prayed for the real widow. He had not been able to pray for the woman whose husband was still alive. Are we not glad for the Holy Ghost Who can help us pray beyond all that we think we know?

## **Presence in Prayer**

#### Luke 11:1-10

Do you know the presence of the Holy Spirit, or do you operate according to your own intellect and information? Your intellect and information may be faulty. Are you not glad that you have someone that never fails to be right? Do you see the need for the filling, anointing and empowering of the Holy Spirit?

Some people intellectually know the doctrine of the infilling of the Holy Spirit, but they do not know that infilling in their own lives. They never were bought with a price. They never glorified God in their bodies and spirits which belong to God. They never became partakers of the divine nature with Almighty God the Holy Spirit indwelling their bodies. This is the Christian's birthright. Instead, they have just operated at the human level.

Consider! Have I grieved the Holy Spirit? Have I quenched Him? Have I hurt Him in any way? Have I rejected Him? What have I done that the Holy Spirit is not sweet in my presence and helping me in my prayer? Considering these questions is not hasty praying. This is why you want to get in your closet and shut the door. Find that place of prayer where you can be hearing from the Holy Spirit.

## **Presence in Prayer**

#### Luke 11:1-10

The third area of presence in effective prayer is the presence of the Lord Jesus. The Lord promised that where two or three are gathered in prayer in His name, He is in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20). We can have what we ask when we have His presence.

We have the Lord Jesus' name. We call Him by His name. We call Him by His title. Can you imagine walking up to Queen Elizabeth and saying, "Lizzie, shake hands"? Instead, would you say, "Your Majesty, it is a privilege to be in your presence"?

Johnny Unitas used to be a quarterback in Baltimore. My brother Norman called one day and said, "Johnny Unitas and I are going to be in the Caroga Park today. He has come to visit various places in the area, and people may come to meet him." I replied quickly, "I am coming." I was less than an hour away. I went to Caroga Park. There on a bench sat my brother. A little distance from Norman sat a businessman that I did not know. I walked up to my brother, shook his hand and visited a bit. Finally, Norman said, "Aren't you going to say anything to Mr. Unitas?" Johnny Unitas was the man on the other end of that bench. I had been in his presence and not known it.

Do you know the presence of the Lord Jesus when you pray? For effective prayer, we do not ignore Him.

## **Presence in Prayer**

#### Luke 11:1-10

In the late 50's, I was a high-school student. As part of a tour group, my mother, brothers and I were walking up the steps on the Senate side of the Capitol. As our tour group was walking up, people were coming down. Our guide suddenly stopped to let some people pass. A man stopped and shook hands with several people in the tour group including my brother Norman. Then the man went on his way. After he had passed, the tour guide said, "That was the Vice President of the United States, Richard Nixon." I had been in presence of the Vice President, but I had not known it. I have been in the presence of other well-known people and not known it. However, I must confess I have lived days without a consciousness of the presence of the Holy Spirit or of the Lord Jesus. I would not want another day to pass without a consciousness of Their presence.

Are you conscious of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit? Are you conscious of the presence of the Lord Jesus? The Lord Jesus said that if you will ask in his name, He will do it.

## **Promises of Prayer**

Luke 11:1-10

The Bible is full of promises for prayer. The child of God who researches the Scriptures and applies their heart unto wisdom will understand what is available through the promises of God. These promises are not automatic. They require faith, and faith requires prayer. For most Christians, the promises are worthless because they do not pray. Those Christians could have received many things, but they chose to not pray.

Our family likes those "\$10.00 off any purchase" coupons that stores send out. If we know of a \$10.50 item that is worth at least fifty cents to us, someone from our family will surely go to that store. (We would like to be allowed to find a \$9.00 item and get a dollar in refund. However, stores do not do that.) The store made a promise, and we collect on that promise.

God has given all kinds of promises in His Word. There is so much available, but we have never collected because we have not prayed like we should. We are told to ask, and we will receive. That is pretty simple, isn't it?

## **Promises of Prayer**

Luke 11:1-10

When I had polio, I lay in a bed in the hospital for days and then weeks. In December the hospital staff told us that merchants and civic organizations had raised funds to give Christmas gifts to the poor children suffering there in the Children's Ward. All we had to do was tell them what we wanted. My mother was a pacifist, so her children were not allowed to have toy guns. However, this time I was not asking Mom or Dad, I was asking the hospital staff. I asked for toy guns. It looked like the gift of toy guns on Christmas was a "done deal." To my great disappointment, the hospital sent me home on December 24. I have always wondered who got my toy guns!

When men make promises, we cannot always count on them; but we can count on God's promises. God promises that everyone that asks receives. We can count on the fact that if we will ask, we will receive. The promises of God are yea and amen in Christ Jesus. We ought to recognize the promises as gold in hand—provisions available. We do not have because we do not ask.

## **Promises of Prayer**

#### Luke 11:1-10

Ask. Seek. Knock. We can ask and receive what we need to receive. "Ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession" (Psalm 2:8). We can seek and find what we need to find. You may say, "Well, no doors have been opening to me." Have you been knocking?

There are ever so many promises in the Old and New Testaments. God has promised to give, to provide and to do. God keeps His promises. He showed that He is a covenant-keeping God again and again in the events that are recorded in the Old Testament. Yet, most people pray as if God were not able to do any more than Santa Claus. They have no confidence in His prayer-answering abilities.

Jesus says, "Come unto me... and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). We must learn to come. We must learn to ask to be able to receive. Ask and receive the Holy Spirit in power. His filling, anointing and unction for the work that is to be done are available.

We may study the hundreds of promises that are in God's Word and know what is made available to us. However, we need to learn how to activate those promises.

## **Promises of Prayer**

#### Luke 11:1-10

A lady was dying, and the pastor came to pray with her and read Scripture. He borrowed her Bible. In the columns of her Bible, were the two letters TP. The pastor was curious and asked, "What are these initials by many different verses?" She replied, "When I found a promise of God, I would set to praying, believing and testing to see if it was so. I put a T down. I was testing it. Then when I got the answer, I put the P down because God had proved that He kept His promises." How many of the promises of God have you tested and proved in your life?

One day George Muller was given a diamond ring to help with the costs of the work. When he received the ring, he was trying to determine where God would have him put the money. Should it go to Hudson Taylor in China? Should it go for Bibles? Should it go for the 10,000 students in Christian schools? Should it go for the orphans? Hudson tried to decide. He considered how much God did for him. He walked over to the window, and with that diamond, he cut "Jehovah Jireh" into the glass. God will provide.

God has given us the promises by which we can collect. We just need to test and prove His promises.

## **Platitudes in Prayer**

Luke 11:1-10

Platitudes are those sweet, "pretty" words that do not achieve much. Some people fill their prayers with platitudes because such prayers sound pleasant, elevated, spiritual or religious. When these people are finished praying, they did not ask for a thing or really say much. That kind of praying is worthless. In fact, it is dangerous because it leads many to think that prayer is nice-sounding platitudes. Platitudes do not lay hold of God, and they do not get His promises into action. They just sound nice. Prayer is not for niceties. Prayer is for getting things accomplished. God answers prayer.

The disciples did not say, "Peter, you like to talk. Why don't you teach us how to pray? Judas, you are highly educated. Why don't you teach us how to pray?" Many people think they can learn to pray from those who like to talk, are highly educated or use words skillfully. Some folks say, "I will listen to others pray so that I will know how to pray." No! Listen to the Holy Spirit, and He will teach you how to pray.

## **Platitudes in Prayer**

Luke 11:1-10

Children mimic platitudes. Sometimes people say, "Oh! Did you hear the terms that child used?" Yes, that child heard those terms in a church service somewhere when an adult was pontificating. Consequently, the child thought that if he tried the same terms, they would accomplish the same thing. They did. They accomplished nothing. Guard against platitudes in prayer. We do not need nice phrases. We do not need clichés. We do not need to impress others with our memory. We do not need to impress others with our ability to use tones that influence them. When you pray, pray from your heart!

I have heard preachers who have forgotten an announcement or two. How are they to recover without admitting that they forgot those announcements? In their church, they normally have the announcements right before the offering. Well, they insert the announcements as they pray over the offering. It was not prayer; it was announcements. When you pray, pray from your heart!

## **Platitudes in Prayer**

Luke 11:1-10

When I was a boy four or five years old, my dad was teaching at Stony Brook School for Boys. For graduation, the school would ask a renowned speaker to address the group. It became a tradition to have a certain eloquent man come and speak at baccalaureate. As years passed and this speaker aged, he rambled on and on and said less and less. One year the "powers that be" said, "Enough is enough. We will not have him speak again. We will just let him have the closing prayer." His closing prayer went on for over an hour as he delivered a sermon point by point. He was not praying. When that baccalaureate ended, the food in the cafeteria was cold. However, that gentleman was venerable and a member of the school's board. They asked him to pray the next year. That year, he was told that he had three minutes to pray and that a stopwatch would be set. If he was not finished in those three minutes, the people would be dismissed while he was praying. The man finished on time.

It is amazing how people can think that they are praying and talk as though they are praying, when they are just talking. Platitudes, clichés, and high-sounding phrases are really meaningless in the advance of the kingdom.

## **Playing at Prayer**

#### Luke 11:1-10

I do not know how much real difference there is between platitudes and playing at prayer; but in my mind, I make a distinction. Some people playing at prayer do not even use platitudes well. They only attempt to sound officious. They do not accomplish anything, but they think that prayer is a fun thing.

A preacher came to me one day and made a confession. "You know, I have a problem. I have a terrible time praying alone, but I can get along alright in family devotions." He had eight children; so, he had a decent audience. He said that he found that he got along best when he had a church crowd to listen in.

That is performance. That is playing at prayer. When that preacher got alone with God he had little to say. You may wonder whether God heard him. I doubt it. He was not interested in an audience with God. That preacher was interested in people listening to him. He was just playing along in prayer.

# **Playing at Prayer**

Luke 11:1-10

Jesus did not play at prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was not playing in his high-priestly prayer in John 17. Paul was not playing when he was pouring out with tears and concern for the souls of others. Peter was not playing in the Upper Room in Acts 1.

There is so much playing in prayer! Some have given up on playing at prayer and have started just playing. The hour of power, "the dynamo that moves the church," has turned into a time of games and fun. Even the adults would prefer to play volleyball or basketball. Playing has become their goal. Feeling good about themselves has become the important issue rather than the advancement of the kingdom of God.

Real prayer is some of the hardest physical work. Jesus shed as it were great drops of blood. Real prayer is a great effort of soul as you search the Scriptures and line up accordingly. Real prayer is finding the will of God.

## **Priority of Prayer**

Luke 11:1-10

Will we pray like God commanded or be guilty of the sin of prayerlessness? We make this choice every day. In most churches, prayer meeting is the poorest attended service. Many people choose their priority and skip prayer meeting. A priority over prayer is one of the first marks of backsliding.

Jesus took eleven disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. (Judas was not there. Like Judas, many today choose money when they could have time with Jesus in prayer.) Jesus told three of those disciples to come on a little farther. Then Jesus Himself went on even farther. Some people are out on the fringes when they pray. Others are in the inner circle in prayer. Then there are those that go into the very depths in prayer. People choose how serious they want to be about prayer. They choose how deep they want to go.

How much do you want to know about prayer? How much do you know now? Are you satisfied? Do you want to accomplish more? Do you want to make progress in prayer?

## **Priority of Prayer**

#### Luke 11:1-10

Do you know that we do not have any time to pray? We have to make time. The devil will do all he can to keep us from fitting prayer into our schedules. People tell me that they do not have any time to read their Bibles. How much time do they spend watching television? Can we not cut out one television show and spend time reading our Bibles and praying? The response "Do without that!" reveals our priority. Shopping for hours and having no time to pray also reveals our priority.

The devil will keep us busy. He will help us talk on the phone twice as long as necessary to keep us from praying. If I want the phone to ring, I start praying. If I do not spend any time praying, the phone will be quiet for hours. Of course, sometimes when I am praying the phone does not ring at all. That is at three or four o'clock in the morning when God wakes me up to pray. What choices do you need to make in order to make more time for prayer?

## **Priorities in Prayer**

#### Luke 11:1-10

Once we have settled the issue of the importance and seriousness of prayer and have budgeted time for prayer, we have to set some priorities in praying. We will have to make some choices about what we are going to discuss with God. Here are the promises of God. Here are the opportunities in prayer. Let us consider choices we have to make in our prayer life.

Will we pray for the souls of lost people by name with vigor and seriousness believing God for their salvation? Are we going to pray for the advancement of God's kingdom, country by country, area by area, need by need? Will we pray for backsliders who once seemed to walk with God, but now their seats are empty during the services? Will we pray about sin? Maybe we have not resisted unto blood, striving against sin like the Bible says in Hebrews 12.

We must make some choices. In our praying, where should we invest our time and energy?

# **Priorities in Prayer**

#### Luke 11:1-10

How should we pray for the sick? I was in a prayer meeting recently where all the requests were about financial problems or physical problems. I am concerned about finances, and I am concerned about people's health. However, there are other, more important issues. Finally, I said, "Would you pray for my brother? He is wealthy and healthy, but he is lost and going to hell." My request shook them. They were reminded that there is another issue for prayer.

We can get so concerned with the physical that we miss the spiritual. We need to pray for the sick. James 5 and other places in Scripture command us to do so. However, we must consider how much prayer time we give to the sick or finances or the weather or purely selfish things compared to how much prayer time we give to lost souls, to sin, to backsliders and to the need for laborers. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest" (Luke 10:2). Are we going to pray people into the harvest fields? How much time do we give to those that are weary in the work of the Lord? How much time do we give to those that are under burdens and loads? How much time do we give to family? How much prayer time is given for warfare and battling Satan and the demons?

# **Priorities in Prayer**

#### Luke 11:1-10

How much time do we spend praying for the cause of missions and for advancement in the gospel? How much time do we spend praying for missionaries and for God to raise up a new generation of missionaries? How much time do we spend praying for our country and for leaders in various areas? How much time do we spend praying for our political leaders as we are taught in I Timothy 2? How much time do we spend praying for the church and its needs? How much time do we spend praying for the cause of evangelism and for God to raise up true evangelists? How much time do we spend praying through to victory where the devil contests ground and battles are being fought? How much time do we spend praying to keep from weariness and for God to raise up a generation that will stand without compromise?

Pray long, pray hard. Let us pick our battles in prayer. What is really of eternal value? There are so many things for which to pray. Do we know how to make choices? Do we have priorities?

#### **Purpose of Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-18** 

Why do we pray? What is our purpose in talking to God in prayer? When we pray, we ought to have a specific purpose in mind. We want to accomplish something.

We are told to ask that we might receive. We want to receive, and so we ask. That is a purpose in prayer. (Probably the finest and one of the simplest books I have read on prayer is on asking and receiving.) We are going to ask properly. We are going to ask the right person. God wants to give to us. He has just been waiting for us to come and ask.

#### **Purpose of Prayer**

#### **Matthew 6:1-18**

A second purpose for prayer may be to find something. We do not know where to find a certain something; so we seek in prayer. God shows us. Maybe we are trying to find understanding about something from the Scriptures. Maybe we are trying to find a particular item. Years ago in our church, we knew that there had been a Bible translation in Estonian, but nobody seemed to have a copy. We believed God had a copy and that He wanted us as a church to pray. We prayed that if there was a copy sitting in an attic or basement or sitting on a shelf in a school or a home, God would help us find it. This may seem like searching for a needle in a haystack, but even a needle is not hard to find if one has a big enough magnet. In this particular case, we had a God that knew we were seeking a copy. We knocked, and He began to open up doors of information. Brother Bob Doom and I made a trip to the suburbs of Chicago and found a man that had cases of this Bible translation in his basement. Years before, the man had had the Bible translated in Estonian and copies printed, but no one seemed to want to distribute them. God helped us find those copies.

Sometimes we are asking to receive. Other times we are seeking, trying to find. At still other times, we are knocking so that something will be opened to us.

#### **Purpose of Prayer**

#### **Matthew 6:1-18**

"Thy kingdom come" is a purpose of prayer. We want to see that kingdom come into our families' and our relatives' homes. We want to see that kingdom come in our neighborhood. We want to see that kingdom come in various parts of the world. We want to see the advancement of God's kingdom.

"Give us this day our daily bread." We need provisions. That is a purpose of prayer. Some of our church family can remember when we prayed for pieces of steel. The pieces of steel would keep the bricks from falling in the window and door spaces of the church building. God let us have pieces of steel out of the old brewery they were tearing down in Hagerstown. Do we know how to seek the provisions that God has for us?

When we were praying for the trees for the framework for our Meetinghouse, we knew what we were praying for; and we prayed very specifically. There is so much that can be accomplished when we know what our purpose in prayer really is.

#### **Purpose of Prayer**

#### **Matthew 6:1-18**

We need to be cleaned from the inside out. We need to come and bring our sins and our brash nature to God. That is a purpose of prayer. We are not seeking. We are not asking. We are coming for forgiveness to the Great Forgiver of Sins.

Then there is the purpose of worship of our Father. We worship Him in spirit and in truth. In prayer we spend some time just blessing Him.

One day I spent some time in prayer for provision for missionaries. I wanted to see God do something different and new to provide. The mail came, but my wife was not home to read the mail to me; so I stacked the greatest possibilities on the top of the pile. As soon as I could get my wife in the house and seated, I had her tell me what was there. One hundred dollars came from a new source. They had never sent a hundred dollars before! The letter stated expressly that the money was for missionary work. Oh, how my heart rejoiced! When I got alone with God, I spent some time worshipping my great and mighty God. He had provided even before I asked. God is worthy of worship and we ought to spend some time worshipping Him!