

May 1

Personalities of Prayer

Consider these verses from among Paul's teachings on prayer.

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.” Ephesians 6:18

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” Philippians 4:6

“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.” Colossians 4:3

**“Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”
1Thessalonians 5:17, 18**

**“I exhort therefore, that, *first of all*, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;”
1Timothy 2:1-3**

“I will that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.” 1Timothy 2:8

May 2

Personalities of Prayer

Paul himself faithfully interceded for others. In Ephesians 1:17-19, Paul includes these requests on behalf of the Ephesian believers.

- **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.**

In Ephesians 3:17-19, Paul makes these requests on behalf of the Ephesian believers.

- **That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man;**
- **That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;**
- **That ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;**
- **And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge,**
- **That ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.**

May 3

Personalities of Prayer

Paul made these requests on behalf of the Philippian believers in Philippians 1:9-11.

- **And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;**
- **That ye may approve things that are excellent;**
- **That ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;**
- **Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.**

In Colossians 1: 9-11, Paul prayed for the believers.

- **...That ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;**
- **That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,**
- **Being fruitful in every good work, and**
- **Increasing in the knowledge of God;**
- **Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;**

May 4

Personalities of Prayer

Consider Paul's requests on behalf of the church at Thessalonica.

I Thessalonians 5:23

- **And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly**
- **And I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

II Thessalonians 1:11-12

- **Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling,**
- **And fulfil all the good pleasure of His goodness,**
- **And the work of faith with power;**
- **That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you,**
- **And ye in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

II Thessalonians 2:16-17

- **Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself... Comfort your hearts**
- **And stablish you in every good word and work.**

Paul writes in II Thessalonians 3:16, "Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all."

May 5

Personalities of Prayer

Paul faithfully interceded for others. He also requested that others intercede for him. “Now I beseech you, brethren...that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me” (Romans 15:30).

- **That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea...**
- **And may with you be refreshed. (Romans 15:31,32)**

Paul requested that the Ephesian believers pray for him.

- **“And for me that utterance may be given unto me,**
- **That I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel” (Ephesians 6:19).**

Paul wrote this to the Thessalonians.

- **Finally, brethren, pray for us...**
- **And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith (II Thessalonians 3:1-2).**

Paul knew that he and his ministry would be blessed as a result of the prayers of God’s people.

For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death (Philippians 1:19-20).

May 6

Personalities of Prayer

The Bible opens and closes with an emphasis on prayer. In Genesis, Adam and Eve walked in fellowship with God. Sin interrupted those sweet times of fellowship. Thank the Lord for Jesus who tore down this veil of separation and opened the way for us to come boldly before the throne of grace. In Revelation, John is in fellowship with God. He is ready to hear from God and speak to God.

I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the Word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice..." (Revelation 1:9-10).

The book of Revelation is a gift given to us as a result of John's time on Patmos communicating with God in prayer.

May 7

Personalities of Prayer

History gives us great examples in prayer. William Carey was a praying man. He faced difficulties, but they were not too great when met by prayer. Even with the British Empire as the enemy and Hinduism rampant in India, Carey saw God do a mighty work. William Carey's quotes include these:

- **Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.**
- **Prayer--secret, fervent, believing prayer--lies at the root of all personal godliness.**
- **If you want the Kingdom speeded, go out and speed it yourselves. Only obedience rationalizes prayer. Only missions can redeem your intercessions from insincerity.**
- **I can plod. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything.**
- **You have been saying much about Dr. Carey and his work. When I am gone, say nothing about Dr. Carey; speak about Dr. Carey's Saviour.**
- **Surely it is worthwhile to lay ourselves out with all our might in promoting the cause and kingdom of Christ.**
(http://www.azquotes.com/author/2464-William_Carey)

May 8

Personalities of Prayer

Here are a few more quotes by William Carey.

- **I will venture to go...but remember that you must hold the ropes.**
- **There are grave difficulties on every hand, and more are looming ahead. Therefore, we must go forward.**
- **When I left England, my hope of India's conversion was very strong; but amongst so many obstacles, it would die, unless upheld by God. Well, I have God and His Word is true. Though the superstitions of the heathen were a thousand times stronger than they are, and the example of the Europeans a thousand times worse; though I were deserted by all and persecuted by all, yet my faith, fixed on the sure Word, would rise above all obstructions and overcome every trial. God's cause will triumph.**
- **We must not be contented however with praying, without exerting ourselves in the use of means for the obtaining of those things we pray for.**

(http://www.azquotes.com/author/2464-William_Carey)

May 9

Personalities of Prayer

Adoniram Judson visited Carey and opened Burma and that region. Many churches were started. He also did phenomenal Bible translation work. Judson said this about prevailing prayer.

‘Nothing is impossible,’ said one of the seven sages of Greece, ‘to industry.’ Let us change the word, *industry*, to persevering prayer, and the motto will be more Christian and more worthy of universal adoption. God loves importunate prayer so much that He will not give us much blessing without it. God says, ‘Behold I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.’ (Bounds, Complete Works, 443)

May 10

Personalities of Prayer

David Brainerd rode his horse through Pennsylvania and New Jersey. As he worked with depraved Indians, he rode through swamps and blizzards in New York. Brainerd had to pray much. Sometimes, to preach the gospel, the only translator he had was a drunken Indian. The Word of God is greater than the drunkenness of a translator. Brainerd saw God move. As he rode, Brainerd would at times become so weak with tuberculosis that he would fall off his horse into a snowbank. The blood from his coughing lay on the snow. When he regained consciousness, he would pray. He would pray until he had strength to get back up in his saddle and ride on for the gospel's sake. Brainerd died by the age of 29, but his prayer life stands as an example to this day. His prayer life kindled a fire in those in Europe. They sent missionaries to the colonies. Brainerd's prayer life stirred the Wesley brothers and many others. David Brainerd was a pillar of prayer! We ought to consider his example.

May 11

Personalities of Prayer

David Brainerd would often pray for days at a time. His diary records the sweetness prayer brought to his soul.

I felt an ardent desire to spend every moment with God. God is unspeakably gracious to me continually. In time past, He has given me inexpressible sweetness in the performance of duty. Frequently my soul has enjoyed much of God, but has been ready to say, 'Lord, it is good to be here,' and so indulge sloth while I have lived on sweetness of my feelings. But of late God has been pleased to keep my soul hungry almost continually, so that I have been filled with a kind of pleasing pain. When I really enjoy God, I feel my desires of him the more insatiable, and my thirsting after holiness the more unquenchable.

Oh that I may feel this continual hunger, and not be retarded, but rather animated by every cluster from Canaan, to reach forward in the narrow way, for the full enjoyment and possession of the heavenly inheritance! Oh, may I never loiter in my heavenly journey!

It seems as if such an unholy wretch as I never could arrive at that blessedness, to be holy as God is holy. At noon I longed for sanctification and conformity to God. Oh, that is the one thing, the all!

Toward night enjoyed much sweetness in secret prayer, so that my soul longed for an arrival in the heavenly country, the blessed paradise of God. (Bounds, Complete Works, 432-433)

May 12

Personalities of Prayer

Daniel Nash secluded himself in villages in upstate New York right after the war of 1812. The Indians were still running loose in the woods. Threats of wars were occurring and tearing the nation apart. Nash would close himself up in a room and pray and pray and pray until the power of God would come down. In one village, after he had been praying for weeks, he finally told Charles Finney to come. Nash said that the village was ready for preaching. Finney came. He walked through a large mill with the owner. People were under such conviction that they started collapsing and weeping over their sin. Finney had not even preached his first message there.

Charles Finney's evangelistic work benefited from the prayers of Daniel Nash. Finney himself said,

When God has specially promised the thing...we are bound to believe we shall receive it when we pray for it. You have no right to put in an 'if' and say 'Lord, *if* it be thy will, give me thy Holy Spirit.' This is to insult God. To put an 'if' in God's promise when God has put none there, is tantamount to charging God with being insincere. It is like saying, 'O God, if thou art in earnest in making these promises, grant us the blessing we pray for.'" (Bounds, Complete Works, 443)

May 13

Personalities of Prayer

Praying Hyde was in India after the time of Carey. He went to minister the gospel. Burdened to pray, Hyde prayed that God would give him one convert for every day of the year. He did not count a person as a convert until they had been baptized and taken a clear public stand. At the end of that year, Hyde had over 400 converts. The next year he had 800. The following year he had 1600. Hyde was a praying man who knew how to get answers from heaven when he prayed. He said,

I never before knew what it was to work all day and then pray all night before God for another... In college or at parties at home, I used to keep such hours for myself, or pleasure, and can I not do as much for God and souls?

When they examined Hyde before he died, his heart had moved from one side of his chest to the other.

He had been willing to pay a physical price to have an intense prayer life.

May 14

Personalities of Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

George Muller's life was one of prayer. He prayed regarding money, personnel, buildings, and missionary works. Without ever asking people for money, Muller took care of two thousand orphans. He fed them, housed them, educated them, gave them medical treatment, and prepared them for jobs. By prayer, Muller supported Christian schools for over ten thousand students in impoverished places around the world. He supported hundreds of missionaries. Muller's prayers were the key to missionary Hudson Taylor acquiring personnel and money when he needed them. Hudson Taylor would pray in China. George Muller would pray in England. The two had not communicated; but by the time a need arose in China, George Muller had already sent the money. When a need arose, God had it met. The key to George Muller's "success was found in this simple statement made by him: 'I went to my God and prayed diligently, and received what I needed.' That was the simple course which he pursued." (Bounds, Complete Works, 442)

May 15

Personalities of Prayer

Paul Cornett was a man of prayer that I knew. The power of God was evident in meetings he attended. He was not a great teacher or preacher, but he had compassion and zeal as a soul winner. Paul himself never made much progress as a missionary or a pastor, but by prayer he helped a lot of preachers until the Lord took him home to glory.

Brother Ray Bearden is a prayer warrior. He is usually up at four in the morning. He not only prays for hours before the day gets started but sets time aside for prayer during the day itself. Ray can call and ask about a situation and just about know what is going on. He heard about the situation in the throne room. He prays for preachers all over and missionaries too. People often say, "Would you call Brother Ray and let him know about this also?"

Brother Bob Doom is another prayer warrior. He continued a ministry after the death of its founder James Stewart. Through prayer he has seen Revival Literature greatly expand, the Global Bible Society created for Bible translation, and the recovering of the Russian Bible Society with its translation projects and distribution.

May 16

Personalities of Prayer

Into her eighties, Ruth Fajfr would fast and pray. She had a mind clear enough to know what the needs were and to see prayers answered. She prayed faithfully for her children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren. She carried the burden for missionaries.

Revival came under the hammer and sickle of Communism because Ruth Fajfr prayed. Mrs. Fajfr went behind the iron curtain to a church of about three women on social security and in poverty. They were meeting in the basement of a parsonage (all that was allowed by the government). A few years later that same church had 50 to 70 in a youth meeting. (When I spoke to the group, with no room to walk, I simply stood up and turned.) The church also had good attendance for Sunday morning services. When they needed more space, they received permission from the communistic government to make a larger auditorium. Prayer can move obstacles! Though Mrs. Fajfr is gone, a church still ministers the gospel there.

May 17

Personalities of Prayer

Jonathan Goforth is also a godly example of prayer. He saw revival not only in Korea but also in China.

At the age of 65, he had to leave his mission because the mission had compromised about the Bible. Because of leaving his mission, he had to leave China. Goforth knew the power of prayer. He did not quit. Practically blind and needing to learn a whole new language, he went to Manchuria. As the Word of God was taught and preached there, Goforth saw God start new churches.

From these personalities of prayer, we may learn the power that is available in prayer. If God has done a thing before; He can surely do it again. If He so chooses, He can even do some new things. Considering these men and women of prayer ought to help us realize that we do not operate in the flesh. We do not war after the flesh. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds (II Corinthians 10:4). Let us pray much and see God work.

May 18

Planned Prayer

If we are going to make much progress in prayer, we must plan. Progress does not just happen. Finding time for prayer is a struggle. Anything we have on our agenda will push aside prayer. A lot of other things--perhaps good things--will come along and try to take priority over prayer. There is not time in anyone's schedule to get the time of prayer that we need. We have to lay aside some other things. We have to plan to pray and guard time for prayer as our priority. There is an old expression "Plan your work, and work your plan." So it is with prayer. We had better plan our praying and then work to get the praying done. Guard prayer time. See that lesser matters do not take the time.

The process of hindering prayer by crowding out is simple and goes by advancing stages. First, prayer is hurried through. Unrest and agitation, fatal to all devout exercises, come in. Then the time is shortened; relish for the exercise palls. Then it is crowded into a corner and depends on the fragments of time for its exercise. Its value depreciates. The duty has lost its importance. It no longer commands respect nor brings benefit. It has fallen out of estimate, out of the heart, out of the habits, out of the life. We cease to pray and cease to live spiritually. (Bounds, Complete Works, 342)

May 19

Planned Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

Not much progress will be made in prayer if we say, “Father, if You bring some things to mind, I will mention them as I think of them.” To make progress in prayer, we need to plan. About what are we going to pray? Perhaps there are certain people that we pray for every day and others every other day. Some requests may be on our Monday, Wednesday, Friday list and others on the Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday list. We have to plan and organize. When are we going to pray? For what are we going to pray? How are we going to pray specifically? “God bless the missionaries everywhere,” may sound good; but it does not accomplish much.

Before he went to the mission field, a young man wanted to see if God answered his prayers. He asked a missionary for a request that she would share with no one else. She shared a need for a high-sprocket bicycle so that she could get to the villages on muddy roads. There was only one company that made them. The young man prayed specifically for that women’s, high-sprocket bike. In time, he received a letter confirming that though she had no idea who had sent it, the missionary had received the bicycle for which he had been praying. God had answered his prayer! That young man went on to serve the Lord for many years as a missionary.

May 20

Planned Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

Another young man heard the story of the bicycle. He too wanted to see God answer his specific request. He confided his desire to a missionary on furlough and asked for a specific request that the missionary would share with no one else. The man shared his need of six white, dress shirts to take back to the field with him. The shirts needed to be short sleeved with a large neck. The young man began praying faithfully for God to provide the missionary with six white, short-sleeved, dress shirts with the right neck size

Time passed, and the missionary's furlough was drawing to a close. Still he did not have his shirts. After his last service, a man returned to the church. This man shared with the missionary that he felt there was a need, and he would like to meet it. The missionary confirmed that he had a need, but he was not at liberty to share it. The man offered money, but the missionary would not take it. Finally, the frustrated man said, "Look, I am a shirt salesman; and just today I received a shipment of samples. Would you like to see if any of them fit?" The thrilled missionary said, "Oh yes, there will be six white, short-sleeved, dress shirts with a large neck." "No," said the disappointed salesman. "They always send colored samples with long sleeves to show off different cuffs and always with small neck sizes." When he opened the samples, to the salesman's great surprise, he found six white, short-sleeved, dress shirts with just the right neck size. God had answered the young man's prayers. This young man too served the Lord for many years as a missionary. What specific prayers has God answered for us recently?

May 21

Planned Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

We were building our church, and the bricks were going up. Someone asked, “You do have the iron pieces for going over the windows and doors, right?” (In all my building, I had never built anything like this.) “The what?” I replied. “You must have pieces of metal that sit on top of a layer of bricks. They fit back against the windows and the doors,” he explained. “Well, that is perfectly logical.” I said and then added, “We have bricks, but we are out of money.” It would only be a day or so before we were going to need the iron pieces. I prayed. I then went across the street and talked with John Merbaugh. (Mr. Merbaugh demolished buildings and repaired vehicles.) “I just got some of those out of the old Hagerstown brewery,” he said. “It’s about time the Lord got some use from them instead of them being used for alcohol,” I replied. It did not cost us a penny for all those iron pieces. Mr. Merbaugh had every one that we would need! I had prayed specifically, and God answered. I did not pray, “Well, God, we are going to need some things. Maybe You could just sort of send them on by.” No! I prayed specifically, and God showed me where to go. One does not find those iron pieces in the grocery store. Wal-Mart does not handle them. Hardware stores do not have them. God, however, knew that John Merbaugh had some that he would give us.

May 22

Planned Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

Did Jesus impulsively decide to pray all night? He had preached until late in the evening. He was going to be busy early in the morning. He knew that the next day He would choose his twelve disciples. In order to deal with the physical strain, Jesus had to have done some planning. If we are going to fast and pray, we too are going to have to plan.

The Bible record of the life of Jesus Christ gives but a glance of his busy doing, a small selection of his many words, and only a brief record of his great works. But even in this record we see him as being much in prayer. Even though busy and exhausted by the severe strain and toils of his life, ‘in the morning a great while before day, he rose up and went out and departed into a desert place, and there prayed.’ Alone in the desert and in the darkness with God! Prayer filled the life of our Lord while on earth. His life was a constant stream of incense sweet and perfumed by prayer. When we see how the life of Jesus was but one of prayer, then we must conclude that to be like Jesus is to pray like Jesus and is to live like Jesus. A serious life it is to pray as Jesus prayed. (Bounds, Complete Works, 255)

May 23

Planned Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

We ought to be systematic and thorough in prayer. We need not be mechanical, but some structure ought to exist in our praying.

When I pray for the church, I start where someone sits on the left side and then work my way through the auditorium. I try to pray individual by individual and family by family. Several times a week I pray for relatives that I know of in each family. (I must plan in order to have time for that.) I pray for those with whom each individual might have contact. I pray for the finances of the church using the offering report as my guide.

When I pray for missionaries, I pray country by country and individual by individual. Sometimes someone gets a little more time. Their need is greater at that moment, or God lays them on my heart.

For years, I had green booklets filled with requests. I recorded the date I started praying for the request. As God answered, I would record that date also. One does not have to use my plan, but a plan is needed. How much do we plan to pray? What do we plan to cover in prayer? What kind of answers do we plan to get? My Father in Heaven will do a whole lot more than an unjust judge. I have confidence in Him.

May 24

Planned Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

When we ask, we must plan to obtain. We must expect to receive! A human child--confident that his father will give him what he requests if his father knows that he has a need—will ask and will receive. Imagine a child coming to his human father and saying, “I am not sure that I am going to get anything, but I suppose it is worth one try.” Will that child receive? God promises that if we will ask, He will answer. Are we like the widow who persisted? She would not give up, and her request was eventually granted. God honored her persistence and told us that we need to pray the same way.

A child asks and receives from a human father. Surely our Heavenly Father will do even better. We have a loving Heavenly Father who invites us to ask and receive. This encourages me to persist in prayer. I plan to obtain.

May 25

Planned Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

News reporters in the Catskill Mountains in the early 1900s finally located where John D. Rockefeller went for vacation. The reporters knew that Mr. Rockefeller did not want the press around; so they stayed at a distance. They found a cabin at the edge of a lake. One day--posing perhaps as fishermen—the reporters saw some boys. The boys had an old rowboat that they were trying to repair so that they could go out on the lake. The reporters chatted with the boys and confirmed who they were. They asked the boys why they did not ask their daddy to buy them a new boat. The boys replied, “Who do you think we are--the Vanderbilts?” It would not have strained John D. Rockefeller’s resources to buy the boys a boat. However, because they did not think their dad had the money, the boys never asked for one. That is how some Christians act. They pray like their request will strain their Heavenly Father’s resources. Perhaps He will not be able to give them enough to meet their need. God is well able to meet every need we have.

May 26

Planned Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

When his generals were losing, Adolf Hitler would give them anything they wanted and more. While his generals were winning, Hitler was selfish with supplies. It was not that Hitler did not have the supplies. He just did not want to relinquish them. Our Heavenly Father will always give us all that we need to win victories. He will not fail us. We should plan to pray for vision to see what is needed and for victory. God has given us promises and word pictures and examples to follow. Now we need to do our part. What do we plan to see God do this year? For what do we plan to pray? What will we see God accomplish?

The church building in Hagerstown did not just happen. We had plans. We took orderly steps. I met with two men for breakfast every Thursday morning to plan what we wanted to get done in the next week. We would then pray that we would be able to accomplish what we planned. We followed through step by step. The steps were not always completed as fast as we wanted. Sometimes I was discouraged. It took us five years to get in the church building, but God answered our prayers!

May 27

Planned Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

Prayer is simple enough that a child can do it. Prayer is deep enough that the greatest saints never master it. So much is to be learned about prayer. Pray. Watch the Almighty God do great things. People may never take notice of you, but that is no issue. I know the name Mordecai Hamm. He had great crusades. In Spartanburg, South Carolina, Mordecai Hamm saw thousands of people saved. However, I do not know the name of the man who did the praying that made his crusades go. The man who prayed died. Without praying people, at the end of his life, Mordecai Hamm could not get fifty people together. It was not Mordecai Hamm who was great. It was the people who had been doing the praying.

Popularity can be an enemy to a prayer life. We are so busy with people that we do not get time with God alone. Sometimes, in order to protect the prayer closet, we have to retreat from a situation. Praying is more important than some other things. Plan to pray. I encourage you to plan to pray and then work that plan. We will rejoice together in glory at the advances for the kingdom.

May 28

Planned Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

Over the years, we as a church have seen God do the impossible through prayer.

- **We prayed that the Communist government in Brazil would change what they were going to do about granting a missionary visa, and God answered.**
- **We prayed for protection in Africa where some were trying to destroy the saints of God.**
- **We prayed and saw the Iron Curtain come down. Some thought that Communism in Russia was going to sweep over the rest of Europe and take over the United States. They scoffed at the very idea that the Iron Curtain would come down. We took that as a prayer challenge. We prayed, and the Iron Curtain came down.**
- **We prayed and watched people donate needed items and funds.**

Praying is essential, and watching God answer is encouraging. We must plan to persevere in prayer. God is all powerful.

May 29

Principalities and Powers in Prayer

Ephesians 6:10-20

Warfare is going on, and God wants His servants to be able to stand. We are fighting. All-out exertion with a desire for victory is needed. God's Word as the sword of the Spirit and prayer are two elements in this battle. These are the two weapons by which we attack and by which we can win. Jesus quoted Scripture to the Devil and prayed. God's Word and prayer were the foundation for His ministry, for His success, and for His victory. They were also the key in our redemption. Jesus had to battle Hell in the Garden of Gethsemane. He had battled Hell throughout His ministry. The demons came and tried to hinder what He was trying to accomplish. The Christian soldier

Is depicted as being ever in the conflict, which has many fluctuating seasons – seasons of prosperity and adversity, light and darkness, victory and defeat. He is to pray at all seasons, and with all prayer, this to be added to the armor in which he is to fare forth to battle. At all times he is to have the full panoply of prayer. The Christian soldier, if he fights to win, must pray much. By this means, only, is he enabled to defeat his inveterate enemy, the devil, together with the evil one's manifold emissaries. (Bounds, Complete Works, 61)

May 30

Principalities and Powers in Prayer

Ephesians 6:10-20

In the book of Daniel, we find Daniel praying for three weeks and not eating convenient food. He just ate very lightly. It was what we would call a partial fast. Daniel did not quit praying for three weeks. After those three weeks, he received the answer to his prayers. The answer to Daniel's prayer had actually been given the very day he prayed. That answer had been sent to Daniel by the hand of an angel. The prince of Persia--the ruling empire of the time--had withstood the angel and kept him from coming through. God, after three weeks, sent another angel to deal with the prince of Persia so that the answer could come. For three weeks, not knowing or understanding what was happening, Daniel battled on. He did not retreat. He did not surrender. He did not quit but kept on praying. Daniel did not understand all that went on in the unseen world, but he kept on praying. At times we will have to pray though we do not understand what is going on in the unseen world. It may look like God is not going to answer; but, having done all, we need to stand.

May 31

Principalities and Powers in Prayer

Ephesians 6:10-20

We are told that we wrestle not against flesh and blood. People are not our problem. We do wrestle against principalities. Principalities are those demonic beings that deal with the governmental structure of a geographic area. Different ones cover different territories. We need to understand that we are dealing with those that govern the area for which we are praying. If we want to pray for a missionary in Moldova, we will have to deal with the principalities here and the principalities there. We are praying against the god of this world and the forces that he musters. We are trying to bring a change just as much as Christians under Communism or Islam try to bring a change. They have to deal with those forces where they are. We deal with forces here and may have to deal with them even more in the future. Thank the Lord that the One we serve is greater. “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (I John 4:4).