

## August 1

### Passion in Prayer

**Romans 10:1 and 9:1-3**

**Paul had passion in prayer. He speaks of his “heart’s desire” (10:1) and of “great heaviness and continual sorrow” in his heart (9:2). We need that same heart desire in our praying.**

**“Without desire, there is no burden of soul, no sense of need, no ardency, no vision, no strength, no glow of faith. There is no mighty pressure, no holding on to God with a deathless, despairing grasp – ‘I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.’ There is no utter self-abandonment as there was with Moses, when, lost in the throes of a desperate, pertinacious, and all-consuming plea he cried: ‘Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin; if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book.’ Or as there was with John Knox, when he pleaded: ‘Give me Scotland, or I die!’” (Bounds, Complete Works, 33)**

**Do we tarry, battle, and struggle in prayer? Jesus poured Himself out. Surely we should be as passionate. Do we know how to pour ourselves out? Do not be passive. Be passionate in your praying.**

## **August 2**

### **Passion in Prayer**

**Romans 10:1 and 9:1-3**

**Picture a father that hears the groans of his child and feels the fever on that child's forehead. The father thinks, "I don't know if we ought to take him to the doctor. I don't know if he will make it." Suppose that father decides, "These things happen in children from time to time. I think I will go back to sleep." What kind of love is that?**

**Think of a loved one that is lost spiritually. We take his spiritual temperature, and it tells us that he is dying. We know he is going to be burning up in a matter of hours or years! Do we say, "Well, maybe he will get saved"? Does the love of God dwell in our hearts? Love always seems to stir our passions. Love ought to make us passionate in prayer.**

**August 3**

**Passion in Prayer**

**Romans 10:1 and 9:1-3**

**Consider the devil that deceives, the sin that binds, and the world that leads on the wrong path. Anger mixed with love for the souls of men ought to produce potent passion in our praying.**

**We need a strong desire for the growth of God's kingdom and the advance of the cause of Christ. Do we have patriotism for the kingdom of God? Are we loyal to the Savior and to His cause? (Oh! People will do much because of loyalty!) We are servants of the Almighty, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords! How can this not stir us to pray passionately?**

**Heaven is waiting. Jesus is returning, and our work is going to be over. With this anticipation, we ought to pray more fervently.**

**August 4**

**Passion in Prayer**

**Romans 10:1 and 9:1-3**

**Jesus indwells us. The Word of God has soaked into us. Faith has encouraged us. Previous answers to prayer make us want to press on. The hunger for victory encourages us to push a little harder in our praying. God will empower us by the Holy Spirit to pray from the depths of our being.**

**We have the promises of God. We have the principles of God. We have the gifts He has given us. As we draw closer to God and He draws closer to us, we begin to see Him do the impossible in our lives. What we cannot do and what others cannot do, He can! Faith laughs at the impossibilities and says it shall be done.**

**August 5**

**Productivity in Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**Is prayer merely a ritual or a routine? Prayer produces. Prayer ought to produce a host of clear-cut answers. We ought to see God supplying what we have specifically asked for in prayer. Recently, our church was praying to find a Bible in a certain language. We felt that if the Bible had been translated into that language, the translation had to be in the United States or Canada. We believed that God knew where that Bible was even though we did not. We prayed. God did know. He led us near to Chicago where cases of that translation were found in a basement.**

**We ought to be productive in prayer. We ought to expect specific answers. If someone asks if we ever get answers to prayer, we can share what God has done. Ask yourself, “Is prayer productive in my life? What have I seen accomplished by prayer?”**

**August 6**

**Productivity in Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**Prayer should produce. Not only should it produce specific answers, but it also ought to produce a communication with God. God went to Adam and Eve in the garden in the cool of the day to have a time of communication. They talked to God, and God talked to them. In prayer, do not dominate the conversation. We speak, and He speaks to us. Spaces of time when we listen should be a part of our private prayer closet. This communication will lead to a fellowship, a close friendship and a sweet relationship. These come through a right prayer life. We will not produce them by studies or by works.**

**We need God's leading. How are we going to receive it? We listen to God. He nudges us or directs our attention, and then we know just what He wants us to do.**

**August 7**

**Productivity in Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**Our knowledge of God ought not to be simply one of ritual or doctrine. Prayer ought to develop a close, intimate relationship. When we talk to God, we acquire His manners just like we pick up the manners and mannerisms of humans with whom we spend a lot of time. The book of Acts tells us that people noticed that Peter and John had spent time with Jesus. “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13). Do people notice that we have spent time with Jesus?**

**Jacob was changed after his night of prayer. “And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved” (Genesis 32:30). He was told, “Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed” (Genesis 32:28). Moses’ face shone after spending time with God. The Bible tells us that Moses was not aware at first, but others saw it (Exodus 34:29-34). What changes is God working in us through our times of fellowship with Him?**

**August 8**

**Productivity in Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**An old motto states, “Prayer changes things.” Though that is not the total truth, it is a true statement. Prayer ought to change things, and it ought to change us and those around us. Prayer ought to change people.**

**Many Americans today want change. Perhaps they have not been to a good prayer meeting because it is prayer that changes things. In fact, prayer will change what politicians cannot. Maybe the change will not be what some desire, but it will be what is needed. Prayer involves us in a world-changing business. Revivals are all rooted in prayer. Movements of God are rooted in prayer. Upgrades of civilization have been rooted in prayer. The downgrades have been rooted in lack of prayer.**

**Mr. Finney once said, “I once knew a minister who had revival fourteen winters in succession. I did not know how to account for it till I saw one of his members get up in prayer meeting and make a confession. ‘Brethren,’ he said, ‘I have been long in the habit of praying every Saturday night till after midnight for the descent of the Holy Spirit among us. And now, brethren (he began to weep), I confess that I have neglected it for two or three weeks.’ The secret was out. That minister had a praying church.” (Bounds, Complete Works, 363)**



**August 9**

**Positive in Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**God would have us pray in a positive direction. We ought to think in terms of what we are praying in favor of rather than what we are praying against. We ought to think in terms of advances, rather than holding on or strategic retreats. We ought to pray, if you would, pro-life rather than anti-abortion. The slaughter of the innocent is a repugnant thing to a holy God and ought to be to any civilized person. We need to pray, however, in terms of pro-life. We ought to be pro-people. We are praying for people and not against people. How do we think when we pray? If all we want are negative changes, we are going to have a negative world. We ought to be praying for positive changes. We ought to be praying pro-Jesus. Prayer so often dissolves into a lot of negatives about the difficulties around us. Lord, stop this. Lord, block this. Lord, do not let that happen. When we are finished praying, not one positive step forward has been made for the kingdom. In our praying, we need to learn how to overcome evil with good. So often we ask God to block the evil instead of overcome the evil with good.**

**August 10**

**Positive in Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**Years ago, instead of praying anti-abortion, I began praying for a positive alternative. I began praying for advances in the lives of babies being born prematurely. If a premature baby of one pound can be spared to live well, what does that do to the argument to abort one, two and three pound babies? I wanted to show that people are slaughtering babies because they do not want them and not because those babies are unviable pieces of tissue (the argument in Roe vs. Wade). I began to pray. I understand that a 15 oz. child was born and survived. Now is a tremendous time to pray positively to show the wickedness of abortion rather than to pray negatively against abortion clinics.**

**August 11**

**Positive in Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**When communism was on the rise, Christians prayed that Bibles would produce conversions in Russia until communism could no longer control the country. That is precisely what did happen. We could not smash the Iron Curtain. We did not want to go head to head with Russia in war. However, the Bibles began to flow in; and the Iron Curtain came down.**

**I prayed positively for what God could do and also made two trips in behind the Iron Curtain. On one trip in, the leaders told me that in a few hours we would be having a meeting to discuss evangelism. They told me that they were not allowed to have an evangelism seminar, but we were allowed to discuss evangelism among ourselves. I was invited to speak. As long as I kept away from politics, I was free to preach on evangelism. What a blessing to speak about evangelism in a communist country. Only God could do this!**

**August 12**

**Positive in Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**Even China has had to make room for ping-pong players and businessmen. Now Bibles are flowing into China in larger quantities. I am convinced the principle of overcoming evil with good works. In our praying, let us seek to overcome with good rather than try just to defend ourselves against the evil. As we pray, let us consider how each situation can be addressed to bring God much glory. He is worthy!**

**In Kenya they have tribal-bloodshed warfare. We prayed a lot of literature, Bibles, tracts and preaching into Kenya. Egypt is filled with Islam. We prayed not only for radio but also for literature and the establishing of churches. From the Egyptian churches, workers have gone into so-called closed countries and started works. If you or I went to these countries, we would be spotted immediately. However, these workers are related; and because of similarities, they can go. Through prayer, something can be done in Africa, South America or anywhere. Learn to pray positively. Bibles changed Eastern Europe. The Gospel can change Africa. What part of the world will you prayerfully see God change for His honor and glory?**

**August 13**

**Positive in Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**In chemistry, a negative can tie to a positive. When a negative electron ties to a positive proton, a neutral neutron is produced. In our world, how do we neutralize negative evil? We throw a lot of positive at it! We pray positively. More positive than negative will overcome the evil with good. God has the power to give us a ton of good to neutralize five pounds of evil.**

**In prayer we are able to ask in a positive fashion. Often we request, “Pray that my child will not get into this sin.” That is negative praying. Instead, pray that God will save that child and change them so that they will hate sin and be a holy influence on those around them. That positive request is a lot more to ask, but positives always are. Why are we going for the least that is necessary, instead of the most that is possible?**

**August 14**

**Positive in Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**For many years, missionaries had a library in Brazil. The library was an attempt to encourage learning and thinking so that people would not be misled by cults. Missionaries overcame the negative (ignorance) with the positive (books and knowledge). Pray positively rather than negatively. Pray that truth will overcome error. Pray for light to overcome darkness. If people are enemies, pray for their conversion. If people are hungry, pray that they will be able to grow food or have access to food. If people are in poverty, pray that they will be able to meet that need with jobs. I remember going to the eastern shore in Virginia where a group was talking about starting a Bible-believing church. They wanted several churches to back them. Eventually, they asked what kind of program we offered for those who did not have work. I answered, "Prayer." They looked at me strangely. I said, "We pray they get jobs. Prayer works." Prayer was not what that group had in mind. Rather than prayerfully looking for work, they had been hoping to get a pipeline of money to care for them. As a result, that church never started. This worldly expression fits here, "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." Many times we are praying against the darkness, but we forget to light any candles. Look for the positives that can overcome the negatives in life.**

**August 15**

**Positive in Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**We can pray about politics and politicians. We are commanded to do so. “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” (I Timothy 2:1,2). The prophets in the Old Testament prayed for their governmental leaders. Proverbs teaches us a lot in this area. Jesus knew how to deal with governmental leaders in His day. This is Biblical praying.**

**When we pray for good to overcome evil, we can pray for local school boards, city government, county government, state government and our national government. We can even pray about international government issues. We need to remember that the rise and the fall of leaders are governed by an Almighty God. “The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever He will” (Proverbs 21:1). God turns the king’s heart according to His own will and not the king’s will or the people’s will. In order to accomplish His will, God can make kings and rulers do things that violate everything they think, believe and represent.**

**August 16**

**Prayer and Politics**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**Where will we find presidential, cabinet and sub-cabinet layers of moral, God-fearing people to lead the country? We cannot even find them for county commissioners, city councilmen or school-board members. Our Christian homes and churches are not producing godly leaders of character and ability. We need to learn to watch and pray that God would raise up godly leaders.**

**I remember Brother Paul Ritchey facing a certain judge when confronting charges for preaching on the street in front of an abortion clinic. That judge had been raised in a Sunday School where he had been taught the Bible as the Word of God. That judge was not a saved man, yet his decision was still influenced by the teaching he had received as a child. Who are we raising to be honest judges and Christian judges? When we pray about politics, we need to pray for leaders of the future as well as those who are in office today.**



**August 17**

**Prayer and Politics**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**Abraham Lincoln said, “It is not good for a man to seek the presidency. The presidency ought to seek the man that is needed for the day and age.” Mr. Lincoln did not campaign. He did not even go to the conventions where he was nominated. He had read his Bible many times and believed that God could put a man in office that was the right man for the right time. He left it in God’s hands. People prayed. (Prayer accomplishes far more than sitting in confusion and frustration.) Some prayed that Mr. Lincoln would be elected; and, no doubt, others prayed that he would not be elected.**

**We need to see the sovereign God behind His movements. God might put a child like a Joash or a Josiah on the throne to show mercy. When God wanted to bring judgment down on Samaria, He used Ahab and Jezebel as leaders. God may show mercy by putting one kind of president in office or show judgment in giving a different kind of president. When it seems our prayers are not being answered, it may be that God is really bringing judgment. The Sovereign God has His reasons for allowing leaders to be put in office. We need to understand that God uses each leader to accomplish His purposes and pray accordingly.**

**August 18**

## **Prayer and Politics**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**How should we pray for those that are in authority? Pray for them to be able to deal with the confusion they encounter amidst so many decisions. Pray for them to have wisdom so that they will make wise decisions rather than foolish decisions. Pray that they will have an interest in what God desires and a fear of God. Pray for politicians at all levels, and let God work in their souls.**

**Pray for the conversion of those in authority. The old saints in Britain had an expression which the rest of the country adopted with a different meaning, “God save the king. God save the queen.” Old saints in Britain prayed for the conversion of the leader of their country. Do we pray for God to save the president? What would happen if we prayed for the conversion of those on the Supreme Court? Conversions would change the balance and the decisions made.**

**Do we really believe that God can save any individual? Can you imagine what would happen if Prince Charles of England got saved? Can you imagine what would happen if the headman in Iran was converted? Pray for politicians. God says, “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**

**August 19**

**Prayer and Politics**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**Prayer possibilities open doors for the entrance of the gospel: ‘Withal praying also for us that God would open to us a door of utterance.’ Prayer opened for the apostles doors of utterance, created opportunities and made opportunities to preach the gospel. The appeal by prayer was to God, because God was moved by prayer. God was thereby moved to do His own work in an enlarged way and by new ways. (Bounds, Complete Works, 162)**

**Let God open doors for the progress of the Gospel. As we pray in the realm of politics, we need to pray for opportunities to share the Gospel. Bill Finnigan was able to go and give the Gospel in an elementary science class in Ohio. (That is an amazing privilege in today’s world.) Bill had this opportunity because he was in rescue-mission work. While explaining his activity in the mission, he shared the Gospel that changes the people with whom the mission works. He also explained that that same Jesus saves children and keeps them from going down destructive paths. Bill seized the opportunity he was given! Let us seize our opportunities!**

**August 20**

**Plenteous Provision**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**When we pray for provision, do we believe that God is not bankrupt? Do we have a confidence that God still finances? Do we know that where God guides, God provides? Do we still believe that through prayer we can have access to God's abundant riches?**

**In China, Hudson Taylor would pray for money to meet a need; and in days, he had his money. It took weeks and months to move money in those days, but Hudson Taylor received provision after several days. How did this happen? George Mueller often prayed about money that he had received asking the Lord where he should send it. God had told George Mueller to send money to China even before Hudson Taylor started praying. That money arrived shortly after Hudson Taylor prayed. Where did George Mueller get that money? Someone would give money to George Mueller, and he would give (not keep) that money. Hudson Taylor also would not keep the money but would use it for a need. God has His own pipelines for provisions and has plenteous provisions to give.**

**I like what Bro. Ray Bearden says, "God will give you to give, what He will never give you to keep." Are we willing to be channels through which God can send provision for His work?**

**August 21**

**Plenteous Provision**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**God has promised to provide for our needs and does that in many different ways. God may bless through labor. Usually it takes a forty-hour work week to cover our basic needs. It is what we earn after forty hours that provides extra. The more hours we work; the more excess we will have to distribute. God may bless through diligence on a job or diligence in handling what we have. God may bless through stewardship and proper handling of what we have. God may bless through creativity or through investing what we have extra. It may be because we give that God will give to us to give again. God has many ways of providing when His people have a heart to give to His work.**

**August 22**

**Plenteous Provision**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**I remember calling a man who owned a newspaper and was in the printing trade. I told him that I wanted a printing press. He said he had some used printing presses that he could send to me. He asked *what kind* I wanted. I told him what we needed for a missionary in Mexico. He said, “Would you believe I just bought one like that cheap at an auction? If you want it, we will recondition it. You find someone to build a crate for it and ship it.” I found someone that helped me get the press crated and shipped. Soon the missionary in Mexico had a printing press.**

**God has plenteous provision. When I first called that newspaper owner, I did not know that he had that press. I remember telling him, “I didn’t call to get a printing press from you. I called to get information from you.” He responded, “I gave you information; didn’t I? Will you accept the press?” I did not have to pay for a dollar. I did not even have to pray about shipping that press. God took care of both. I want you to see the plenteousness of the provision that comes from our Lord. We have a *great* God!**

**August 23**

**Plenteous Provision**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**Our church prayed for a chapel in which to meet. We prayed that without borrowing one cent, we could buy building materials and pay the builders. We had just been in a terrible, terrible recession. Interest rates were high for loans on property. Inflation was rising. People were out of work. We could not depend on people, the economy or the banks. We believed it was a good time to trust God. God provided for us, and today we are enjoying the building.**

**Years ago we were trying to clean up a horrible mess in a church building. Years of pigeon droppings had accumulated, and bricks had fallen. A few men with shovels and a wheelbarrow were doing what little we could. We decided to start the process necessary to get electricity. That process normally took weeks. To the shock of the whole community, we had electricity by the end of the day. We not only had electricity, but we had tractors with front-end loaders that helped scoop materials to the dump and smooth the ground outside. What would have taken enormous amounts of time, God cared for before supper. God is able!**

**August 24**

**Plenteous Provision**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**God has people. God has resources. He can use ravens, He can use donkeys. He can use whatever He wants. He is God. To Him we pray! Sometimes we approach God as if He is miserly. Remember. Though we may be bankrupt, God has limitless supply; and He promised to care for our needs.**

**We saw God provide a building in Ohio. Even our down-payment check was given back. In Watertown, New York, we were able to rent the recycling center called it The Redemption Center. We were allowed to preach in a church owned by liberals that did not believe the Gospel. We had exclusive use of a building in Champion, New York. In Dolgeville, New York, two bids were made on a property. The high bid did not get the property; the low bid, our bid, did. A building in East Worcester was closed. It was in good repair and had a bathroom in it. Hymnals, still in the racks, waited. The owner said she would let anyone preach in it--as long as they said they were a Baptist. We found a Baptist, Ben Wilkerson, who went there to preach.**

**We have seen and heard what God can do, and we need to tell it to the generations to come. "This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord." Psalm 102:18**



**August 25**

**Plenteous Provision**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**For 29 years from 1975 to 2004, I did not draw a salary. (I did receive an allowance for travel and things like that.) In 2004 I wanted the church to be prepared for another man when God took me off the scene. They would be comfortable and ready, and the next man would not be bound by how I had chosen to live. In those 29 years, Carolyn and I raised five children without asking anyone for a nickel or even a penny. I did not make needs known. I did not complain or point out problems. I believed that God could take care of His children. My problem was that I gained 100 pounds! God did take care of us!**

**A number of years ago, I was to speak at a Bible conference. The family needed to go from Maryland to Ohio and on to upstate New York. When we left, we did not have enough money for the trip but believed God would provide. As we traveled from place to place, people that had never before given me money would hand me twenty dollars. We did not have to skip laundromats. Even with five children, we never went hungry or missed one meal. When we got back to Hagerstown, Maryland, we still had some gas in the tank. I think we had two dollars left. God is not bankrupt. He can send provision whenever He wants and through whomever He wants.**

**August 26**

**Production of Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**As Christians, we ought to be some of the most productive citizens in our nation. God has gifted us with the ability to pray so that we can see things accomplished. We can pray for creativity in doing things and not pray for creativity in avoiding work. (Some people have a good bit of creativity in their laziness.) We need creativity to accomplish much. Proverbs chapter eight tells us that those who have studied to be wise and are righteous can make many witty inventions (verse 12). They have the wit necessary to make inventions that perform better and are more productive.**

**A friend of mine who wanted to put up a steel building balked at the cost. He found someone that already had a steel building the size he wanted. It was built over some wood framing. He bought that steel building for almost nothing. That friend worked together with others and created a tool. They put something like vice grips on the end of a pipe with a larger, heavier pipe over it. They could slide the weight up the pipe and pop a nail right out. My friend had that steel building apart in no time. He moved it and put it up. With a little, witty invention, a large steel building cost him almost nothing.**

**August 27**

**Production of Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**Abraham, Job, and King Hezekiah were able to creatively be more productive. You will find in the history of agriculture that Abraham is reputed to be the one to make the plow. Supposedly, his was a single-bottom plow. With a tube, he was able to plow the field and plant his seed at the same time. In this way, he only had to go through the field once. This, no doubt, increased production. Job also showed creativity and ability in farming. King Hezekiah made war machines. (These were probably the predecessors of shotguns and cannons.) When King Hezekiah was defending Jerusalem, fewer soldiers could do more damage. They could shoot a host of things at one time.**

**God can help us be more productive too. We must ask Him!**

**August 28**

**Production of Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**Mr. Wiseman lived and worked in his laboratory during World War I. When the German U boats surrounded England and cut off supplies, leaders in England went to Mr. Wiseman for help. He was a Jewish man. During his morning devotions, he read about God having treasures in the snow (Job 38:22). In his laboratory, he substituted snow water for regular water in a formula on which he was working. Snow water worked as a substitute in the explosives he was creating. England then made a change in their war strategy so that they could be on the offensive and took the Turks by surprise. Leaders asked what kind of award Mr. Wiseman wanted. He said he did not want money or title. "I want our land back for my people," he said. The British mandate held until after World War II, and the British people ruled Israel. They opened Israel for the return of the Jewish people and changed history. Because of his Bible reading and prayer, Mr. Wiseman was able to do what no other scientist had been able to do.**

**Greater production is possible for people that know how to pray. We must know how to follow God and then watch Him work in the situations we face.**

**August 29**

**Production of Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**Solomon was able to produce steel of a quality that today's producers have not been able to match. His steel was far better than Damascus steel. Solomon's blast furnaces were unearthed, and it was found that he did not have big furnaces to blow the air. He had strange-looking chimneys that caught the winds off the Mediterranean Sea and funneled it into the furnaces when they needed it. With this system, he was able to produce a high grade of steel. Solomon was also able to take copper and mold it like he wanted. Perhaps he would mold it like a spring and then process that copper spring so that it was as strong as steel. (I am sure the auto manufacturers and others today would be glad to be able to accomplish this.)**

**Solomon was able to accomplish much by prayer and study. Christians can do marvelous things in this same way. Bible-believing Christians are a small minority in the world's population. However, well over half of the best known scientists and inventors have been Bible-believing Christians. Something is available in prayer that helps in creativity and invention.**

**August 30**

**Production of Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**Some people accomplish so little because they do not focus. They are scattered in their thinking. Not able to pay attention to one thing at a time, they try to care for ten things. Nothing gets done. However, when we pray, God can bring things into focus in our thinking, our learning and our behavior. My father found that when a junior high or high school student was saved, he generally made at least a ten point increase on the next IQ test. When a person is saved, God does something in his mind. God does even more when a person learns how to pray.**

**Ministries are aided by prayer. They are able to produce more and accomplish more. God gives the direction and the enablement. Missionaries that want to serve God are scattered thinly around the globe. They accomplish much because they pray and many others pray. Those missionaries are able to upgrade the number of Bible classes that they teach and increase the amount of literature that is distributed. They may not sweat and toil more; but they are more productive.**

**August 31**

**Production of Prayer**

**Matthew 6:1-20**

**If weather is going to interrupt what God wants to do, then God can change the weather. Elijah proved that. Others have proved that down through the years. We can pray about weather. If rain is needed for things to grow, we can pray for rain so that production will be greater. Many farmers as God's servants have prayed and produced more per acre than their neighbors could. This was not because they were smarter but because they prayed.**

**The United States entered World War II on two fronts. People prayed. We came out of a depression; and our factory system (a modern marvel) developed during a time of war. It was built when the best of our men were gone. God helped us to increase production. Our farms produced enough to feed us and our troops and help feed the war-ravaged countries in Europe. We were able also to produce enough to help rebuild Europe and Japan. Prayer can affect what is achieved and how much is produced.**