

phrases. They did not need to know forms in which prayer is framed, but what they asked, "Teach us to pray."

When this question was asked Jesus knew that, very soon there would be Gethsemane, the betrayal by Judas, the mock trials, the mob crying crucify him, the crown of thorns, the purple robe of mockery, the horror of the cross, the dark silence of the tomb.

He knew that these men who loved him, would be shaken to the very center of their beings, and they would desperately need to know how to pray.

The need would still be present after the resurrection, for they were without money, equipment, political influences, or social standing.

They had no adequate organization or experience and money would have said what is the use. They sought to understand prayer.

They would face persecution, threats, imprisonments, ridicule--torture, betrayal, poverty, death. They needed to know how to (tap unseen resources) how to receive wisdom from above, strength for their weaknesses, courage for their fears, and patience for their discouragements. They would need to know

"LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY"

Luke 11:1

Introduction: The whole purpose ~~purpose~~ of prayer is good. There is a subjective side to prayer, also, an objective side.

Would you dare to pray, "Lord, teach me to pray?" Be honest--are you afraid of God?

But you must remember, neither you nor I will be happy before we yield ourselves to His pierced hands. In this way we can enroll in the school of prayer.

So (few of us become sanctified) and skilled petitioners because we do not continue in the school of prayer. The course is not an easy one and the difficulties do not consist alone in the temporal and spiritual trials. There is something in the school that tries our patience sorely. Jesus mentions it in (Luke 18:1-18.) There he says, "That man ought always to pray and not faint."

We (become faint) very easily. How many times have we not earnestly resolved in our own minds to pray for certain people and for certain souls--only to find ourselves growing faint. We are not willing to expend the effort. And little by little we

give up the course
The Disciples had often listened to Jesus, as he prayed; the simple, intimate manner in which he talked to God. Wherever he happened to be he talked to God. Wherever he was he could address the Father.

The disciples were also accustomed to the formal and stately prayers of the (rabbis) and the chants of the (priests) in the temple and the loud eloquent prayers of the (Pharisees).

The disciples had noticed that Jesus often (went apart) from them--even from Peter, James and Joh--into the desert or upon the mountainside to spend long periods in prayer. At times he spent (whole nights) in prayer, and at other times he arose early in the morning and went apart to pray alone. When he came from these secret sessions of prayer the disciples noticed that his countenance was marked with a calm assurance, a certainty, a joyous sense of power--Jesus knew the secret of prayer.

It is (this secret of prayer and power that Isreal had lost.) Abraham, the friend of God, and Jacob, Joseph and Moses, had been men of prayer. A long line of prophets were skilled in prayer--Elijah prayed and the contest with Baal was won. Elisha

surrounded by the Syrian hosts in the village of Dothan, only to pray that the Lord would open the eyes of the servant that he might see the firey chariotsof the Lord around him.

Now, the prophets had left all to follow Jesus. There was something within them that urged them to leave everything to follow him.

At the same time (they were aware) of their own inadequacy, their lack of experience, their ignorance, their lack of faith. The longer they followed Jesus, the keener ~~they~~ became their spiritual hunger; they longed with a passion that for a power that would help them and they knew that Jesus was the one to reveal it to them.

Therefore, (one day) they made the approach "Lord, teach us to pray!"

Right here is a truth we should not overlook--they did not say, "Lord teach us (A prayer)"--yet that is what people have made of the model prayer. It has become a part of many services to be recited in unison by saint and sinner alike, by believer and unbeliever.

These disciples did (not need to know the language of prayer), they could learn that from the

diviners. It is no difficult to learn what men have prayed for or the language that makes prayer beautiful.

This world is filled with chaos, with "men's hearts failing them for fear." Hatred, suspion, and prejudice filled minds. The mad race for super-bombs, ghided missiles, and bombers that travel faster than sound.

Why, then do we labor with feeble minds and impotent hands to create a brave new world?

Why are our churches not filled with Christians at prayer, asking daily, and hourly in the name of Jesus?

Have we forgotten, or (have we never learned, the power, of "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man"? Can it be that multitudes of nominal Christians do not believe there is a God or no balm in Gilead?

Many have been taught by the Master. The Disciples learned that prayer opens a whole planet to a man's activities.

I can through prayer (touch hearts for God in far away India.) A man may go aside today and shut his door, and as really spends a half hour-- in India for God. You can turn a key there and be

how to pray. 5

For these and other reasons I believe Jesus did teach his disciples how to pray. A large part of the lesson is contained in the true meaning of the model prayer. Other teachings are found in the Sermon on the Mount. However, they finally learned prayer the only way anything is really learned--by practice!

(Proof) that they really learned how to pray is borne out by the experiences recorded in the book of Acts--they prayed and power came down, the place was shaken where they were assembled and 3,000 were added in a single day. They prayed and became of one heart and of one soul, they pooled their resources and property and prison doors were opened. They prayed and their archenemy, Saul of Tarsus, was converted, they prayed and the gospel swept across the Roman empire, until converts were to be found everywhere. These early Christians were men and women of prayer.

FEW KNOW HOW TO PRAY TODAY.

I am persuaded that not very many of us today know, how to pray as the early Christians.

All of us who Christians (know something) of

prayer. We remember how prayer let the sunshine of God's love through and brought the comforter to our sides. These have been mountain top experiences but too few and far between. Even these experiences do not teach us lessons that abide. Sometimes they we feel it was our own strength and wisdom that delivered us.

Too much of the time, our lives are lived in the valley of humiliation. Prayer as a certain, always available means of really coming into the presence of God, talking with him, finding his will, receiving his power for guidance, remains an unknown factor in the lives of most Christians.

Why are there so many inadequate, sin-ridden, frustrated, unhappy, powerless Christians? The motto of faith is, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthenth me?" Can it be we are afraid of prayer?

Do we know how to pray and then hold it in reserve like a spare tire? To use it only in an emergency?

Can it be that we are (too busy) watching T.V., reading the latest "Best seller", or keeping up with the presence of the Joneses?" that we simply

The (first church) was a praying church. They went from house to house to hold meetings. They have no buildings to compare with ours, yet we seemingly do little about vice, poverty, crime, divorce, injustice, oppression, graft, and political corruption. Church people are more interested in making one proselyte than reaching 10 unsaved people. One of our members was sick in the hospital, another preacher prayed his special attention because he had a little money. When preachers and members perform Christian service with an eye on the Billiford their service is worthless.

We have made our "Father's house" everything but a "house of prayer." If you doubt it, compare the crowd that attends a fellowship banquet, with the crowd that you can assemble for a prayer meeting.

Prayer, of rightly understood, (will not make our lives easy)-prayer will call us to cross-bearing, to the whole task of the church. It will cause us to put first things first and give us grace and power for the task committed to us. We could move the world to Christ if all know how to pray.

There are (Prayer Books), official and unofficial, there are collections of prayers by eminent

and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith."

Matt. 18:18-20

John 14:13-14

John 15:7, 16

John 16:23-24

*Used. Hands
around of hand
Three songs
Prayer and Praise
... F. W. to say*

Let us take these words all afresh, as they come directly from the heart of God. They mean what they say, a 100 per cent face value. "Lord, teach us to pray!"

helpful.

The (great people) of the earth have been people of prayer. I do not mean those who talk about prayer, but those who take time to pray. Some say they believe in prayer, but never find time to pray.

There are those who say they (do not have time) --it must be taken from something else. This something else may be important, but it is less important than prayer.

Great Japanese Christian (Kagawa) said, "I have an hour of prayer from two to three in the morning, At this time the world is still and quiet and in this time I am able to push up closest into the presence of God."

(Miss Helen Keller) "The most valuable thing of my day is the first moments when I turn my face toward heaven and seek God's guidance for the day. Yes, daily prayer is the most vital force in my life

Jesus taught the (most natural) thing of prayer includes many things.

It calls for (petition) - all prayers of petition are not selfish, because they come with the thought of "give me."

It calls for (commission) This is a kind of

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Bible refers to it as "pray without ceasing."

It calls for (intercession) This is the kind we often offer when we pray for others. (Space and distance and time) have no effect on this prayer. Our friends may be across the state, or nation, or the world, and pray and God hears and goes into action to answer our prayer.

I read in a magazine ("Christian Life") of how Jesus taught a young missionary in Brazil how to pray. This young man fresh out of the seminary tells his own story.

"I was sent to Teofilo Otoni in Southern Brazil. I found only two other evangelical believers in this town of 20,000 people and no evangelical churches.

I rented a little hall, that would seat 50-- printed tracts and a few people began coming. I was so discouraged that I asked my mission board to put me somewhere else.

I sought to get the people that had been converted to pray. We established a Wednesday night prayer meeting. Very few, came to the service, there were rarely more than two or three, six at the most. Prepared a series of sermons on prayer, this did not help.

At last, early one morning, I spent many hours in prayer searching the word, but I seemed to get no light. It was about one o'clock in the afternoon when I received some light. My eyes fell on the 19 verse of 17th chapter of John--It was Christ's prayer: "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."

This was the first light God had given me.

I saw that though Jesus was the Son of God, he had first sanctified Himself that he might sanctify His disciples. Though he was the Son of God, yet He prayed. He prayed anywhere and everywhere.

I was very busy in church. I worked hard. There were sick people who needed attention. There was the regular chore of visitation. The preparation of sermons took much time. So I had said to myself, "I am too busy with the work of the church to pray very much. But it is important that we have prayer in the church. My people must learn to pray."

Jesus just sanctified himself! Jesus set the example. He was what he wanted others to be. This was the answer, no matter how much work in the church was mine, I must pray and my people must pray. No matter what had to be left undone, we could not neglect prayer!

Spurgeon once said, a preacher prays four times as much as a good believer.

Finally, the prayer meeting attendance grew large. The people ask for a prayer meeting on Saturday night so more people will get a chance to pray.

Later one Sunday morning I went over to the church a little earlier than usual. There were a group of men in the church, as they saw my surprise one said with a smile, "Pastor, we have been conspiring against you."

"What is this, " I asked smiling, "Do you want to get rid of your pastor?"

NO, not that, "--we have been meeting together at six o'clock on Sunday mornings to pray especially for you."

Why didn't you invite me? Because you have so much work to do on Sundays.

✓ In May 1958 that church had a membership of more than 800. It supports 3 full time ministers. The church has served several S.S. and small missions. They have built a large sanctuary, 2 story Ed. building and a chapel. All of this came because of the church prayer. They just sanctified themselves.

The Bible gives some of the greatest promises to those who learn to pray.

(Mark III:22-23:) "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God, for verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast unto the sea,