

More Important Than Prayer

By Evangelist Dea Warford

Health: *Try juicing celery and grapefruit for arthritis pain!*

Word: "I sought for a MAN among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." (Ezekiel 22:30 KJV)

Wisdom: I was preaching for a lady pastor in Crestline, California. From the pulpit, she casually made the comment, *"The Pray . . . er is more important than the prayer."*

My spirit leaped when I heard it (to my recollection, for the first time in my life). I knew it was fraught with revelation knowledge for me. Her truth became my truth! (And you can let my truths become your truth too!)

I began meditating on that truth and this message was birthed. This truth could help change your whole outlook on prayer! Consider today's devotional verse in Ezekiel 22:30 KJV: "I sought for a MAN among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

The above verse was spoken when God was about to judge Israel for their great sins. It was in His heart to spare them. However, the Lord had already chosen to limit his actions on earth primarily to the prayer and faith of God's people:

Prayer: "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven." (Matt. 18:19)

Faith: ". . . through faith and patience (There's the time in prayer you spend) inherit the promises." (Heb. 6:12)
Above Ezekiel says God "sought for a man." God searched this planet for and wide. What was He searching for?

Some good deed someone was doing?

Some prayer floating up to heaven from a closet?

No;

God was looking for "a man."

He needed a "Pray--er." Some legalistically right action wouldn't cut the muster. A prayer prayed properly in the fashion taught by some teacher in a book wasn't enough. God needed a man: a man with a right heart who had become a righteous tool of the Holy Spirit.

God needed, *Not an intercession, but an intercessor!*

"He saw that there was no MAN, and wondered that there was NO INTERCESSOR; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him." (Isaiah 59:16)

Notice above that it says "no man" and "no intercessor." It doesn't say "no prayer" or "no intercession."

The "Pray . . . er" is more important than the prayer!



I have held "Prayer Conferences" in a number of churches across America, teaching Biblical methods of prayer. Methods are important. But, the "messenger" of the prayer is even more important than the way the prayer is prayed! It is human nature to always try to discover the methods, the clues, the "tricks" to make life work for us. But, God is far more interested in who we are, not what we do.

We'll imitate what others have done that worked for them, and then wonder why it didn't work for us. The seven sons of Sceva (Acts 18:13-16) tried to imitate Paul's method of exorcism, saying to a demon, "[We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.](#)"

The demon answered, "[Jesus I know and Paul I know, but who are you?](#)"

The demonized man then leaped on them and stripped them of their clothing. These would-be exorcists prayed the right prayer (in "Jesus" Name), but they weren't the right "Pray-er!" It's not so much what you do or how you say it, but who you are and who you know. It's all about relationship as Heb. 13:6 states:

["But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."](#)

Prayer should be understood as an important way we "please Him." And it is not just the prayer, but the "faith" behind the prayer that pleases God. Faithfulness (Maintaining a right relationship with Him and being full-of-faith) is more important to Him than the "work" of prayer.

Notice above also that God rewards those "who diligently seek Him." It is the "diligently seeking" of "Him" that differentiates someone praying (for an answer) and a "Pray--er" who "comes to God" because He loves and desires to please Him; and so enjoys being in His presence.

Many have read faith books and tried to imitate the writer's faith by copying his methods of prayer and confession. And, many have failed to get the same results. Why? I submit to you that it is because they thought it is what that man did, not what the man was. They failed to take into account the inscrutable things like the heart and the history of that man's unique and personal walk with God. God is more interested in who you are on the inside, than what you say or pray on the outside. This is what the "Pray--er" is.

In Luke 18:10-14 KJV, a Pharisee prayed, "[God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.](#)" (He was doing the right things).

On the other hand, the publican also prayed and, "[. . . smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.](#)"

The publican's prayer was shorter and had no good works to commend itself, but yet his prayer worked and the other one's didn't: "[. . . this man went down to his house justified.](#)"

It was his heart that birthed the simplest of prayers. "The Lord looks at the heart." (1 Sam. 16:7). And, it was his heart which made that simple prayer effective.

David was a mighty man of prayer. He was a "man after God's own heart." (Acts 13:22 KJV). But, he wasn't born that way.

"Pray . . . ers" aren't born; they are made!

Make yourself pray (By crucifying the flesh!) and you too can become a Prayer . . . er!

David's years of quietness in God's presence while tending sheep, meditating, praying and worshipping transformed the core of David's being: a metamorphosis of his heart, making the prayers emanating from that heart effectual.

Moses was the greatest intercessor of all time, saving a nation from total annihilation with one prayer (Ex. 32:7-14). He too wasn't born a mighty prayer warrior. He had to first be driven from Pharaoh's pleasure palace to the desert; where for 40 years he tended sheep until at last, he had become the humblest person on earth (Num. 12:3). Humble people aren't confident in their prayer methods, but they've learned to walk humbly with their God, and to lean in prayer on him (1 Pet. 5:5).

"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." (1 Peter 5:5) and, "Without Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 KJV)

A number of years back, for over two years, I used a very strict method of prayer. I required of myself to pray so many minutes a day for a good number of people and concerns. As my burden and sense of responsibility for more and more things grew, eventually it took about an hour and a half a day to complete those prayers. And, if I got busy and didn't pray my prayers, I made myself pray double the next day! It was about the most demanding and rigorous discipline of my entire life.

While driving to one of my meetings, praying my prayers as usual (Many times I had to pray in the car or on an airplane because of schedule demands), I was feeling discouraged. It seemed I had been praying all these prayers for so long and so hard, and yet it seemed I had seen so few prayers answered. In that moment of discouragement, the Lord spoke to my heart that it wasn't the prayers, or the results that were the most important thing: *It was what these prayers were doing in me!*

God was most concerned most, not about the prayers, but rather about His "Pray . . . er."

You may feel inept as an intercessor. You may have become very discouraged because your prayers seem to have brought little results: family members are still unsaved; you're still sick; the money still isn't there. But, be encouraged! To God, you aren't just sending up prayer: you are being transformed (like David or Moses) into a "Pray . . . er."

So, concentrate less on the prayer and more on the prayer answerer, God, and being a "Pray . . . er": an instrument that God can be pleased with and use as the need arises. Lay aside the sin, repent of any wrong attitudes and rid yourself of anything that could possibly hinder your prayers and your becoming a "Prayer . . . er."

Become a Praying Machine in 2017! (Rhyme intended!)

And never forget: as far as the Lord is concerned, *The "Pray . . . er" is more important than the prayer.*

To help send one "Pray-er" to pray over sick and demonized people around our nation, click on the link below; then click on the "On-line Donations" button and God bless you today!

www.evangelistdeawarford.org

Prayer: "Father, make me a man after Your own heart, like David. And make me humble, like Moses, so that you can depend on me as Your intercessor. If you are looking for a man, as far as my heart is concerned, I'm that man!"

Confession: "I am not just a person of prayer. I am a Pray--er!" God is transforming my heart so that my prayers will be more effective."

(All Scripture references are from the New King James Version, Thomas Nelson, Nashville, 1982; unless otherwise noted)