

THE ANATOMY OF A CHRISTIAN STEWARD

XII. Knees That Kneel Part II

THE EXHORTATION OF THE SCRIPTURE

The Bible is full of exhortation and commands to pray. Paul said, *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men"* (and women too). I Timothy 2:1

In Philippians 4:6 we read, *"... in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."*

In fact, we see that failure to pray is called a sin in the Bible. I Samuel 12:23 says, *"God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you."* (Over twenty times in the New Testament we are commanded to "ask God".)

We simply cannot do the work of God without the power of God. Prayer is our source of power.

Today when we pray, God works. Lives can be changed, families can be united, children can be reclaimed when we pray. Our church can experience renewal, a new unity can be achieved, a spirit of cooperation and sacrifice can be a reality. Yes, miracles can and will happen when we pray.

Dr. L. R. Scarborough was an educator and preacher from another era. One Sunday he preached on Jonah and the big fish. On the way home, his 5 year old daughter asked, "Daddy, do you really believe that a man could be swallowed by a big fish and come out alive 3 days later?" "Well, honey, God can do anything." And she said, "Oh, if you are going to bring God into it that's different."

Prayer brings God into it. Prayer is a two-way conversation. We talk with God and God talks with us. For example:

- Moses talked to God and God talked to Moses about building the tabernacle.
- David talked to God and God talked to David about building the temple.

- Nehemiah talked to God and God talked to Nehemiah about re-building the walls around Jerusalem.
- Ezra talked to God and God talked to Ezra about his house of worship.
- Paul talked to God and God talked to Paul about a world mission.
- You talk to God and God talks to you about your part of His will and purpose for your church.

Prayer is discovering God's purpose and plans for heaven and earth and that everything be done according to His "will." The purpose then of prayer is to bring everything in harmony with His "will." The end result is that we "will" what God would "will" and then we do what God would do or wants to do through us.

We then may discover that His "will" is so demanding and we feel so inadequate. God at this point speaks again saying as He did to Paul, "My grace is sufficient." Through prayer He provides the power to do His will.

We learn through prayer that God never makes a request or a demand without making promises to accomplish it through us. Even Jesus said, "I can do nothing of myself." Neither could we. With God's plan there is provided a power. With God's "will" He provides a way!

Now that you have prayed to know God's "will" and God has given you a "willing heart" as you prayed yesterday, I have another request. Pray this simple prayer:

*"Lord, you answered my request for a
'willing heart' and I thank you for that.
Now Father reveal to me what you want
to accomplish through me.
My heart is willing and I am listening!
In Jesus name, Amen."*