



Prayer

that moves

MOUNTAINS

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CHAPTER 1

PRAYER THAT MOVES MOUNTAINS

Jesus, in Matthew 21:21-22, said, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

Power to move mountains! This is what Jesus said. His promise includes that and more. It includes “all things.” “And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” It sounds too good to be true, but it is true.

Perhaps friend, at this moment, you are weighted down with a heavy burden. It may be that a serious illness has come to you or a member of your family. Or, it may be that you are wrestling with embarrassing financial problems. Whatever your need might be, at your fingertips is the means by which you can solve every problem. You who are sick, in your very room there is a power waiting to be released that can set you free from every illness and disease!

Power to move mountains! Yes! But, you must learn the secret by which you may release this power. Just wishing for things to get better won’t bring the result. You have probably found this out already; yet, the right kind of prayer, the kind Jesus spoke about when He said, “If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*,” will bring the answer without fail (John 14:14).

Perhaps one of the most common ways in which people weaken their faith is the assumption that many of their prayers are not answered because it is not the will of God to answer them. While it is true that people sometimes ask for things that are not His will to give, the fact remains that many things they ask for are in harmony with the revealed will of God. It is the will of God the sick be healed. It is the will of God we have good health. It is the will of God we have victory over oppression and fear. It is the will of God our daily needs be supplied. It is the will of God we have the joy of the Lord in our heart. It is the will of God we prosper and be in health, even as our soul prospers (3 John 2).

Let us get this straight. God doesn’t want His people to reconcile themselves to defeat and failure in their prayer lives. He wants them to have tangible results from their praying just as people did in Bible days. Prayer isn’t a last resort to turn to in an emergency. Prayer is an essential part of our day-to-day life. When we learn the secret of praying, our whole life will become a succession of miracles.

Look at the mighty answers to prayer the men of the Bible experienced. When Abraham, at an advanced age, desired God to give him a child of his wife, Sarah, God miraculously strengthened Sarah’s womb, so she could bear him a son.

Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, once a common adventurer, but later

on became a Prince with God, wrestled with God in a night of prayer, even while his brother Esau rode toward him with an army seeking vengeance. He prevailed with God, and God prevailed with Esau (Genesis 32-33).

Jerusalem was invaded by a superior force of Assyrians who had been invariably successful in all previous campaigns. The resources of Hezekiah were no match for their great army. But Hezekiah prayed, and that night a plague of death struck the invading host. By morning 185,000 men lay dead (2 Kings 19:15-35).

Shortly after this, Hezekiah was sick unto death. In the natural order of things there was no hope for his recovery, but Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, and pleaded with God. The result was fifteen more years were added to his life (2 Kings 20).

Elijah prayed for the widow's son who had died. Never before had life returned to any person after death had come. There was no precedent for raising the dead in all of history. Yet, the prayer of Elijah reversed time and caused the dead boy to open his eyes and return to this world (1 Kings 17:20-23).

Daniel, God's faithful prophet, prayed for the restoration of Jerusalem, which had been lying in ashes since the days of Nebuchadnezzar's invasion. He was still alive to see it because King Cyrus made the decree which permitted the Jews to return to their city to rebuild (Daniel 9).

Peter was cast into prison, and orders had been given for his execution. The church prayed without ceasing for his release, and lo, an angel of the Lord visited the prison and led Peter to safety.

We see, again and again, how God answered prayer for every conceivable need of His people and under every imaginable circumstance. Whether it was deliverance from sickness, a miracle supply, preservation from danger, Divine guidance, saving one from dying of thirst or the wisdom needed to rule a kingdom. No matter what the need was God supplied it in answer to believing prayer.

The law of receiving is positive and certain. Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened" (Matthew 7:7). What does this mean? It means there is an Invisible Power about us who is able to work out every problem, and who will anticipate every need and supply whatever may be required. A Power so great it can move the very mountains if need be.

Does this sound too good to be true? As God is true, so the promise is true. Such answers to prayer can be yours, too, if you will take time to learn the secret.

CHAPTER 2

THE SECRET OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD

In the first recorded sermon of Christ, He took occasion to lay down some of the great principles that governed the successful operation of prayer. Jesus was interested only in prayer that was successful, prayer that brought the answer, prayer that would, if need be, move the very mountains.

It was always the habit of Jesus to strike right at the heart of the matter. He knew what was essential and what was not. He didn't tell men they ought to pray. That instinct was born in their hearts. The most ignorant heathen prayed. The prophets of Baal prayed. The hypocritical Pharisees prayed. What Jesus was interested in was showing men the right way to pray, so they could see miracles in answer to their prayers.

THE SECRET CLOSET

Jesus began at the beginning. He showed that true prayer was communion with the Supreme Being—the Father God. Prayer was a solemn act, and it should be entered into the right way. He told men that before praying they were to seclude themselves where they would be free from interruption. Men could not successfully carry on human and Divine communion at the same time. Jesus bid them to go into their closet, close the door, and pray to their Heavenly Father Who “sees what is done in secret.”

To emphasize His point, He reminded them of the Pharisees who prayed on the street corners to be seen of men. He cautioned His disciples not to be like them:

“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ‘But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly” (Matthew 6:5-6).

Why must men get alone to pray? Because when they enter into the act of prayer, they are entering into the Presence of God. When men pray, they must be conscious that they are approaching their Creator, the One Who is worthy of absolute reverence and respect. The Old Testament writer wisely said:

“Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God *is* in Heaven, and you on Earth; Therefore let your words be few” (Ecclesiastes 5:2).

Most everyone knows that God is in Heaven, *but the great secret of prayer is to realize and understand that He is also in the very room where you are*. It is the realization that God is actually present that makes prayer vital and powerful. When one realizes that God is in the very room where he is, he will not be careless in his conversation with Him. As Jesus said, “And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words” (Verse 7).

God is in Heaven, but He is also on Earth. When David was chased from place to place by Saul, he was ready to believe that God was so far off that he might not be able to hear him in time to save him (1 Samuel 27:1). David was to learn that wherever he was, God was also present. In Psalm 139:6-10, he acknowledges this, although he admits he does not fully understand it:

“*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into Heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.*”

GOD IS EVERYWHERE—HE DOESN'T COME, AND HE DOESN'T GO

God is everywhere. He is as omnipresent as the air we breathe. He doesn't come, and He doesn't go. He is the great I AM! Jesus showed that worshipping God is not to be confined to a certain place or a certain time. The woman of Samaria wanted to know whether Jerusalem or a mountain nearby was the proper place to worship. This question was the subject of bitter controversy in that day, and it occurred to the woman this was a golden opportunity to get a prophet's answer. Jesus replied to her question in a way she hardly expected.

“Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him’” (John 4:21-23).

How different men's lives would be if they recognized another world was watching them! Even to know that angels are near (Psalm 34:7). But more than angels, the Presence of God sees all, observes all and records all. There is nothing we can hide from Him.

“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” (Hebrews 11:6 Amplified).

WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE PRESENCE OF GOD

It is the recognition of the Presence of God that makes it easy to pray, easy to have faith. Though God is not present in visible form, He is present just the same. It is in recognizing this actual Presence of God that we find prayer no longer is a chore, but a supreme delight. Christ’s Presence is always with His people, which the Lord made plain in John 14:23.

“Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”

Moses became the great intercessor of the Old Testament. When the children of Israel sinned, and the Lord refused to continue with them on their journey to Canaan, He offered to send His angel instead. Moses would have none of it. He said, “If Your Presence does not go *with us*, do not bring us up from here” (Exodus 33:15). And he persuaded the Lord to grant his request. God reassured him, saying:

“My Presence will go *with you*, and I will give you rest. So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend” (Exodus 33:14, 11).

The day came when Jesus was to leave His disciples. How they longed that He might tarry with them longer! Jesus explained why He must leave, saying, “If I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you.” If Jesus went away, the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, would be sent by the Father into the world. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus could then be present, not only with a few, but with believers everywhere. He could then fulfill His promise, “Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20).

What is the first secret of prayer? What is the secret of moving mountains by the prayer of faith? The first thing is to recognize the Presence of Him who created mountains. Recognize that Christ is with you every moment in your daily life. Then it will be easy to recognize the Presence of Christ when you pray. Start today recognizing and practicing the Presence of Christ in your life.

CHAPTER 3

THE SECRET OF PRAISE

You wish to learn the secret of prayer that will move mountains? Prayer that will change things? Prayer that will tap the infinite resources of Almighty God? Prayer that will make the invisible become visible? Prayer that will release the power of Heaven for the benefit of humanity? Well, you can learn that secret, but he who would learn it, must be willing to follow the rules.

THE DISCIPLES SAID, “LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!”

In Luke’s account of the Lord’s Prayer, (read Luke 11:1-4) the disciples had said to Jesus, “Lord, teach us to pray.” There was a reason they asked this question. The disciples had witnessed His amazing and unique ministry. They had watched Jesus as He healed the sick. They had seen Him with the touch of His hand cleanse the leper. They had witnessed His healing power go out to the blind and the deaf. They had observed that even the elements responded to His command, and at His word, the winds are stilled, and as He spoke, the waves of the angry sea are calmed. How was He able to do these things? What was the secret of such mighty power? At first, it all seemed a mystery, but gradually the disciples learned the secret. Jesus had this power because He knew how to pray! As they continued day by day with the Lord, a longing came into their hearts to also learn how to pray. One day they ventured to ask Jesus if He would teach them.

The Lord did not hesitate to grant their request. He was never One to keep His secrets to Himself. Men have often sought to monopolize power—but not Christ. He came into the world to teach others to do what He did. He was willing that His disciples should learn to do even greater works (John 14:12). Yes, He would teach them to pray. He began by telling them, “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be Your name.” As He ended His model prayer, He concluded with these words, “For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” In these sentences, Christ revealed a second great secret of prayer. Prayer that reaches God begins and ends with worship!

PRAYER BEGINS WITH WORSHIP

Our God is a great God, a good God. All that we are or will be is entirely due to Him, the “Giver of every good and perfect gift.” Therefore, as a creature of this Creator, we owe God our sincere worship and praise. Worship, therefore, is the first element in prayer.

Right there is where some make their mistake. Prayer is mostly regarded by them as a means by which they can receive help in the time of emergency.

True, that is a purpose of prayer, but this concept is certainly far from the whole purpose. God will move mountains; He will stop the sun and the moon in their courses, if necessary, but He wants something out of prayer, also. What could God possibly want? He is eternal. The All-sufficient One—what have we to give Him Who rules the Universe?

There is indeed one thing we can give God. He seeks and longs for it. The one thing is our devoted worship. Since the creature owes everything to God, his Creator, it is right and proper that the creature should worship Him. Men should praise the Lord all the days of their lives. As the last verse of the Psalms declares, “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD” (Psalm 150:6).

We mentioned in the first chapter the account of the woman at Jacob’s well. She had brought up the question, “Where was the best place to worship.” To this poor unenlightened soul, Christ gave one of His greatest revelations. He said, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him” (John 4:23).

Christ revealed that God seeks one thing from the human race; the one thing they can give, if they will, is to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

When Jesus was on Earth, religious people of the day, to a great extent, had made prayer a standard form, ritual or tradition. One group claimed that men should worship God only in Jerusalem. Another said the proper place to worship was in Mount Gerizim in Samaria. Jesus revealed that neither Jerusalem nor a particular mountain had anything to do with where men should pray. God is a Spirit. He is everywhere. Therefore, He wants all men, wherever they are to worship Him. God seeks such worship.

Satan also competes for the worship of men. When the devil tempted Christ, he promised Him the kingdoms of this world and the glory of them, if only He would fall down and worship him (Matthew 4:9). Jesus rejected Satan’s offer and told him that worship was reserved for God only.

Notice how Christ, in His praying, gave thanksgiving and praise to God. His first recorded prayer was, “I thank You, Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes” (Matthew 11:25). Before Christ raised Lazarus from the tomb, He thanked God that He had already heard Him. When little children praised the Lord as He made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, instead of rebuking them as He was urged, He said, “Yes. Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?’” (Matthew 21:16).

Important in the art of prayer is the secret of praise and thanksgiving. Enter into God’s Presence with praise. Bring your requests to God with thanksgiving. Praise Him for what he has already done. The powers of Heaven and Earth, the power to move mountains, are at the bidding of those who have learned the secret of praise. Begin today the habit of continually giving Him the sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13:15).

CHAPTER 4

THE SECRET OF THE WORLD VISION

“Pray... Your kingdom come. Your will be done On Earth as *it is* in Heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days *That* the mountain of the LORD’S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:2-4).

When one refers to the promise of Jesus that prayer has the power to move mountains, it often causes a puzzled expression to come upon people’s faces. Surely, they think the word “mountains” must be figurative. The Lord did not mean that a real mountain could be moved by prayer.

It is true that the term “mountain” is often used figuratively in the Scripture, though this does not lessen the force of the promise. “Mountain,” as it was often used, was symbolic for a kingdom. Christ’s Kingdom is spoken of in Daniel 2:35, 44-45, as a “great mountain” that “filled the Earth.” In the above verses, which speak of the “mountain of the Lord’s house,” Isaiah refers to the Kingdom of God that is to be established upon the Earth—a kingdom that will result in universal peace, with the nations beating “their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.”

However, let us ask this question. How is this great “mountain of the Lord’s house,” the Kingdom of God to be established on the Earth? The startling answer is it will come as the result of the prayers of God’s people! This is what Jesus indicated in the prayer He taught His disciples when He said, “Pray... Your kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.” Christ would not ask us to pray for something that would come to pass whether we prayed or not. He never told us to pray for the sun to rise when it would rise anyway. However, He did tell us to pray for the Kingdom to come—a Kingdom to supersede the kingdoms of this world (Revelation 11:15 and 16:20).

THE KINGDOM MUST COME FIRST INTO THE HEARTS OF MEN

Are we then to pray until the Kingdom drops down out of Heaven? No, Jesus made it plain that it would not come this way. He said, "The Kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the Kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20-21). Christ must rule in the hearts of men before He will reign over them. The supreme work, therefore, of the followers of Christ is to preach the Kingdom of God, so it might enter into the hearts of men. This was the great task that was begun by the apostles and today is still unfinished. Christ has expressly stated, "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

God, from His great position on the throne, looks over the Earth with all its sorrow and woe caused by sin and the broken law, and He yearns for its redemption. He so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son. Yet, He still awaits the evangelization of vast populations who have never heard the Name of Jesus. What is the Church doing about this? What are we doing about it?

The truth is the Church's prayers are weak because of the narrowness of its vision. A vast number of Christians pray only for their personal interests. How many churches, can it be said, have a real interest in world evangelization? How many have a real interest in God's work outside of their own denomination? Surely, we must broaden our vision to wider horizons. World evangelization can only be fully brought about by the *united effort of the whole Body of Christ*. Only then, will the world believe that Christ is the Son of God:

"that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me" (John 17:21).

Now is the time for the Church to pray as Jesus taught, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven." Let the Church pray its members become one so the world may believe that Jesus Christ is indeed sent of the Father. They who will pray this unselfish prayer may also pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," and they will not wait long for the answer.

Shortly, after our conversion, God gave us a vision of world revival. The call of the Gospel absorbed our whole being to the extent that all other ambitions in life faded. We found we would rather preach the Gospel than do anything else in the world.

Much of our evangelistic work was during the depression years. Those were the days when one could prove whether or not he had a call from God. Often an evangelist might find his total love offering at the end of the week was around three to five dollars. But whatever the financial amount, we can truthfully say we never had the slightest temptation to leave the ministry.

Nevertheless, from the beginning, in one thing we were greatly dissatisfied. The results were not in proportion to the overwhelming need. The Church was winning the lost, one by one, but all of this was just a drop in the bucket as far as world evangelism was concerned. It was plain from the Scriptures that God intended this Gospel of the Kingdom should be preached as a witness unto all nations. Indeed He said, "Preach the Gospel to every creature." But, at the rate the job was being done, it would never be accomplished.

During those days, God showed us, as well as many others, that a revival was coming, and it would reach the masses. How we prayed and looked forward to its coming. A revival that would reach the whole world, with audiences of tens of thousands!

Then, God sent the revival! By a series of strange providences, we were brought into the center of it. It was our privilege to share in the organization of the first union meetings of this present visitation. As time went on, it was our joy to see many of our colleagues participating in great campaigns in foreign lands—revivals that were reaching tens, even hundreds of thousands. Whole nations were being stirred. Where missionaries had labored endlessly for years with meager results, the mightiest visitations came. These revivals soon proved to be greater than anything known before in history.

We thank God for those to whom He has given this world vision. In praying "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth, as it is done in Heaven," they are receiving a rich reward in personal happiness. All of this is but a token of what is yet to come. Before the Church are broader visions of accomplishment. We must enter a prayer crusade of revival that has never been known before. God give us all a vision of world revival; a revival that goes beyond organization or denomination; a revival that will take in the whole Church. As we pray "Your Kingdom come," we will find that He will take care of our personal needs. As God pours out His blessing upon the whole world, we shall receive abundantly, even above our capacity to receive.

If we would learn the secret of moving mountains by prayer, then we must accept the world vision. We must pray for the world harvest. We must pray for the salvation of a thousand million souls who are without Christ. We must pray that God's Kingdom will come, and His will be done on Earth—and he who prays this prayer unselfishly will see mountains moved and his own needs will not go unanswered.

CHAPTER 5

THE SECRET OF PRAYING IN THE WILL OF GOD

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done On Earth as *it is* in Heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

“And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing” (1Corinthians 13:2).

God has promised us power to move mountains, but we must be sure that we move the mountains He wants moved. God never puts His power on display, nor does He give special demonstrations for entertainment purposes. The moving of a mountain is of no benefit unless it accomplishes a purpose in the will of God, and unless the act is motivated by a love for humanity. As Paul says, “If we have faith to move mountains and have not love, we are nothing.”

In this we see the all-important factor of the will of God. It is necessary when we pray, “Your will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven,” that we seek the will of God to be done in our life. As 1 John 5:14 says, “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

MAN IS GOD’S MASTERPIECE

Man is the crowning glory of the creation of God. He was made in the image and likeness of God and given dominion over the Earth (Genesis 1:26). His home was in the Garden of Eden, and in this Paradise there was no sin, no sickness, no pain, no suffering nor death. Before man chose to disobey God, all things moved in the orbit of God’s perfect will.

Man in the Garden made an evil choice, and as a result, moved out of the will of God. Even so, God still had a plan in place to save him by sending Christ into the world to redeem him. In the end, mankind should have all that Adam originally possessed and more, too. Through Christ, all was to be his for the asking. As Jesus said:

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened” (Luke 11:9-10).

Why is it then that so many of God’s children seem unable to appropriate the promise? Why is it they fail so often in getting their prayers answered?

Why do so few miracles happen in their lives? Why is it that no mountains are moved? Could it be that there is something missing, something lacking in their lives that deprives them of the benefit of the promise?

THE MYSTERY OF UNANSWERED PRAYER

Herein lies the answer to the mystery of much unanswered prayer. God has a pattern for the life of every person born into this world. For every creature made in the image and likeness of God there is a special purpose. The greatest moment in any Christian's experience is when he discovers the purpose for his being on Earth.

When a man finds the will of God for his life, then the powers of Heaven and Earth work for his good. As it is written, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose" (Romans 8:28). When a man becomes absolutely committed to the will of God, he will discover to his delight that the most complex problems of life have a mysterious way of working themselves out. How does this happen? The God Who made the planets, the sun, the moon and the stars, and then, Who causes them to follow in their appointed paths by His irresistible will, is now causing all things in this person's life to also follow in their proper orbits.

HOW GOD SHOWED US HIS WILL IN BUILDING CHRIST FOR THE NATIONS PLANT

The importance of the will of God in accomplishing anything worthwhile became very clear in our work with THE VOICE OF HEALING magazine. In the year 1951, we contemplated building offices in Dallas. At that time, we had no money to pay for the project.

We knew this move must absolutely be in God's Divine will in order to succeed. Daily we took the matter to the Lord in prayer. Once we were ready to move, but God checked us. Those who wait on the Lord will not make haste. We continued to pray. Day by day we laid the matter before God. Finally, the hour came when God said, "Now is the time. Rise and build." We were certain we were moving in the will of God.

However, we still found that every step needed to be carefully prayed through. First, we had to make a choice of a building site. We were about to make a deal for a lot, but it fell through because of an unexpected legal technicality. It looked as though we were being held back. We did not fully realize what God had in store for us, but God knew, and He kept us from making a mistake. Until we had a chance to locate a piece of property that would meet our requirements, we didn't fully understand the first property was not at all adequate for our future growth. The City Planning Commission had intended on zoning this area for residences, but through a clerk's error we were given permission to build. Then, when the mistake was discovered, the Commission decided to let us go ahead. We have always felt this location is ideal, and God gave it to us.

Now, we came to the critical moment. If God was in our move, He must supply us with \$20,000 in a short time. Did God meet us? He did! The miracle took place. In a few months' time we had a fine building erected, but it was only a small part of what we were going to need in the next few years.

Soon, the enlarging ministries of CHRIST FOR THE NATIONS demanded that we expand, but where were we going to get the money? God gave us the answer in an unexpected way. He blessed us in the ministry of the written Word, which not only enabled us to support our family, but the proceeds enabled us to continue our program of expansion. This, with the addition of some liberal gifts, permitted us to move forward with great speed. Since then, we have built additional offices for a missionary department. We have erected a publication building and installed printing equipment for our literature crusade. Now, from almost nothing a few years ago, we have a large, well-equipped establishment, and we are geared for the extensive missionary program in which we are deeply committed.

As we look forward, we can see greater responsibilities ahead. We have learned that when each step is prayed through and is clearly in the will of God, the miracle that is needed will always take place.

THE PILLAR OF CLOUD

God's plan for guidance to His redeemed people is beautifully illustrated in the story of how He led the children of Israel out of Egypt. They knew they were to make the journey to the Promised Land, but they were not left to their own resources and wisdom, even in the making of that short journey. They were to be led by the Presence of the Lord which dwelt in the Cloud of the Tabernacle. When the Cloud moved forward, they went forward, and when it tarried, they tarried:

“Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD *was* above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys” (Exodus 40:36-38).

It is a solemn thing to note that when Israel refused to follow the Cloud, that particular generation was never permitted to enter the Promised Land.

The lesson is clear. These things were written for our admonition (1 Corinthians 10:11). When we see the common tragedy of Christians who are no longer going forward in their Christian experience, we know that in some way they have either rejected or ignored Divine guidance in their lives. Those who wish to have their prayers answered must be willing at all costs to follow the leading of Christ in their daily lives.

Sad is the story of those who day-after-day continually cry for this or that person to pray for them; who confess that God does not answer their prayers. Even though they pray, seemingly nothing happens, and their problems

become greater and greater. What is wrong? Why are these people so beaten? Could it be their lives in some way are out of the revealed will of God? The reason for their consistent failure is usually right there. Jesus said to pray, "Your Kingdom come. Your will be done On Earth as *it is* in Heaven." And he who prays that prayer must include it to mean, "Lord, let Your will be done in my life." For the will of God can only be done in Earth as it is done in the lives of men.

Yet, even while His soul was tortured in the terrible struggle, He was able to pray, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*" (Matthew 26:39). Christ resigned Himself to the will of God, even though it meant His drinking the cup to the bitter end.

If we are going to see mountains moved as Christ saw them moved, then we, like He, must pray, "Not as I will, but as You will." If we are going to receive answers to prayer as He received answers, then we must commit ourselves, as He did, to the will of God. This means death to the self-life. It means crucifixion. But with death, there also comes as compensation, the resurrected life, and with it comes joy and peace in the Holy Spirit. Though Christ endured suffering in the closing hours of His life, God also gave Him such joy that He could say, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full" (John 15:11).

Now we have learned another important secret of prayer. We must like Christ pray, "Not my will but Yours be done." Every step you take must be committed to God. Not that God should bless our plans, but that we should seek God's will and ask Him to bless us in doing it. God will give us power to move mountains if it accomplishes a purpose in the will of God. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7).

CHAPTER 6

THE SECRET OF THE DAILY CONTACT

“Give us day by day our daily bread” (Luke 11:3).

In these words, there is a clue to another vital secret in the art of praying to change things. This is the principle of daily contact with the living God. Jesus taught men to pray saying, “Give us day by day our daily bread.”

God has ordained certain laws for the governing of His Universe. It is evident, that in no other sphere are the laws as unchangeable as they are in the realm of prayer. Successful prayer means daily contact with God. When a man’s spiritual life begins to deteriorate, generally, the cause can be traced to a lack of consistent daily prayer. Those who have investigated have been amazed to learn the small amount of time many people, even ministers, give to real prayer. Perhaps five or ten minutes a day are spent in saying prayers, and then they are up and on the way. No wonder the forces of darkness are able to mobilize against them and in some cases completely paralyze their efforts.

The things of which a successful life is made are shaped in the crucible of the daily hour of prayer. God must work with the material given Him, and if there is an insufficiency of material made available, He is limited in what He can do. Many people do not realize there is an actual substance in prayer. The proof of this may be seen in Revelations 8:3, when God stores up the prayers of His saints, His people, and they have a part in the execution of His plan on Earth.

God has ordained that men should have at their command the resources of Heaven. “All power in Heaven and in Earth is delivered unto me,” said Jesus, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. As the Father has sent me so I send you.” The Church can undertake this momentous task because all power has been made available to it, but it is only available to those who will day-by-day keep in contact with their God.

“Give us day by day our daily bread.” Jesus did not ask us to pray for a year’s supply, or a month’s, or even a week’s supply of bread. God wants us daily to be in utter dependence of Him. He wants us to daily feel the need of the strength of His Presence, of His sustaining power.

THE DAILY MANNA

This great lesson of daily dependence on God was taught in the giving of manna to the children of Israel. They were to receive only enough for a day’s supply. No man could gather a supply for several days and hoard it for future use. Those who did try to store it found it bred worms and was unfit for human consumption.

There is a common mistake made by many Christians ... They would have a healing, they can’t “lose,” rather than the health which comes from

a daily dependence on the quickening power from the Spirit of God. They would rather have financial security that does not compel them to go daily to the secret chamber and ask God to meet their needs. They would have a Baptism of the Holy Spirit that does not require a daily waiting on God for a fresh anointing. However, such desires are not in accord with God's purpose.

God's plans involve a daily dependence on Him. Without Him we can do nothing. If we are to successfully accomplish His will in our lives, we must not allow a single day to pass without that vital communication with God. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Men are careful to partake regularly of natural food, but they are not so careful about the inner man, which also needs a daily replenishing. Just as the body feels the effect of doing without food, so the spirit suffers when it fails to be fed on the Bread of Life.

Daniel is a splendid illustration of one who learned the secret of true success. His life spanned a century, during which time dynasties rose and fell. It was one of the most turbulent eras in the history of the world. Time and again, Daniel's life was in grave jeopardy. Once, he was condemned to perish with all the wise men of Babylon. At another time, he was thrown alive into a den of vicious lions. On each occasion his life was miraculously preserved. His integrity and wisdom caused him to rise in favor with each succeeding regime. Because the Spirit of God dwelt in him, he was admired and respected by kings and queens (Daniel 5:11). Whenever an emergency arose, they turned to him for help. For the better part of the century his life influenced nations. His fearless courage and faith moved kings to acknowledge the true God.

What was the secret of Daniel's power? The answer is prayer was a business with him. He did not go running to God just when some crisis appeared. Crises were common in his life, but when they came, he always knew what to do. Three times a day he met with God and gave thanks. This was a daily habit with him, and he allowed nothing to interrupt it.

THE LESSON OF THE BREACHED WALLS

The importance of daily prayer, a daily meeting with God and not just a casual saying of prayers, is forcefully illustrated in the story of a Christian Armenian merchant who was carrying merchandise by caravan across the desert to a town in Turkish Armenia. Having been brought up by Christian parents, he had formed a life-habit of daily committing himself into the hands of God.

At the time of this incident, the country was infested with bandits who lived by robbing caravans. Unknown to the merchant, a band of these highwaymen had been following the caravan, intending to rob it at the first camping place on the plains.

At the chosen hour, under cover of darkness, they drew near. All was strangely quiet. There seemed to be no guards, no watchers, but as they pressed up, to their astonishment, they found high walls where walls had never stood before.

They continued to follow, but the next night they found the same impassable walls. The third night the walls stood, but there were breaches in them through which they went in.

The captain of the robbers, terrified by the mystery, awakened the merchant.

“What does this mean?” he asked. “Ever since you left Ezerum, we have followed, intending to rob you. The first night and the second night we found high walls around the caravan, but tonight, we entered through broken places. If you will tell us the secret of all this, I will not molest you.”

The merchant, himself, was surprised and puzzled. “My friends,” he said, “I have done nothing to have walls raised about us. All I do is pray every evening, committing myself and those with me to God. I fully trust in Him to keep me from evil; but tonight, being very tired and sleepy, I made a rather half-hearted lip prayer. That must be why you were allowed to break through!”

The bandits were overcome by his testimony. Then and there, they gave themselves to Jesus Christ, and were saved. From caravan robbers, they became God-fearing men. The Armenian, however, never forgot that breach in the wall of prayer.

And so, we learn another secret of mighty prayer. He who moves mountains must make prayer a life habit. He, like Daniel, must regularly meet with His God. Prayer must become as natural as breathing. With such prayer, men defeat spiritual forces arrayed against them that no human means could overcome. By such continuous prayer, the enemy is kept at bay, and a hedge of protection is maintained about us and evil cannot touch us.

CHAPTER 7

THE SECRET OF PRAYER WHICH ANTICIPATES EVIL

“Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, ‘All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours” (Luke 4:5-7).

“And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen” (Matthew 6:13).

There is such a thing as prayer that moves mountains. However, he who would pray this prayer must also be willing to meet and overcome the temptations involved in moving mountains. In the above passage, we are told that Christ was transported to a high mountain where He received a dazzling offer from the prince of this world. From the vantage point of the mountain, the devil, in a moment of time, showed Jesus the kingdoms of this world and the glory of them. Then, he proposed to give all this to Jesus, if He would fall down and worship him. Christ rejected the devil’s offer declaring that worship was for God only.

Mountains have often been the meeting place of the testing of the saints. It was at a mountain the children of Israel witnessed the thunder and lightning and shaking of Mt. Sinai. It was this awe-inspiring scene that caused them to draw back and say to Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die” (Exodus. 20:19). But Moses replied, “Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin” (Vs. 20).

It was on Mt. Moriah that Abraham met the supreme test of his life when he was asked to give up Isaac, his only son. “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac...Concluding that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead” (Hebrews 11:17-19). Abraham’s steadfastness in meeting the test caused him to be called “father of the faithful.”

It was on Mt. Carmel that Elijah challenged the Baal prophets, and called Israel back to God with the words, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD *is* God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him” (1Kings 18:21). There, before the people, he justified his faith in a supernatural God when, in answer to his prayer, fire came down from Heaven and consumed the sacrifice.

Those who would move mountains must be willing to meet the challenge of the mountains. They must be able to scale their height and take their

measure. And always, the higher one climbs, the greater his temptations will be. At the top he will meet the tempter face to face as Christ met him.

Sooner or later, he will face the devil's most subtle temptation—human pride and human ambition. Satan, knowing that Christ had successfully overcome all other temptations, gave Him one more—the promise that all the kingdoms of the world would be His, if He would give him worship.

THE SECRET OF VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION

All men must meet temptation, just as Christ had to meet it, but we are not to run into it. There is no advantage in putting ourselves in the way of temptation. This is why Christ taught men to pray the words, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." *Here is the Divine anticipation of, and the deliverance from evil, before it can reach us!*

A mother, who was a young Christian, learned the secret of God's protecting providence. Prayer had become a very important part in her life, and she became sensitive to the Spirit's leading. This daily living in the Spirit resulted in her being able to pray in time to avert a tragedy in the life of her child. This is her testimony:

"One day in the fall, just before time for school to be out, a great fear suddenly gripped my heart. Something tragic was about to happen. I knew that one of my children was in danger. This was a new experience for me as I had known only happiness since I had been saved. I realized this was a warning from God, so I began to pray. Relief came. A great calm came over me. I rose up, thanking the Lord.

"When I saw my children running down the road, I stepped out of the gate and went to meet them. As they came near, one of the girls reported that our neighbor's little boy had been struck by a car.

"Johnny, my little boy, came up with a puzzled expression on his face. He said, 'Mother, that car would have gotten me, too, for we were crossing the road together, but it was going so fast the wind from the car just picked me up and set me out of the road.' I told him it was the hand of God that moved him from the path of danger."

SOME PRAYERS ARE PRAYED TOO LATE

Some prayers are prayed too late. Some people seek God earnestly after they get into trouble, not realizing that if they had prayed sooner, they might have avoided the pitfall. There is such a thing as foreseeing evil and avoiding it. "A prudent *man* foresees evil *and* hides himself; The simple pass on *and* are punished" (Proverbs 27:12). How can a man hope to escape the traps that devils continually devise against him? The answer is not in human foresight or wisdom, for the same writer adds, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5).

There is a place of safety that is hidden from the eye of the ordinary passerby and is reserved for him who "overturns mountains."

Job alludes to this:

“*That path no bird knows, Nor has the falcon’s eye seen it. The proud lions have not trodden it, Nor has the fierce lion passed over it. He puts his hand on the flint; He overturns the mountains at the roots*” (Job 28:7-9).

This place of safety and protection from evil is plainly revealed in the 91st Psalm:

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty...Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler *And* from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, *And* under His wings you shall take refuge...”

Here is promised deliverance from Satan’s traps! The expression “snare of the fowler” is a clear allusion to the work of Satan who is busy setting snares for God’s people. Many indeed get caught in their grip, and God, in His mercy, frees them from being entangled. How much better is it to be forewarned, so they are able to avoid the snares? It is one thing to fall into a pit and be rescued. It is another thing to see the danger, and avoid it.

Jesus taught men to pray to be delivered from temptation, rather than to be rescued from it, after it engulfs them.

The lesson of anticipating temptation before it overwhelms us is clearly portrayed in the drama of Gethsemane. There, that fateful night, Jesus met the greatest crisis of His life. The powers of darkness concentrated their forces in a desperate effort to foil the purpose of God in one overwhelming attack upon Christ. As Jesus prayed that awful night, His soul was drawn out in agony. “Sweat, as if it were great drops of blood,” fell from His brow to the ground. He wrestled on in mortal combat while the disciples engaged in slumber, apparently ignorant of the drama that was engaging the attention of the Universe. Nevertheless, Jesus continued to pray until victory crowned His efforts. “Then an angel appeared to Him from Heaven, strengthening Him” (Luke 22:43).

However, all was not so well with the disciples. They, too, were about to meet the greatest crisis of their lives. Soon the betrayer would appear, and they would be thrown into panic and confusion. Yet, during this precious time, when they might have fortified themselves against the storm that would burst upon them, they continued to sleep. Christ interrupted His own prayer in an effort to rouse them to their peril. “Rise and pray,” He said, “Lest you enter into temptation.” But it was to no avail.

The disciples slept on until the hour struck. The armed soldiers came, and they awoke to fall into great confusion. Peter, in panic, spoke before he thought, only to discover in shocked realization that he had denied his Lord. Bitterly he wept over his act of cowardice. What would he be willing to do or to give to be able to turn back time, even if it were only for just a few hours?

His great mistake was he did not pray when temptation threatened. He did not heed the words of Jesus when He warned him to “Rise and pray.” Instead, he slept on, while his world was falling at his feet.

A WARNING FOR OUR TIME

This warning to watch and pray was not a warning Jesus intended for the disciples alone. The warning is applicable to Christians of all ages, and it is especially timely for the present hour. When Jesus gave His great discourse on events which would precede His Second Coming, He warned that the “cares of life” would cause that day to come upon many “unaware.” “For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole Earth” (Luke 21:35). He gave a special warning to those who should live in that day:

“Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36).

NECESSARY STEPS TO SALVATION

1. ACKNOWLEDGE: “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “God, be merciful to me a sinner” (Luke 18:13). In the light of God’s Word, you must acknowledge that you are a sinner.

2. REPENT: “...but unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...” (Acts 3:19). You must see the awfulness of sin, and then, repent of it.

3. CONFESS: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). “With the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:10). Confess your sins to God.

4. FORSAKE: “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord ... for He will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7). Sorrow for sin is not enough. We must be ready to quit doing it, once and for all.

5. BELIEVE: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9). Believe in the finished work of Christ on the cross.

6. RECEIVE: “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:11, 12). Christ must be received personally into your heart by faith, if the experience of the New Birth is to be yours.

(Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship, International)

If you wish to accept Jesus Christ into your soul and life, it will help you to pray this prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,
I thank You that You love me.
I ask Your Son, Jesus Christ, to come into my life.
I know I have sinned and committed deeds displeasing to You.
I ask You now to forgive me of these sins and to cleanse my life.
Help me to follow You and Your teachings.
Protect me from Satan and evil.
Teach me to put You first in all my thoughts and actions.

Help me to love my fellow man as You have loved me.
And, Father, show me step by step the plan You made for my life.
I give You myself and my life.
I worship and praise You, my Creator and Lord.
I will continually thank You for sacrificing Your Son on the cross that I might have eternal life with You.
Help me to win others to Christ.
I await the return of Christ to take me to Heaven.
Come soon, Lord Jesus. Amen.



CHRIST 
FOR THE NATIONS