

Barley "The Power of Prayer" *M. L. L. L.*

9/10/15/17
A. M.
Scripture Lesson:-

Text:- Matthew 28: 18. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

Introduction:- Prayer is the mightiest force in the universe. It is God's method of operating and doing work, his work, in the world. This is the method which God uses for carrying on his work on the earth. More things can be wrought through prayer than the world dreams of. The greatest example of prayer in history is to be found in the life of Jesus, the blessed Son of God. Jesus was one with the heavenly Father. He had all power in heaven and in earth. Yet Jesus, with all of his power, found it necessary to pray, and prayer was related very definitely to the mighty miracles that he wrought.

I.

Jesus and prayer. At times Jesus prayed all night. There would never have been any transfiguration if Jesus had not prayed. It was following the period of forty days of prayer and fasting that Jesus was transfigured upon the mount with Peter, James and John.

Jesus prayed in connection with the raising of Lazarus from the dead. He prayed before the meals he ate, returning thanks to his heavenly Father. He prayed all night before selecting his twelve apostles. He prayed in the garden before he went to his crucifixion, until drops of blood streamed from his brow. He prayed upon the cross during those terrible agonizing hours, when he bore in his own body the sins of the whole world. His last words upon the cross were a prayer of confidence and submission to his heavenly Father.

II.

Prayer is a strong bulwark against temptation. Jesus said, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." The prayerless Christian becomes an easy mark for Satan. The devil's first approach to defeat the Christian is to break

down his prayer life. The devil has no artillery strong enough to penetrate a strong wall of prayer. He must first break down the prayer life before his weapons can become effective. *Does he*

tell you you haven't got time to pray?

Prayer is an effective discipline for the development of the Christian character. God does not always answer our prayers immediately. There may be a divine purpose in the delayed answers to our prayers. God exhorts us not to faint when there is delay in the answer to our prayers, but rather to continue to pray. Jesus said, "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." When the answer does not come, the victory may be even greater because of the delay. *For our good he sometimes answers no*

Then it is through prayer that we find a remedy for our affliction. The apostle James says, "Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray." God invites us to make every affliction a subject of prayer. Through prayer we find healing for our afflictions or grace sufficient to endure them. Through prayer our afflictions become occasions for blessings and encouragement, rather than discouragement and despair. While the apostle Paul did not receive healing for the affliction for which he prayed, he did receive an answer from God that God's grace was sufficient for him in the midst of his affliction.

III.

Prayer is needed for our nation. Today she is drifting like a ship without a rudder, without a chart or compass. We have lost the sense of direction. We have been more dependent upon our vast resources, our unparalleled production, than we have upon God. Unless we wake up and turn to God in prayer, we may be the victim of atomic bombs. We have been the close ally of the nations responsible for the acts of the past. The Treaty of Versailles was signed at the close of world war I without any recognition of God. No prayer was offered in connection with the signing of that treaty and it eventually became only a scrap of paper. The result, World War II.

The pact of the United Nations was formed in San Francisco in 1945 without any recognition of God. The utter ignoring of the need for any dep-

the world. Every invitation which God dictates gives the assurance of an answer, when we come praying upon the conditions which he has laid down.

God, our heavenly Father, holds himself in the attitude of a giver. Asking of God lies back of all of God's great movements in the world. He has said in his word, "Ask of me, and I will give thee the nations for thine inheritance, and the utter-parts of the earth for thy possessions". God has invited us to command him in prayer. What will we do about it? If Jesus who was possessed of all power had to pray, how much more shall you and I pray. What would happen if all the Christian's in this world should begin to pray? We know what would happen. We know that America would be visited by a mighty spiritual revival, in which people would turn to God by the tens of thousands, yes by the hundreds of thousands. Let us be a praying group of church people. Only through prayer can the arm of God be moved to intervene and thwart the sinister forces which threaten the destruction of civilization.

I wish I could impress upon you the importance of prayer. If we want our church to grow if we want people saved we have to pray. Does it look like we mean business with just 8 in prayer meeting. When ever god sees we mean business & meet his conditions He will bring things to pass. are you in earnest or are you playing religion. Are you concerned enough to really help us pray.