

Prayer Meetings

Serious prayer is more a process than event. An all important journey towards spiritual sensitivity and practice, honesty and discernment with the hope of enabling the dedicated to genuinely learn to pray so God will hear.

It's wonderful to remember that because of the phenomenal price paid by Christ for our atonement, we "*who were once far from God have been brought near.*" Even now a Man, our faithful High Priest, stands at the right hand of God on our behalf! A poem by Joseph Hart makes the point beautifully:

Prayer was appointed to convey the blessings God designs to give;
Long as they live should Christians pray, For only while they pray they live.

And shall we in dead silence lie, when Christ stands waiting for our prayer?
My soul, thou hast a Friend on high; Arise and try thy interest there.

If pain afflict, or wrongs oppress; If cares distract, or fears dismay;
If guilt deject, if sin distress; The remedy is before thee Pray!

Depend on Christ, thou canst not fail; Make all thy wants and wishes known.
Fear not; His merits must prevail; Ask what thou wilt; it shall be done!

Contemplating and Praying Scripture

There are at least [seven methods or modes of prayer](#). More than one lends itself nicely to extended times of [stillness before God](#). As our minutes turn to hours, meditating on Scripture can be helpful in numerous ways:

1. **Directing our thoughts:** The Spirit, [who assists our prayers](#), is also the inspiration of Scripture. Tuning our mind into the language of [the Spirit](#) increases our ability to [speak with and hear from God](#).

2. **Dealing with our emotions:** Praying through difficult topics can be taxing, particularly during trying times. Adding to our own prayers the praise and petitions of psalmists, along with the laments and complaints of prophets, can be encouraging.

3. **Guiding our requests:** Among the authors of Scripture, the Lord's half brother James had unique insights into Jesus. His epistle warns, *"You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures."* Scripture is full of instruction on how to ask correctly.

4. **Providing a template for prayer:** From casual conversations to wrestling with God, it's crucial to know what's appropriate. Particularly when obeying Christ's directive to be persistent to the point of refusing to take "no" for an answer, contemplating and modeling our prayers after those in the Bible's a good way to learn what's in and out of bounds.

5. **Insight into Scripture:** We are told to *"Taste and see the Lord is good."* Waiting on God for His presence and power, provision and protection is a great way to do so. Like a car battery, the best way to test the power of Scripture is "under a load." Hebrews tells us, *"But solid food is for the mature, whose perceptions are trained by practice to discern both good and evil."* The best insights come to those whiling to risk putting their faith in God's promises to the test.

6. **Inspiration from God:** Meditating and praying through Scripture is an excellent habit to develop for encouragement and strength. His written Word is also the safest source from which His spoken or personal Word can arise.

7. **Instruction and strategy:** Direction from God comes in many ways. Scripture's special revelation can provide unending spring of strategies for facing life's challenges. It's passages are filled with advice on dealing with ourselves and others, not to mention overcoming evil and the Evil One. Exercising our faith by waiting on God is an excellent time to gain wisdom on life in general, and specific problems we face.

Progressing along the path of regular and lengthy prayer is a true reflection of compassion and care, exemplified by the level of our diligent and appropriate response:

1. **Wishful Thinking:** This introductory style of prayer is largely spontaneous. It knows little of Scripture or spiritual experience. Disappointment in this arena accounts for billions prematurely deciding **Biblical authority** and **faith is unreasonable**. Thus signaling both the beginning and end of **honestly pursuing** the answers to **life's ultimate questions**.

2. **Prayer On the Go:** The next incremental investment for most of **Churchianity** might loosely be described as *phoning it in*. Nearly synonymous with *windshield time*, it's basically little more than wishful thinking expressed with slightly more quantity and quality.

3. **Pausing For Prayer:** Hundreds of millions recognize the need to at least treat God with the respect due a stranger. Rather than daydreaming on the run, these pause for at least a moment now and then, pitching a prayer heavenward hoping it will stick. *Unfortunately, this level may exemplify, or even exceed the commitment level of the average modern Christian.*

4. **Attaching A Scripture:** Those interested enough to admit steps 1-3 rarely work often try increasing their odds by adding a Bible promise. Unfortunately the vast **majority of Christians** remain basically prayerless, stopping to pray less than ten minutes a day. Adding to our dilemma is massive **Biblically illiteracy**, the inability to quote, much less correctly understand 10 verses in a row. *Most, adding a Scriptural promise to lukewarm prayers, do so with little or no concern as to the corresponding conditions of such passages.*

5. **Occasional Intercession:** The next common waypoint along the path of developing a **committed prayer life** is the occasional investment of 30 minutes or so practicing the **art of intercession**. *When answers are more miss than hit, believers are left with 3 options.* (1) Give up: Some go so far as to create mistaken doctrines like cessation to justify spiritual failures. (2) Pretend: The favored choice of hundreds of millions, charismatic or not. (3) **Seek God's Face:** The **serious study** and whole hearted **implementation of Scripture**.

6. **If My People:** God's perfect plan for **repentance** is found in **2 Chronicles 7:14**. Those putting this simple algebraic formula into practice soon develop the **spiritual insight** to become **Prophetic Christians** on their way to **judging all things**.

7. **Scheduled Intercession:** Upping the ante can be done individually or collectively. Nevertheless, as with nearly all Christian disciplines, efforts are far more effective when done in concert. *Corporate meetings should reflect a quality and quantity of prayer indicative of the difficulties being addressed.*

8. **Sanctification:** Devotees interested in learning to pray effectually soon feel the need for growth in radical **personal** and corporate **sanctification** and **discipleship**.

9. **Pressing In:** When prayer still largely goes **unanswered**, the committed *soldier on*, doubling down through **triple fasting**; i.e. food, prayer and good deeds. *An hour a day is the minimum ante at this level. As reflected by Christ's question reverberating down through the millennia, "So, could you not wait with me one hour?"*

10. **Praying Through:** When all is said and done, those **refusing to take no for an answer** redouble their efforts with semiweekly, if not daily, extended times of prayer. Practicing **1 or more of the 7 prayer modes**, they major on **being still** and **waiting on God** through the **prayer of silence**. Such rare men and women give God no rest, day and night, until they and those for whom they pray are demonstrably filled with both the **fruit** and **gifts** of the **Holy Spirit**. They remain committed to **travailing in prayer** to the point of prevailing with men and circumstances, **Satan** and **God**.

A dwindling percentage of **Churchianity** practice, or even understand the purpose of regular (weekly if not daily) and lengthy (hours not minutes) **intercessory prayer**. Those who do realize that, as Paul explains, **Biblical Christianity** is no walk in the park but a life-or-death fight to the finish:

- “And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. **This is no afternoon athletic contest that we’ll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.** Be prepared. You’re up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it’s all over but the shouting you’ll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith,

and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon." Ephesians 6:10-17 MSG

Paul uses the above as a warm up as both explanation and encouragement regarding the kind of quality and quantity of prayer that overcomes:

- **In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.** And don't forget to pray for me. Pray that I'll know what to say and have the courage to say it at the right time, telling the mystery to one and all, the Message that I, jailbird preacher that I am, am responsible for getting out." Ephesians 6:18-20 MSG

John Wesley is credited for rightly noting, "Without God, man cannot. Without man, God will not." With this mind, believers may do well to rekindle the Holy Clubs or Mission Societies of yesteryear, such as that of Wesley and Whitfield or even William Wilberforce's Clapham group. These and countless others over the centuries, up to and including the founding members of the Azusa Street Mission and subsequent revival, are shining examples of the kind of radical commitment to both the cause of Christ and one another that may be able to brake the downward cycle of presumption and apathy, worldliness and entitlement, temptation and deception in which we find ourselves and those we are called to love.

This goes double for those serious about fulfilling Christ's sacred trust given to the Church in regards to the Great Commission:

- "Then Jesus came to them and said, '**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.** And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" Matthew 28:18-20 NIV
- "He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. **And these signs will accompany those who**

believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.' After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. **Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it."** Mark 16:15-20 NIV

In the Gospel of Matthew we learn what the Great Commission is tasked to do. Our mandate is to "*make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*" Two thousand years later, while there may be disciples "in" all nations we've yet to make a disciple of a single nation. And far from teaching obedience to everything Christ commanded lest the rebellious "be condemned" Churchianity's meta message is closer to unconditional love and acceptance.

From the Gospel of Mark we learn how the Great Commission is to be accomplished. Jesus explains the Christian message will be accepted based on the fact "*these signs will accompany those who believe...*" Notice that Christ's promised miracles were to be accomplished not just by the apostles but by "*those who believe*" their message! As in the ministry of Jesus and the apostles, **signs and wonders** were to play a prominent role in both **power evangelism and discipleship**. Meant to be the rule rather than the exception, the **gifts of the Spirit** in general, and **miraculous healing** in particular, were designed to simultaneously draw crowds while pointing the way to Christ.

As the forerunners of Christianity, the early Church recognized the vital role of the miraculous in completing their part of the Great Commission. Even after God poured out His Spirit at **Pentecost** they continued to **cry out for greater anointing**. God, pleased with their zeal for the Kingdom, answered so powerfully and often that the record of their testimony is called the **Book of Acts** instead of the **Book of Words**.

Just one of many examples, the following prayer takes place after Peter and John's arrest and testimony, warning and release by the ruling religious leaders in Jerusalem:

- **"Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus. *After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.* The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all."** Acts 4:30-33

In this passage the passion of believers was answered by the power of God's outstretched hand as miraculous **signs and wonders** were done promoting the cause of Christ. As a result, everyone was **filled with Holy Spirit** and the Church was united in heart and mind.

Might the lack of similar zeal account for the absence of such miraculous outpourings in our day? Such a missing key ingredient might go along way towards explaining the **lack of holiness** in the **modern Church**, as well as our having **divided the body of Christ** into hundreds of denominations.

What's clear is that **Biblical belief is in decline**. Without the kind of anointing enjoyed by Scripture's authors and the early Church, there's a disconnect between the power of the New Testament and our experience today. Without the **power of the Spirit and glory of God**, even the **magnificent Bible**, the best selling book of all time, can't compete with the thousands of **modern temptations** enticing and assailing our generation.

This may be the reason why throughout the New Testament *the preaching of God's Word is inseparable to the performing of God's works*. **Even the Apostle Paul, Scripture's greatest evangelist and most prolific author, testifies of his reliance on the power of God to persuade men:**

- "When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, **but with a**

demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, **but on God's power.**" 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

- "But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. **For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.** What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a whip, or in love and with a gentle spirit?" 1 Corinthians 4:19-21

Anyone Sick?

Healing is vital to both the physical and spiritual health and wellbeing of the body of Christ. Miracles provide great incentive to faith. Case in point. At the death of His friend Lazarus, Jesus explains to His disciples: "*Lazarus died. And I am glad for your sakes that I wasn't there. **You're about to be given new grounds for believing.***" Like power evangelism, **power discipleship** stimulates interest in the things of God, while further demonstrating **His goodness and compassion.**

A passage in James, written by the Lord's half brother, also clearly collaborates the promise of God to **heal the sick** within the Church:

- "**Are any of you sick?** You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. **Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well.** And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. **Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other, so that you may be healed.** The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops." James 5:14-18

Thank God for verses like these. Simple, direct and easy to understand. Without them we'd be left wondering about the will of God. As it is, we need only wonder why genuine **miraculous healings** are so rare? Yet even this question seems to be addressed

by James. It would seem *"the prayer of faith"* is in short supply. Yet rather than the *"elders of the church"* inquiring why, excuses are made to account for our apparent disobedience and/or unbelief.

One favored excuse for the lack of Divine healing is the issue of pain. Many correctly note that pain can be an excellent motivator. As the late great C.S. Lewis noted:

- "Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

As usual, Lewis' comment is both insightful and true. Still, according to numerous Scriptures, pain is a means not an end. [Suffering](#), including [illness and disease](#), and at times even [pain and death](#), are meant as a backdrop against which the glory of Christ's Kingdom shines best!

Consider Christ's comments and actions in the wonderful case of the man born blind:

- "As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, **"but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me.** Night is coming, when no one can work." John 9:1-4 NIV

Rather than rationalize the underlying cause or potential virtue inherent in suffering, Jesus cuts right to the point. Darkness opportunes light. But only to the degree we are willing to fully acknowledge and fulfill Christ's command, *"we must do the works of him who sent me."*

Time and time again, Scripture reinforces an obvious truth. [The work and glory](#) of God are best displayed by miraculous [signs and wonders](#), rather than even well-meant sympathy and words. In fact, nothing can take the place of genuine displays of the compassion of [Kingdom power](#). As in the case of the people and widow of Nain. Without being asked, Jesus has the power and audacity to halt a funeral procession and raise a grief stricken widow's child from the dead:

- "When Jesus saw her, his heart broke. He said to her, "Don't cry." Then he went over and touched the coffin. The pallbearers stopped. He said, "Young man, I tell you: Get up." The dead son sat up and began talking. Jesus presented him to his mother. **They all realized they were in a place of holy mystery, that God was at work among them. They were quietly worshipful—and then noisily grateful, calling out among themselves, "God is back, looking to the needs of his people!"** The news of Jesus spread all through the country."
Luke 11:13-17 MSG

Some might object, the Apostle Peter states, "*whoever suffers in the body is done with sin.*" Rightly so. Yet it's likely that Peter, who had witnessed countless **New Testament miracles** and whose own **shadow healed all it fell on**, was not speaking of illness. Rather, the context of Scripture and history reveals the suffering being referred to is *persecution for godliness*, not *worldliness* resulting in *spiritual powerlessness*.

While there may or may not be exceptions to the rule, **Biblical emphasis** clearly reveals God's covenant of **miraculous healing** extends to His people throughout time. Paul says as much in his beautiful prayer in Ephesians often quoted as a doxology. "*Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly beyond all we can ask or think, may there be glory in the church, through Jesus Christ, **throughout all ages, world without end.***"

The Chinese word for crises **危机** is composed of two characters. Some translate their meanings as "danger" and "opportunity." Since all investments of time, energy and money contain various amounts of risk, regardless of the etymology of this word the concept is sound. This is certainly true of humanity's current condition. Without God's **will** and power continually evidenced through His **presence** and **power**, **provision** and **protection**, the world and even the Church is nearly defenseless against today's onslaught of **doubt**, **temptation** and **sin**. Even so, were believers to fully **realize the will of God** in this matter and respond appropriately, a new day for Christianity might quickly dawn.

The need's never been greater to fervently pray for the miracle working power of God to be restored to the Church. Neither the ministry of Christ nor His apostles would have succeeded without God continually confirming His word with [signs and wonders](#).

Again, Early Christianity was so marked by the miraculous that the record of that time period is called the Book of Acts. Sadly, the genuine [gifts of the Spirit](#), particularly the "*children's bread*" of [healing and deliverance](#), are so infrequent today that given the record of [modern Christianity](#) we'd be lucky to have our description entitled the Book of *Words*.

Wonderful Example

A recent shining example of [Christ's city set on a hill](#) is the persecuted church throughout the world. The ministry of Nick Ripken, missionary extraordinaire, is showcased in his book and movie "[The Insanity of God](#)," his subsequent book "[The Insanity of Obedience](#)" and podcast "[Witness and Persecution](#)."

One excerpt from [The Insanity of God](#), regarding Ripken's meeting with Chinese persecuted house church leaders is particularly revealing:

David Chen had told me that this particular house-church movement was one of biggest and most diverse in the entire country. Many of its congregations and their leaders, like those who rode in the van with me, were urban, educated and comparatively sophisticated in the modern ways of the world—or at least in the modern ways of China.

At the same time, a significant percentage of this regional movement had sprung up and spread among people in places so provincial and so remote that much of the twentieth century had passed them by. Some of the church leaders from the most rural areas had little knowledge of the outside world.

In light of what David had told me, I was somewhat prepared for the curious stares during supper that night. But I was profoundly surprised after supper when I was formally introduced to the group. One of the local pastors raised his hand to ask a question. What he wanted to know was this: "Do the people in other countries also

know about Jesus—or is He still known only in China?”

I had never been asked that question before—or even considered that point of view. For several long seconds I gathered my thoughts, trying to figure out where exactly to begin my answer. Then, with David interpreting for me, I told the group that millions of Americans and even more people in different countries around the world knew about and followed Jesus. I then told the group that believers in other parts of the world also knew about them—the Chinese believers in house churches. I told them that believers in many parts of the world prayed for them and their churches.

“Wait, wait!” people cried out. They could hardly believe what I was saying. One man responded this way: “Do you mean that people in your country know that we believe in Jesus? Do you mean that they know that some of us are suffering for our faith? Do you mean that they haven’t forgotten us and that they pray for us?”

I assured them: “Why yes, we have always loved you. And we have never forgotten you. For a long time, we have prayed for you.” It was a holy moment as these believers realized that they were recognized, remembered and prayed for by fellow believers around the world.

One of the younger women in the group asked, “Since Jesus is known in other countries, are the believers there persecuted like we are?”

I told them about the experience of believers in two very oppressive Islamic countries. The entire gathering of house-church leaders in the farmyard became strangely still. Just minutes before, they had been clapping and shouting and asking questions. Now they were completely silent and still. They sat expressionless.

I attempted to enliven the group by sharing about Muslim-background believers we were close to—people who had exhibited inspiring faith under the most oppressive circumstances. But there was still no movement and no questions. When I had told a number of such stories, I felt half-dead myself.

I lowered my voice and I said to David, “That’s it. I’m done. I’m drained. I have nothing more to say tonight!” I stepped off the little stage in the middle of the compound and headed for the room where I was to sleep.

At 6:00 the next morning I was awakened by screaming and shouting outside in the compound. My first thought was that the security police had come.

As my eyes adjusted to the daylight, I saw that there were no security police swarming into the compound. What I saw were those Chinese house-church leaders and evangelists scattered around the farmyard, either lying or sitting on the ground, crying, screaming and yelling hysterically (or so it seemed to me). Many of them were

pulling their hair or clutching at their clothes.

I spotted my friend David across the way and I rushed over to him. I demanded to know: "What in the world is going on?"

He told me to be quiet and to listen.

"You know that I don't know a word of Chinese," I told him. "What do you mean 'just listen'?"

Again he insisted, "Just be quiet, Nik!" *Before I could protest again, he took me by the arm and began to walk me among these people who were crying and screaming. Because I was now silent, I actually began to hear and recognize the names of the two Muslim countries that I had told them about the night before. The names of those two countries were being repeated again and again in passionate and anguished prayer.*

When David stopped and turned to look at me, there were tears streaming down his face. He said, "**They were so moved by what you shared last night about believers who were truly persecuted, that they have vowed before God that they will get up an hour earlier every morning to pray for those Muslim-background believers that you told them about in _____ and _____ (and he named the two nations*) until Jesus is known throughout their countries.**" *In that instant, I could see why the number of Chinese believers had gone from a few hundred thousand to perhaps hundreds of millions!*

That's just a sample of the passion and [perseverance](#) of the impoverished and imperiled [Persecuted Church](#). As [Leonard Ravenhill](#) noted, "The early Church was married to poverty, prisons, and persecutions. Today, the church is married to prosperity, personality, and popularity." Today's [Persecuted Church](#) enjoys little or none of modern Christianity's [blessings and technology](#), equivalent to a thousand personal servants. Yet facing unimaginable hardships of their own, *they still committed to an EXTRA hour or prayer of behalf of believers they would never know.*

This what the [Holy Spirit](#) intends when through Paul directing, "*Remember prisoners as if chained with them.*" This kind of costly grace and radical commitment is also what Paul means when writing to his beloved Galatians, "*My little children, for whom I am again suffering birth pangs until Christ is completely and permanently formed (molded) within you.*"

Yet how many churches throughout the [modern world](#) have no regular and serious

prayer meetings at all? Even for ourselves, lost family and the failings of modern Christianity? A point soundly and soberly made by the late David Wilkerson, arguably America's greatest 20th Century Pastor in his insightful sermon, "A Call To Anguish."

Nor do we gather to seriously pray over the swiftly degenerating times and seasons, clearly evident since 2020's introduction of the Covid plandemic, deadly clot shots and a dozen other unprecedented events.

Much less do we care to burden ourselves with an extra hour of daily prayer for the persecuted. Even as judgment and tribulation brood overhead, gathering like a final global storm.

As noted, Jesus asked all seven of Revelation's churches the same question, "*Are your ears awake? Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches?*" In the Garden Gethsemane He also asked Peter and His disciples a similar question:

- "Going a little ahead, he fell on his face, praying, "My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do *you* want?" **When he came back to his disciples, he found them sound asleep. He said to Peter, "Can't you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert; be in prayer so you don't wander into temptation without even knowing you're in danger."** Matthew 26:39-40 MSG

Blaise Pascal, the 17th century French mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer and Christian philosopher noted, "All Jesus's enemies awake and *all his friends asleep*. It is the same to this day..."

Doubling the tragedy is that today, *it's not Christ's Gethsemane, but our own*. Yet, how few engage in strategic daily prayer, much less enter into James 4's Prayer of Anguish, as Jesus Himself did:

- "During the course of his earthly life, **Jesus offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who had the power to save him from death, and he was heard because of his godly fear.**" Hebrews 5:7 NCB

Will we not yet follow Christ's example, responding to His challenge to His disciples echoing to us down through the ages? Or shall we continue to leave Him knocking at the door without answer:

- "Look at me. **I stand at the door. I knock.** If you hear me call and open the door, I'll come right in and sit down to supper with you. ***Conquerors will sit alongside me at the head table, just as I, having conquered, took the place of honor at the side of my Father. That's my gift to the conquerors!*** "Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches." Revelation 3:20-22 MSG

Towards the end of the 2013 movie, Star Trek Into Darkness, the crippled powerless Enterprise is helplessly falling to Earth. Kirk sacrifices himself attempting to re-align the warp core while being exposed to heavy radiation. He succeeds as Sulu fires the thrusters on the Enterprise enabling it rise above the clouds, battered but alive. A fitting scene, aptly expressing the crucial need for Prophetic Christians to arise to the challenge of this late hour.

All depends on restoring not only accurate Biblical doctrine and radical discipleship, but on recovering the miraculous Fruit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Particularly given the degraded sociopolitical era and degenerating times and seasons in which we live.

Tragically, almost all modern Christians find the cost of such honesty and holiness too high a price to pay. As Leonard Ravenhill noted, "If you can live without Revival, you will." Sadly, the same may be true in respect to Biblical salvation. Who among us hasn't unsaved family and relatives, friends and neighbors galore? Yet many of us spend a hundred or even a thousand hours on entertainments to every hour fasting and/or prayerfully agonizing over their current state and eternal fate.

Ravenhill also noted, God doesn't answer *prayer*. He answers *desperate prayer*. Why? Because *Faith* is spelled *Cost*.

May God quickly open our eyes to comprehend the depth of need and potential opportunities in our world and nation, communities and churches, families and personal lives.

To this end, might the Lord's odd debut miracle prove He stands ready to change our water to wine, once again having "*saved the best for last?*"

If so, may Jesus move us to prevail in prayer that He might demonstrate in and through us even greater Kingdom power and glory than has ever been seen before!

And do so soon, since, as previously noted Jesus warned: "*As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. **Night is coming, when no one can work.***" John 9:4
NIV