

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

Cares of Life/Prayer/Reading/Loving God with all our STRENGTH

The HARD WORK of Keeping Our SPIRITUAL Houses clean

November 1, 2020

DAILY DISCIPLINE

Luk 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. ‘

Dan 6:1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

Dan 6:3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit *was* in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Dan 6:4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he *was* faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Dan 6:5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find *it* against him concerning the law of his God.

Dan 6:6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

Dan 6:7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

Dan 6:8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Dan 6:9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforesaid.

Dan 6:11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Psa 55:17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Jas 5:16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

1Th 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Luk 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

CARES OF LIFE

Luk 8:14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

Mar 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with **all thy strength**: this is the first commandment.

TIME – A PRECIOUS COMMODITY

Jas 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

READING/MEDITATION

Jer 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary *food*.

Psa 119:97 MEM. O how love I thy law! *it is* my meditation all the day.

The Conquering Force of Prayer

...This is a day of methods and plans and policies. Prayer is the most neglected and abused art and duty of the modern church. When the church awakens to this fact and rises to the occasion the battle will be short and victorious for the “faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” Of Jacob the angel fresh from the presence of the Lord declared, “Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed”

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- 1. Prayer, in the very beginning, brings us to realize our dependence on God.** Without prayer one takes all honor, glory, and credit to himself and God is left entirely out. Thus he loses all sight of a Supreme Being and acts altogether independently of his Maker.
- 2. Prayer makes us humble before God.** Having once recognized our dependence on Him and that every good and perfect gift comes from God and "in him we live and move and have our being," one cannot but feel humble. Prayer is not so much the feeling of humility as it is the act of humility, but at the same time if one does not feel humble he is not apt to act it. More humility will cause more prayer and more prayer will cause more humility.
- 3. Prayer is the only means of personal acquaintance with God.** We may without prayer know some things about God. We may believe in God and in His existence and power, but to be personally acquainted with Him means we must become acquainted in the same manner in which we become acquainted with other persons, Viz., personal contact, and the only means of personal contact with God is through prayer and conversation with Him.
- 4. "God heareth not sinners,"** hence the suppliant must abandon sin or be defeated in his suit. If really honest, sincere, and in earnest, a man will be ashamed continually to ask favors of one against whom, in conduct and conversation, he is in rebellion. Therefore **prayer will in every instance give a greater desire to live in such manner as to be worthy of God's favors.**
- 5. Prayer brings man into harmony with God.** Our problems, trials, tests, and heartaches, as well as triumphs, victories, achievements, and conquests become His. In turn His problems, interests, concerns, become ours. In other words, He becomes more interested in us and our affairs and we become more interested in His.
- 6. Prayer is the best means through which to assimilate the character of God.** To become better acquainted with, to know God better is to love and admire and adore and reverence Him more, and while so doing one cannot but long to become more like Him, thus assimilating His very character.
- 7. Prayer brings us into association with God's perfections.** God is the One and the only One to whom belongs absolute perfection. Through prayer and closer contact one cannot but be naturally drawn into at least a few of those perfections.
- 8. Prayer is one of the most effectual means of self-discovery.** If interested to pray God to remove the imperfections of others (in other words, talking to God about such imperfections instead of to our friends and

acquaintances) we may discover that some of those very same imperfections belong to us in possibly a greater measure than to the other parties.

9. Prayer is the strongest bond of attraction toward God. This accounts for the fact of ungodly, wicked men almost unconsciously calling upon God in time of trouble and serious calamity.

10. Prayer is fellowshiping God, and to fellowship Him brings us into fellowship with His children. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." "If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother." "Pray for your enemies" is among the very best commands Jesus ever gave, for to do so is the easiest and quickest way to iron out difficulties and hindrances to fellowship. More praying will bring a deeper and richer and fuller fellowship with both God and our fellow beings.

Two men may grasp separate battery cords and there is no power, but the very moment they join hands the current is felt. Thus when brethren are out of harmony and disunited and without true fellowship, there can be no true contact with God. But once they are induced to join hands and truly fellowship each other the mighty current of God's power immediately starts, and both can get their prayers through to God.

11. Prayer brings us to greater realization of the perils of the lost. Having learned of and felt God's love thrilling through our being, we can more readily realize what a soul would miss to lose heaven and our Redeemer, and go to a devil's hell. After days and nights of wrestling with God for lost souls, John Smith buried his face in his hands and sobbed, "I'm a brokenhearted man; I'm a broken-hearted man."

12. Prayer is the means by which we become "laborers together with God." To illustrate: A cannon is useless without the cannon ball, and neither is of any value for its intended use except as they are joined with powder. But all placed together in proper position and handled in the right manner may be used to the pulling down of mighty strongholds. In a sense we are like the cannon, an instrument through which the great gunner sends the ball, the powerful and mighty Word of God, which if touched off with the fire and powder of prayer becomes "mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." (2 Cor. 10:4). The prayer-room is the powerhouse of the Christian who is a successful laborer for God and lost souls, against Satan and the power of evil.