

What Is Prayer to You

by Bill McLeod

Prayer is a way to connect with God, persevere in our relationship with Him, and strive to get results.

Duration: 45:30

Scripture: Romans 14:4, Ephesians 6:13-14, Ephesians 6:16-18, James 5:16

Topics: "Prayer Life"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker discusses the four sore judgments of God as mentioned in the book of Jeremiah. These judgments include war, famine, pestilence (disease), and wild beasts of the earth. The speaker gives examples of recent incidents involving bears, crocodiles, and cougars attacking humans, suggesting that these could be manifestations of God's judgment. The sermon emphasizes the importance of watching and waiting on the Lord, as well as the power of fervent prayer. The speaker encourages Christians to not judge others and to always labor fervently in prayer for one another.

Transcript

I want to read from Ephesians chapter 6, a few verses, beginning at verse 14, 13, pardon me. Ephesians 6, 13. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked, that is, of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. And for me, Paul adds, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds, that therein I may speak boldly as I ought to speak. And verse 18 has been called, all prayer.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. Just before I get into the message, do any of you hear Charles Price from the People's Church in Toronto? Ah, some have. Any of you hear David Jeremiah? A few hands, good.

We're getting some good stuff. You know, I heard Jeremiah a while ago, he brought, I think it was seven messages, all from the book of Ecclesiastes. Can you feature that? Great teaching from Ecclesiastes.

All right. And Price is certainly a gifted, very gifted teacher and preacher. I want to ask you a question.

What is prayer? If I want to ask you, just repeat that, what is prayer to you? You know, some people, I'll give you a couple of extremes. There are those who teach that prayer is really, you can't get anything because there's no God, but it's a good exercise for the soul. It's kind of a spiritual thing, and you exercise your soul with prayer.

That's a very extreme position. Then there's, on the other end, I read a book on prayer, and the fellow said, to me, prayer is backing a three-ton empty truck up. Well, to some people, God's a big policeman with a big stick, and he takes care of our enemies.

Or maybe he's a fireman, and he squirts water on fires that happen around us. You know, what is prayer? Let me just say this. Prayer is, first of all, first of all, fellowship with God.

It was not that. It's nothing. God is faithful by whom he will call unto what? Unto the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

And 1 John 2, that which we've seen and heard, we declare unto you that you also may have fellowship with us. And truly, our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. Somebody said, the average Christian, he doesn't have fellowship with God.

He has fellowship with other Christians about God. When he said, be still and know that I am God, didn't he want us just to shut up and listen? When it says, rest in the Lord, in Psalm 37, I notice in Mars a way he says that the Hebrew says, I don't know why they didn't put it in the English, be silent to the Lord. And there's times when God just wants us to listen.

All right. Prayer. Fellowship with God.

Paul wrote, 1 Timothy 2,8, I will therefore that men pray. You know, when you have the word therefore, you've got to go back in the context. What's the context? The context is, Christ Jesus commanded the world to save sinners.

I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath and don't. He was on an explanation, something God wants, it's made very clear in the context. So, I will therefore that men pray everywhere.

You know, you meet a Christian, someone wants you to pray. Did you ever do that on the sidewalk or anywhere? You know? Well, this is what it says, the word is everywhere, right? Isn't it? So you're talking to a farmer, a friend in the field, someone wants you to have a time of prayer, you know? You can do that anywhere, see. I remember during the revival, we had a team of five of us, we flew to Toronto to give testimony in a seminary there.

And on the way, we flew from Saskatoon to Winnipeg, just wherever we happened to get a seat. We sat mostly together. When we got to Winnipeg, we realized we hadn't done it right.

We should have been asking God to give us somebody we could witness to. So, from there to, we had a prayer meeting in the terminal at Winnipeg, all five of us, just in a place there, people going by wondering

what's happening with these guys. And we just asked God, God, give us somebody we can witness to.

In Toronto, we compared notes and it was incredible. Guess who I got sitting next to? A guy that ran a sawmill. I'd worked in logging camps and preached in logging camps for four and a half years.

And everybody had exactly the same experience. They found themselves sitting next to somebody they could witness to. And so, it says everywhere.

Was it wrong to pray in an air terminal? Some people, you're showing off. No, we're not showing off. We're talking to God.

So, I will ever let men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath. The wrath of man works not the righteousness of God. And without doubting, that's all we've added.

It's more than just a postscript. Now, Anna, it says in Luke 2.37, she served God with fasting and prayer, night and day. And she never left the temple.

I'll bet you took lots of criticism from, you know, cold believers. What in the world are you spending all your time in the temple for? Why aren't you out in the streets helping the beggars, you know? Why aren't you doing something? What are you doing in the temple all the time? I'm fasting and praying. What are you wasting your time for? I mean, that's, I'm sure she took criticism, you know.

Because when Christians start praying an hour or two hours or whatever, there's always those that will criticize and say, there's a lot of other things you might perhaps should be doing, you know. But she served God. She served God with fastings and prayers, night and day.

And God was so pleased, he made sure it got in the Bible so others could read and understand. She served God. Fasting, by the way, is praying without words.

And I find something in Esther, it goes like this. It speaks of, listen carefully, the matter of the fastings and their cry. Fasting is asking God to do.

I mean, it has to go. And so, fasting is praying without words. Keep it in mind.

She served God, and he was pleased. Fastings and prayers, it says, night and day. Night and day.

And then persevering, we find that word in Ephesians 6.18. And we've mentioned before how Mueller made it very clear. Somebody just asked him the question, do you ever give up when you're praying for someone or something? And he was a tall man. Apparently, he started bending over as he was repeating it slowly.

George Mueller never, never, never gives up. Perseverance, we have the word. Remember now, Ephesians 6.18. If you're sure it's the will of God, don't ever give up.

So that came from a broken home. My parents loved us four boys. They didn't love each other.

And something happened, and my mother took off. So then we had a hard time. Oh, I got tired of eating cabbage soup, you know.

My dad was no cook, you know. Anyway, one day Dad said, and she had been in the car. He didn't say that, but she'd been in the car.

She told us later on how she might have been killed. She shunned the Lord and got saved and came home. But he said, your mother's coming home, but you don't have to listen to her religious talk.

So we didn't know what that meant. We didn't care about that because she was a cook, you know. And she used to cook those cinnamon buns that have that stuff dripping on them, you know.

Oh, we could hardly wait till Mom got home. She didn't lay a heavy trip on us, but she let us know, if I catch any liquor or any tobacco in the house, it's gone. And Dad supported her in that.

My dad never drank, and he didn't smoke. He wasn't a Christian then, but anyhow. Here's what she said many years later.

When I came home, the first thing I did was pray Psalm 37.5 and commit the four boys and Dad to God for salvation. You know what happened? Nothing happened for 14 years. And she had a hard time, you know.

Don was 23. I was just behind him. I was 21, I guess, when he was 23.

My brother Bob was a year behind me, and then my brother Keith. You know they have a saying, if you don't get saved in your teenage years, you'll never get saved. Don't you believe it? None of us were saved.

We were in our 20s, and my youngest brother Keith will remember when he got married, shook hands with his wife. They promised each other they'd never become Christians. He didn't get saved until he was 36, but notice he got saved.

She just hung in there, believing God. Lucy said one day the devil got on her back and gave her a hard time and mocked her faith and all of this. What's it doing? You've got two or three of your kids, they're past 20 now, no interest in God.

She just hung in there. She said, I shook the devil off my back and talked to God about it. And he did it.

And Dad got saved when he was 75, you know, so she never gave up. I'll tell you, I honor my mom. My dad told me he was a good guy.

You know, he used to take us on canoe trips two weeks every summer, you know, when we were old enough to swim and that. And he was a good... He didn't smulk. He never heard him curse or anything.

He thought he had it okay because he was a good guy. I remember preaching the gospel one day. He said, what you're talking about, he said, is for that drunkard lying in the gutter.

And that's not me. He walked away. Became a sweet Christian finally, age 75.

So persevere, persevere. Jesus Christ in Luke 18, one told a parable to help Christian believers not to give up, not to turn coward, one translation says, but to stay with it to this end, that men are always to pray and not to faint. Don't give up.

If it's for the glory of God and somebody's good, don't give up. Persevering. Then giving, Acts 6, verse 4 says, the apostles said, we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

In that order, by the way. We do it the other way around. We minister the word, and whenever we have a few minutes left over, we will pray.

That's not how they did it. So we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word. You've heard about the big church in New York, in Manhattan, I guess it is, and the prayer meetings, you know, 1800 people.

You know what they do? The pastor or whoever will announce a need, and the whole congregation begins praying out loud at the same time for that one need. I don't know if they do it that way all the time, but a lot of the time they do. And the conversions are incredible, you know.

Thousands. They started with 20 people. Now they have to have 4 services every Sunday packed to the door through 1800 people.

And all through prayer. And preaching, of course. Giving.

You know what it says? It's like what they're really saying is, we're going to throw ourselves into this. We're going to give it everything we've got. Not be like, I think I mentioned this maybe before, but Billy Sunday said, the average Christian, he prays like a jackrabbit nibbling on a cabbage, you know.

He says his little prayer. He's not praying. He's not doing what the Bible says he should do.

He's not giving himself continually to prayer. Look, Jacob, when he knew that Esau was coming with 400 armed servants, he knew he was in trouble. And he tried 3, 4, 5 little plans to try and take care of the problem.

And then it says in Genesis 32, and Jacob was left alone. No more plans. What now? So he falls on his face and starts to pray, and he prays the whole night through, you know.

And the angel said, let me go. The day is breaking. I will not let you go unless you bless me.

That's hope. I mean, you talk about giving yourself to prayer. Of course, he had something to kind of inspire him.

The fact that his brother would meet him the following day with 400 servants. He had to get through to God. Sam Jones, I mentioned this to somebody today here.

He was a famous evangelist, had been an alcoholic, got saved, took some theological training, became a Methodist evangelist, mightily used of God. Matter of fact, thousands upon thousands and thousands of men got saved in his meetings, and he preached against liquor with great power, and many places there wasn't a person drinking beer when he was through. And the, you know, the brewers hated him with a passion.

I won't go into that, but one night in a hotel room, the old lust for liquor returned. And he said, he sat on the bed, and he ran to the door, there was a beer parlor right down below, and then he ran back and out of the bed and prayed, and then he ran back and said three or four times, back and forth, praying at the bed, and ran out of the door to go down to the beer parlor. You know what he finally did? He fell on the bed, and he said, Dear God, can't you do better than this? And it was gone, never returned.

And sometimes you can reason with God, you know. It says so in Isaiah 1, Come now, let us reason together, say the Lord, talk with God, reason with God. He likes that.

He won't turn you off, but just don't go too far, that's all. Striving. Romans 15, 30, Paul was exhorting the Christians at Rome to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.

Striving. I think the Greek word is agon, which fortunately the English word agonize. So praying, agonizing, well that's what Paul was really saying.

It's not just polite praying. There's times when you need to agonize before God. Rebuke the devil and get through to God.

I remember reading about South Korea, you know, there's all kinds of American Christians have gone over there just to see what's going on in South Korea. And sooner or later they get invited to attend one of the all-night prayer meetings. And the Koreans laugh, they say, here's what happens.

But God doesn't come till 2 o'clock. And so, strive together with me in your prayers to God for me. Then 2 Corinthians 1, 11, you also helping together.

So there's a gift of helps mentioned in the Bible. I've never ever heard of anybody convening a conference just to show people how to get the gift of helps. Nobody would show up if he did that, right? That's not a showy gift.

That's in behind. Nobody will know what you're doing. You're helping people.

Nobody will hear about that. So people never even think about it. I haven't heard anybody telling me I've got the gift of helps.

I mean, it's not showy enough. You're also helping together by prayer. It's in behind the scenes.

God loves it. He's looking for people like that who will be a helper, especially in the area of prayer. You have no idea how you can help others by praying for them.

I remember one day I was feeling down and battling with the devil. And finally, later in the day I got over it by the grace of God. And a day or two later my daughter Joanna, who lives in local Ontario, phoned and said, Daddy, did you have a hard time yesterday? Well, I said, as a matter of fact, did it all? She said, God gave me a burden to pray for you.

She said it was really powerful. So you're also helping together by prayer. People are struggling.

Christians aren't doing well. Don't criticize them. The Bible says, judge nothing before the time until the Lord comes.

Who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness will make manifest the counsel of the heart. And then shall every man have praise of God. And then shall every man have what? Won't some get kicked around by God? No, it says every man will have praise from God.

God will find something to praise in the weakest Christian that ever lived. Your business is not to judge another man's servant. It's made clear in Romans chapter 14.

As you may know, judge nothing before the time until the Lord comes. That's the time for judging. Okay, now helping.

Helping by prayer. Make a list. I've got a list of 70 sinners I try and pray for every day.

I've got a larger list of some hundreds of people I try to pray for. It takes a lot of time. I don't even look at the length of the list, you know.

Just the Lord and me, you know. And we talk to Him. Okay, helping.

Paul used the word in Galatians 4.19 that my little children with whom I travail and birth again until Christ be formed. It's like childbirth. That's the way Paul saw it.

He'd been in Galatians before and seen a great work of God and many converted and churches established. He comes back some years later. What does he find? Backslidden churches.

Forgotten. He said, who hindered you that you should not obey the truth? One translation says, who drove you back? What happened here? You know. And so he went to prayer.

My little children of whom I travail and birth again. He'd done this before. Until Christ be formed in you.

He knew how to handle it. You don't talk about it. You don't worry about it.

You pray about it. Commit it to God. Cry to God.

Get God into the picture. Let God take over. I think the greatest promise for prayer in the Bible is Psalm 37 5. I think it's greater than the Jabez prayer is.

I kind of laughed on it when this Jabez prayer was in the big deal, you know. And they'd written this book and they were telling everybody should know this prayer and pray this prayer and everything. And he talks it was a new discovery.

I have a prayer by Spurgeon on Jabez. I preached on Jabez 40 years ago. It wasn't anything new.

But Psalm 37 5. Commit your way. You know I have a good example of that in Acts. When they were caught in the storm at night and it's bad because the anchors couldn't drag if it's a mud bottom.

If there's rocks the rope might break. They had to do something when day came. They looked.

They were near an island. Two seas were meeting together. I suppose fume was going 80 feet into the air.

They were in a bad case. So what did they do? They cut the ropes and committed themselves to the sea. That's committal.

You cut all the ropes and you trust God. Now they couldn't re-tie the ropes if they changed their mind. Had a committee meeting or something and decided what we've done is really wise.

They couldn't do that. And you know when they started off here on the bosom of that awful flood. Nobody had done this before.

They had 40 foot birch bark canoes and then in the record you know it'll be often as a record went to Shorn Gum. Went to Shorn Gum. They didn't have Wrigley Spearmint in those days.

What were they doing? Well when it went through power waves on the river and that, you know 40 feet long birch bark will pull and start to leak down to go to Shorn Gum. But they made it. But I like what he said.

There was no turning back. No way. And that's how it should be in the Christian life.

No man having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom. We don't look back. We look ahead to the grace of God.

Travailing. Isaiah 66:8 says As soon as Zion travailed she brought forth her children. Finney made much of that.

This thing travailing in birth until until until God comes through and blesses. Travailing. Watching and waiting.

Watching the same with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2 Watch and wait. In Saskatoon we had a man in our church he taught psychology in university.

He was a Christian guy. But he came one day. This was before the revival.

He said, you know my life is flat. Could you recommend some books that would be helpful to me. So I recommended the two books on Spurgeon's life.

The Early Years and the Full Harvest. And then the two books by Dallimore on Whitfield. And he got the ones on Whitfield.

He saw me afterwards and he said, I didn't know that kind of life was possible to be lived. I've never read anything like it, he said. I'm a totally changed person, he said.

I can't live the way I lived before. He was so moved by God, you know. You'd rarely see him in the congregation.

What was it? Up in the prayer room praying. And if he said to you, my brother would you pray with me? You've got to think of two hours. At least two hours.

He'd say, you pray and I'll wait. Or I'll watch. Then you watch and I'll pray.

It went like watch and pray, wait and pray, you know. Back and forth. And he had a wonderful power with God, you know.

The Bible speaks about watching and waiting. Watching the same with Thanksgiving, Mark 13, 33. Jesus used this term three times.

They that wait on the Lord, wait on the Lord, shall renew their strength. People, it's not three seconds, it's not even five minutes. They that wait on the Lord, make time.

You don't have time, then make time. I remember hearing a speaker many years ago, he brought a message on Finney, and after relating some of the exploits and all, he said, some of you people tell me you're busy. You're not busy, you're just buzzy.

You know, if we really believe what the Bible is saying about prayer, why aren't we doing it? Why aren't we into it? Why aren't we making time? You have time to do many other things. Make a list of the things you do each day. Aren't there some of those things you can cut off? I'm sure there are many things we could cut off, to make time.

Moody and Finney rose at 4 o'clock every morning, read the Bible and prayed until 8 o'clock every day. You know, George Mueller read the Bible through 200 years in the attitude of prayer. No wonder these men had power of God.

They were doing what the Bible is telling us we ought to be doing. Well, you know, Paul speaks about a certain man, Colossians 4.12, always laboring fervently in prayer. What does that sound like? A little whispered prayer that nobody else can hear? Always laboring fervently in prayer.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much or exerts a mighty influence, as one translation puts it. So, always, always, not for special occasions only, but always laboring fervently for you in prayer. And speaking of the same man, he said, He has great zeal.

What's he talking about? He's talking about his prayer life. You know, if you hear some Christian that's very zealous, what do you think of? Tracts, giving out tracts, witnessing for Christ, maybe giving a lot of money to the work of God. That's what we normally think about.

Not here. Great zeal in prayer. Are you noted for that? Well, not many of us are, because not many of us do that.

We don't have the time. Listen, I want to tell you something. God said in Ezekiel 14.27, I have four sore judgments.

Now, these are judgments God brings on, not just Israel, but on the nations of the world. Because in, you know, Jeremiah chapter one, Jeremiah was made a prophet to the nations, not just to Israel. And in one chapter, there's about 18 nations that God judged.

What are the four sore judgments of God? The first is war, the sword. Then there's famine. Then there's pestilence, which is disease.

You know what the fourth is? Wild beasts of the earth. I was surprised, a year or so ago in Winnipeg, near to Winnipeg, people picking berries and a black bear attacked them. No cubs around.

This hasn't happened before. Twice this happened, one year after the other. Then in Florida, I think it was last year, there were five or six people killed by crocodiles in one week.

And then cougars, people killed by cougars. And then I saw this thing on TV just a few weeks ago, young man, Northwest Territories, went out for a walk, didn't come back. They found his body, wolves had killed and eaten him.

There's never been a recorded instance of wolves attacking human beings until this happened. And then they had another guy on the same program. He was naked from here up.

His body was covered with bites. He was attacked by a wolf in northern Saskatchewan. And he managed to strangle it.

And he lived. Had there been two wolves, he had never made it. But they were saying, what's going on here? This has never happened before.

Listen, I've been followed twice by packs of wolves in the bush. These are the forester. He goes, okay, these are your guys.

You take care of my cat. It's an eerie feeling to have a dozen wolves hollering 50 yards behind you for about six, eight miles, you know. The other time I was prospecting with a guy and the same thing happened.

We haven't ever dogged with this. You know, the book says that they will not attack you as long as you're standing. But I wasn't sure they'd read the book, you know.

But having great zeal in prayer. Paul said to Timothy, I remember you in my prayers night and day. I don't think he meant he prayed all night and all day, but just he was constantly thinking of him.

And every now and then he broke into prayer. Maybe six, eight, ten times during the day. Night and day.

Ever pray that way? We should all be praying that way at times. 1 Timothy 3, 10. Night and day.

Praying exceedingly that I might see your face and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith. So night and day. And in Psalm 88, David said that he prayed night and day.

So it's an Old Testament deal as well as a New Testament deal. I have cried, he said, day and night before you that is before God. So what is prayer? Well it's fellowship with God.

Giving God quality time. Not rushing in and rushing out. I mean, I know what's going on because I did it myself at one time.

We're getting nowhere. The church does not pray in North America. I know there's some exceptions, thank God for that, but as a whole, we're just not there.

We haven't seen it. We don't do it. We don't know others that do it so we never attempt it.

We just sort of ignore what the Bible has to say. What about the example of Christ? Hebrews 5, 7, In the days of his flesh he prayed with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him. What was he praying about? I'll tell you what I think, and I may be wrong.

I think he was afraid he might die in the garden of Gethsemane and not be able to go to the cross. So he prayed with strong crying and tears and was heard. Halfway through his prayer an angel came and strengthened him but he never made it to the cross.

Strong crying and tears, the Son of God cried to his Father. Luke 5, 16 He withdrew himself into the wilderness and prayed. There is something in that you have to get alone somewhere where the phone isn't going to be bothering you.

I had a friend who used to scoff at the idea of a preacher taking a holiday. He got a little older and the pressures got bigger. One day he discovered he needed something different so he went to the bush and built himself a cabin.

Nobody knew where it was but his wife. Nobody could find him but his wife. He told me it was wonderful alone with God praying, you know, which he had never done before.

He went into a mountain park to pray alone. Matthew 14 23. Luke 28, 29.

While praying he was what? He was transfigured. We are transfigured. We are changed by God when we are praying.

Especially when we get close to God. Fennie talked about being so close to God that the flesh was trembling on his bones. I've never had that kind of an experience but we know what he is saying.

God. The God of the universe. You know sometimes I sit down and I say how in the world can this God.

You know listen have you ever thought of this? That God sometimes has to answer 3 million people praying at the same time. Ever thought of that? I mean it is going on all the time. There are millions of Christians around the world and there must be millions of times when God is praying, listening to these people and answering their prayers.

How can he do that? Because he has an intellect not like ours. He can do it. Listen, he counted the stars.

Nobody can count the stars. They say there are many stars in the universe as there are grains of sand on all the seashores of the world. How can he count the stars? He not only counted them, he named them.

How could he name all the stars? Where did he get these names from? He is God. An infinite God. Present everywhere.

And what are we? Less than nothing. That is a mathematical impossibility. It is a good way of putting it.

We are less than nothing in vanity. Yet this God loves us and he is asking us to come to him. When we don't do it, what are we saying to him? This little spot on this mud ball.

Won't talk to the God that made it? I mean how does God see it dear people? What are we doing about it? Revival? God just waits to be asked. Ask and it shall be given you. Seek and it shall find.

Knock and it shall be opened unto you. And you know in the one context where those words occur, it is in the continuing tense. It means keep seeking, keep knocking, keep asking.

And finally, God will answer. He waits until we get desperate. Until we become what we are.

Just a little speck. Until he becomes who he is. The God of the Universe.

We had a fellow one time, he wanted to join our church and he declared he was saved and we talked to him and he seemed to be ok. And so he had to be baptized and give his testimony. And he didn't do that with the other people that were joining.

And so he said, I'll have to do this on Sunday morning. I said, ok, just tell him exactly how you found Christ as your Savior. So he gets up there and he says, the big boy upstairs and I are just like this.

And a spirit filled Christian said, who do you think you are? Who do you think you are? And he really rebuked him soundly. He ran off the platform, out of the church where he never saw him again. The big boy, come on.

The God of the Universe. If you tried to cross, remember the Milky Way, in a rocket at the speed of light, I think it's several million miles an hour, it will take you a hundred thousand years. And Jesus Christ made all that.

People, I don't know, how are we going to get this from our head to our heart? We know these things. It doesn't seem to move us the way it should. Now really, I'm afraid that God may bring some of his judgments on our country.

As a matter of fact, I think we're seeing some of it already. I think we've entered into a judgment mode with God. I really believe that.

And it may get worse. I think it will get worse as far as that's concerned. He knows what to do, how far to go, and what to do in these areas.

And he'll do what it takes. The Bible says, because they have no changers, therefore they don't fear God. No changers, people go on in the old rut.

And it was just a grave with both ends knocked out. But God does this because they have no changers. There's a verse that says Oh, how does it go now? Oh, by the fear of the Lord, men depart from evil.

Okay? By the fear of the Lord, men depart from evil. And then it says there's no fear of God before their eyes. So the only way God can deal with that is by his foresaw judgments.

And they're happening. And it may get worse. But remember, he'll look after his own.

But he's trying to wake us up, and shake us up, and make us up, and break us to his glory and honor. What we talked about, did I ever talk about the praying men of Barvey in Scotland? Duncan Campbell told me about these men. They would come home from their jobs, whatever they were doing, have supper, and go to bed right away, and sleep till 9 o'clock at night.

At 9 o'clock at night, they rose and prayed through till 2 o'clock in the morning. Then they went to 2 o'clock, they went to bed and slept till 7 o'clock when they got up and had breakfast. This was their plan.

Their plan. And Duncan Campbell had gone to the Isle of Skye to start opening a church. It had been closed for years.

The Isle of Skye was the home of the McLeod clan. It was an interesting story. More ways than one.

And he got there, he started with 5 people on Monday, Sunday rather. 5 on Monday, 5 on Tuesday. Nothing happening.

Nobody coming. And he got a message to the praying men. And the first night after those men prayed, the building was packed to the doors and there were 7 people converted and the revival broke.

They only prayed one night. Not together, they prayed separately, you know. But they had power over God.

Called the praying men of Barvey. Barvey was a place in the Isle of Lewis, if I understand it right. The praying men.

Listen, we should all be praying men and women, right? Make time. Somehow, make time. There must be some things we're doing we don't really have to do.

Or maybe not spend as much time doing it as we're spending. So we can spend more time with God in prayer. Do you remember, I want to close in a moment, when this, Jesus was in the Mount of Transfiguration with 3 of his disciples.

And the others were down in the valley. And a father came with a demon possessed child. And they tried to cast the demon out and they couldn't.

Must have been embarrassing. Christ had given them power over all upon the enemy. Luke 9, chapter 9, verse 1. They should have, they couldn't.

And Jesus comes on the scene. The Pharisees were needling the apostles that couldn't do it. And Jesus comes.

What's going on? And the father told my son, he's full of demons. And these guys tried, they couldn't do it. And then he said to Jesus, If you can do anything, have mercy on us and help us.

What did Christ say? He said, If you can believe. It goes like this. If you can do it.

No, no, no. It's not me. I can do it.

I want to do it. I know how to do it. I can do it in a second.

It's up to you. If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes. And the father saw and cried out with tears, Lord, I believe.

Help my unbelief. You know unbelief was there, but faith was in the ascendancy and Christ healed the child. People are the same with us today, you know.

If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes. Is it a great problem? No. Listen.

Believe God for it. Problems are there to glorify God by their deliverance, you know. Oh, by the way, the apostle said to Christ after, Why couldn't we? And he said, Because of your unbelief.

And you know something happened around that same time in Luke chapter 9. I believe it's recorded. They came to Jesus and said, Lord, we saw a man casting out demons in your name. We forbade him because he doesn't walk with us.

That wasn't the problem. You know what the problem was? They couldn't do it at times. And here's a guy.

He's not even an apostle. And he's casting demons out. How in the world? And they couldn't.

The seven he went out with joy. They were not told to cast out demons. They were told, Heal the sick.

They were told, Preach the kingdom. And they came back with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to your name. And he said, I beheld Satan's lightning fall from heaven.

Then he said, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, which, by the way, are symbolic of demonic powers, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. These guys were not apostles. They were ordinary lay people.

Seventy Christ sent out to let other people know He was coming. But, they had seen what Jesus did and the apostles sometimes, so they did the same. And they were able to do it.

But notice what Christ said. I give unto you power over all the power of the enemy. I say again, they were not apostles.

They were ordinary Christian believers. So we have that promise too. Power over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

The promise of God. Now I should point this out. There are five places in the New Testament where casting demons out is called healing.

Acts chapter 5 is a good example there. So, when He sent them out, they said, heal the sick. So they knew that casting demons out, that's healing, and they did.

So, I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath, and doubting, praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance, for all saints, let's pray. Father, we have so much here in the scriptures about prayer. It should knock us out of our little nest, dear God, and get us running.

Father, forgive us that we pray so little. Forgive us that many times we only get serious in prayer when something comes up we can't handle. Father, that's an insult to you.

The promises, oh God, the promises. You've given us power over all the power of the enemy. If the devil's got our kids, get them out of the devil's.

Get them from the devil. Claim them for God. Pray through, oh Father.

You're telling us, labor fervently, zeal, day and night, believe. So, I just say, I will let men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath and donning.

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