

No Man Is Greater Than His Prayer Life - Part 2

by Leonard Ravenhill

The sermon emphasizes the importance of prayer and faith in the life of a believer, and how seeking God for a new anointing and surrendering one's life to Him is essential for revival and bringing life to those who are dead.

Duration: 40:56

Scripture: Psalm 119:105, Isaiah 55:11, Mark 16:17-18, Acts 2:17, 1 Corinthians 1:27, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Topics: "Prayer Life"

Description

In this sermon, the pastor shares a story about a man who was healed in the name of Jesus Christ. The pastor emphasizes the importance of having faith in God, regardless of one's background or education. He encourages the congregation to dedicate their time and resources to God, suggesting that if everyone did so, the Church would be in a better state. The pastor also highlights the significance of seeking spiritual renewal and staying connected to God through prayer and seeking His anointing.

Transcript

I went to Dr. Charles' office one day. A friend of his was coming out and he said, the doctor's in there and he's so happy. He's got a little piece of paper, it's rather dog-eared and it's from a black man, a very, very black, black man down in South Africa.

He lives in Durban. His name is Duna, D-U-N-A. When I saw this story up in the Carolinas four or five years ago, a man at the back kept nodding his head, nodding his head, and afterward he said, my, I like the story on Duma.

I said, have you heard it before? He said, no, but my dad, he was the pastor you were talking about. Duma came in the church and heard the gospel for the first time, and he ran to the altar. And when he got up, he was like Bunyan's children, the burden loosed from off his shoulders, fell from off his back into an empty sack or two, and he ran down the aisle praising the Lord.

Well, that's not, I mean, you know, that's not really the thing to do in a Baptist church. Well, leaping down the aisle and praising God. The pastor of the door said, well, how are you? Did you enjoy the service? He said, yes.

Can I do anything for you? He said, yes, give me a shirt. The pastor said, give you a what? Two years old? Well, you've never been in a church before? No, I haven't. Ah, you're the man that went to the altar.

No, I'm not. Yes, you are. No, no, no, no.

He said, one man went down to the altar. I'm a new man. I'm not the man that went down to the altar.

Isn't it terrible when you get so excited about being saved? You know, the first six months you're saved are God's chosen people. And after that, we're God's frozen people. Oh, have you any education? No.

Have you been to Bible school? No. That was a big advantage he didn't know about. Nobody brainwashed him.

I can't give you a talk. The man turned up again a month after. Going out, the pastor said, well, how are you? Should I help you? He said, yes, give me a shirt.

Oh, now I remember who you are. Well, you haven't been in this church for over a month, have you? No, sir. You haven't been in any other church.

Where did you go? I went up the road outside of Durban, and I came to a forest, and I found a footpath, and then I found a stream, and then I found a cave, and I took a rock, and I made a mark on the wall, and I went in that cave for 21 days and nights and said, Lord, you tell me whether I'm going to preach. I don't want to listen to men. Either you tell me I am, or I'm not.

If you tell me, all hell won't shake me. And he said, the Lord said, I've called you to preach, and I'll give you a healing ministry. He'd look, what? Give you a healing ministry? Well, I talked to the deacons about it.

And the deacons said, you know, across the patch we have a little county. It's just made of metal, and there are only five people go there. So, we let him preach to them, because after all, he's no education, and no training, and, you know, in three or four weeks, he'll be fed up of listening to anyone in the church.

The strange thing is, that church is growing even today, forty years after, tomorrow morning, maybe tomorrow morning, over there in South Africa. And, you know, they'll have fourteen hundred people there listening to this amazing man. Yet, God healed a pig through him.

He called the elders, meet me at the hospital, we need to pray. He called the elders when they meet me at the hospital, and they checked in with the lady at the desk, you know, and said, a pastor said, I want to pray for someone. So, she said, yes, he's in ward 13.

What did he say? He can't remember, he prayed for someone. Ward 13, ward 13 is the morgue. The pastor just walked down the aisle, and the deacons went to say, pastor, pastor, this, this, this, this, this is, this is the morgue.

He said, yes, we've got to pray for the right man, number 21 here. So, they pulled the screen over, and there was a man lying, you know, so still and tired. And little Juno pulled the cloth off him, and then he climbed on top of the body, just like Elijah did later, and put his hands on the body.

And he said, in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life, rise and walk. And the corpse went, ahem. Well, if the corpse had done, ahem, with me on top of it, I'd have hit the ceiling, I'm sure of that.

But, you know what happened? The corpse got down and walked home. A little black man, who had no preaching certificate, and no background, poor soul, he only had God. Isn't it terrible when you've only

God? You know, when you can't look on your diploma and say, that's where I say, I mean, that's where I, I got my diploma.

Then you look at the other one, and that's where I got my PhD, and that's where I go to study now. Hey, but wait a minute. Are you suggesting that man has run 30 years on one cylinder? You've got a new automobile, you expect it to last with one cylinder of gas till you die.

The trouble with most people, they had appendix of 20 years ago, 30 years ago, the fire's gone out. I forget the day, it was maybe the 17th of November, when the little black man went into that cave. Do you know what the smart man did? Every year since then, he's gone back in that cave for 21 days and nights, along with God, to get a new anointing, to get a new vision, to get a new friend.

He just wanted to go and get blessed in hell. You say, I remember when I quit smoking and I quit drugs and prostitution. Well, that's great for the heaven's sake, don't build a tent then.

Go up and possess the land. Go hide thyself. And yet people say, well, I can't take part in that.

You don't have a church to start with. No, I don't. How do you live? I live by faith.

One woman came to one of our meetings, she said, oh, I like to hear Brother Abraham teach in the morning. He's great in the morning, but at night he gets so noisy, I don't like him at night. So she said, I enjoy him in the morning, she said, and I don't think I've enjoyed anybody better.

She said, I'm going to write him a nice check tomorrow and bring it. The other lady said, don't do that. Why? She said, because he lives by faith.

Isn't it amazing? Go hide thyself. That's a hardy thing to do. I guess when you're tied, maybe all of you are tied.

Tied what? Your money? That's easy. Take your notebook out, write the check. That's tied to God in the notebook.

You tied your time. The scripture says, bring all your tithes. That's the problem, you see.

Bring all your tithes. And if you give God a tenth of every day, that's 24 hours, that's 2 hours and 24 minutes every day. And then on top of that you give him nothing.

I'll tell you what, if everybody tied their time and tied their tongues as well, the Church of God would be in vastly different shape than what it seems to me. Go hide thyself. He lives by faith.

I see Elijah so big, he doesn't even get into Hebrews 11 where all those giants of faith are. And if ever you feel you need to get proud, you know, some people say, well you can't live without sin, everybody needs a little bit of sin to keep you humble. Well why not have a lot and keep you real humble? When you sin to keep you humble, all I need to do to get my face in the dust is read Hebrews 11 where men and women subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, sought the mouth of life, and not one of them ever had a Bible.

Look how much they did without the Bible. You and I have got 66 volumes. We've brought them to church with you tonight.

So much they did without the word of God. You and I have the complete revelation. God hasn't another word to say to humanity that will last a million years.

He said it all. The old hen house on the foundation says, what more can he say than to you, he has said. Elijah the man of faith.

The ravens fed him in the morning and fed him in the evening. Maybe that means you should only eat two meals a day, I don't know. But what might happen, the brook died up.

Before the ravens start bringing the food, the brook died up. The natural resources died up first. And then he heard the voice of the Lord saying, get up and go.

Where do I go? Go down the road, you'll meet a woman there. A widow woman, and tell her to feed you. Oh Lord, I can't do that.

This is a test of humility, isn't it? I mean, who wants to sponge on a woman, apart from rabios handling? You don't even ask a little widow woman to feed you, are you? I'll put your pride in your pocket. Meet the little woman and say, you'll make me a cake. And keep it as well.

And if it wasn't as well, die today as tomorrow. What did he say? He said, I'll make you a little cake. I was going to make one for my son and myself.

We were going to eat it and what? Die. This man's death would mean the death of thousands of people. Faith's right on heaven, there are no traps.

You want revival without any suffering? Maybe revival will only come to America through revolution. Maybe our option really is this. Either we concentrate in prayer, or we pray in concentration camps.

Which do you want? God isn't concerned about Standard Oil or anybody else. You can say, well, if we can't have money, the missions are going to fall down together. All the streamlined, evangelism you see tomorrow on TV.

Almighty God passed it, passed back all our computers and all our Bible schools and all our seminaries, and sent revival up in northeast India. That's a very repetition of the acts of the apostles. Signs and rumbles and miracles have never been raised.

And I like the phrase that Paul Copeland gives there. He says, this was not imported. It wasn't imported.

Nobody told him about gifts of the Spirit. Nobody told him about speaking in tongues. Nobody told him about miracles.

Nobody told him about interpretations. Nobody told him about signs and rumbles. God came in his sovereign right, and this is the only answer.

He's not an alternative, it's the only answer for our day. And God has said, he has poured out his Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions. Your old men will dream dreams. And on my servants and handmaids, not my bishops, not the leaders of our Bible schools.

Where did Jesus go for his disciples? Did he knock on the door of the Sanhedrin? Did he go to the temple and ask the high priest, or the best and most protective scholar he had? No, he went to a fisherman and a tax gatherer. God takes the things that are not. So many people have said to me, did you ever meet Smith Wigglesworth? Yes, I did.

He was a character. So we read his books, and we read the Smith Wigglesworth. You know who he was, don't you? He was the loudest character in the room.

He was in a meeting not far from my home. There was a lady at the front there, she had a big tummy on her, and he thought, well, that old girl can't be pregnant, she's far too old. So while they were singing, he went down and he blabbered in her ear, are you pregnant? She said, I didn't want it.

He said, close your eyes, she's dead. He took his fist, he kicked her in the stomach like that, he said, you're healed. Well, if she was rather dead, one of us would have, I mean, you don't need a woman in the stomach like that to see if she's been kicked by a mule.

There's no way of repeating it. On four occasions, people raised from the dead for that man. And yet I want to tell you tonight, I've seen signs and wonders and miracles.

I used to go off with Miss Truman, I took her Bible classes a number of times in the Carnegie Hall in Pittsburgh, talked with her many times, with J. Wilkinson, I'd dinner with her, supper with her, breakfast with her, talk with her. We saw some great miracles there, and then I'd run the ministry over there, blind people's up to see, cripples walked in, what have you. But that's not the answer for America today.

America has had more healing in the last 30 years than all the nations under heaven put together, but where are we? You know what the greatest miracle is that Almighty God can do? The greatest miracle Almighty God can do is take an unholy man out of an unholy world, make that unholy man holy, put him back in an unholy world, and keep him holy. It takes all the power of the Atonement to do that, plus the indwelling of the Spirit of God and all the promises of God. What God is looking for in this day is not people with accurate theology.

He's looking for people with pure hearts. He's looking for people that are totally selfless in their desires. He's looking for people who want to be God glorified.

All right, let me hurry here. He went and the lady made a cake, and then he said, make yourself a cake, and she goes back to the barrel and finds it full to the top, and this little oil can is shooting like an Oklahoma gusher. No, I don't think so.

I think she took the last handful of meal out of that barrel every day and put the last pot of oil. That's the way God tests faith. I guess I know 20 millionaires and multi-millionaires.

Many of them tell me I've opened sesame to their bank account. Anytime, I've never asked anybody for a penny since I left a very fine church in 1949, and that's a few years ago. It's over 30.

And I got my boy through school and college and university and never asked for a dime. I never will. I believe every time we ask for money, it's a slap in the face of God.

He's promised to supply our needs. Not what I think I need, but what he thinks I need. You don't have to trail God's name in the dust.

They built some monument to send you tithes to keep somebody's private jet up in the air each day until God sent her harvest. She made a cake. And one day Elijah came in and he said, and now, now I found you out.

I see who you are now. You come into my house and my baby died. Oh, he said, don't worry about that.

I didn't like to tell you this, it's rather egotistical, but I'm the greatest preacher in the world. I'm the greatest miracle worker in the world. Oh, we can take holy things and make showmanship out of it.

To me, the holiness of God is too great to go on TV programs. Tell me this, when you come here tomorrow or the church you go to, are you going there to meet God or are you going to hear a sermon about him? I believe 99% of people who go to church tomorrow are going to want to hear a sermon about God, not me as a holy God. Elijah said, give me the child.

And he prayed and nothing happened. He prayed again and nothing happened. The third time he prayed, he ran up into a loft.

Have you got a loft in your life or a basement and an old chair where you always feel you're nearer to God than any other place? He ran up into a loft and he prayed. Now this time he laid himself on the corpse, a sign of his compassion and love, and he prayed and the child's spirit came into it again. My eye would have pained, so I'd like to paint that.

I'd like to paint the man coming down that staircase outside the house with a little laughing child in his arms and the woman there. Do you think he went up to the lady and said, excuse me, the kid's alive? Hmm? I think he went down so full of joy and said, hey look, here's some liver. Do you remember what she said, by this I know the heart of man of God, not by the barrel of meal, not by the oil, by this.

By what? By the fact that he brought life where there was death. Isn't that the business of the church? You happy, quick and doer dead in trespasses and in sin? Jesus didn't come into the world just to make dead bad men good, he came into the world to make dead men live. Well, that looks great, doesn't it? By this I know the heart of man of God.

Who's the greatest man of prayer in the Old Testament? Jacob? No. You say he prayed all night, he didn't intend to. He prayed all night because he was in a gang.

Wouldn't you pray all night if your brother was coming to murder you? You'd have a police escort round the house. I've seen a crowd of men coming. One of my scouts came and told me it's your brother.

No, no, tell me my brother. The last time I saw my brother he said, I'll kill you next time I see you. Now look, get all the cattle here.

Get him just a few of the sheep and if he's pacified, he didn't want to give too much away. A few sheep if he'll take them. And if you have to get him, get him them all.

And then the camels. But you know, if you can pacify him, do your best. And then he sent his wife and family away.

And then he stepped over a brook and he got behind a rock. And just as he got behind the rock, somebody jumped on him. Now who do you think he thought it was? Huh? His brother.

My brother killed him. Boy, I'm going to die fighting. That doesn't sound like a church prayer meeting.

Sounds like a church business meeting, but not a church prayer meeting. And the more he thought, the tighter the grip got on him. And suddenly he realized, this is not my brother.

You know what I learned out of that situation? That when Jacob went into that night of prayer, he was a tall, handsome prince. And after a night of wrestling there, he dragged his leg the rest of his life. He was a cripple.

And the reason we don't pray is the flesh is too weak to pray. The body gets tired. What's another petty excuse? The rest of his life he dragged a wizard's leg.

But he was changed to being a prince with God. I think the greatest man of prayer in the Old Testament was Elijah, or pardon me, was Moses. You know, America has a very vivid, strange history.

It's been such a blessing to the world, it's been such a curse to the world. A curse? Well, Mormonism was born here, and that's cursing the world. Jehovah's Witnesses were born here, and they're cursing the world.

Spiritism was revived here, and that's cursing the world. Man alive, we talk about the Pentecostal revival in Brazil, but brother, there's a shocking revival of Spiritism and Buddhism in Brazil right now, and in some of those South American countries. We've cursed the world.

You know, in Hitler's chaos the other way, we have had some of the greatest men of prayer in modern history. Just the other day, my dear, wife and I were in a shop, and a lady came up, Hey, Miss Brady, how are you? I've heard you preach a number of times. She said, I've got a collection of old books.

In one of your books you quote David Patience, and she has a great library, and she said, nobody has ever quoted David Patience except you. And I've got a volume on his life. Would you like it? I said, sure.

I've been writing to my son. David Patience. I call him praying Patience of Portland origin.

He had a bedroom like, the floor like this, you know, not that nice wall-to-wall rug like you have. Hard like this. And when he died, they found a groove in the floor, and a few inches away, another groove in the floor.

And they found out that when he prayed, he used to pray with his hands, he used to pray like this, and he walked through grooves in the wooden floor of his bedroom with intercessions. Praying Hyde. I preached in a conference in Lake Okoboji in Iowa some years ago, in 1951 actually.

A dear mystery came. He said, did you ever meet Praying Hyde? I said, no, I'd like to. Oh, I heard him there in the convention in India.

A friend of mine said to him one day, Mr. Hyde, could I pray with you tomorrow? Just let me pray with you once. He said, all right, meet me at 9.30. And he said, my friend went to the back room at 9.30, and there was John Hyde, and we knelt down to pray. And he said, for 15 minutes, it was total silence.

I didn't pray, he didn't pray. And then he said, I prayed. But he said, at the end of 10 minutes, I prayed all I knew how to pray.

And then John Hyde started to pray. And he hadn't been praying very long when there was a knock at the door. And this man said, well, I'm not going to the door.

This is the only chance I'll ever get to pray with this man. I'm not going to the door. And there was a loud knock at the door, and a loud knock at the door.

Finally, somebody pushed the door open and said, Mr. Hyde, you have a schedule at three o'clock to preach on praying. And it's now a quarter of three. His friend said, it can't be a quarter of three.

He started praying at 10 o'clock. It can't be a quarter of three. And he looked at his watch and found it was a quarter of three.

They had been praying for five hours. Portland of Patience, John Hyde, E.M. Bounds. You can buy seven volumes of E.M. Bounds.

They cost you about three or four dollars each. You can buy them all in one book. I put them all together.

You can buy them as you leave. It's called the Treasure of Prayer. And we think all the great men of prayer lived a hundred years ago.

There's a man who lives 50 miles away from where I live. He's 32 years of age. He prays 10 hours a day.

Here in America right now. Come on you fellows at Pompeiian and show your strength. How much stamina do you have to pray? How much vision? How much passion? How much burden? There's a man outside Waco, 60 years of age, who prays six hours a day.

Again, I live in an area of celebrities. David Wilkerson lives behind us. The Agatha Force just up the road.

Kenneth Green. Keith Green lives down the road. Barry McGuire lives just up above us.

Dallas Holm lives just behind us. Dave Wilkerson's building his new place on Miles Palmer. Second Chapter of Acts have just bought 10 acres by the side of us.

Jimmy Oiner's just bought 10 acres. Second Chapter of Acts have bought 100 acres. Jimmy Oiner.

You know the most attractive thing is we have a prayer meeting on Friday nights in a mansion across the road from where we live. A Quaker family, very lovely people. And we get 100 to 120 students.

And you know how far they come? They come as far as 250 miles round trip every Friday night just to pray. Not to hear celebrities sing. What have you got singing upside down? Did the disciples say, Lord teach us to sing? Did Jesus say my house should be called a house of song for all nations? Did Paul say, sing without ceasing? Did Jim Dent say, if you're sick sing one to another? Did Jesus say my house should be called a house of song for all nations? Do you know how sick the church is that you can put a show on and charge five dollars and you can get two or three thousand people to go and they'll go a hundred miles to the concert and it'll cost them a lot in gas and they have to eat when they go and they go to the show and and then it's over and they get back two o'clock in the morning and they'll go by the thousand and you book the same hall for a prayer meeting and charge them nothing you get nobody there.

That's how sick the church is. And nobody loves singing more than I love it. I finished where I began.

No man is greater than his prayer life. The greatest living expositor in the world. I talked with him in London a few years back and he said to me, Brother Abner, I don't have any trouble.

I don't have any trouble writing commentaries on the bible. I have no trouble. The hardest thing in my life is prayer.

Prayer. I found it so difficult to pray. I think that a prayer closet should be the most magnetic place in our lives.

One single simple thing. You know in England, in society, the greatest honor is to be invited into the presence of the Queen of England. And when you go, you receive instructions how to go, what kind of clothes to wear, how to observe the right manners.

Or you just don't go in your old clothes. And I don't think you're beaten up all shut or something. You go there all neat and tidy and everything and you're told when to bow and what to say and how to do it.

Such an honor to go into the presence of the Queen. Do you ever visualize when you go to pray that as you leave in your little humble home or mansion that you're talking to the same God that Elijah talked to? The same God that Jesus talked to? The same God that Moses talked to? That little you, because of Jesus Christ making us a kingdom of priests unto God, that we can just go into his holy presence. In the revival in Scotland, Duncan Campbell had had a series of meetings where God invaded the community.

And he was in one church and nothing happened. He said the heaven seemed like brass. So he stopped the meeting.

There were a lot of preachers here, a lot of church deacons there, a lot of men in the clerical attire. And he said, I do not sense God in this meeting. He pointed to a young man, Hamish, which is Scottish dialect for John, Hamish, the person or someone.

Ah, he said, laddie, would you stand up and pray? The boy was 16 years of age, 16, had all the theologians, the preachers, the famous dignitaries in the Christian world, and he called on a 16-year-old high school boy to pray. A laddie stood up. In Scotland, when they're contemptuous, they say, ah.

The boy stood there and said, ah, what's the good of praying if we're not right with God? And he quoted Psalm 24, who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord, he that hath clean hands and a pure heart. And he went on and recited it. And then he prayed 10 minutes, 20 minutes, 30 minutes, 40 minutes, 45 minutes.

And as he finished praying, it was just as though God pulled a switch in heaven, and the glory of God came on that building. And he came on the dance hall at the other end of town, and he came on the tavern at the other end of town, and they never opened after that. But you know why? Because when the boy finished praying with the authority of a man that sounded like a Jeremiah, or an Elijah, or Isaiah, he just turned as though he could visibly see something, and he said, Satan, get off this territory.

Go out of this community in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. I command you through the blood of Christ, and the power of the Spirit, and gone. And as the devil pulled out, the glory of God came down.

I get scared that God will keep one of his promises, you know. We like God's promises, if they're convenient for us. But remember, it wasn't for the Mormons, and it wasn't for the Mooniites that God said,

I'll spew you out of my mouth.

It was to his lazy, backslidden church, the Laodicean church, which is the day in which they're I'll spew you out of my mouth. And God said, hey Moses, come here a minute. I know you're discouraged.

I know you're wary of this people. I know they've broken your heart. You know, they've broken my heart too.

I'm as tired of them as you are. Now look, you go tell them, I'm going to wipe them out. I'm going to wipe the nation out.

And out of your loins, I'm going to raise up a new nation. And if Moses had had half an ounce of ambition for himself, he would have said, Lord, I'm just so happy because I've had headaches and sleepless nights with this bunch that's so rebellious and lawless and disobedient. I can't wait till I stand on a rock tomorrow and say, look, the Holy One of Israel is going to destroy you for your abominations and your sin.

You're going to hell and you deserve it. But I want to tell you something before you go. He's keeping me here because I'm so holy.

Do you know what Moses said in the 11th of Deuteronomy there? He said, Lord, the weight of this nation is so great upon me, you better do something or else kill me. In Romans 9, the Apostle Paul said, I could wish myself a curse. A plain translation from the Greek is this, I'll be damned if they beat me.

It's my damnation, it's my destruction. We'll release the mercy of God on my generation. And you go to your bed and sleep nicely tonight.

They'll just be getting going around the casino up there in Las Vegas and elsewhere else. And the discos they'll be taking their clothes off. And the nakedness and the promiscuity.

And now they tell me in France, nobody goes to see the girls strip anymore. They go to watch acts of homosexuality. Do you think God's going to put up with a nation that has more Bibles? We have 600 million Bibles in the nation.

And if you say there are 15 million Christians, that's four Bibles for each person. And we have more gospel radio broadcasts, and we have more churches, and we have more seminaries, and we have more Bible teaching and Bible countries than all the rest of the world put together. And yet we have more broken homes with divorce, more broken bodies with drugs, more broken bodies through venereal disease, more broken girls' bodies through homosexuality, through childbirth.

Everything's broken. This nation has never been so broken, but do you know what the greatest tragedy is? The greatest tragedy in the world tonight is a sick church in the dying world. The church of Jesus Christ isn't broken over it.

He was born in Gethsemane. And that revival, and I'm sure that revival there, that inauguration, you know, I came to the surface because for 20 years a hidden group of people have been praying and travailing for revival. I know some of the greatest praying people in the world.

You couldn't get them to come and stand here publicly. They won't let you write an article about their prayer life. You know, you can come on the platform and strut and show your ability and your scholarship, and how clever you can maneuver a crowd, but I challenge you to start swaggering when you shut the

door and you're alone with God.

You don't swagger in the prayer closet. You can impress people, but nobody impresses God. They're naked beforehand.

God says, I love to destroy these people. You know what? It's a very wonderful thing when God reaches from heaven and takes hold of a man. I only know one thing more amazing.

That's when a man reaches up and takes hold of God. And God says to Moses, leave me alone. That's not Moses knowing that God has a grip on him.

It's not Moses saying, God Almighty, take your hand off me. It's God saying, Moses, leave me alone. And the old Methodist hymn book paraphrases that.

He says this, let Moses in the spirit run and God cries out, let me alone. That praying, our praying is so feeble. Our praying has to close at nine o'clock, tell the Holy Ghost to go home.

I don't believe you can run a healthy church in America or anywhere else without that church having at least one night of prayer a week. And the best time to have it usually is Friday night because folk don't have to go to work the next day. Every church I've been in, I've been in churches in the last three years, about four or five, six, seven thousand members.

And my joy has not been to just see altar still, but to establish a prayer meeting on Friday night. And in those churches, they pray from nine o'clock at night to sometimes one and two o'clock in the morning. All earthly things with earth will fade away, but prayer grasps eternity.

You can test your spiritual life not by how much Bible knowledge you have. I'm not concerned that you know the Word of God, though that's good, but I want to know, do you know the God of the Word? I'm not just concerned you run with every burden to God. Does God lay any of his burdens on you? His yoke is easy, his burden is light.

If one has got a hand-tapping time, a good time, five minutes inside of eternity again, we'll all wish we'd be more prayerful, more sacrificial, more obedient, more submissive. The government isn't going to get this nation out of trouble, and the banks aren't going to get us out, and the armies aren't going to get us out. It's going to take one great merciful act of God or we are sunk.

We've had more light, more privileges the last 25 years than all nations in the world put together. People say, well, prayer can do anything. Well, read the 14th of Ezekiel, where God says, if the three greatest men that ever lived make intercession, I will not hear them, even for their own children.

They won't save their own children. Never mind the nation. If I could find God's timepiece and say, do you know what time it is on God's clock? You know what? I think we're not living in the last day, not even living in the last hour, not even living in the last minute.

I think we're living in the last moments before judgment falls and before revival comes. Father, we thank you tonight for this privilege of being in your house. We thank you for these precious friends that the world didn't have any pull on them tonight, or they wouldn't be here.

But Lord, many of us tonight have a broken down prayer life. Many of us know nothing of intercession. We need to get our hearts cleansed from selfishness and worldliness and carelessness and get centered on

God himself.

We need to be cleansed from all vanity and trivia. We need to get married to the will of God. We need to be totally spiritual.

We need to hear your voice. We need to see as you see. We need broken hearts for a broken world, not just a broken nation, a broken world.

You think of the millions locked up tonight, the Mohammedans and Buddhists and Confucianists and Muniites and others. Lord, we're not, we're not penetrating their kingdoms. We're not, we're not entering into the devil's dominion.

Have mercy on us. Just with your head bowed and eyes closed, ask God what he wants you to do tonight and allow the pastor to come and close the meeting.

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