

Prayer a Divine Necessity

by Watchman Nee

God's work is rapidly done when the church prays and cooperates with Him, fulfilling the divine conditions.

Scripture: Matthew 7:7, Matthew 9:38, Luke 18:1, John 14:13-14, Romans 8:26-27, Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, James 4:2, 1 John 5:14-15

Topics: "The Power of Prayer", "Divine Cooperation"

Description

Watchman Nee emphasizes the essential role of prayer in the life of the church, arguing that God desires to work through the prayers of believers rather than independently. He questions why God delays action and highlights that prayer is a necessary expression of faith, as seen in Christ's instruction to pray for laborers. Nee explains that God's work is contingent upon the church's cooperation through prayer, illustrating that divine actions are often delayed until believers align with God's will. He asserts that God is not slow in His workings but rather waits for His people to fulfill the conditions of prayer. Ultimately, the sermon calls for a deeper understanding of prayer as a divine necessity for God's purposes to be realized.

Transcript

(The following is an excerpt from an article by Evan Roberts. It originally appeared in *The Overcomer*, Vol. 4, published by The "Overcomer" Office, Leicester, England, February 1912. The paragraphs below reflect the order in Watchman Nee's publication.)

If God can do things without prayer in the church, why does He not carry them out in His own time instead of delays and hindrances?...And why does God lay a complaint against the church that she does not pray?...Why did Christ say, "Pray ye the Lord of the Harvest to send forth labourers?" Why did He not send them apart from prayer?

...There is value in the expression of prayer. What is the meaning of "Ye have not because ye ask not"? Is it God's unwillingness--i.e., you shall not "get" if you do not ask? Or is it that God sees the need, and He cannot meet the need, until the prayer is made?

The cycle of prayer moves in this wise: (1) God wants a thing done; (2) He moves the believer to pray that that thing might be done; (3) God does it in answer to that prayer....There is a thought abroad in the church: "Oh! God works so slowly." He does not. HE WORKS ACCORDING TO THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH, and according as there is co-operation with Him. Did God work very slowly in Egypt in delivering the bound nation? He did not. He worked for a prolonged season in getting the instrument ready

in the wilderness--forty years....God's work is rapidly done when the instruments see to it that the divine conditions are fulfilled. There must be conformity to the laws of God before God can work; and according to the absolute conformity to God's will and laws there is a fulness of operation.

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