

Prayer Power Tower

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Preparation

As a child you may have heard your parents say words that puzzled you, but words that you now find yourself saying – words such as “do as I say, not as I do!” When you looked to your parents for guidance and direction, if they ever made such remarks, did it not confuse you? But how often have you caught yourself repeating the same words? Our actions truly do speak more loudly than do our words! Jesus shared great insight into our human condition through His parables. As those gathered listened, many, including His closest disciples, didn’t grasp His deepest meaning. Even today, however, there is great meaning in His words. *“The Master said, ‘Let Me ask you: Who is the dependable manager, full of common sense, that the master puts in charge of his staff to feed them well and on time? He is a blessed man if when the master shows up he’s doing his job. But if he says to himself, ‘The master is certainly taking his time,’ begins maltreating the servants and maids, throws parties for his friends, and gets drunk, the master will walk in when he least expects it, give him the thrashing of his life, and put him back in the kitchen peeling potatoes. The servant who knows what his master wants and ignores it, or insolently does whatever he pleases, will be thoroughly thrashed. But if he does a poor job through ignorance, he’ll get off with a slap on the hand. Great gifts mean great responsibilities; greater gifts, greater responsibilities!’”* (Luke 12:42-48 *The Message*). Even if you don’t think you have much, the Lord knows that He’s given much to each one of us – His disciples who call upon Him in prayer each day. That means that much more is expected of us. Are you living your life in preparation for the day of Christ’s return – or do you think that perhaps you can misbehave and still have time to repent before He is aware? At this hour of intentional prayer, remember that the Lord knows what’s in your heart and in your mind – even if you don’t speak those words.

Scripture

As we continue our study of the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Romans, we hear a bit of an aside as Paul links the beginning of this chapter to its latter part (Romans 2:12-16). As you read God’s word, listen for Him to speak to you in new and meaningful ways.

- We are all accountable to our holy God. Saint Paul will return to this subject later in this letter as he reminds us: *“All of us have*

sinned and fallen short of God’s glory” (3:23). It does not matter whether we are like Gentiles who do not possess the law, or like the Jews who do, we are still responsible to obey God’s will.

- Again the subject of works appears as Paul tells us we must be doers of the law, not merely hearers (2:13) in order to be justified. If we truly embrace our faith in Christ, it will be impossible for us to *not* “do” for the Lord.
- Paul’s assertion that God judges people based on their own sense of right and wrong might make one wonder about the need for missions (2:14-15). However there is a distinct quality of life we have received through Jesus Christ, which is an important part of our call to evangelism and missions. Yes, there is risk! But all of life comes with risk. How much risk are you willing to accept to carry out Jesus’ calling to share the Good News with all people?
- How do you feel about the truth that Gods hold us accountable for even that which we can hide from others (our “secrets” – 2:16)? Let that sure reality both confirm your need for a Savior, and lead you rejoice in the assurance we have in Christ Jesus.

Adoration

He Is All in All to Me

Fanny Crosby, 1896

*There is constant joy abiding
In Christ my Lord and King;
Of His love that passeth knowledge
My heart and tongue shall sing.*

Refrain: He is all in all to me,
And my song of songs shall be,
Hallelujah, O my Savior,
I am trusting only Thee.

*When my path is veiled in shadows,
And clouds above me roll,
I can smile amid the tempest,
His glory fills my soul. **Refrain***

*I can see his bow of promise
Through tears and trials deep;
I can hear His voice like music,
That lulls my care to sleep. **Refrain***

*I shall yet behold and praise Him,
And dwell in perfect peace
In the golden land of beauty,
Where cloud and wave shall cease. **Refrain***

Confession

It sometimes seems that one of our favorite pastimes is criticizing others! But the fact that we judge one another proves that we have an ability to discern right and wrong. It further implies that we have a conscience (although when we judge one another we are showing poor use of our abilities). We are accountable for our thoughts and actions, and cannot escape being judged, *especially* if we judge others. In fact, our judgment of others can bring even heavier condemnation on ourselves (Matthew 7:1-5). So the idea of having a sense of good and evil, a conscience, implies a standard to which Gentiles are also accountable (Romans 2:14-15). But what about sincere people who do horrific things in good conscience – such as mothers in ancient times who sincerely offered their own children to pagan gods? God does not impose judgment upon people who are unable to sense the difference between right and wrong. Nor should we! At this time of confession, acknowledge those moments when your judgment of others was less than favorable, and pray for a sense of grace (even such as your Father grants to you!) when you interact with others.

When you've finished your prayers of confession, let this invitation from almighty God give you great comfort and peace:

"Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18 NKJV)

Know that in Jesus Christ you are forgiven, and be at peace!

Thanksgiving

Even as Saint Paul sternly admonishes the readers of his letter, we should recall the great joy the apostle has within himself because of his relationship with Christ.

- Give thanks for your own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Thank God for the many ways in which you show your love for Christ by being kinder and more loving to His children.
- Give thanks for an upbringing that has instilled in you a good conscience, with the ability to know right from wrong.
- Thank God for the warmth of the season and discovering new ways to enjoy being inside – at least with the blessing of fans or air conditioning!
- Thank God for an open mind, a discerning mind, and a welcoming heart.
- Now *"... rejoice in the LORD and be glad, all you who obey Him! Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!"* (Psalm 32:11 NLT)

Supplication

The Bible assures us that *"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results"* (James 5:16b NLT). Intimidated by the "righteous" part? Be encouraged by the truth that God gives to all believers the very righteousness of Christ, and pray confidently, even boldly – especially for those who stand shoulder to shoulder with you in this great ministry of prayer.

Daniel Adams, Kristen Agnew, Audrey and Bill Allen, Corinne Baker, Jon Baker, Cyndy Beech, Joyce Bett, Ed and Goldie Black, Betty Bowser, Barbara and David 'Skip' Byers, Jan Carr, Lisa Cook, Ray and Jane Cornelius, Jennifer and John Culp, Ed Daggit, Gina Brenda Dolan, Jane Dunmire, Ruth Dykstra Entwistle, Mickey Edmiston, Becky Elliott, Janice Good, Dorothy Gooden, Kathleen Graham, Dorothy Henderson, John and Marilyn Hicks, Joy Holland, Suzanne Howat, Gail Jablonovsky, Alberta Keener, Louise Keough, Joann Kettler, Dana Krepps, Michelle Kurtz, Donna Lewis, Jean Longnecker, Linda Longwell, Rich Madsen, Don McAninch, Myrna Jane McCamey, Greg McElroy, Colleen McGaffic, Bob and Joanne Miller, Sandy Minor, Shirley Minshull, Jane and John Moser, Alan and Terry Northcott, Sean O'Brien, Edna Orange, Phyllis Osborne, Hazel Palmer, Joan Pashley, Jeannette Patterson, Nancy Rankin, Joanne Raymer, Andrea and Tod Reiser, Rachael Renick, Megan (Illsley) Sateia, Erin Scott, John Snow, Mary Jane Surrena, Charles Timmons, Beth Utsch, Betty Walters, Toni Walters, Alice Winger, Tami Witzke and Chris Yeakle.

- Please pray for the members and work of our Christian Education ministry team, and the students, both young and old, of our church family.
- Please pray for our secretary Linda Auld and her family, as she serves Christ with us each day.
- Please ask God to speak clearly and powerfully to each of us as we hear His word read in worship this week.
- Please pray for Marilyn and Jorge Gatica as they minister in Christ's name in Mexico.
- Please ask Christ to guide our session and trustees, and all of us as His church, as we weigh specific plans for a proposed elevator and new building entryway.
- This week, as our Vacation Bible School – Art in Heaven – meets, please ask God to change lives mightily for His kingdom, through the rich variety of activities of VBS.
- Please ask the Spirit to change each of us, each day.
- Please pray specifically that we will each be growing daily as Christ's Daring Disciples.