



WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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August 2023



FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

I welcome you to this new month and present to you August 2023 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. The theme of this month's edition is "The Lord's Prayer (Part I)".

The Lord's Prayer is a prayer Jesus taught His disciples after they asked Him to teach them how to pray. The context of His response is highly instructive. Two things; one, they observe how he prayed and as they follow Him around and witnessed not only how profound His prayer life was, they witnessed spectacular unprecedented answers to His prayers by God and they desire the same. Secondly, they set on record the fact that John the Baptist also taught his disciples to pray. It means they wanted a prayer lesson and practice that will set them apart as followers of Christ. We need the same experience today.

The Lord's Prayer was never meant to be a prayer we should recited word-for-word, as if these specific words, in this specific order, have some sort of power and influence of their own. Jesus and the Apostles never did. Instead, the Prayer was meant provided a model, blueprint, guide, or a template on how to structure our own prayers. The prayer reflect Christ's desire for us to show concern for God's holiness, God's kingdom, and God's will as guiding principles in life

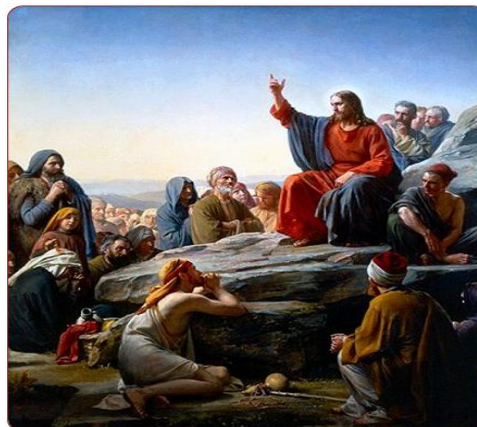
starting with our prayers. It further teaches us which physical and spiritual needs we can ask God our heavenly Father to meet. As a community prayer, it gives Christians identity, solidarity, and confidence. It strengthens our relationship with God, sets priorities for our missions, and provides divine reassurance, inner peace, and eschatological hope that supports our daily struggles with life's inconsistencies amidst evils and the evil ones in the world.

Broadly, the Lord's Prayer consist of two parts. We are considering the first part in this edition of Watchman's Trumpet which deals with God and His glory "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven...." Mathew 6:9, 10. It is my prayer that you will experience God in a new dimension as you read. Welcome!

PRAYING TO THE HEAVENLY FATHER

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven,... Mathew 6:9

Our text is the opening address of Christ in a prayer He taught His disciples. The



Inside...

About Watchman Outreach

Mission	3
Watchman Prayer Hour	3
Sanctity of God's name	4
Establishment of God's Kingdom on Earth	5
Submission to God's will on Earth	6
Missionary of the Month	8

prayer itself, described as "The Lord's Prayer" or "The Model Prayer" provided guidelines and blueprints that can help Christ's disciples at that time and all believers today to pray effectively. Opening this prayer with reference to God as Father has implication for prayers at all times. It simply means that those who can effectively pray and have assurance of answered prayers are those with defined and abiding relationship with God as Father. They must be God's children. Fundamentally, it also means that they must be spiritual beings because God is a Spirit. God's children are those who have the life of God and Christ in them, people who have not just physical earthly, natural life but also have experienced spiritual birth and life.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Attributes of believers' heavenly Father
2. Identity of God's children on earth
3. Faith building consideration facilitating effective prayer

1. Attributes of Believers' Heavenly Father

"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God". Psalm 90:2

"Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite". Psalm 147:5

Attributes are the individual characteristics and traits that define a person's behaviour, emotions, and thought patterns. Attributes play an important role in determining the effectiveness of relationships. Our text revealed that those who come to God in prayer must have filial relationship with Him. To get the best from Father-son or Father-daughter relationship with God, we must know who God is, we must understand His personality and attributes; His likes and dislikes.

When we pray to God as heavenly Father, we must recognize -

- i. His position - He is the Most High Daniel 4:24-25, Genesis 14:18-29
- ii. His pre-eminence - He is Greater than all and above all Psalm 113:4
- iii. His power - He has all power Psalm 147:4-5, Isaiah 49:29, Mathew 28:18
- iv. His permanence - He is from everlasting to everlasting Psalm 90:2, Hebrews 13:8
- v. His programs and plans especially for His own and His children Ezekiel 36:24-30, Jeremiah 29:11-14

God is unlimited indefatigable, unconquerable Father, the ruler of the universe, the Father of the spirit of all flesh. Meditation on these attributes of God as we approach Him in prayer will fill us with awe and wonder. As a result of these attributes at prayer time we must approach God in faith and confidence but also with great reverence.

2. Identity of God's children on earth

"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God". 1 John 3:7-9

The Lord's Prayer as taught by Christ revealed that only those who are children of God have assurance that when they pray, their prayers will be answered. Scripture revelation shows clearly that it is not everyone in the church or in the world that are God's children John 8:44-45. Actually many even among God's people are children of Belial 1 Samuel 2:12, Jeremiah 7:1-11, Proverbs 21:27, Isaiah 1:16-20. There is need for repentance, turning away from evil and sins before such persons can get the best from God.



To become a child of God, you must confess and forsake your sins, you must receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord Proverbs 28:13, John 1:12.

Children of God must -

(i) Honour God Malachi 1:6-8, 1 Corinthians 10:31 (ii) Obey God 1 Peter 1:14-16 (iii) Separate from sin and the world 2 Corinthians 6:17-18 (iv) Be holy and live holy life 2 Corinthians 6:17-18, 7:1 (v) Let your affection be centered on heavenly things Colossians 3:1, Mathew 6:21 (vi) Live to please God 24/7 John 8:29 (vii) Have brotherly love and concern for other believers Hebrews 13:1. (viii) Be filled, have access to and be led by the Spirit of God Romans 8:14



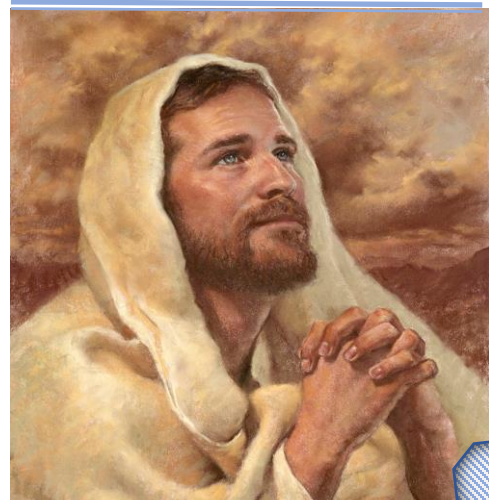
3. Faith building consideration facilitating effective prayer

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure". John 3:1-3

The following consideration will enhance our faith and effectiveness when we call upon God in prayer; we must remember

- i. His love John 3:16, Romans 5:8
- ii. His grace Genesis 6:7, 8
- iii. His mercy Exodus 34:7, Psalm 103:7, 8
- iv. His longsuffering and kindness Psalm 86:15, Nehemiah 9:17
- v. His goodness Psalm 33:5
- vi. His Holiness Psalm 99:5,
- vii. His gifts and calling Romans 11:29
- viii. His justice Acts 10:34, 35, Isaiah 45: 21, 22
- ix. His Image Colossians 2:9-10, John 14:8-11

Both our prayer and lifestyles must reflect accurate understanding of these virtues.





ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



Prayer Points - For August 2023

1. Thank God for your salvation and adoption into God’s family
2. Thank God for scripture’s blueprint on how to pray effectively
3. Thank God for the model of submission to God’s will on earth that He gave us
4. Pray for desires, plans, ambitions and aspirations that align with God’s purpose for your life
5. Pray for grace to make things pertaining to the kingdom of God your priority
6. Pray that more sinners in our families, communities and nations will submit to the authority and saving grace of Christ
7. Pray for grace to refrain from doing all that God prohibits and run passionately in the direction of all that God commands
8. Pray that God will work in our hearts, affections and desires to love what He loves and hate what He hates
9. Pray for safe arrival in heaven at the end of your earthly life.

“ men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” **Luke 18:1**

May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!

Watchman Prayer Hour holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan . Oyo - State Follow us on any of our Social media platforms and send your inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

SANCTITY OF GOD'S NAME

"...Hallowed be thy name" **Mathew 9:6**

The Lord's Prayer or The Model Prayer taught by Christ begins with reference to God as Father. After this opening address, we have the phrase we are considering today "*Hallowed be thy name*". This phrase like all others in the Lord's Prayer has great implications for believers' effectiveness in prayer. To understand these implications, we shall consider these three subtopics:

1. Prayer to God to "*Hallow*" His name
2. Message to men to "*Hallow*" God's name
3. Implication of God's hallowed name in the world

1. Prayer to God to "*Hallow*" His name

"And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?"

Joshua 7:7-9

Fundamentally, "*Hallowed be thy name*" is a prayer point offered to God. The word "*Hallowed*" means holy, honoured, consecrated, set apart and sanctified from others and from common usage. This prayer point therefore expresses a desire to see God's power manifested wherever and whenever God's name is mentioned. It expresses a desire that God's power will work in His institutions,



in the life of His people and in association with all His plans, programmes and purposes in the world. When we pray, asking God's name to be hallowed, we are stating that God should watch over, listen to and pay attention to the use of His name in the world and make power available to affirm the purpose for which it is used.

We are praying that whatever we bound in the name should be bound and whatever we loose in His name should be loosed. By doing so, God put honour on his name among men in the world. "*Hallowed be thy name*" also mean that God should put a difference of greatness, honour, power and glory on the use of His name and the use of any other name in the world. Such prayers honours God and it is a prayer that God is interested in answering.

2. Message to men to hallow God's name

By praying "*Hallowed be thy name*" we are not only telling God to glorify and put honour on His name in our life and in the world, we are reminding ourselves of the sanctity of God's name. This is the third commandment. We are admonishing ourselves of the necessity of reverential use of God's name. "*Hallowed be thy name*" alludes to avoidance of the sin of blasphemy.

Contemporary blasphemes include - Cursing God Exodus 5:1, 2, cursing in God's name Leviticus 24:14, 15, challenging God's authority, position and power Exodus 5:1,2, Daniel 3:15, giving names and titles to God which He did not give to Himself Exodus 3:14, 15, irreverent songs, tunes and jokes in the name of God or using God's name, calling human beings, material objects or created things "*God*" Exodus 20:1, 2, 32:2-3, abuse or disrespect in speech to God's representative.

Those who want their prayers answered by God must shun these sinful practices.

3. Implication of God's hallowed name in the world

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe".
Proverbs 18:10

"For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name". **Psalms 33:21**

"*Hallowed be thy name*" did not only warn men against what we should not do with God's name, we are by it acquainted with what to do and finally with the blessings that will accrue to us when we acknowledge, recognize and properly use God's name in prayer. We are by it reminded of the forgiveness, purity, faith, courage and perseverance that should characterize our use of God's name in prayer.

As we do these things, God will honour His name in our lives by answering our prayers and blessing us. El Shaddai will be our sufficiency, Adonai will reign over our circumstances as our king and the king of the universe, Jehovah Jireh will provide for us, Jehovah Shalom will give us peace, Jehovah Nissi will protect us, Jehovah Rapha will heal us and keep us healthy, Jehovah Ra'ah will watch over us, Jehovah Sidkenu will give us power to live right always and Jehovah Shammah will continually abide with us. Above all the name of Jesus will make us breakthrough, break forth, and break open into the land of God's abundant supplies, blessings and promises. It is so. Even now, it is so as we pray with faith and thanksgiving in Jesus name! Let God's name be hallowed through you in the world and hallowed in your life.



ESTABLISHMENT AND EXTENSION OF GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH

"Thy Kingdom come ..." **Mathew 6:10**

The Lord's Prayer - the model prayer taught by the Lord combined praises and petitions. The petitions revolve around four subjects: (1) Establishment of God's kingdom (2) Provision for daily sustenance (3) Forgiveness and salvation, and (4) deliverance and protection from enemy activities. The subject of the kingdom of God was the first of the four. Actually, the Lord taught that issues connected with the kingdom of God should be our priority Mathew 6:33. The subject is so important that Christ Himself did not only preach it (Mark 1:14-15, Luke 4:43), He prayed and taught us to pray about it Mathew 6:9, 10.

Jesus connected the need for repentance with the privilege of entering into and enjoying the privileges of the kingdom of God. Preachers and believers alike have mandate to preach and listen to sermons on the kingdom of God and pray for its speedy establishment. We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Reasons for the prayer
2. Meaning of the prayer
3. Commitment and consecration of kingdom citizens

1. Reasons for the prayer

"The Lord shall reign forever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the Lord"
Psalms 146:10

Why is *"thy kingdom come"* such an important prayer point? It is

- i. The reason why God created the world Genesis 3:8
- ii. The reason why Jesus came Luke 19:10



- iii. The reason why we became born again John 3:3, 5
- iv. The reason why the world still continue 2 Peter 3:9
- v. The reason why we are still in the world Luke 19:11-13
- vi. The reason for our fellowship (fellowship prepares and equips men to live in the kingdom of God) Romans 14:17, 18
- vii. The reason the church was formed
- viii. The summary of all God-honoring prayers
- ix. The solution to all problems Revelation 21:3-5

The establishment of God's kingdom in our hearts, in our community and nation is the Master key that opens the door into a peaceful, pleasurable world for individuals, all people and nations. It is the key for the establishment of everlasting peace and righteousness in the world.

2. Meaning of the Prayer

Those who pray *"thy kingdom come"* recognize and acknowledge God as a King; as our king. We understand that God's kingdom will be far better than that of men. We are people interested in finding out what to do personally or encourage others to do to hasten or speed up the arrival of the king. We are ready to give up our own kingdom (desires, ambitions, plans, agenda and aspirations) that is in conflict with that of God's kingdom. We are willing to relinquish the rule of our own lives and turn it over to God. There are 5 phases of God's kingdom: (1). God's kingdom is universal - He is creator of all things and directs the course of history. He rules over all that He created Psalm 22:28, 103:19 2.

(2). There is a past aspect of God's kingdom over Israel. They lost it Acts 1:6, 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 (3). Present aspect of God's kingdom. God rules and reigns in the heart and lives of true believers today and in the church Colossians 1:13, Luke 17:20, 21 (4). Future earthly Millennial Kingdom Revelation 20:6, Zechariah 14:9-12 (5). Future Eternal Kingdom Daniel 2:44, Revelation 11:15

3. Commitment and Consecration of Kingdom Citizens

"...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." **Mathew 6:33**

There are things we must give up if we are truly children of God and subjects or citizens in God's kingdom:

- i. We must give up sinful, illegitimate, illegal, ungodly kind of life 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21
- ii. We must give up legitimate things that impede spiritual progress Mathew 19:16-23
- iii. We must watch and pray always Mathew 26:41, Luke 18:1. There are powers sent out by Hell to frustrate our dreams of spending eternity in Heaven. We must fight against them and press into it Mathew 11:12



It must be *"God first"* in our life and not *"me first"* Luke 9:61, 62. *"Thy kingdom come"* is an evangelistic prayer, a prayer for today, a prayer for the future and a prayer for every time. It is a prayer that God will not relinquish His control over world's affairs; that God will hasten the second return of Christ and the setting up of His Millennial reign and everlasting kingdom; that God will put an end to sin and bring in everlasting peace and righteousness. May God answer our prayers!

SUBMISSION TO GOD'S WILL ON EARTH

"Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven" **Mathew 6:10**

The Lord's Prayer is a prayer of God's children; this is the starting point. In the preceding verses, we own our relationship with God; express our care for His glory, and our desire for the increase of His government and kingdom. The litmus for these is our submission and dedication to doing His will. We cannot claim God as our Father and Christ as our king if we are accustomed to doing our own will. Those who belong to God's kingdom are those who do always and consistently the will of God Mathew 7:21.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Knowledge and understanding of God's will on earth
2. Necessity of submission to God's will by men
3. Implication of the prayer for earthly men to do God's will

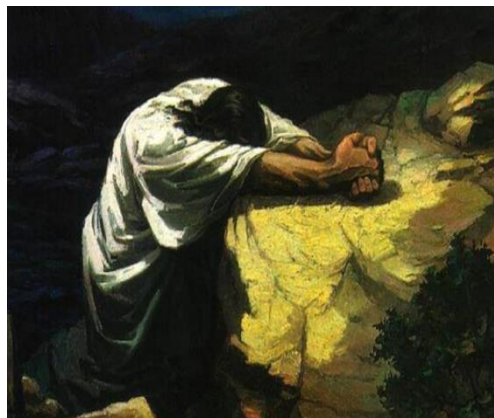
1. Knowledge and understanding of God's will

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;" **Colossians 1:9**

And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. **Isaiah 30:20, 21**

Relationship creates expectation. Even in earthly family, relationship thrives better when there is mutuality. It is much more so in God's family. Most often we think that prayer is coming to God to ask for what we need. But Jesus is telling us today that we too *"must do"* to enjoy our relationship with Him and with God in the kingdom. We *"must do"* and show concerns about what others *"are doing"*. Our concern must translate into prayer point to do and assist others to do the will of God.

Interestingly, it is what we know that we can do. *"Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven"* therefore is a prayer for Bible study classes, and teaching and learning about God to proliferate in our society. It is a prayer for us to be empowered to obey the word of God that we study, for our knowledge to match our practice.



It is a prayer to refrain from doing all that God prohibits and to run passionately in the direction of all that God commands

It is a prayer for grace, power and strength to live godly and Christ-like life; and to follow the leading of God through the Holy Spirit in all places and at all times. It is a prayer for believers to focus on things that matters, for the spread of the Gospel worldwide, for the success of missions and for universal adoption of the Christian faith.

Praying for the will of God to be done on earth as it is done in heaven is a prayer for salvation of all men 1 Timothy 2:1-4, sanctification and holy living by believers 1 Thessalonians 4:3, heartfelt and lifetime of service to God in our generation Ephesians 6:6, Acts 13:36, 22:14;

believers' separation from the world and its lusts 1 John 2:15-17, consecration of members of our body to God and strictly for holy use Romans 12:1-2, charitable life and doing good 1 Peter 2:15, giving thanks to God in all things and for all things 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and safe arrival in heaven at the end of fruitful and profitable earthly life John 6:39. These are clearly expressed will of God in the scriptures that we must pray for and do.

2. Necessity of Submission to God's will by men

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." **Mathew 7:21**

"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." **1 John 2:17**

It is the desire of God that living on earth will mirror lifestyle of citizens in heaven; this is the meaning of this prayer. We cannot effective pray that *"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"* if we are ignorant about heavenly life.



"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven...." **Mathew 6:9, 10**

To understand this prayer point therefore, it is necessary to reflect on life in the place called '*Heaven*'. Heaven is also called Paradise; the paradise of God Luke 23:43, 2 Corinthians 12:4, Revelation 2:7; heavenly Jerusalem Galatians 4:26, Hebrews 12:22, city of God and better country Hebrews 11:13-16. Angels and departed saints are its citizens Hebrews 12:22-23.

Revelation 21 revealed that Heaven is a City-Country with homes and estates the same way we have here on earth. The chapter gave details of its infrastructure – streets paved with gold, gates made of pearls and walls of precious jewels. Earth's most valued treasures pave roads and plaster walls in heaven. Here God sets His throne 2 Chronicles 18:18 and from there rules entire creation.

Absolute submission to God's will makes heaven what it is, a place where things run perfectly and smoothly in accordance with God's plan, purpose and programme. As a result of this, heaven is a place of perfect contentment, perfect knowledge, everlasting rest, ineffable peace, communion with God and rapturous joy, paragon of beauty; a place of freedom from hunger, thirst, pain, depreciation, disease, ignorance and strife. This encapsulates God's original plan and purpose for the earth captured in the Lord's Prayer especially the particular prayer point we are considering in this message that God's will will be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

Jesus' desire for us is for us to have days of heaven on earth and live lives free from suffering, sin, violence, corruption, injustice and death. But for this to happen, we must pray.



3. Implication of the prayer for men to do God's will

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Hebrews 13:20, 21

"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God." 1 Peter 4:1-2

God's concern about life on earth and the state of things here below is clearly expressed in our text. This prayer is a humble acknowledgement of the fact that something is wrong with our world; we by it express a desire for a positive change. We must believe our own prayer.

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" is a prayer of submission, a call for help, strength, support and enablement., a prayer for God to work in us and work on us to work through us. It is a prayer for God to work on our hearts, affections and desires to love what He loves and hate what He hates. For this to happen, we must stand on God's side, see what He sees, say what He says and do whatever He wanted done. The world is the way it is today because many do not believe and the few who do have part of their hearts untouched by divine flame. This must change. Men must desire heaven for God's power to move and accomplish it in our homes, communities and nations.

For our world to be free from its burden of sorrows, poverty and pains, we must desire the extension of heaven's administration to the earth. There must be brokenness in our families, communities and nations.

The whole humanity must stand united in an oath of allegiance, loyalty and obedience to God. Then all curses shall be reversed. When all rebellion against God's authority is put down, and all rebels conquered and converted or expelled, there will be universal renewal, peace, healing and hope. IT WILL HAPPEN! Let it begin now in your own life in Jesus name!

Jesus is not only our teacher on the will of God. He is our perfect model of submission to it. His prayer in Gethsemane and subsequent journey to pay for the sins of humanity on the cross revealed that sincerity in prayer of submission to God's will by earthly men involves our embrace of the pains and sacrifices as well as intimacy and dependency of abiding life in Christ. Identification with Jesus and submission to the will of God means both joyful acceptance of the cross and the crown of Christianity. It is the surest guarantee of our eligibility to partake in the glory that shall follow; a glory which Peter preached about and which John envisioned as creation of a New Heaven and New earth on the Island of Patmos. This is the greatest assurance we have that this prayer by saints in all ages shall be answered. Very soon heaven and earth will unite as one nation under God. We shall live and reign with Him forever.



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www.watchmanoutreachmission.org

Watchman Nee was born on November 4, 1903, as Nee Shu-Tsu (later known as Watchman Nee) into a family with a Christian heritage. He was the third child of nine, but the first male child. Throughout his youth, Nee attended schools founded by the Church Missionary Society in Fuzhou, China. When he was 18 years of age, he dedicated his life to Christ through the preaching of Miss Dora Yu, an ex-medical student, who forfeited a lucrative occupation and dedicated her life to the preaching of the word of Christ. Nee and other students who had a common zeal for the spreading of the gospel among the young people in their town and local schools and colleges set up their own meetings and engaged in vigorous street evangelism. Between the years 1923-1928, he published the magazines *Revival* and *Christian*, as well as the book "*The Spiritual Man*".

In 1928, Nee changed his name to Watchman and settled in Shanghai. During that time, he had a good measure of disdain for denominational churches of that day. According to Nee, many ministries done for the Lord were being done in the flesh. People are not seeking for God's will but the will of their own. He was seeking an answer to the imported problem of denominational divisions. In his struggle to find an answer, he returned to what he deemed simple New Testament obedience suggested by the writings of John Nelson Darby and C. A. Coates. He saw that churches in China should be self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating. It was at this time Nee set up the first independent assembly at Hardoon Road in Shanghai later known as the "*Little Flock*." The movement spread throughout China, experiencing genuine revival. By 1936, there were 30 assemblies. One of the strengths of Nee's movement was that every believer was an unpaid worker. As believers moved to new communities, their homes became Christian centers. Each church is an autonomous unit led by elders. Nee's concept of the "*Little Flock*" was very much influenced by the writings of the Plymouth Brethren.

The Chinese civil war (1945-1949) affected Nee's work and in 1942, Nee, together with his brother, a research chemist, established China Biological and Chemical Laboratory (CBC) to support the financial needs of his

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

WATCHMAN NEE
1903 - 1972



'apostles.' The profits of this company were used to support his work. With Nee's involvement, CBC became one of the foremost pharmaceutical importers and manufacturing wholesalers in China. In 1945, nonetheless, Nee began to disengage himself from CBC and later turned the entire CBC enterprise to the church. This action brought prosperity to the church, yet later became the subject of criticism by the Communist Party.

On October 1, 1949, the People's Republic of China was established. Despite others' entreaties, Nee and his wife returned again to Shanghai from overseas. He wanted to be with his brothers and sisters in Christ. For the first two years of the Communist rule, Nee was still able to do ministry, bringing 3-4,000 people every Sunday, in the Shanghai church. But on April 10, 1952, He was arrested. He was accused of espionage, counter-revolutionary activities, financial and even moral irregularities. The indictment running 2,296 pages against Nee was made public in January 1956. Many Little Flock believers were arrested and churches throughout the country were closed by force. The Shanghai assembly was eventually closed and made into a factory. Nee was sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment, however, he was not released in 1967 when his sentence was complete. It was common for prisoners who were considered 'unreformed' to be given an additional five to seven years of sentencing. On June 1, 1972, soon after he was moved from the Shanghai prison to a rural work camp, Watchman Nee died at age 69.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

"Thine, O Lord is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty..." 1 Chronicles 29:11

SONG OF THE MONTH

TEACH ME TO PRAY LORD

1. Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray;
This is my heart-cry day unto day;
I long to know Thy will and Thy way;
Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray.

Living in Thee, Lord, and Thou in me,
Constant abiding, this is my plea;
Grant me Thy power, boundless and free,
Power with men and power with Thee.

2. Power in prayer, Lord, power in prayer!
Here 'mid earth's sin and sorrow and care,
Men lost and dying, souls in despair;
give me power, power in prayer!

3. My weakened will, Lord, Thou canst renew;
My sinful nature Thou canst subdue;
Fill me just now with power anew;
Power to pray and power to do!

4. Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray;
Thou art my pattern day unto day;
Thou art my surety, now and for aye;
Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray!

Author: Albert Simpson Reitz

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