

REFLECTOR

VOL.65, No.3

"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

March 2019

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD,
I REST ME IN THE THOUGHT;
THE BIRDS THEIR CAROLS SING,
HE SPEAKS TO ME EVERYWHERE.



Adoration Throne Room Praying REMEMBERING

Dr. Armin R. Gesswein

November 28, 1907 March 10, 2001

During the time in 1977 when God was in the process of changing my views about the various aspects of the Christian life—the place of a daily time in the Word, what Spirit filled means and the role of the Holy Spirit in my life, and about prayer—a small booklet came across my desk entitled **The Seven Wonders of Prayer** written by **Armin Gesswein**. Through his explanation of the very first wonder—WORSHIP—I saw something I had never seen before. Prayer is not bringing God down to earth to get in on what we are up to at all. Prayer is an act whereby a believer moves into the very presence of God in the Throne Room (Hebrews 4:16, Hebrews 10:19, Revelation 4:1-2).

I felt grateful to **Armin Gesswein**, but had no idea who he was. Five years, later, I would not only find out, but I would meet him personally. On Monday, March 15, 1982, I was sitting at my desk in the **President's Office at Northeastern Bible College** when a telephone call came from a local pastor telling me of the availability of a guest speaker in his church to speak in chapel provided he could speak the next day. His name? **Armin Gesswein**! Although a faculty member was scheduled, he graciously forfeited his time to a great man of God.

What a joy to meet a brother whose writings had profoundly

influenced my prayer life forever. From that day onward, we became fast friends often exchanging letters. Since 1987, I have been blessed to receive monthly what he called his sheets on prayer—always two sheets, with each cramed full, with very narrow margins, of thoughts related to prayer. He believed that prayer is the work that must come before all other work and could not understand why pastors and other leaders did not see what he saw.

Armin's exodus

On the way from Caesarea-Philippi to His cross in Jerusalem, Jesus went aside to a high mountain to pray (Luke 9:27-36). He took with Him Peter, James, and John, who enjoyed a circle of intimacy with Him that the other disciples did not have. While He was praying, He was transfigured before them and the glory of His essence shone through. While on earth, this majestic brilliance was veiled; here these three disciples saw it unveiled for a brief time. In looking back to that moment, John said, And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Peter had this to say, We ...were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when

such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.' And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain (**2 Peter 1:16b-18**).

Actually, the disciples had gone to sleep while Jesus was in prayer. When they became fully awake, they saw two men in conversation with Jesus. **Moses** and **Elijah** had come to speak with Him about His exodus which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem (**Luke 9:31**). How wonderful to learn from this event that death is an exodus, not a cessation of existence but simply a departure from one place to another one.

On Monday afternoon, March 5, 2001, Armin, who was 93 years old and in his seventieth year of ministry, sat down with **Dr. Harold J. Sala**, president of **Guidelines International Ministries**, on whose board of reference he served, and said, Harold, I want you to pray with me about two burdens of my heart. The first was to get prayer into churches so that it becomes a frontal assault against the enemy. The second was that he join him in praying that schools like **BIOLA**, **Moody**, and **Nyack** would include a course on prayer to help their students to understand the importance of prayer.

Two days later, on Wednesday morning, March 7th, Armin was felled by a stroke. For the next couple of days he was able to respond visually, though he couldn't speak. Those around him knew that he was listening and noted that he acknowledged agreement with

his eyes when they prayed and quoted Scripture. He lingered until Saturday morning, March 10, until he made his exodus. He is now rejoicing in the presence of our Lord, whom he loved and so faithfully served for these many years. **Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints (Psalm 116:15).**

Harold Sala, in making the announcement, summed up well the thoughts of Armin's family, friends and colleagues: Many of us prayed that the Lord would either restore him completely or take him. God chose to answer by taking home one of His most beloved servants. Our loss has become heaven's gain! Nonetheless, the work that he began and sustained will continue in our hearts and lives.

Armin's insights

I pledged to share some of Armin's unique insights on prayer in future editions of the **Reflector**. He pointed out that the early disciples asked Jesus for a prophecy conference (**Acts 1**), a request that He did not grant. Rather, He sent them to a prayer meeting. After praying ten days, the Holy Spirit came to provide power for the Gospel presentation and over 3,000 were saved. The church must get back to the kind of praying that the early believers did in Jerusalem.

Armin, who was well acquainted with the various prayer movements around the world, often commented on the uniqueness of each one, including my prayer seminar ministry. He pointed out that there are no two alike and each leader should

continue to pursue the prayer leadership God has given to him in his or her own way. He said in a letter dated January 17, 1987, It is rather unique, I think, the different ways the Lord is leading in the disciplining of those whom He has discipled in prayer. **2 Tim. 2:2.** There are no carbon copies. I guess it is something like the four Gospels. All wrote about the same life of Christ, but the story 'came through' differently. So we have the Gospel according to Matthew ...and so on. That's great! One sentence that Armin included in letters was I trust 2001 [or whatever year] will be your very best year! Why not?

Armin's impact

My last time with Armin was on January 10, 2000, when we met at **Hotel Huntington Beach, Huntington Beach CA** for dinner and a time of catching up. He was eager to know how the prayer seminar ministry was going and I was eager to know how his ministry was going. How sharp was his mind. His handwriting was beautiful beyond words—and he was ninety-two years old. I was challenged by his every-expanding vision of how to get the church praying!

The very last monthly letter was March 2001. He shared plans to go to Norway in March to share his **COLLEGE ON PRAYER** in two major cities: Drammen and Skien. He shared his approach: Our idea is usually to center in one church and make it a kind of radiating center for also reaching others. By bringing them together a few days, we bind and bond them in

unity ...and help them to 'hear what the Spirit says to the churches (not only their own church). The Lord reveals this wonderful plan in the Book of Revelation where He holds the seven star preachers of the seven lampstand-churches in the hollow of His nail-pierced (but now gloriously resurrected) hand. What a sight! But so real! Alive! Practical! Do-able! A workable pattern and model. God's own way for **REVIVAL** in the churches. A real **REVELATION!** (See Revelation 1-2-3)."

Not only did **Armin Gesswein** impact my own life and serve as an exemplar for me of how to conduct ministry, he impacted the lives of many other pastors, leaders, churches, and at least one major denomination, The Christian Missionary and Alliance, through his **COLLEGE ON PRAYER**. I'm sure that he will not be easily forgotten by any who came under the shadow of his ministry. I know that he will not be forgotten in my heart.

The Seven Wonders of Prayer

In tribute to Armin Gesswein, his life and his ministry, I am sharing **The Seven Wonders of Prayer**. A few years ago, we provided copies for the **Doorkeepers**, but many of you were not with us at that time. May the Holy Spirit use his writing to rekindle your own sense of wonder about prayer and inspire you to be a prayer warrior.

Yours in Calvary love,

J. Gordon Henry



A CHERISHED PHOTO AND A CHERISHED LETTER Armin (93) & Reidun Gesswein (87)

Taken three months before Armin left for Heaven Saturday morning, March 10, 2001. After finding my last letter to Armin in his current correspondence file, Reidun sent the photo and one of the most beautiful hand-written letters (dated August 7, 2001) I have ever received. She gave full details of his last days. They were married sixty-six years.

On Wednesday, March 7, long before sunrise, Armin awoke and walked into his prayer room where, sometime later, he suffered a massive stroke. Within the next forty-eight hours he was in the glorious presence of the One who lives to make intercession for us. Reidun shared, "Although he was not a young man, he was in excellent health and was to have left for Norway two days before his death. He had a massive stroke which left him speechless and partially paralyzed. But his mind was clear and we communicated with him the three days God gave him. Then he quietly left the 3rd day with no pain. Although I never met you, he told me about his time with you and your prayer ministry." One year and three days later, God called Reidun to come home to Heaven. She was 88.

Armin challenged Christians to be three-speed saints based on **Isaiah 40:31**. They mount up with wings and **fly**. They **run** without growing winded. And they **walk** without growing faint." That was Armin into his 93rd year until the last conscious moments of his life.

I consider Armin as my mentor. Through his "The Seven Wonders of Prayer," I learned that prayer is going into God's Presence. Prayer is not bringing God down; prayer is going to Him. When I began to implement this new understanding, my complete life and ministry changed. Grateful am I!

**JGHM GOAL UNCHANGED: ESTABLISHING
LIGHTHOUSES OF PRAYER EVERYWHERE**
(one person, one family, one church, one class,
one prayer group pushing against spiritual darkness)



THE HENRYS WITH THEIR DAUGHTER
MONA AT BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH
Photo by Carolyn Peerman

A WORD OF EXPLANATION

You are holding in your hands the third issue in the 65th year of the Reflector. The format that we have used since the mid-eighties facilitates placing a copy in your Bible each month for easy access during your daily devotions. The feedback from our readers has been steady and positive.

Since this is likely to be the last year of the Reflector in this format, I have added additional pages since there is much that I would like to share. You will notice that the features have more content than simply sharing shorter articles. To profit, a reader has to be willing to invest more time, both individually and when he/she shares in family devotions.

Perhaps you could place this guideline in your mind as you read an article: **"CONSIDER THIS."** "Consider" was the injunction Haggai gave to the Israelites as he encouraged them to resume building the temple upon their return from Babylonian captivity (1:5; 2:15, 18). "Consider" means "give careful thought." For family devotions, you may need to break up an article into paragraphs or sections. Start by giving everyone involved an opportunity to share thoughts remembered in past readings. This approach enhances learning. Let the children and youth be responsible for one section and be the teacher.

After 2019, I am likely to revert to the 1954 format--a single 8 1/2 x 14 inches sheet, front and back.



MISSION UNCHANGED

NOTES FROM MY BIBLE ARMINISMS

Pithy sayings from Armin Gesswein
Note 4036. If the Holy Spirit doesn't do it, there's nothing to it.

Note 4037. God always does His new thing in the same old way.

Note 4038. The main things of Scripture are the plain things and the plain things are the main things.

Note 4039. God wants us to put all our begs into one ask it.

Note 4040. If we do what God tells us to do, He will do what He says He will do.

DOORKEEPER REPORT

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers."

1 Thessalonians 1:2

January 20 February 15, 2019

Regular 62 \$5,000.00



WELCOME, NEW DOORKEEPERS
Bobby & Deborah Davis (VA)

PRAYER CALENDAR

March 2019

"I will give myself to prayer..."

Psalm 109:4b

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

JOSHUA 1-3 (Italy 62.2M)
Zane & Burma Abbott (VA)
Mae Adams (NC)
Robert/Susanne Adams (TN)
Norma Ailes (NJ)
H. L. & Janie Allen (SC)
David/Eunjoo Andersen (VA)

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

JOSHUA 4-7 (Jamaica 3M)
Tommy & Pat Apple (NC)
Eldon/Gayle Armstrong (SC)
Leonor Avila (MD)
Mike & Joyce Baker (VA)
Marcia Barna (PA)
Tim Bash - GCCC (NJ)
Emily Baskin (TN)

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

Jean Beasley (TN)
Linda Beattie (PA)
Tommy Bell (TN)
Wayne & Barbara Belt (TN)
Ron & Teri Bernardi (IL)
Beulah Baptist Church (VA)
Dennis Hollandsworth, Pastor
Beverly Blankenship (TN)
Loretta Bolen (VA)

MONDAY, MARCH 4

JOSHUA 8-10 (Japan 126.5M)
Everett/Deborah Boston (MD)
Wm/Debbie Bowden (NC)
David & Marna Boyd (OR)
Curtis & Carol Bradbury (NJ)
Ed & Jean Bradshaw (VA)
Kim Bradshaw (VA)
Lurline Braud (VA)
Michal Breed (WI)
Nancy Bretz (PA)
Judy Britt (GA)
Clint & Dorothy Brooks (VA)

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

JOSHUA 11-15 (Kenya 47.6M)
Don & Gayle Buchanan (KY)
Henry & Ruby Brown (AZ)
Freddie/Yvonne Brunson (DE)
George & Janet Buck (NJ)
Sunday & Grace Bwanhot (IL)
Eileen Camarena (NJ)
Anne Campbell (VA)
Don & Lucy Campbell (VA)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

JOSHUA 16-20 (S.Korea 51.2M)

Cliff & Laura Cannon (FL)
Robin & Teresa Carlson (NJ)
Robert & Anita Carroll (VA)

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

JOSHUA 21-24 (Mexico 126.6M)
Vernia Coleman (MD)
Mary Columbus (VA)
Kathie Connolly (VA)
Philip & Jennifer Cooke (VA)
Larry & Sue Cooper (DE)
Foster/Ravenna Covington (VA)
Barry & Melanie Cox (VA)
Terry & Sonja Craig (TN)
Jerry & Joan Crain (SC)

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

JUDGES 1-4 (Mozambique 26.6M)
Robert/Charlotte Crout (SC)
Dufrene/Peggy Cummings (NC)
Barbara Custalow (VA)
Bobby & Deborah Davis (VA)
John Davis (VA)
Harold & Tama Decker (NY)
Robert & Janice DeLong (VA)
Carolyn Dodd (VA)
Jo Anne Dudley (VA)
Michael & Diane Eagle (VA)
Katherine Eaton (ME)
Bessie Eggleston (MD)
Lynn Elkins (TN)
Jeff & Leeann Englert (KY)

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

JUDGES 5-8 (Namibia (2.5))
Don & Mardy Enoch (FL)
Larry & Cara Fields (VA)
John & Susan Finnessy (MD)
James & Ruth Flanagan (GA)
Nancy Fowser (NJ)
Freedom Through Faith (MD)
Bob Tribodeau, Pastor
Claire/MaryAnn Fredstrom (NE)

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

JUDGES 9-12 (Aruba 113,648)
Ronald & Brenda Fristoe (VA)
James Fugate (CA)
Emilee Fulcher (VA)
John & Kim Gaines (MD)
Pauline Garrett (NJ)
Ron & Kay Gavette (VA)
Sara George (GA)

MONDAY, MARCH 11

Gloucester Co. Community Ch
Bruce Sofia, Pastor (NJ)
Ronald & Maryann Gold (ND)
Steve & Sue Gordon (VA)
Chad & Wendy Goodner (OK)
Sam/Michele Graisbery (NJ)
Dale & Mary Gray (IL)
Odether Gray (GA)

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

JUDGES 13-16 (New Zealand 4.5M)
Linda Gregory (UT)
Mike Hall (IN)
Joy Harper (VA)
Bruce & Vivian Harris (TN)
Sadie Harris (VA)
Hazel Hartless (VA)
Jim Hengoed (CT)
Gina Henry (VA)
J. Gordon & Sue Henry (VA)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

JUDGES 17-21 (Nigeria 190.6M)
Jack Henry (TN)
James & Kathryn Henry (MS)
Mark Henry (TN)
Melody Henry (VA)
Roger & Sara Henry (OH)
Sean & Bethany Henry (VA)
Steve & Donna Hensel (MN)
Ed & Donna Hindson (VA)
Frank & Pat Hitchings (VA)
Jeff Hodge (VA)
Jerry & Sandra Hodge (VA)

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

RUTH 1-4 (Azerbaijan 9.9M)
Joanna Holland (VA)
John & Glenda Holland (VA)
Anita Horton (VA)
Mike & Sonya Hosick (TN)
Coy Hunsucker (NC)
Joyce Hunt (TN)
Wilbert/Almaretta Hupp (PA)
Jide & Bunmi Iware (MD)
Vernelle Jenkins (MD)
Paul/Suzanne Jennings (TN)
Jonathan & Julia Jobe (SC)
Millicent John (NY)

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

1 SAMUEL 1-3 (Pakistan 204.9M)
Dan & Jayne Johnson (KY)
Gwen Johnson (AZ)
James/Victoria Johnson (MD)
Jim & Penny Johnson (KY)
Rick & Betsy Johnson (TN)
James Jones (FL)
Paul Jones (KY)
Theodora/Sherry Jones (MD)
W I & Eloise Jones (SC)
Judy Jordan (VA)

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

1 SAMUEL 4-8 (Panama 3.8M)
Mohan Katta (IL)
Suzie Kauffmann (NC)
HarperShelia Keebaugh (PA)
Harriet Kennedy (VA)
Kerby Knob Baptist Ch (KY)
Daren Hisel, Pastor

Louis & Jane Kiger (VA)
 Larry & Janet King (NC)
 Ken & Bonnie Kirby (PA)
 Robert/Andrea Klepper (TN)
 Kenneth & Amy Kollar (ID)
SUNDAY, MARCH 17
 Irwin & Joyce Koopman (MI)
 Korean Branch:

Dr. Shin Kwang Suk
 Joel & Jackie Kramar (VA)
 Woodrow & Linda Kroll (NE)
 Craig & Molly Lampe (AZ)
 Phil & Edra Landers (OK)
 Del & Mary Leach (VA)
 Aaron & Wanda Lewis (MD)

MONDAY, MARCH 18

1 SAM 9-12 (Panama 38.8M)
 Liberty University (VA)
 Jerry Falwell Jr., President
 Delores Liely (MD)
 Mike & Earlene Lips (MS)
 Vince/Mary Lobisco (MI)
 Ray & Bobbie Long (WV)
 Don & Betty Lowry (SC)
 Manship Chapel (DE)
 Bruce & Vickie Tibbett
 Wilma Marcum (KY)
 Nick & Pat Markham (VA)

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

1 SAM 13-15 (Paraguay 7M)
 Reg & Gloria Martin (OH)
 Larry & Sue Mason (VA)
 Beau Ware Masonry (VA)
 Deborah Mathias (NY)
 Murray/Loretta Mathis (TN)
 Bob & Heidi Matney (MD)
 Dan & Fay McConville (VA)
 R. O. & June McHaney (VA)
 Nancy McPherson (ME)
 Don & Barbara Meduna (CO)
 Terry/Sandra Metzgar (TN)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

1 SAMUEL 16-19 (Peru 104.3M)
 Betsy Miedema (MI)
 Roger & Nancy Minney (VA)
 Keith & Joan Mistretta (ME)
 Bill & Sharon Moody (VA)
 Ronald & Wilma Moore (NC)
 Joseph & Doris Moos (NJ)
 Drever/Roberta Morton (VA)
 Elaine Moser (MN)
 Bob & Diane Nichols (VA)
 NE Baptist College (VT)
 President Mark Ballard
 Oconto Gospel Chapel (WI)
 Zack & Jackie Olcott (VA)

THURSDAY MARCH 21

1 SAL 20-23 (Phippines 104.3M)

Ann Palumbo (PA)
 Pecks Baptist Church (VA)
 Bryan Sheehan, Pastor
 Jack & Carolyn Peerman (VA)
 Jim & Barb Peterson (MI)
 Willis & Joyce Pillow (VA)
 Barbara Powell (NY)
 Elbert/Barbara L. Powell (VA)
 Marshall & Lois Powell (KY)
 Jeanne/Maggie Pribble (VA)
 Marjorie Randall (TX)

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

1 SAMUEL 24-26 (Puerto Rico)
 Dave Ricker (ME) 3.5M
 Joyce Riley (KY)
 Calvin & Valerie Ritchey (VA)
 Cynthia Roach (VA)
 John & Sandra Roberts (NC)
 Dorlos/Betty Robinson (MS)
 Isabel Robotham (NY)
 James & Shelly Rode (FL)
 Clark & Marie Rogers (VA)

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

SAMUEL 27-31 (Romania 21.5M)
 Fred & Wanda Rolater (TN)
 Bob & Marlene Rose (MI)
 John Saint (PA)
 Don/Marie Satterwhite (MO)
 Gary & Sandy Schnittjer (PA)
 Frank & Alta Schollaert (PA)

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Phil & Wendy Schrank (IL)
 Steve Schrank (IL)
 Sam & Jill Scott (VA)
 John & Peggy Seibert (AL)
 Dennis/Monica Shannon (OH)
 Shenandoah Valley Bapt Ch (VA)
 Nellie F. Shepard (CT)
 Lola Simpson (NY)
 Mary Skiles (KS)
 Ron & Bonnie Smith (VA)

MONDAY, MARCH 25

2 SAMUEL 1-4 Russia 142.3M)
 Walt & Betty Sommers (VA)
 Helen Sourlis (MD)
 St. Paul Baptist Church (IN)
 C. L. Adams, Pastor
 Randy & Cheryl Stauter (MN)
 Tim & Pam Steger (ID)
 Carol Snow Steward (CT)

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

2 SAMUEL 5-7 Rwanda 11.9M)
 Jerry & Reba Stinnett (VA)
 Charles Stinson (VA)
 Johnny/Rose M. Street (TX)
 William Suttles (NC)
 Bob & Sandy Swain (VA)
 Brian/Janice Tarraferro (TX)

Billy & Sharon Taylor (PA)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27
 2 SAM 8-10 (Singapore 5.9M)
 Ron Taylor (VA)
 Stephanie Taylor (GA)
 Jimmy & Mary Thomas (VA)
 Mona Henry Thomas (VA)
 W. D./Jackie Thomason (TN)
 Larry Thompson (VA)
 Montez Thompson (WI)
 Cathy Tilton (VA)
 Paula Tipton (TN)

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

2 SAM 11-14 (S Africa 54.8M)
 William & Katie Toney (NC)
 Carroll/Ouida Troutman (KY)
 Clay & Lisa Troutman (KY)
 Diane Troutman (KY)
 Kelly & Janice Troutman (KY)
 Joe & Benita Troutman (KY)
 Malcom Troutman (KY)
 Marshall/Mary Troutman (KY)
 Frances Turpin (VA)

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

2 SAM 15-18 Switzerland 8Md)
 Sara Underwood (TN)
 Patrick & Patricia Vaden (TN)
 Sam & Rita Verghese (NJ)
 Harrrs/& Jane Verkaik (MI/FL)
 George/Jeanette Vernarchik (NJ)
 Patsy Ann Voss (DE)
 Michael & Sandra Ward (IN)

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

2 SAMUEL 19-20 (Tanzania 54M)
 Beau/Ashley/Willow/Will Ware (VA)
 Joyce Warpoole (TEN)
 Holland & Mary Warren (VA)
 Rodger Watts (WI)
 Naomi Webb (NJ)
 Frank & Nell Weer (KY)
 Gale & Nancy Wetzel (KY)
 Paul & Diane Wieland (PA)
 Reg/Mary Ann Wilburn (VA)

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

2 SAM 21-24 (Thailand 68.4M)
 Jeff Williamson (FL)
 Ken & Carol Willis (VA)
 Julie L. Wilson (PA)
 Neil & Melinda Wilson (VA)
 Eva Winebarger (VA)
 Amos & Celia Wipf (GA)
 Jon & Selena Wood (PA)
 Layden Wood (VA)
 David & Lili Wykle (VA)
 Yeshua Ministries (TN)
 Frank Bell, Pastor
 Fred & Susan Zeller (VA)

The Seven Wonders of Prayer

Armin Gesswein

I. Prayer Is WORSHIP

By prayer we enter into God's holy temple, and penetrate at once to the throne of His grace. Prayer is not only the shortest distance to God's mighty throne; it is the only way in. To think that this supreme wonder could take place so suddenly with one bold blood-bought step! There we see the Lord Jesus, ever ready to pray for us, and ready to give us of His own praying, by His Spirit. Glorious discovery: He is only a prayer away! The veil of sense and space that hides Him within His temple-universe is suddenly removed as we pray. We enter silently into His temple, and lo, suddenly, we are before His throne. Priests, before our great High Priest. There, too, we are suddenly in the presence of angels and archangels, and with all the company of Heaven we worship and adore Him. Only there do we discover the wonder of worship, that worship is before work, and that all His works are done in the spirit of worship. There are many churchgoers, but few worshipers, because there are few pray-ers.

Scripture

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name:" (**Psalms 100:4**). "And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever" (**Revelation 5:13**). "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (**John 4:24**).

SENTENCE SERMON: *Prayer opens Heaven even now. Therefore, let us pray!*

II. Prayer is WAITING on God

Only those who wait on Him can wait for Him. Theirs is the patience of the saints. His patience becomes theirs. Only those who wait on Him can wait on others. In the end they also experience being waited on by others.

In prayer we learn to wait. There we cease from our feverish haste and restlessness, for we are before Him. We also enter into His rest, where we cease from our own works. "Prayer is wonderful relaxation, it rests me," writes a missionary.

We also listen, for there He speaks, and all the earth is silent before Him.

In prayer we learn to hear Him speak first, and then we speak; He works, and then we work. All proceeds from Him: words and works and, in worship.

There we learn that God only blesses that which comes from Himself.

Prayer brings out God's personality to the full, and also mine. A minister said, "My personality is zero until I pray."

Prayer puts me in the place where God can do it all. It is His one way of keeping our lives on a constant miracle basis. Therefore, let us pray!

Scripture

"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (**James 4:8**). "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him.... Those that wait upon the Lord shall inherit the earth." (**Psalms 37:7,9**). "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (**Isaiah 40:31**).

SENTENCE SERMON: The Lord works for those that wait for Him.

III. Prayer is WALKING with God

Prayer is communion and fellowship, and our walk is one of communion with the Lord. Fellowship seems to be a form of prayer, when the Lord Jesus is in the midst. In prayer we talk with God, walk with God, and work with God. It is as we walk with God that we also learn to work with God. There, in His way, His works appear.

The "promised land" is, in a real sense, the land of promises. It is as we pray that we inherit the promises, and that God fulfills them. The promises of God are shaped, one by one, for our praying. There we learn to take off our shoes and worship, for we are on holy ground. After we have learned to kneel long on His promises, we will learn to live by them and for them. They become our home. By prayer we enter into every word of God. It likewise enters into us, and we live by every word of God. It is thus that we advance in that land; on our knees. Knee-action, then foot-work, is the way.

We are no farther along with God than we are on our knees. Also, we are no taller spiritually than we are in prayer. "What that church needs," it was said, "is a man so tall that he can reach Heaven on his knees."

If we are too busy to pray, we are not only too busy, but barren. Whatever else we may be doing, we certainly are not doing the works of God.

"We will never be much for God unless we are much with God," writes a minister.

Everything that the Lord Jesus did was easy, except prayer. Usually He spoke but a word, and it was done: whether preaching, teaching, healing, casting out demons, calling disciples, stilling the storm, feeding five thousand miraculously, or raising Lazarus from the dead. But, one thing was work, even sweat, tears, and agony; that was His praying. It was the one great work out of which all His works came; the great ministry in

the ministry, out of which all ministry was born.

The labor of prayer also is clearly brought out by the strong words used in the New Testament: Seeking; knocking; supplication; importunity; intercession; giving ourselves continually to prayer; continual coming; effectual fervent prayer; strong crying and tears; etc.

Christ was too busy to have time to pray; therefore He took time for it. And we must do the same, or we shall never pray in these days. Many have taken Christ as Savior who have not yet taken Him as Example. This is very serious. The New Testament writers were as much in dead earnest when they took Christ as their Example as they were in taking Him as their Redeemer.

Scripture

"Created . . . unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (**Ephesians 2:10**). "Christ hath left us an example, that ye should follow His steps" (**I Peter 2:21**). "Grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ" (**Ephesians 4:15**). "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin" (**1 John 1:7**).

SENTENCE SERMON: The Christian life is a life of Christ, and the life of Christ is largely a life of prayer.

IV. Prayer is WORK

All of God's works are wrought by prayer. Prayer works, "changes things," because through it God works. By prayer we enter into His works. Prayer not only works, but it is work, real work both for Him in Heaven, and for us on earth. If we do not learn to pray, we shall not amount to a thing for God. For it is the one work where we behold God doing His work. There, we become workers together with God. Like Christ, and with Him, it is in prayer that we must put in the real man-hours of labor. All else is easy, when we learn to labor in prayer. Christ labored in prayer to the point of sweat, tears, and agony.

Prayer is our main ministry in the ministry, even as it was His. Yes, it is right now His one supreme ministry, for He "ever liveth to make intercession" for us (**Hebrews 7:25**).

Our generation has yet to see prayer as a ministry, and to take God at His Word on this subject.

It is while we pray that God works, if we can but see Him not merely before, or after prayer. Our idea is, "Let us pray, and then get on with the work." But prayer is our real work. We so often think of prayer as a prefix or a suffix to an otherwise busy round. But God's works are wrought as we pray, and while we pray.

It brings a revolution to any minister of Christ, once he believes God's

Word on this point.

His works are done through prayer, for He always works out from His throne by intercession. It is not only His intercession, but ours, too: for, by His Spirit, He not only prays for us, but is in us. He gives us of His own great praying and that is the truest praying.

We are not just to imitate His praying, but to enter into it, receive it, and have it enter into us. That is how we enter into His works, become "labourers together with God," and learn to cease from our own works. We learn in this way to work with Him, instead of for Him, being sons, and no longer slaves.

Then, after we have prayed, we walk with the Lord Jesus into the works He has wrought in answer to prayer. Prayer is our real work.

Working is drudgery. Even working for the Lord is dreary. But working with Him is delight.

In His Kingdom, it is those to whom He ministers who minister. The conquered conquer, and the followers of Christ lead others.

When we work with God as we do in prayer we shall see the works of God.

Scripture

"In every thing by prayer and supplication . . . let your requests be made known unto God" (**Philippians 4:6**). "Workers together with him" (**II Corinthians 6:1**). "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (**Philippians 2:13**). "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (**James 5:16**).

SENTENCE SERMON: With God, prayer is not everything, but everything is by prayer.

V. Prayer is WARFARE

Then only do we engage the enemy Satan and his forces when we pray. There it is that the battle is fought, and the real victory won.

Christian work only succumbs to the enemy; it does not engage him or overcome his power unless we pray.

It is really only in the place of prayer that we wrestle against principalities, against powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Unless we learn to pray, we never do battle for God, or become Christ's soldiers. The entire armor is shaped for prayer. That is the real battleground.

Unless we learn to pray and wrestle there, we shall get into the wrong battle and lose the hot battle of words and the clash of personalities.

The Lord had 120 "knockers," but He shut them all up to prayer in the Upper Room. He taught them to do all their knocking in prayer. Then He

never had the problem of "knocking" in His Church!

There, in that Upper room in Jerusalem, He made them soldiers. There He mobilized them, and there He also trained them for His warfare.

All through the Acts they march, after that, on their knees! In almost every chapter they are praying. The new power they have in the Spirit is like military power. For they witness and win souls not only from sin, but from the bondage of the Devil, and that right in the very strongholds of heathenism. With witnessing goes warfare. It is a constant battle for souls.

The victories won by prayer,
By prayer must still be held;
The foe retreats but only when
By prayer he is compelled.

Scripture

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God. . . praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" (**Ephesians 6: 12, 13, 18**). "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (**Luke 18:1**). "Ask, and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (**Luke 11:9**). "Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (**Matthew 16:19**).

SENTENCE SERMON: The battle is won in prayer; in witnessing we simply take the spoils.

VI. Prayer Fulfills THE WILL of God

"Does prayer change the will of God?" Asks a Christian. It seems a knotty question. No Actually, it is only by prayer, and in answer to prayer, that God's will is done on earth, as it is in Heaven. This is another way of saying that so often because we do not pray the will of man, or of the flesh, or of Satan, is being done. That is just the trouble, and the crux of the matter.

This is just where the Bible comes in. A chaplain was kneeling in prayer with a group, as one by one they prayed, "Lord, if it be thy will . . ." He suggested that they all rise from their knees, take their Bibles, and find out what God's will was in the matter; and then go to prayer, praying that His will, revealed in His Word, be done.

This is the point where we must watch closely. The point of reason is that prayer changes God's will; the point of Scripture is that prayer

realizes God's will as revealed in God's Word.

Reason can also argue very subtly in the opposite direction: "God is sovereign. He is God, you know, and He will do this thing whether we pray about it or not." Nothing is closer to reason, at times, than this; yet, nothing is further from Scripture. For God will not do apart from prayer what He has promised to do in answer to prayer, and it is my Christian responsibility to search the Scriptures and find out just what that is.

It has well been said, "When God is about to do a work, He always starts by getting His people to prayer."

It is only as we pray that we get what God can do.

Nothing lies outside the circle of prayer except what lies outside the orbit of God's will.

Scripture

"Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth" (**Luke 11:2**). "If ye abide in me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (**John 15:7**). "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (**Jeremiah 33:3**). "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (**Philippians 2:13**).

SENTENCE SERMON: In the Bible God reveals His will, in prayer He fulfills it.

VII. Prayer is the School Where God Teaches Us His WORD

Someone has said, "the promises are the molds into which we pour our prayers." D. L. Moody said, "Tarry at a promise, and God will meet you there." When the answer comes, it comes by the way of the promise, and fulfills it.

The promises, then, are the very size and shape our prayers should take; and they are also the size our answers should have.

How far along are we with Christ? How large is our development? Our growth? Our stature? Our Christian maturity? This is shown by our prayer life. For our real discipleship is in the school of prayer. Likewise, most all of our dealings and disciplines of the Lord are registered there. We are no further along with Christ than we are in our praying. Prayer, for the Christian, is a life. We should speak of the prayer life. That is the exact measure of our spiritual growth. It is the exact level of our power. Satan need not attack our power; only our praying.

Our spiritual stature is revealed by the kind of praying we do, and by the kind of answers we receive. A leading Christian lady once asked a young minister: "You speak of getting answers to your prayers in a new way. I would like to know what kind of answers you are getting." That was a well-pointed question.

Our prayers should grow with our Christian life, and we should likewise have larger answers. In **Acts 9**, for example, while Paul was receiving the answer to prayer for his soul's salvation, Peter was receiving mighty answers which resulted in spiritual awakening in whole communities. Something like that was the young preacher's experience, just mentioned: he not only experienced the fullness of God's Spirit in his own heart, but was rejoicing in a spirit of revival in his congregation.

Another way we know of our progress is by the kind of tests and trials we are given. Every failure arises from some failure in prayer, in our Christian life. Spurgeon once said, "The best evidence that we are in God's will is the Devil's growl!"

In this school which is our life the Lord Jesus teaches us prayer and faith. These always go together, in every lesson. Question: Am I in the kindergarten? First grade? Or, how far? Many Christians do not advance. Some never mature. A great many remain babes, carnal.

Then, too, if we fail (in a test), we must take the examination over. We must learn to pray. We must learn that lesson, or we do not advance in the Christian life. The lesson is largely a prayer-faith lesson. It does no good to run away from it, or to resign. We must face it, and go through! We shall have to meet that same lesson and learn it, though we flee to the uttermost parts of the earth. And, it might be even worse there.

As they went on, the disciples began to learn that the Lord Jesus' great secret was in prayer. They also discovered that He was in dead earnest about the fact that His big prayer secret must become theirs; and that by His promises, His precepts, His parables, and, above all, His own tremendous practice He was passing it on to them.

By the time our Lord was ready to depart for Heaven, whatever His disciples had not learned as yet, they really did know how to pray. The secret had become theirs. Now He could depart, for He had gotten them so well schooled in prayer and faith that they would fully trust His Word, and He could therefore trust them. They graduated. It was their "commencement." From then on they advanced, chapter by chapter through Acts, on their knees.

Everything was by prayer. The main reason for this is that their entire life and ours is to be on a constant miracle basis. It is His one way of getting right into everything, and doing it, by having us proceed "in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving." Then He is All in all, and gets all the glory.

Scripture

"Lord, teach us to pray" (**Luke 11:1**). "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren" (**Acts 1:14**). "In every thing by prayer and

supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6).

SENTENCE SERMON: *If we are to be like Christ, we must search the Scriptures to learn what Christ was like.*

DAILY INTERCESSION

J. Gordon & Sue Henry: JGHM Leaders

Adam Nathanson, Vice-President & Senior Teacher

ROPEHOLDER DOORKEEPERS NEEDED FOR JANUARY-JUNE 2019 BRAZIL, CHILE, CUBA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, KENYA, SOUTH AFRICA, UNITED STATES

Our focus for the first months in 2019 follows the new ministry paradigm developed by the JGHM Board of Directors. Instead of Dr. Henry traveling to the different venues, we will become Ropeholders for the teachers who lead seminars. The teachers that are designated for special support during the six months are **Adam Nathanson** (Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Venezuela, United States); **Digmar Garcia** (Cuba, Dominican Republic); **Martin Shikuku** (Kenya and other nations in East/Central Africa); **Leslie Motsalane** (South Africa and neighboring nations).

The immediate need is prayer support for the teachers. We have agreed to provide funds for travel, prayer seminar workbooks, and food. The projected amounts are as follows: **Adam (\$4,100); Digmar (\$3,000); Martin (\$3,560) and Leslie (\$3,060). TOTAL FINANCIAL NEED IS \$13,720.**

A special response envelope has been sent to the **Doorkeepers** who usually support the international ministries. Any other wishing to give should use the regular **Doorkeeper** response envelopes and designate "Ropeholder". Since we are a faith ministry that does not charge for our services, we depend upon our partners for the support to carry out our ministry.

MARCH PRAYER SEMINARS

15-17 SHINING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH

Middle River, Maryland

Contact: Wanda Lewis (443) 282-2007

29-31 PERRY HALL BAPTIST CHURCH

Perry Hall, Maryland

Contact: David Moyer (410) 256-8880

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Melody Henry (VA)
Bruce Kirby [Wanda] (KY)
Edra Landers (Phil)
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