

PRAYERLESSNESS IS A STATE OF ALIENATION FROM GOD

TEXT: *1 Samuel 12:23: Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:*

There is no sin so vile in all the world but that prayerlessness encourages it and becomes the very part of it. Praying in the Spirit cures and prevents the practice of all forms of sin. It is worse than adultery, murder, and blasphemy, for these sins may catch a person suddenly, while prayerlessness is deliberate, carnal, fleshly-mindedness, and a state of shutting God out of our life. There is no weapon more effective and more needed than praying in the Holy Ghost, as Jude describes it.

Praying in the Spirit cures and prevents the practice of all forms of sin.

Jude 1:20: But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most Holy Faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Yet praying in the Holy Ghost is so little used by the vast majority of so-called Full Gospel people.

No Prayer, No Power;

Little Prayer, Little Power;

Much Prayer, Much Power.



There is no time to make excuses for our prayerlessness, especially now. America is being driven by the forces of Hell. These forces cannot be challenged by words, but by prayer — anointed words.

- **Prayerlessness leads to the worst forms of apostasy, but spiritual praying in the Holy Ghost is the only cure for the creeping paralysis of the Church.**
- **Prayerlessness is sinning against God, against the Church — His body —**

and against the world which is lost and dead in trespasses and sins.

An old-fashioned revival can only come for this generation by each of us confessing — and not evading — our sin of prayerlessness. We must see the misery of our heart, feel it, and call it by its name.

What is it, then, that makes prayerlessness so great an evil that it is actually sin? Often we look upon it as a mere weakness, and we excuse our sin by alibis of all sorts of distractions and lack of time; but God is telling us we are sinning against *Him*.

- **Prayerlessness is sin because it is rebellion against one of the commands of our Lord Jesus, and this is what He said:**

Mark 14:38a: Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

Matthew 24:42: Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

The Holy Ghost, through the Apostle Paul, declares:

Ephesians 6:18a: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, which is the Word of God:

- **Prayerlessness is the greatest of sins because it opens the door to all other sins. This is the meaning of the Words of Jesus in:**

Mark 14:38: Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

This was carried out by Jesus, Who is the Son of God, in His Own life. How much more need we to pray who have been the children of the devil. Prayer is the only weapon that will defeat the devil. Jesus said:

Mark 11:17b: My House shall be called of all nations the House of Prayer?

It shall be called a prayer house, and this is true only when we pray. All the alibis for our lack of the Spirit is really an admission on our part that our communion with God is faulty. Many Christians will be shocked at this statement:

Many Christians have died prematurely because they did not pray. We see this

in the life of Asa who did not seek the Lord when he suffered from a disease.

2 Chronicles 16:12-13:

12 And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.

13 And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign.

God killed Saul because he did not enquire of Him, but rather sought out a woman with a familiar spirit.

1 Chronicles 10:13-14:

13 So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the Word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it;

14 And enquired not of the LORD: therefore He slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.



Isaiah 38:1: In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.

Prayerlessness is sin because it is a declaration that we have no time for God, without Whom we can do nothing.

John 15:12: This is My Commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

This was the condition of Daniel's deliverance and the source of his greatest joy. He shows us that one's prayer life is sweet and more enjoyable than anything else in life. Without it, we cannot enter into the deeper things of God, nor can we turn loose the mighty power of God.



God does not reveal His secrets to the careless ones, but to those who are walking in full communion with Him who gives Him their time, trust, and love.

Most of us have religious spasms during a revival where we begin to serve the

Lord, and then cool off soon afterwards.

When the king had set a decree that all men must not make petition or pray to anyone but the king for the space of thirty days, Daniel went home, threw open the windows of his house, and bowed his face toward Jerusalem three times daily as he had done aforetime.



Daniel prayed because he loved the Lord, no matter what the strategy was to stop him from doing the thing he would rather do more than anything else in life. Think of it, a law passed to stop men from praying! This shows very well what the devil has been thinking about, and what he knows to be the mightiest power against him.

To live without prayer is to declare that we do not need the Lord. To fail to pray is actually playing into the hands of the devil who tried to pass a law to stop one of God's greatest saints. It would not be necessary to pass such a law now in this 20th century, for the amount of praying most folks do doesn't even stir themselves up, much less the devil. It is only a praying heart that gets well acquainted with the Lord and senses its need of Him. Prayer is an actual declaration that "*I cannot get along without you Lord Jesus*". We sin against the souls of every lost soul when we live without communion with Christ.

To live without prayer is to declare that we do not need the Lord.

- **Prayerlessness is sin against the Lord because it makes us weak and powerless to meet the flesh, and it causes us to bring reproach upon the Gospel of Christ.**

No man or woman will be irritable, cross, harsh-speaking, fault-finding, bitter, or deceitful to others — in the home or in the church — who prays right. When you have a real prayer life, you have a real grip on God, and you can easily get to Him and get others to Him also. You cannot show others the way unless you are familiar with the road yourself. A praying Christian has God on his side, and He will break the power of the flesh, while they who are in the flesh cannot please God. If we live after the flesh, we shall die.

You cannot show others the way unless you are familiar with the road yourself.

Dear hearts, the natural man does not know how to pray, nor does it not care to pray, because there are things in his life that he must get rid of. It makes one a coward, a weakling, and an open prey for the devil not to pray, causing one to be unsteady, and carried about with every wind of doctrine.

Ephesians 4:13-14:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

What is defeating the Church of Jesus Christ, robbing Him of glory, and hindering blistering conviction from turning the hearts of sinners unto God? Prayerlessness — it can be found at the bottom of the whole matter. Try to pray, and the devil works to get you to stop, by sending a house full of company, making the telephone ring constantly, and stirring up the children to fight and pester you all about nothing.

● **Prayerlessness is sin against the Lord because it brings you to church with icicles six feet long hanging down your soul.**

You cannot get interested in the Service, and the power and fire of the Holy Spirit makes you miserable. Oh, how often I have heard some poor saint tell me, “*Don’t worry about me, I am holding my own.*” Yes, so does an icicle. Pray through that God will melt the frost off your spirit, melt the snow in the pews, and crowd the altars with weeping, hungry souls. Pray that He will send the fire on the preaching, the singing, the special programs, and on the altar service. Lord, without Your Presence and power, we are miserable.

Lord, without Your Presence and power, we are miserable.

Cold, loveless, powerless services will drive people away from God. This is a sin against Him. A dead man does not want anything to eat, has no appetite, and cannot move toward God. The Spirit must move and breathe on him who is dead in his trespasses and sins, and bring him to a consciousness of his need for God, or else he will not come to get saved. We need that consciousness restored to the Saints first.

2 Chronicles 7:14: If My People, who are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My Face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

We eat because we get hungry, sleep because we’re tired, and visit others because we enjoy friendship and fellowship.

Matthew 15:8: This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoreth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me.

This cold heartedness is breaking God’s Heart, beloved. When friends come to

to visit us, we make time for them, and take time — at the cost of sacrifice — in order to enjoy our time with them. God is a jealous God. He will not let you bring others before Him and get away with it. He will bring you to your knees if it takes calamity and adversity to do so.

It is the business of every minister to be a man of prayer. He cannot lead the congregation any higher than he is himself. The value he places on prayer will be contagious, like the measles. You do not need to take a pin and try to make the bumps come. Just go where the germ is, and the bumps will take care of themselves. Likewise, get where the spirit of prayer is, and you will be where the Lord is blessing and present.

What is the remedy? Who can show how we shall overcome this sin of our prayerlessness? If we get stirred enough, we will say to ourselves, “*No prayer, no breakfast*”. You will be surprised how quickly the old carnal flesh nature in you will stop dictating flimsy excuses for not praying. When you refuse to eat until you have prayed, you are striking a death blow to flesh.

Mark 9:29: And He said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

The disciples were worried when the devils would not move or leave the hearts of the lost when they had commanded them to do so. Therefore, they came to Jesus with the question: “Why?” Jesus gave the cause, and it is due to a lack of self-denial that is letting the world go to Hell. If you wish to pray in the Spirit — and there is no other kind worth anything to God — you must walk in The Spirit also. Pray then, until you have prayed clear through and struck glory.

If you wish to pray in the Spirit . . . you must walk in The Spirit also.

Worship the Lord and ask Him to fill your heart with His love so that you can love Him back again with all your heart. Ask the Lord to take the cold formality out of your prayers so that you will feel them coming from the Spirit Who is making intercession in you.

Remember to confess and search for the cause of loss of liberty in prayer. This is the first step a doctor takes to relieve the suffering in your body. In like manner, we must search the cause of the sad condition of deadness and powerless, loveless prayer meetings.



Put your finger on what the Holy Spirit shows you, for prayerlessness is sin, and sin will stop you from praying, or praying will stop you from sinning.

Set apart a time for prayer and fasting, as did Daniel. The early church is brought to our attention by Jesus in dealing with those possessed by satan. Do not let the

devil rob you of the only weapon you have of defeating him. The only thing that distinguishes us from the other religious organizations is “God in and upon us.” Praying pulpits make praying pews, and praying saints makes repenting sinners.

Shrink not from overcoming the sin of prayerlessness, for the devil will make it a giant Goliath to you. You have tried before in the power of the flesh to conquer the flesh — a wholly impossible thing. Beelzebub cannot cast out Beelzebub; this will never happen. It is Jesus, alone, who can subdue the flesh and the devil.

As you choose the place which is needful, it shall not be taken away from you. Martha tried to get Mary to come and help her with dinner, and got so irritated that she complained to Jesus about it.

Luke 10:38-42:

38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that He entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard His Word.

40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to Him, and said, Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.



41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.



Jesus gave her what He will give you also. He loves you, and to think that He would command us not to do the thing we long for — to be in communion through prayer with Him — is almost too heartbreaking for words. The Lord loves our soul, and wants us all for Himself. Love ought to be our basis of want to, but lo, He must command us to pray, lest we sin against God, against our own soul, and against every lost soul without Christ in our generation.

**The Lord
loves our
soul, and
wants us all
for Himself.**

Revivals are prayed down, and we cannot have one unless we get to business and pray through until the glory of God falls, and the Spirit works with mighty power. My prayer today is:

Lord, continue to crucify the flesh daily in me that I will not interfere with Your work, and I will not hinder You from having Your way in this revival meeting.

Akron Shalom Bible Learning Center
www.AkronShalomMinistries.org