

Found

MINISTRIES

February 2024

“There are plenty of preachers who will deliver great and eloquent addresses on the need of revival and the spread of the kingdom of God, but not many there are who will do that without which all preaching and organizing are worse than vain-prayer. It is out of date, almost a lost art, and **the greatest benefactor this age could have is a man will bring the preachers and the church back to prayer.**” -E.M. Bounds

I chuckled as I read the words towards the end of the newsletter I was reading. It was entitled “The Priesthood of All Believers.” It brought to my mind the above quote from E.M. Bounds on prayer. This, in fact, was one of the greatest newsletters I’d ever read from our friend Reimar Schultze. (I got his permission to refer to it in this letter to you. His response was “use it all, and you don’t even have to mention my name.”) I made no promises! **It would be time well spent to read it, and read it again.** (CALL TO OBEDIENCE #503, www.schultze.org) I think Bounds would have been pleased with it. The words I read were:

“In many churches, prayer and praises are more often than not relegated to a few people who have nothing else to do or to the eccentrics. In fact, it has become universally acceptable that busy people are to be excused from such meetings. The devil fully accepts such excuses.”

I had just been asking multiple staff members here at PCCF “Why isn’t prayer meeting just church to us?” -and this newsletter showed up. My thought after reading this from Reimar was *WHAT ARE WE DOING???* That a man of God who has been pastoring faithfully longer than I’ve been alive could write or speak this with a straight face, and we could nod along in affirmation is.....appalling.

The simplicity of it stunned me. *“It has become universally acceptable...”* How many stories have you heard in holiness circles/churches about prayer meeting being the least attended meeting of the church? How many stories have you heard of large churches having hundreds show up for a hot dog roast but a few for the prayer meeting? I’ve made mention that if we put a sign up that said “come meet (insert famous speaker) on Sunday!” we’d have a problem finding parking, but that if we put a sign up saying “Come meet God” it would likely be business as usual. How can that be? In other words, *why is it normal for prayer to be for a few?* Why is it often our least attended church function? Reimar’s newsletter points out that “for the people of the early church, going to church meant primarily going to prayer meeting and interacting with one another.” It would have probably been shocking to the early disciples to see how our church people casually bypass prayer for “more pressing matters.” **They knew better.** Why don’t we? I am thankful in the Word of God there is an answer for us always. *“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good*



work” (2 Tim 3:16-17). In Exodus 17:11-13 we have the story of Moses, Aaron, and Hur laboring together in prayer. **Three praying men out of 1,500,000 Israelites—with just a stick and a rock—defeated an army of professional Amalekite soldiers!** Or, as Reimar said, “*just three men fulfilling their priestly duty defeated a whole nation.*” **A prayer meeting won a war.** Moses believed God and prayed like it. The early Church believed Jesus when He told them to tarry until they were “clothed with power” from on high. Pentecost ensued, the most famous move of God in Christendom. Both of these examples have in common the littleness of the strength of the people involved, and an active, praying, *unified* faith in God.

In an entertainment oriented culture such as ours, it isn’t uncommon for the prayer meeting of few to have even fewer the next time because it isn’t the most exciting event going on. Reimar wisely instructs us to “not belittle only having three people in your church prayer meetings.” He points out how such meetings have been used throughout Church history to carry the church onwards from generation to generation, with just a few men and women exercising their priestly offices. (I’m glad Hur didn’t take off when he saw only two others praying!) He then states that:

“In the eyes of God, a pastor who can raise up three priests like Moses, Aaron, and Hur is more successful than the one who can bring thousands of people into the pews whose spiritual lives have been choked to death.”

That last quote is inspiring, but what can or should be done about it? Really, this whole newsletter has been to ask one question: **are we praying as we ought to?** If you take time to review Reimar’s letter, you’ll recognize that we are a priesthood of believers, and be reminded of your calling as a royal priest. *Are we praying like it?*

I have three simple thoughts to consider that I believe will bless your prayer life. **First, a priest ministers unto God before anything else.** Prayer is the highest form of worship, and worship is how we praise God for being God! If you look at Jesus’ life, you’ll readily see the pattern that every act of Jesus was preceded by a prayer meeting. He ministered to His Father first, then went about loving His neighbor perfectly. We are to do the same! We are instructed to “enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise” (Psalm 100:4). How often we approach prayer at first bogged down with the stuff we need and the things we want! How much better we would be at interceding for others if our eyes were fixed on Jesus in praise and thanksgiving first as we approached our prayer closets!

Second, always consider the two greatest commandments as we pray. And He said to him, “*‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.*” (Matt 22:37-40)

I could write at length my thoughts on this, but I think it would be better to just ask you to meditate on these verses and then to pray. After doing so, consider what is in your mind; Is it different than some other times you dive into prayer?

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Finally, consider that Jesus said it was “better” that He goes away, and that **“If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father...”** (John 14:28) Why should you consider that? Because *Christ is in you*, and we have the privilege to fellowship with Him every day *through prayer and His Word!* (Remember we started by reviewing how prayer meeting is not that big of a deal for a lot of the church). It is a human thing to be less excited about what we can't see, and yet **our Lord beckons us to approach Him by faith!** It isn't a lesser thing to “only” have this Bible to read. It is the Word of God! “Well, all we can do now is pray” is not a call to overcoming prayer by faith! If we pray we are using weapons that are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses (2 Cor. 10:4)! We get to do what Christ Himself did! We get to love Him by receiving and believing His plan and following in His footsteps. Jesus told us to trust Him, not to fear, and that, “If we loved Him, we would have rejoiced that He goes to the Father...” In other words, we shouldn't ever fret that we're not in heaven yet. If we love our Lord and want to serve Him, we'll rejoice actively in His good plan to send us His Spirit to guide us as we await His return. **Prayer becomes a ministry to God if we can be thankful for the Lord's design in it.** He has not left us as orphans. As a matter of fact, *He left us the same access to the Father He utilized on earth!* In closing consider; Are we praying as we ought? Will we honestly ask the Lord? If so, I believe the Holy Spirit has highlighted a few things on which to meditate that may help us as we pray.

Your Brother in Christ,



Aaron Simms
Parker City, Indiana

A Couple Notes from the Executive Director

- Some of you may have heard recently that our friend, Janie Mayo, has been diagnosed with cancer. Janie was a faithful executive secretary for Revival for Our Day for years and we wanted to make you aware of an ongoing opportunity to help with the needs presented by this awful disease. Please visit gopcf.com/janie to see how her home church is helping and for more information.
- Fellowship Youth Camp is July 14-20 at Lincoln State Park in southern Indiana. If you would like to register a camper or get more information, please visit foundministry.org/fyc or email fyc@foundministry.org.
- Some of you may have seen the previous email we've sent or the social media posts, but in case you missed it we wanted to make sure you know about the RFOD Newsletter Archive. Every newsletter we had (we believe we got them all) from 1962-2000 have been digitized and are available as free downloads at foundministry.org/newsletter so please enjoy!

