
The Prayer of Commitment

Radio Message by Dwight Porter, D.D.

“Commit thy way unto the Lord: trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass” (Psalm 37:5)

MANY Christians have no knowledge of this verse of scripture. If the devil cannot keep us from praying, then he desires us to pray in the wrong fashion. The above verse indicates the kind of prayer we need to learn. It involves a definite relationship and transaction with God Almighty. Generalities are avoided with time saved and results obtained.

Repetition

The above text may be summarized in just three phrases: “Commit, trust and He worketh.” Many people pray about their needs and keep on praying as though they did not believe. The result is that they pray themselves out of faith. Their action is like the vain repetition of the heathen. “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever you desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them” (Mark 11:24).

We are to be definite in making our requests known to God. It is vital to believe what God says about the answer. After praying and believing, if the answer still tarries, as far as an outward manifestation, do not continue to pray as though you do not believe Him for it. If you continue to pray the same way, your faith has weakened. If God keeps you waiting for the evident answer, tell Him that you are waiting patiently and are still believing and praising Him for it. In this way you become one of God’s “remembrances” by reminding Him of His Word of promise.

“I have set watchmen upon the walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day or night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, and give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth” (Isaiah 62:6,7). Right here and now, I challenge you! Stand by faith upon His promise, declare your trust, and praise Him that the answer is on the way!

It is absolutely ruinous to faith to go back over the same ground again and again. Either God is going to do what He promised, or He is not going to do it. If His Word cannot be trusted, then we have reason to worry and keep asking, pleading, and coaxing. There is nothing that so fully lays hold of faith as to be so sure of the answer that we can praise and thank God for it. We can be assured of believing the Lord when, after prayer, we are not restlessly planning and working for the answer, but are filled with restful praise because we believe God’s promises. “Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself. . . (Psalm 37:7).

An evident sign that we believe is found in Hebrews 4:3: “We which have believed do enter into rest.” Prayers that pray us out of faith are the result of placing our thoughts on the difficulties rather than on the promises of God. We are not to be occupied with our feelings, symptoms, faith, or

the lack of it. The simple way is to begin calling the things we have prayed for OURS and to thank God for them, long before we feel or see the answer. God is faithful. He cannot and will not deny Himself.

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight” (I John 3:22).

Joshua dared to claim a promised victory on the authority of God’s Word alone, while as yet there were no signs of that victory being accomplished. According to their faith, the walls fell when they shouted (praised). “Abraham staggered not at the promise of God. . . And considered not his own body” (Romans 4:17,19,20). If we received immediately from God what we asked, how would faith have any chance to grow and be perfected?

This same principal holds true in consecration to God. Today, people consecrate and reconsecrate themselves over and over again, not realizing that each repetition discounts the one previously made. In the Bible, when an offering was once laid upon the altar, it belonged to the Lord and no man dared to retake it. Our surrender having been made, we simply believe God to accept it and reckon that it is His.

We do not keep on committing and recommitting ourselves to God. Either we meant it once and for all, or we did not do it at all. One of Satan’s subtle lies is to think we must keep on doing that which creates doubt upon a previous commitment.

To commit means not only bringing the matter to God, but also leaving it there. I can remember as a child in my father’s Baptist church we used a song that went like this: “Take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there.” To bring our problems to the Lord is hard enough, but to *leave* them there is more difficult. But this is vital if we are to have His will accomplished.

We must learn to hand over all things to God, pray till we believe, and leave them with Him. “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (I Peter 5:7). So often when there are difficulties and urgent matters, we still hold them in the power of our hand. Friend, if God is not going to hear our heart’s cry and do what He has promised in His Word, then we have reason to worry and be anxious.

So often we commit our requests to Him and water them down with our prayers and tears, but become impatient. It is hard to wait. We dig them up as we do kernels of corn from the ground. This thwarts the working of God in our behalf. One great preacher well stated: “Never dig up in unbelief what you have sown in faith.” There is so much self-effort and so little genuine commitment to God. “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts” (James 4:3). Some prayers must be hidden in God’s hands till they die. God wants them to be left there, for faith declares, “If it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.” When something is committed to God, all that is left for us to do is simply trust Him.

Importance of Faith

God tells us, “When we pray, believe” (Mark 11:24). Many people think there is virtue in saying prayers. They are vain repetition unless coupled with faith. “And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power”

(Ephesians 1:19). We simply trust Him for the very thing for which we are asking. We must trust to have the answer, even though we neither see it nor feel it. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him" (I John 5:14, 15). Faith begins NOW. It is in the present tense. "Now faith is..." (Hebrews 11:1). The faith we must possess is more than mental willingness to believe; *it must be founded upon the Word of God*. We must believe it is God's will to answer this particular prayer. *We should entertain no other thought than the will of God*. If we do not know His exact will about any given matter, we should trust Him to do His will and not be so concerned about what we think should be done. "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).

If we believe Him, we can thank God from our hearts that He has heard us. We can then say, "Lord, I believe Thee and here and now! praise Thee for that which Thou art doing." The Bible says, "By prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6). The biblical patterns are clear: pray! commit! trust! thanksgiving!

Many Christians pray for the salvation of their loved ones and do not understand or practice this prayer of commitment. Has God promised to save them? Of course He has! Is it God's will for them to be saved? Of course it is! "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness: but is long-suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

When are we going to believe Him to save them? Will it be when we have prayed hard enough or long enough? Commitment on your part leaves the matter with God and His power to fulfill that which we are trusting Him to do.

Commitment is desperately needed in our being filled with the Holy Spirit. Some people beg and coax God to do what He has promised. Many of God's children need a fresh anointing of the Spirit. We should wait before Him, claiming what we need, and then go our way believing and praising. The delay on God's part may involve deeper heart searching and application of truth on our part. This may take time, but keep on believing and praising. So often Satan whispers that we have nothing because we do not *feel* anything. (You ought to read my sermon, "Emotion Is Not Devotion.") Let us believe God and praise Him even though we do not feel like it. Do not keep repeating prayer. Take the answer and claim it and praise God on the road of obedience. "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith

shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith" (Mark 11:23).

All we ever do after a definite commitment is to simply renew our previous course of action and assure God we trust Him, with praise and thanksgiving in our hearts. In prayer, let us assure the Lord that we believe the answer is on the way and praise Him for it.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20, 21).

Some have said that God answers prayer by a yes, no, or wait. If He does not respond exactly the way we desire, remember, He knows best and has promised that all things will work together for good (Romans 8:28). Don't resist His will, plan, and purpose for your life.

God's Family

The one request God grants to a sinner is for him to be saved. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). We are either in God's family, or we are the children of the devil. It is just that simple. "Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and come from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? Even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not" (John 8:42-45).

To be acceptable to God we must repent of our sins, which means not only to acknowledge them, but also in deep sorrow turn from them toward the Savior. We trust Christ to cleanse us of them. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being quickened by the Spirit" (I Peter 3:18). Friend, find a place to pray and tell Christ about your sins. Ask Him to deliver you from them. Commit your need of salvation to Him. Trust Him to do what He has promised. "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy family" (Acts 16:3 1).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Additional free copies of this message are available. It is a reprint from our free publication, THE CHALLENGER. Also, available are nine free lessons of our free Home Bible Study Course.

The Hour of Grace & Power
PO Box 5900
Titusville, FL 32783-5900
www.thehourofgraceandpower.org