



Relevant Prayer

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As time draws nearer to the end, it is imperative that we, as the Body of Christ, gather our unction to fulfill the commission which Christ placed before us. This year's general CPMA theme, "[...to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery...](#)" (Ephesians 3:9), echoes the one fold message of the commission. God's favor remains with His Church as She endeavors to progress in the journey toward spiritual development and perfection. The CPMA department of the Church should never lose sight of its place in carrying forward the process.

In order for the Church to reach its potential, both individualistically within its members and corporately as a Body, there must be a return to the fundamentals which lead to spiritual growth. In the busy nature of life, it is easy to become overwhelmed with the affairs of this world and allow the spiritual matters to lose their priority. In order for the Church to be the Church which Christ desires Her to be, we must concentrate our attention on the disciplines of spirituality which catapult us to a new depth of intimacy in our relationship with Him. It is of absolute necessity that the CPMA ministry remains attentive to these aspects of spiritual growth which will enable us to become more effective in our ministry of winning the lost souls of the world to Christ and His Church.

Central to spiritual development and growth is prayer. To cease to pray is to cease to grow. Real prayer, effective prayer, both generates and cultivates life. It expects results, and then continues to travail until it sees results. Prayer, without results of guidance or intercession, lacks some element of real prayer.

Prayer is certainly the most important activity for Christian engagement – even more important than works of ministry! The Scripture says, "[...for mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all people...](#)" (Isaiah 56:7). Christ's affirmation of this Scripture is recorded in three of the New Testament gospels. While these elements are necessary to ministry, His house, the Church, is not a house whose primary purpose is preaching or teaching. Ultimately, these works of ministry are ineffective lest they be saturated by prayer.

There are two primary types of prayer – guidance/relinquishment and intercession. We can never get ahead of God and expect intercessory prayer (prayers of faith, healing, miracles, marriage reconciliation, financial assistance, etc.) to be fully effective without first having listened to God. This is the purpose of prayers of guidance and relinquishment. It is the seeking of God's will and the laying aside of self. It is the opportunity to show God our desire that His will be done over our own self-motivations. It is imperative that we search God for His will, for our development as children of God, before we are able to pray in intercession. We must hear, know, and obey the will of God before we can pray it into the lives of others.

A careful study of the New Testament will show that neither Jesus nor the apostles asked “if it be thy will” when praying a prayer of intercession. When the opportunity for ministry arose Christ and the disciples were already in one accord with the will of the Father and the unction of the Spirit. This unity of knowing the will of God is impossible without having first established a foundation of guidance and relinquishment. This is only possibly through communicating and listening to the Father.

In any prayer, compassion is a key element which cannot be left lacking. Without compassion there is no inner commitment to the matters which are being communicated with God. When we pray we must pray in a manner which reveals our concern and love. Compassion strengthens faith, and it affirms to the Father the urgency of the needs of His children.

Ministers, members, and friends of the Church, we must not allow prayer to become a lax discipline in our hearts and minds. Without prayer, we will never see the Church reach the potential which Christ desires of Her. Without communicating with the Lord, God’s will cannot be revealed to us. We must be ever-listening to the Spirit in order to obtain the depth of spirituality to which we are being called. Ultimately, our intercessory prayer is what will bring results; however, we must be in sync with the Spirit and will of the Father in order to validate our prayers before the throne of God. Let us each continue to grow in the Lord this year! May God bless each of us as we strive to delve deeper in our relationship with Him.