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Vital Principles of Prayer

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VITAL PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER
Isa. 57:15-21

I. Quotes from Donal B. Strobe's "Faith Under Fire".
A. Has chapter "Christ & the Problem of Prayer".
1. Why should I pray when God already knows what I need?
2. Will prayer cause God to be persuaded to do something that He really doesn't want to do?
3. What good is prayer anyway?
B. He says prayer is a real problem because
1. We live in a skeptical, secular, scientific world.
   (a) If Jesus walked on water today, we wouldn't fall down & say, "My Lord & my God", but, "I wonder how he did that?"
   (b) We think, in sickness, of penicillin before we think of prayer.
   (c) We are less credulous & more cynical.
2. We've had either unfortunate experiences in prayer, or else unfortunate teaching.
   (a) Huck Finn quote
   (b) I'd show who's boss.
   (c) Boy's prayer.
   (d) Prayer isn't a sermon.
3. Prayer is not:
   (a) Magic - gimmick to get what we want.
II. Vital Principles of Prayer

A. Three demands

1. I must share the right relationship with God.
   I Jn. 5:14 "Whatsoever we ask according to his will He hears us.

2. I must be clear of sin & self.
   Ps. 66:18 "If I regard iniquity in my heart..."
   Isa. 57:15 "I will dwell in the holy high place..."
   Ps. 24:3-5 "Who shall stand in his holy...
   Isa. 59:2 "Your iniquities have separ.

3. I must pray in faith.
   Heb. 11:6 "W/o faith it is imp.
   Ps. 9:10 "They that know thy name..."
   Ps. 48:1 "Great is the Lord & greatly
B. Three Audiences

1. Just God & I
   Matt. 6:6 "But thou, when thou prayest
   (a) Have you a time & place?
   James 5:16 "The effectual fervent
   Lu. 5:16 "Jesus continued His habit of
   retiring to lonely spots & praying
   (Williams).

2. Two in agreement
   Matt. 18:19 "If 2 of you shall agree on
   (a) Clip on San Fernando wells.

3. Small groups
   Matt. 18:20 "For where 2 or 3 are gath
   (a) Prayer brings out highest capacity.
   Acts 1:4 "Commanded them they shoul
   Acts 1:14 "These all continued c 1 acc
   (b) If persistent prayer had not been,
       would there have been a Pentecost?

C. By way of review:

1. 3 demands
   (a) Right relationship c God
   (b) Absence of self & sin
   (c) Necessity of faith

2. 3 audiences
   (a) Just God
   (b) God & one other
   (c) God & the group

III. By all means, let's pray!
Huckleberry Finn said, "...Miss Watson, she took me in the closet and prayed, but nothing come of it. She told me to pray everyday, and whatever I asked for I would get. But it warn't so. I tried it. Once I had a fish-line, but no hooks. It warn't any good to me without hooks. I tried for the hooks three or four times, but somehow I couldn't make it work. By and by, one day I asked Miss Watson to try for me, but she said I was a fool. She never told me why, and I couldn't make it out no way...I says to myself, if a body can get anything they pray for, why don't Deacon Winn get back the money he lost on pork? Why can't the widow get back her silver snuff box that was stole? Why can't Miss Watson fat up? No, says I to myself, there ain't nothin' in it."
"Faith Under Fire" - By Donald B. Strobe
Pages 63-64

From "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain pp. 10, 11
"If I were God," said a business executive who was accustomed to having his orders carried out on the spot, "I'd show people who was boss!" He might have been related to the small boy in the cartoon who is depicted down on his knees, out of patience with God, saying, "Aunt Stella isn't married yet. Uncle Herbert hasn't got a job. Daddy's hair is still falling out. I'm tired of saying prayers for this family without getting results!

"Faith Under Fire" - By Donald B. Strobe

Page 64
As Christians, we end our prayers with the phrase, "through Jesus Christ our Lord." Among other things, this means that we believe that God has revealed His nature and purpose to us "through Jesus Christ, our Lord." We go to God, therefore, over the same road that He has come to us. It also means that we believe that God is like Jesus Christ. Jesus told us to pray "in His name." This is not a magical formula, or like the famous password, "Joe sent me," a means of insuring that we will be heard. No, in the Bible a person's name stands for his character. When Jesus tells us that we should pray in His name, He means that we should pray according to His character. We should pray as He prayed, and pray for the kinds of things for which He prayed.
"Faith Under Fire" - By Donald B. Strobe
Pages 66-67
I persuade Christ to carry my wishes to a higher court, that I wish to cleanse my own desires by passing them through the mesh of the Master's mind.

"Faith Under Fire" - By Donald B. Strobe

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From "The Christian Agnostic" by Leslie Weatherhead

p. 221

and praise & Saviour & Lord. No mere words can take the place of this; and, if women take the prayers of our NT as examples, the words, in Jesus' name are not necessary.
Effective prayer is prayer in Jesus' name.

It is good to preserve the conscience on this by the use of the phrase "in Jesus' name" in every prayer that we offer. But we must remember that the reciting of this phrase is not all that is means to pray in Jesus' name. There must be the sincere and inward confession of a personal relationship with and dependence upon Christ as our Teacher.

John 14:6, 13, 14 (Harold Thomas May 55 2015)
When a man prays for three minutes, you pray with him. When he prays for another three minutes, you pray for him. And when he prays for another three minutes, you're praying against him.

"Prayer--Its Deeper Dimensions" - By J. Edwin Orr
in Chapter 3 "Power in United Prayer"

Page 20
On January 21, 1930, the most far-reaching radio broadcast up to that time was scheduled. It was the message of King George at the opening of the session of the London Naval Arms Conference. The whole world for the first time was to be brought within the voice of the king. The United States, however, almost missed it. A few minutes before the king was to speak, a member of the control room staff of the Columbia Broadcasting System tripped over a wire and broke it, thus severing connections. Harold Vivian, chief control operator, immediately grasped the ends of the broken wires, one in each hand, and restored the circuit. The shock of 250 volts of electricity shook his arms and went through his body, but he held on until new wires were connected.
The king's speech came to America through the tingling body of Harold Vivian.

The King of kings wants to broadcast to our world. He has many things to say, to do, to give to needy men. But the circuit has been broken. He has put you, as a Christian, in a position to close it, through intercessory prayer.

"Prayer--Its Deeper Dimensions" - By Clifford H. Richmond

In Chapter 7 "Your Prayer Can Shake the World" Page 55
Some of these projects are unscriptural, or at least extra-scriptural, and many of them have no higher motive than to relieve the promoter of the unpleasant task of earning an honest living and to enable him to float about the world at the expense of the hard-pressed saints. Yet he may circularize his mailing list begging for the prayers of God's people, and call prolonged prayer meetings to try to gain the blessing of God upon activities God did not originate and will not own.

"Prayer--Its Deeper Dimensions" - By A. W. Tozer in Chapter 13 "Do Your Prayers Please God?"

Page 83
In the San Fernando Valley are municipal wells sunk 100 to 500 feet deep into the earth. A clock-like apparatus reveals and measures the agitation of the water. What happens at the far end of the earth is felt in California. An earthquake which disturbs any region in the world causes the water level to rise.

Scientists tell us that if you drop a pin to the earth a tiny vibration is sent to every other part of the earth. In other words, the material universe is so much one that each and every bit of matter affects and may be affected by each and every other bit of matter.

"Prayer--Its Deeper Dimensions" - By Clifford H. Richard in Chapter 7 "Your Prayer Can Shake the World" Page 51