

THE ANATOMY OF A CHRISTIAN STEWARD

XII. Knees That Kneel

Part I

The boat was sinking. The captain called out, "Does anyone here know how to pray?" One passenger replied, "I do." The captain said, "Okay. You pray while the rest of us put on life jackets. We're short one."

We smile at the stories told about prayer. I suspect most of us have heard a number of them and even told a few. For example: In a church in Kentucky a loud, verbal child was being carried out under his irate father's arm. Just as they got to the door the child had one last thing to say – "Y'all pray for me now!"

Of course you have heard of the staff member who walked into a crowded Bible Study classroom. He looked around and saw only one empty seat. He said to the woman sitting next to it, "Is this chair saved?" The woman looked up from her Bible and said with a gleam in her eye, "Not yet, but we're all praying for it."

Seriously, prayer is the lifeline of any church. It is impossible to do the Lord's work in the Lord's way without the Lord's power and that comes through prayer.

The story is told of a tourist in New York who was taken to see Niagara Falls. They stood at the base and watched millions of tons of water cascading to the rocks below. "That," said the man, "is the greatest untapped source of power in the world." "No," his friend answered. "That's impressive, but the greatest untapped source of power in the world is the power of prayer through God's Holy Spirit."

In **STEWARDSHIP ENRICHMENT** we need this power of prayer and so do you as a Christian. Someone has said, "The quickest way to get a church on its feet is to get its members on their knees." The absence of prayer will lead to failure. The presence of prayer means victory. It is really that important!

If we would learn to pray let us learn from the Master – Jesus Himself. How did He pray? When did He pray? Where did He pray? Let Him be our example and teacher.

When we look at His life as revealed in the scripture we find that:

He prayed at all hours of the day and night.

He prayed in the great crisis of His life.
He prayed (alone) for others and with others.
While He was praying miracles happened.

He prayed in complete surrender.
"Not my will, but thine be done." (Luke 22:42)

He not only set the example, He taught us to pray, He challenged us to pray:
"we ought always to pray and not to faint"

Now if our Lord practiced prayer, taught us to pray and challenged us to pray
it certainly should be the number one priority of our lives.

We could begin with this prayer:

*"O Lord by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way:
The path of prayer Thyself hath trod;
Lord, teach us how to pray."*

As you conclude this devotion on prayer I have a request to make. Remember in Exodus 25:1ff God speaks to Moses concerning raising money to build the tabernacle. God said to receive an offering from His people who had "willing hearts." This is what we want to happen in our church. We want our people to have "willing hearts" and then to do as God leads.

Now my request – Pray that God would give you a "willing heart."

*Lord, give me a willing heart, a heart that is set on You,
and willing and committed to do Your will.*