

THE ANATOMY OF A CHRISTIAN STEWARD

XII. Knees That Kneel **Part III**

THE EXPLANATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Perhaps now you are thinking, sure I believe that prayer is power and that marvelous things happen as a result of prayer. I have heard of miraculous things happening in other churches and lives. I believe that God is able to answer any prayer.

If all of this is possible why have we not seen it in our lives and our church? The answer is simple. James tells us, "...*you have not because you ask not.*" (James 4:2)

But our church prays. We have Dial a Prayer, Watchman Workers, Prayer Teams, Prayer Groups, Prayer Warriors. Yes, but do you pray? Oh, I'm too busy to pray – then you are too busy. Prayer is so important, you need to make time! You don't have to pray for hours – just pray. Someone said, "longing in prayer and long prayers are not necessarily synonymous."

"I don't know how to pray." How did you learn to walk or ride a bicycle? You learn to pray by praying. You have little trouble talking to a friend. You can simply talk to your greatest friend – Jesus.

"I don't know what to pray for." A young child asked her parents, "Is it OK to pray if you don't want something?" Yes, and it's a good time to do so. Another youngster had "said his prayer" when his sister asked what he asked for. He said, "Nothing, I was just loving Jesus!"

These are pretty good ideas and a great place to start:

- Pray a prayer of Thanksgiving and Praise. Think of all the wonderful things God has done in your life, your family, your church! Not to do so is certainly a sin of ingratitude.

Psalms 100:4 says, "Enter in His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. Be thankful unto Him and bless His name."

- You can pray for forgiveness.

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me..." (Psalm 66:18)

"If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9)

- You can pray for others. A selfish prayer will not be answered.

For example, the man who prayed:

 "God bless me and my wife
 Our son, John, and his wife
 Us four and no more.
 Amen!"

- You can pray for wisdom. James says, *"If any man lacks wisdom let him ask of God ..."* (James 1:5)
- You can pray for your church. The task before our church is so great that it can only be accomplished with God's help and God will help through you.
- You can pray for your fellow members. The other members are seeking to know God's will just as you are. Pray that they too may have "willing hearts."
- You can pray for our STEWARDSHIP ENRICHMENT program and what God would allow you to sacrifice for His glory, your good, and the growth of the Kingdom.

There is no end. The important thing is that you pray and be receptive to His guidance. Accept His answers. He knows best.

I have one other request. You have prayed that God would give you a "willing heart" and He has. You prayed to know what God wants to do through you.

Now pray that your willing heart will have the faith in Him and love for His church to do what He has revealed!

Remember – you can do more than pray – after you pray. But you cannot do more than pray – until you pray.

Lord, I believe, help my unbelief. I have faith that you are my Saviour for eternity, help me have faith in your provision for now and for my church through me.