

MEDITATION

By Rev. J. H. Dudgeon

All of God's blessings are conditioned on prayer and without faithful fervent prayer there can be no acceptable service.

Perhaps as never before there is a crying need for a revival of the spirit and practice of prayer. A mighty revival whether local or world wide is impossible without prayer.

A speaker on the radio the other day said he did not believe we would win the war until we deserve to win and may I say we never will deserve to win until our lives are put right with God and that will only be done when we confess our sins, confess our helplessness and return to the Lord in humble faith in His word and serve Him as He has called us.

If the churches of the land would cease trying to work up a revival and earnestly strive to pray one down they would meet with infinitely more success. The truth is many professed Christians have lost faith in prayer and hence in a prayer meeting. Yes and even in a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God.

All too often we say prayers instead of praying. Paul no doubt had been saying prayers for years but the first time that scrip records him praying was in Damascus when the Lord told Ananias "Go to him for behold he prayeth". Some of us are sadly conscious of the fact that many so-called prayers have only been a performance.

This is no time for simply the forms of prayer; no time merely to repeat a short prayer. The sorrows of the soul are real. A question that arises in every mind and conscience, "Is there any alleviation for these in the habit of prayer? Can prayer reach its effects, the guilt that reformation cannot remove? Desires that dam body and soul; sin that destroys the happiness of homes and brings into families upheavals and infamy. And does it deal with the inward evil which defies every natural law and finds no solution in anything self made or human?" These are practical questions and they ring in every mind and conscience and they cry for a satisfying answer.

The Christian finds ample authority for prayer in the fact that Christ commands and commends it and is ever ready to listen to the supplications of His children.

Men of prayer and men of power; uncover the lives of men who have been successful soul-winners and it will be found that they prevailed with God often in the secret place. John Wesley had his prayer-room where he communed with the Most High before he spoke to the people. On the first part of his Diary is recorded this vow:

(1) I resolve to devote an hour morning and evening to private prayer, no pretence, no excuse whatever.

(2) To converse face to face with God in Righteousness.

Luther and his associates were men of prayer. They wrestled and prevailed. Luther heard that Melancthon was dying. When he approached the bedside the symptoms of death were quite apparent. Melancthon awoke himself and seeing Luther said "Oh Luther is this you? Why don't you let me depart in peace?" "We cannot spare you Phillip," was the reply. Luther fell upon his knees and wrestled with God for more than an hour for the recovery of his friend. Again Melancthon said, "Dear Luther why don't you let me depart in peace?" The reply was "We cannot spare you yet." Luther then ordered some nourishment which was refused with the question, "Dear Luther why will you not let me go home and be at rest?" Luther said "Take this soup or I will excommunicate you." He took the soup and soon regained his wonted strength. When Luther returned home he said to his wife, "God gave me my brother Melancthon back in direct answer to prayer."

John Knox was famous for his earnest prayers. He was heard at the great crisis to plead "O God give me Scotland or I die." Moody was a man of prayer. It was in secret communion with God that he received power to bring men to Christ. At the burning of Farel Hall in Chicago back in the sixties Mr. Moody having lost his parish with most of his earthly possessions, set out for New York with a feeling that his life was broken asunder. On the train he kept praying that God would endure him with more power for a greater work. His plea was "Make me willing O Lord

in the day of Thy power, willing to receive all that Thou wouldst bestow upon me."

In a room at the old Metropolitan hotel he kept up that prayer hour after hour kneeling, walking the floor pleading "O Lord make me willing to be strong for service as Thou wouldst have me." Towards evening a friend knocked and receiving no answer entered. Moody was standing with tearful eyes uplifted and saying softly in a broken voice, "O Lord stay now Thy hand, no more, no more." His prayer had been answered. God had fed his hungry soul and filled him even to the lips. And then began that marvellous work of Evangelism in America and Europe when souls came to Christ like doves flocking to their windows which must ever be a mystery to those who doubt the importance of the energizing influence of the spirit of God."

Judson impressed an empire for Christ and laid the foundations of God's kingdom in the heart of Burma.

Chinese Gordon use to put a handkerchief at the opening of his tent when he prayed thus saying to the world he must not be disturbed when he was talking with God. Let the soul alone in the "Closet" whisper its longings into the listening ears of the Eternal.

The practice of all the saints whose history we have recorded in the scriptures was prayer.

This is what Jacob did when he feared his brother Esau.

This is what Moses did when the people were ready to stone him in the wilderness. This is what Joshua did when Israel was defeated before the men of Ai. This is what David did when he was in danger. This is what Hezekiah did when he received the threatening letter from the king. This is what the church did when Peter was in prison. This is what Paul did when he was cast into the dungeon. So we might go on showing you from the word of God the potency of prayer.

These are times when the true Church of God should feel the need of divine help as never before. New problems confront the church. We seek to devise new methods, new plans, new organizations, new and more powerful machinery. What the church needs today is not these things but she needs men and women whom the Holy Ghost can use. Men of prayer, men mighty in prayer.

The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods but through men. He does not come on machinery but on men. He does not anoint plans but men, men of prayer.

We are truly living in stirring times. Every hour is in touch with momentous events. The curtain is about to fall on the history of a planet. The hour of temptation which is to try the world is upon us. The darkness deepens. A woe is upon the inhabitants of the earth for an adversary powerful and cunning has come down in a final attempt to deceive and destroy souls.

Apostolic Power is not manifest in the church today as it should be. The standard of godliness is far too low. There is not that close contact between the soul and God there should be. Church members should heed the admonition of Christ when He said men ought always to pray. But so many think if they pay the preacher he should do their praying. Many a pastor is laboring hard to keep the work going while a prayerless membership sits and criticises, taking no responsibility because the congregation is falling off and funds are running low. Flippantly they say "It is not my fault."

Let me charge it home to some of you sleepy lazy church members for the condition of things. A dozen Holy Ghost led men could change the whole works.

The late Dr. A. T. Pierson tells how a minister in a church in Scotland suddenly began to preach with unusual power. The whole congregation was aroused and sinners were marvelously converted. He himself did not understand the secret of his new endowment of evangelical power. However it came to him this fact that one poor old woman who was stone deaf but who came regularly to church and being unable to hear a word spent all the time in prayer for the preacher; asking the Lord to anoint him with the Holy Spirit and enable him to speak to the hearts of the people. Truly there is one key that unlocks heaven's gate. One secret that connects us with the throne of God and gives us access to the fountain of Blessing.

Prayer is not a performance. It

Saving Stamp Song For School Children

SCHOOL children throughout Canada are playing a splendid role in the purchase of War Savings Stamps and Certificates. In appreciation of this fact, and in order to further the good work, John Murray Gibbon, general publicity agent, Canadian Pacific Railway, noted Canadian author and poet, has written new and stirring words to that grand old tune, "Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching." The new song, which is now a school favorite, is: "Stamp, stamp, stamps that we are buying." The words in full follow.

In the schoolroom as I sit,
Thinking, soldier brave, of you,
And the thunder of the guns across the sea,
How I want to do my bit
When my lessons all are through,
And to help you fight to keep our country free!

CHORUS
Stamp, stamp, stamps that we are buying
Fill up folders one by one.
Soon we'll have enough to get
Bomb or tank or trim corvette,
And our savings will put Hitler on the run.

In the battlefield you stand
Where the deadly bombers dive,
And you need a Bren or anti-aircraft gun.
So to help you we have planned
With our stamps to make a drive,
And we'll raise a hundred million ere we're done!

CHORUS
So I think up some old chore
As within the school I sit,
And I know I'll never let a chance go by
That will earn a quarter more
And will help me do my bit
With the Savings Stamps that boys and girls may buy.

CHORUS
"She is a woman who has gone through a great deal for her belief."
"Indeed What is her belief?"
"She believes she can wear a No. 4 shoe on a No. 7 foot."

is a mighty power.
Prayer never dies. It changes the lives of individuals.
Prayer removes the humanly insurmountable barriers.
Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as a friend.
Prayer is more than meditation upon God. Through His word God talks to man. Through prayer man talks to God.

If prayer is anything to a Christian it is everything. We can do nothing without prayer.
Friend do you pray? Do you allow the hurry and bustle of life to rob you of communion with God. Oh seek the quiet place.
The hour of prayer. Nothing too great to talk to Him about. Nothing in life so small He will not listen to and will come to you.

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Quebec Calls Wartime Vacationist



THE perennial appeal of old Quebec City, its picturesque countryside, and northern lakes and woodlands, is receiving added impetus in the face of wartime conditions. With physical fitness a requisite for all forms of war enterprise, it is doubly necessary that this year's tourist make the most of his leisure hours—a demand that Quebec is admirably suited to satisfy.

At least three important factors are swinging the wartime tourist index in favor of Quebec. First, its proximity to large centres of population, many being just an overnight journey by Canadian Pacific Railway lines; secondly, its wide variety of tourist attractions; and thirdly, the splendid accommodation provided by the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec's world-famed hostelry.

In the city itself, the visitor can alternate his rambles through the historic Lower Town, the Plains of Abraham or Dufferin Terrace, with the present day diversions of golf, tennis, bowling, riding, dancing and other popular sporting and social activities. For Quebec's uptown section is as modern and lively as its Lower Town is ancient and tranquil.

The 300-year-old city offers sight-seeing opportunities second to none on the North American Continent. Century-old cathedrals, monuments, convents, shrines, ramparts, and huddled rows of quaint domered dwellings unfold in colorful array as the tourist, seated atop a horse-drawn calesche, rides through the narrow, winding streets of Lower Town.

It is north of the old walled city, however, where sportsmen and nature lovers find a real paradise. Lovely Laurentides Park, 4,000 acres of mountainous woodlands, lakes, rivers and streams provide new thrills in trout fishing, canoeing, swimming, hiking, and other joys of camp life. Attractive log cabins, fully equipped, are available for visiting tourists.

Other nearby points of interest for Quebec visitors include the Shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupre, Montmorency Falls, Lorette Indian Reservation, Quebec Bridge, the town of Levis, and the picturesque Isle of Orleans, where spinning wheels still hum and the "habitant" way of life follows in the footsteps of his fathers.

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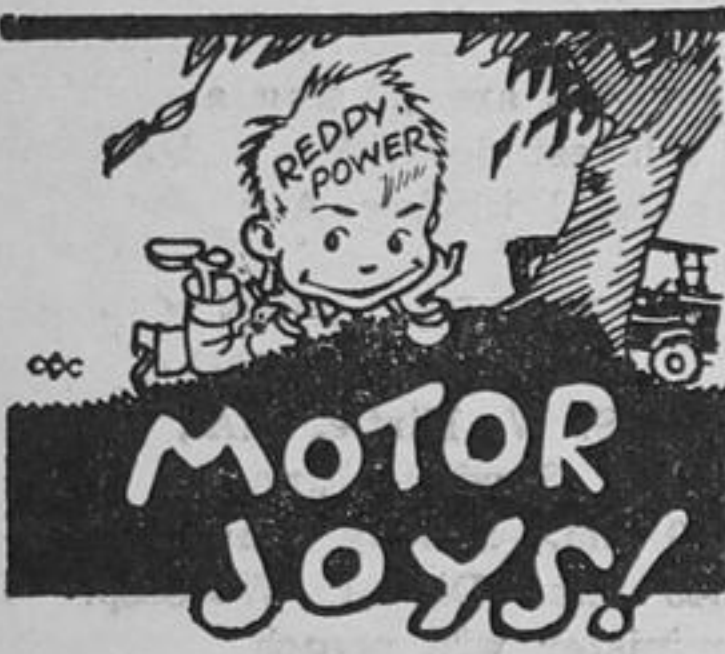
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