

Listen, World!

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY ELSIE ROBINSON

This Is a Talk About Prayer For People Who Don't Go to Church or Care for Religion.

It's easy enough to achieve a good complexion these days. A million magazine ads tell you how to do it. Likewise they besiege you with talks on Exercise, Diet, Memory Aids, Bridge Hands, Mah Jongg Directions, 3859 Ways To Reduce Your Redundancy, and tips on every other conceivable form of human interest and activity.

With one exception. And that exception seems to me more important in its influence on our success than anything else on earth. I refer to Prayer.

Let me hasten to assure you that this is not going to be a religious discussion. Church members do not need to be instructed in the exercise of prayer, and I would not know how to set about it if they did. Moreover, the great number of people who need prayer most have long since proven themselves to be indifferent to the religious argument. Therefore, why should I try to force it on them, since that isn't the angle from which I'm looking at the question anyway?

So I'm not addressing religious people, nor putting forth religious propaganda. I'm not even limiting these remarks to those who believe in God. I think it is well to believe in God, but I also think that it is advisable to pray whether you believe in God or not, and that it does you a lot of good.

I'm going to talk to folks who need help—to those who are hurt or discouraged—to those whom the world calls sinners and fools.

I have found that great numbers of such people read these articles, perchance because the one who writes it lays no claim to being anything but a

sinner and fool herself. To young, who are not only my largest audience but my most understanding kin, I direct these words. And I advise you to pray. "But nobody can hear you pray!" you laugh. "Why go through all those fool motions?"

You are entirely mistaken, Pal. Somebody does hear.

You, Yourself, hear.

That is enough.

Though you doubt and deny God and direct your plea and confession only to your own ears, the fact that you, yourself, hear, is enough to bring you comfort and help.

Though the wisest man on earth can give you no positive assurance of God's identity, the fact that you, yourself, hear, is sufficient to sustain you.

And even if it were proven that there were no God, and no immortality, and that we are but insignificant parts of a biological program, still it would be necessary and beneficial to pray.

For they are not fool motions. They have as direct and potent an influence on your well-being as eating beefsteaks or punching a bag, or swimming, or hiking, or breathing. They are the best sort of a "daily dozen," and without them your power is immeasurably reduced. Eliminate the spiritual element entirely and the physiological and psychological aspects are sufficiently convincing.

First of all, the relaxation and frankness of confession involved in prayer, sort things out for you. It makes you know yourself as you have never known yourself before. You see your

deeds and desires in a new and amazing life.

Of course this only happens if you're honest and orderly about the job. If you can't stop raising a rumpus or striking a pose long enough to be really frank with yourself, then prayer will do you no earthly good and you might as well stop reading this article at once. But if you are honest, it's a great experience. It gives your character a Turkish bath.

You'll be thunderstruck at the amount of grime you've been packing about with you—the layers of pretence and pettiness, pride and peevishness. You'll be so disgusted with your own condition that for a while at least, you'll stop picking on the other fellow.

"Yes, that may all be true," you agree, "and in that sense we all do give ourselves the once over now and then. But that's only self-analysis—that isn't prayer. Prayer means confession, but it also means asking for something And no one adopts prayer as a habit unless they believe they'll get what they ask for. And how can I ask if I don't believe there's anyone to ask—if I don't believe in God?"

Well, how do people ask who DO believe in God? They've never had tangible proof of His presence. They just talk out the pressure in their hearts, the pressure of sin and suffering. They take a chance on Someone hearing. And they accept the profits gratefully, even if they can't determine the source.

That's how people pray when they DO believe in God. That's how you pray when you don't believe in God.

You pray for results. And you do get them.

Yes, you do. If a "religious guy" told you that you might laugh in his face, Pal. But I'm not a "religious guy." I'm a hard working human like yourself, grabbing for anything that will help me, whether it be a better brand of breakfast bacon or a new kind of face powder. When I find something that produces the goods I'm sold on it—hard. That's why I'm sold on the idea of prayer as a beneficial exercise for any kind of a human, regardless of race, profession or creed.

I repeat—Prayer Gives Results.

How? I don't know.

Sometimes I imagine that when you compose yourself in prayer, reaching out your mind, opening your heart, you tap a vast reservoir of strength which is waiting there for your need. That seems a sane theory. You can't SEE air, but you breathe it, and you'd die without it. You can't FEEL gravity, but it drags you down. You can't TOUCH the magnetic currents, but they yank the needle around in your compass. You believe in these forces and use them. Then why should it seem absurd to believe in and use the forces which prayer invokes? Call them God or call them reflex action—what does it matter as long as you get the results?

Whether that's the solution or not, I do know this—Prayer calms and braces you. You come out of it stronger and cleaner than you went in. And humbler! It's surely an unpleasant experience to spread your spirit out in the silence and realize that it is the spirit of a clown or a beast or a coward. For your own self-respect, you want to make a better showing than that. And that's why people who pray honestly, grow better in spite of themselves.

I realize that all this will seem very unorthodox to certain people. They feel that the spiritual side of life should be invested with a great deal of pomp and sanctity. But, somehow, I can't see that the spiritual side of life is separate or distinct from any other side of life. My spiritual needs are one with my mental and physical needs. Being a busy person, I usually have to think or eat on the run. And so; I also pray on the run. And you can't invest that sort of a process with much pomp. Yet its very simplicity may commend it to other hard pressed souls.

Of course I'll have to confess that I don't always get what I ask for. But, just between you and me, I'm one of the world's worst askers. My biggest misfortunes have come from getting what I asked for. So I've come to realize that it isn't a calamity if some of my prayerful propositions are turned down. In fact, I seldom ask for anything definite any more. My prayers might be summarized into a formula which goes something like this—

"See! I've gone and been an idiot again! And I'm frightfully hurt and puzzled about it all! Give me a hand, won't you?"

Just like that. And something always gives me a hand. Maybe it's the reserve strength within myself. Maybe it is some natural force without myself, as yet unclassified. Maybe it's God. I don't know. And I don't care. All I know is that something always gives me a hand.

And so I believe in prayer. Next Weew—This Talk Is About Free Speech.



A Great Economy Achieved When McClary's Discovered "Stored Heat"

BUT, you may ask, did McClary's discover it?

Not exactly that—because the first "stored heat" cooking was probably with stones, heated in a fierce wood fire.

And "fireless cookery" has been developed to some extent in this age.

But for all practical purposes of cookery, in perfecting and applying the "stored heat" principle to the electric range—McClary's are the discoverers of the fact that great cooking heat can be retained and "stored"—from electrical current—long after the current has been turned "off".

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OR IF YOU YOUR FRIENDS WOULD STAGGER WITH YOUR WEIGHTY BRAIN, BY LONG HOURS OF STUDY YOU THE RANKS OF FAME ATTAIN.

ALL OUR LIFE IS LAID OUT FOR US LIKE AN AUTO AND YOU'D THINK THAT GAINING BLISS WOULD BE THE SOFTEST SNAP.

THAT'S FINE FOR AN ACHING BACK BUT HOW ABOUT AN ACHING HEART?

VET THE LOT OF MAN CONTINUES FULL OF GRIEF AND GLOOM, AND HE'S CHASED BY TROUBLE FROM THE CRADLE TO THE TOMB.

SAGE ADVICE IS SHOWERED ON US FREELY AS THE AIR, VET THERE'S NAUGHT THAT HELPS US LIKE THE WISE OLD PLAN OF PRAYER.

IF YOU THINK THE "DAILY DOZEN" WILL YOUR WAIST CONTROL, WHY DENY THAT EXERCISE WILL BENEFIT YOUR SOUL?

ELsie ROBINSON.

A GOOD GOLD AREA.

Discovery in Northwestern Quebec Proves Very Important.

Cobalt, Sept. 21.—All doubt as to the merit of the Rouyn gold area has been cleared up in the opinion of prospectors returning from north-

western Quebec, where the discovery on the Chadbourne claim of the Norada mines is declared to have the appearance of one of the most important ever made in the dominion. The mineralized zone of four hundred feet in width and close to a quarter of a mile in length presents

all the aspects of being such as will attract attention from all parts of the world. Gold is visible in varying conditions, some times appearing in quartz, some times associated with cubes of pyrite, large and small, sometimes in the accompanying altered rocks. Concentration of

values occur in big parallel fractures, ranging up to twenty feet in width.

Ideals are the ends of roads, and the roads are perfectly passable. We can be busy without being useful.

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By BECK



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