

# Nuts and Bolts

## Practical Considerations

### Introduction

#### I. Conditions of prayer – to help us find the way, like a map

- a) **Ask in faith** (James 1:6-7) "But let him ask in faith with out any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,"
- b) **Ask according to His will** (1 John 5: 14-15) "And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."
- c) **Abide in Him and His words abide in you** (John 15:7) "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.
- d) **In His name** (John 15:16) "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you."
- e) **Ask with right motives** (James 4:3) "You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures."
- f) **Persevere** (Luke 18: 1-8) "Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,"  
*George Mueller praying for friends.* God has his own time table.

#### II. Barriers to prayer

- a) **Unconfessed sin** (Is.59:2) "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."
- b) **Unforgiveness; bitterness** (Matt.18:34-35) "In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."
- c) **Not honoring your wife** (1 Peter 3:7) "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker

partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."

**d) Rebellion:** witchcraft (1 Sam.15:23) " For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry."

**e) Not knowing the Scriptures**

Matthew 22:29 But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the **Scriptures**, or the power of God."

### **III. Different Kinds of Prayer Activities**

Prayer vigil

Fasting and prayer

Half day in prayer

Concert of prayer

Prayer walk

Missions prayer trip

40 days in prayer

He is leading you to joy. (John 16:24) "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full.

### **IV. Spiritual warfare: The World, the Flesh, and the Devil**

#### **A. Our Perspective**

**Caution, but not terror** Like our attitude toward germs (danger) or roaches (pest). If we take care to be close to the Lord the enemy can only harm us with the Lord's permission.

(2 Cor. 12:7) And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself!

**Application:** Reject fear.

Heb. 2:14-15 Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

Luke 12:4-5 And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!

### **Deal with it, but don't emphasize it.**

We should glance at the enemy and gaze at Jesus.

Hebrews 12:2 ...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **Be realistic, not fatalistic nor triumphalistic**

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Victory is never final, failure seldom fatal. (Churchill)

Need to maintain a balance between thinking that all is lost or that the whole battle is over.

## **B. Our weapons**

(2 Cor.10:3-5) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

1. The name of Jesus/spiritual authority
2. The Word of God (truth)
3. Holiness (righteousness)
4. Evangelism
5. Forgiveness
6. Unity/Reconciliation
7. Thanksgiving/Praise (faith)

### **Are you known in hell?**

(Acts 19:13-16) But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." And seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

## **V. Importance revealed in Scripture**

- a) Zacharias in the temple (Lk. 1) place, hour, person, symbol, community
- b) Simeon and Anna (Lk. 2) Were both people of prayer
- c) Baptism of Jesus (Lk. 3:21) "while He was praying, heaven was opened..."
- d) Choosing of the 12 (Lk. 6:12) Whole night in prayer
- e) Transfiguration (Lk.9) And while He was praying...
- f) Teach us to pray (Lk.11) While He was praying...
- g) Raising Lazarus (Jn. 11:41-42) He prayed
- h) John 17
- i) Gethsemane (Lk.22)
- j) 3 of the last 7 words of Christ
- k) Road to Emmaus – recognized when He prayed, not when He instructed
- l) Coming of Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14) After 10 days of 120 people praying
- m) Acts 3 - Hour of prayer; paralytic healed
- n) Acts 4 - Prayer – earthquake
- o) Acts 6:4 Election of deacons, so elders could pray
- p) Acts 7 Stephen dies praying
- q) Acts 8 Apostles prayed for Holy Spirit on Samaritans
- r) Acts 9 Inquire for a man named Saul for behold, he is praying
- s) Acts 9:40 Peter prayed and raised Tabitha
- t) Acts 10 Cornelius – prayed continually; Peter at hour of prayer
- u) Acts 12:5 Peter in prison – But prayer for him was being made.
- v) Acts 13 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey started while “ministering to the Lord”

w) James 5 - 7 times: Suffering? Cheerful? Sick? Pray!

x) Revelation 1:10 John “in the Spirit on the Lord’s day”

Do you think He's trying to tell us something?

**Close:** Praying with all your heart

Zeal should consume us. Strength, intensity. Call on the Lord.

We're going to feel pretty bad if we get to heaven and realize it was all true.

All we do is meant to lead you to a wide place of grace and joy, not a narrow place of formulas or recipes.

You must learn to pray. Your life depends on it. It is your spiritual oxygen. Not to pray is a crime against heaven.

Grace: you were made to do this. He is your life. Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden.

Review these messages. Let the Lord's promises and encouragement sink in. This is life and health and joy and peace.