

HIS IN A . . . LIFE OF PRAYER

by

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CHAPTER SEVEN

THE APPEAL THE CALL TO A LIFE OF PRAYER

Our God **“prepared for him that waiteth for Him”** (Isaiah 64:4).

Nothing is so greatly needed today as a new demonstration of the power of God in human affairs. Men doubt His love, His power, His purposes of grace in Christ Jesus, yea, His very existence. In this state of doubt they flout, not alone the Gospel invitation, but the moral law itself. In consequence, evil springs up, unrebuked, on all sides.

While men are busy removing the note of authority from the Christian faith, reducing God’s Word to the level of literature, sacred and valuable but a mere record of human experience, the masses wander in the broad fields of indifference or wallow in the deep slough of spiritual despair. **“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”** They can make their appeal to One **“whose arm is not shortened that it cannot save.”**

The situation is such as to drive the devoted servant of the Lord to his knees, conscious of utter impotence, zealous for His honor, pleading as did the Psalmist of old:

“It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law” (Psalm 119:126).

Such a plea inevitably turns back upon the pleader as a call to consistent, persistent prayer. Do we really long to see God work? Very well; He meets us with the reminder that He **“worketh for him that waiteth for Him.”**

Christians are perplexed, burdened, distressed, divided.

- We dare not drift with the current.
- We must know His mind.
- We must be led of His Spirit.
- We must let Him guide us into His paths of peace.

Moreover, this personal touch of our Father’s hand in our affairs is just the revivifying of faith that we need. Nothing will so restore the experience of First Century power in Twentieth Century living. All our perplexities must be a call to prayer that He may work.

Prayer as a Life-Calling

Men give themselves to business, to various professions, preaching, teaching, whatever it may be, in the more or less serious and settled conviction that they are engaged in that to which the Lord has appointed them in life. But in all these centuries how many have looked upon prayer as their calling, their chief occupation, their business through which they might enter into partnership with Christ to get things done?

Francis of Assisi in Italy; Martin Luther in Germany; John Knox in Scotland; George Mueller in England; David Brainerd in America—these undoubtedly did so. J. Hudson Taylor and D. E. Hoste of China, have made prayer their serious business for the accomplishing of the Lord's service.

“Praying (John) Hyde” of India exercised himself in prayer as the business of his life.

Doubtless many more should be mentioned, and many others there are whose exploits through prayer will be known only in the glory. Yet, why, we are constrained to ask in view of the facts of Christian faith and life—why should not every follower of Christ be outstandingly characterized by the designation: “**Behold, he prayeth**”?

If we are “**filled with the Spirit,**” will He not be in us the Spirit of Prayer? Will He not inevitably prompt us to a Life of Prayer?

Who of our own day and generation will hear the Master saying to them, very personally, “**I have chosen you, and ordained you**’ to join Me in the work of prayer”?

MY PRAYER-COVENANT

“In response to the call of God, for the manifesting of His glory and the meeting of my fellowman's need, I here and now dedicate myself to a Life of Prayer. This I do, trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for the supply of faith, guidance, and grace to persevere.”

Signed _____

Date _____

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