

A PRACTICAL PRIMER ON PRAYER

by

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CHAPTER NINE -

PRAYER PARTNERS

"Strive together with me in your prayers to God" (Romans 15:30).

ONE OF THE GREATEST joys of prayer is having a prayer partner. Usually in a family there are many different degrees of spirituality, and the more devout person does not feel free to pray fully about everything on his heart. He yearns for someone with whom to pray, and a prayer partner with equal spiritual yearning is priceless.

There are strong promises for prayer partners to claim. **"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"** (Matthew 18:19, 20).

Time after time after I had asked someone to pray with me, I have been startled by the swiftness of the answer. Perhaps I had been struggling a long time; then someone prayed with me, and lo, the answer came.

Why not ask the Lord to send you a prayer partner? It may be a member of your family. It may be a friend. But whoever it is, you will find that praying with him will make this the most beautiful friendship in your life.

All of our friendships would be beautified by more prayer. There should be more spontaneous praying. When we discuss the problems of our friends, we ought to stop talking and pray. Prayer should be as natural among Christians as talking one to another.

So if GOD gives you a prayer partner, be informal if possible when you pray with him. Talk about something, pray about it, and then talk again.

It is said of D. E. Hoste, general director of the China Inland Mission from 1900 to 1935, that he would stop abruptly in the midst of prayer, make a note or two about something that had occurred to him, and then return to his praying. Or if a mid-morning cup of cocoa or tea were brought to him, he would courteously accept it and go on praying, taking occasional sips from his cup meanwhile.

He had learned the secret of accepting GOD's presence all the time.

If you cannot see your partner often, you might form the partnership anyway and telephone or even write each other, giving requests and comparing answers. This form of partnership is especially helpful in praying for a Sunday school class. Often a class is large, and there are many names to remember. You can give your friend half of the class as his prayer responsibility.

When the Lord has given you a prayer partner, watch out! Temptation always follows blessing. Immediately after the Lord was baptized, He was tempted by the devil; so after we have taken a step forward in the Lord, the devil tempts with ill will, tiredness, or with whatever sin it is that most easily besets us. He will try to break up the partnership if he can.

My Life - Psalm 27:1

At Thy dear feet, once pierced for me
With cruel nails upon the tree,
I lay my life for use by Thee;
Henceforth to know no anxious care.
With cheerful heart my load to bear,
My sole resort - believing prayer.

No worry, lest my work be stayed;
No hurry, lest I be delayed,
By haste - to prayerlessness betrayed;
Not careful to be praised of man,
But only to be taught Thy plan
What Thou wilt have me do, I can.

No greed of gain, for Thou hast said
That if the beasts and birds are fed,
Thy children shall not lack for bread.
How sweet to live alone in Thee,
In danger to Thy wings to flee,
The name of JESUS all my plea!

Before Thee let Thy servant stand,
To watch Thine eye, Thy beckoning hand
And promptly move at Thy command.
So shall my life be one sweet day,
Lit up by Heaven's cloudless ray,
A walk with GOD, a radiant way!

- A. T. Pierson

~ end of chapter 9 ~