

## STATEMENTS ON PRAYER AND EMPOWERED MINISTRIES

Inspired writings and experience make it clear that two principles must be applied for all our ministries to be most fully used and empowered by the Holy Spirit: 1) Much personal and united prayer; 2) Much lay member involvement.

1. "What the Lord did for His people in that time (early church), it is just as essential, and more so, that He do for His people today. All that the apostles did, every church member today is to do.\* And we are to work with as much more fervor, to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit in as much greater measure, as the increase of wickedness demands a more decided call to repentance." 7T p. 33
2. **"A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work"** . . . Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessings. **A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer.\*"** 1SM p. 121
3. "At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan's whole host trembles." 1T p. 346
4. "It is part of God's plan to grant us in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow if we did not thus ask." GC p. 525
5. "It is the order of God that those who bear responsibilities should often meet together to counsel with one another and pray earnestly for that wisdom which He alone can impart." Unitedly make known your troubles to God. Talk less: much precious time is lost in talk that brings no light. Let brethren unite in fasting and prayer\* for the wisdom that God has promised to supply liberally." 1T p. 624
6. *"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 "Ask of Me, and I will answer your requests."\**

**The promise is made on condition that the united prayers of the church are offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected a power greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer.\*** The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love of God and for one another. —Letter 32, 1903, p. 5 (To Brother and Sister Farnsworth, January 28, 1903.) White Estate Washington D.C. October 22, 1979 (9MR 303.3) —*MR No. 748 The Power of United Prayer.*

7. **"The greatest victories gained for the cause of God are not the result of labored argument, ample facilities, wide influence, or abundance of means;\*** they are gained in the **audience chamber with God,\*** when with earnest, agonizing faith men lay hold upon the mighty arm of power." GW p. 259
8. The word of the living God is not merely written, but spoken. The Bible is God's voice speaking to us, just as surely as though we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what awe would we search its precepts! The reading and contemplation of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Infinite One. 6T p. 393
9. "An intensity, such as never before was seen, is taking possession of the world. In amusement, in moneymaking, in the contest for power, in the very struggle for existence, there is a terrible force that engrosses body and mind and soul. In the midst of this maddening rush, God is speaking. He bids us come apart and commune with Him. **'Be still, and know that I am God.'**"\* Ps. 46:10

**“Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real communion with God. They are in too great haste. With hurried steps they press through the circle of Christ’s loving presence, pausing perhaps a moment within the sacred precincts, but not waiting for counsel. They have no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work.\***

“These workers can never attain the highest success until they learn the secret of strength. They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual power. They need the uplifting influence of His Spirit. Receiving this, they will be quickened by fresh life. The wearied frame and tired brain will be refreshed; the burdened heart will be lightened.

**“Not a pause for a moment in His presence, but personal contact with Christ, to sit down in companionship with Him—this is our need.”\* ED p. 260-261**

10. *“Parents have a great and responsible work to do, and they may well inquire: ‘Who is sufficient for these things?’ But God has promised to give wisdom to those that ask in faith, and He will do just as He said He would. He is pleased with the faith that takes Him at His Word.”\**

*“The mother of Augustine prayed for her son’s conversion. She saw no evidence that the Spirit of God was impressing his heart, but she was not discouraged. She laid her finger upon the texts, presenting before God His own words, and pleaded as only a mother can. Her deep humiliation, her earnest importunities, her unwavering faith, prevailed and the Lord gave her the desires of her heart. Today He is just as ready to listen to the petitions of His people. His hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy that it cannot hear; and if Christian parents seek Him earnestly, He will fill their mouths with arguments and for His name’s sake will work mightily in their behalf in the conversion of their children.”\* 5T p. 322-323*

11. *“When the mind dwells upon self, it is turned away from Christ, the source of strength and life. Hence, it is Satan’s constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Saviour and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ.\**

The pleasures of the world; life’s cares, perplexities, and sorrow; the faults of others; or your own faults and imperfections—to any or all of these he will seek to divert the mind. Do not be misled by his devices. Many who are really conscientious and who desire to live for God, he too often leads to dwell upon their own faults and weaknesses and thus by separating them from Christ, he hopes to gain the victory. We should not make self the center and indulge anxiety and fear as to whether we shall be saved. All this turns the soul away from the source of our strength. Commit the keeping of your soul to God, and trust in Him. **Talk and think of Jesus. Let self be lost in Him!**\* SC p. 71-72

12. *“The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on Him, not on the ministers.” 7T p. 19*
13. *“There is no influence in our land more powerful to poison the imagination, to destroy religious impressions, and to blunt the relish for the tranquil pleasures and sober realities of life, than theatrical amusements. The love of these scenes increases with every indulgence as the desire for intoxicating drink strengthens with its use. The only safe course is to shun the theater and every other questionable amusement.” 4T p. 653*
14. *“The secret of success is the union of divine power with human effort. Those who achieve the greatest results are those who rely most implicitly upon the almighty arm. The man who commanded, ‘Sun, stand still upon Gibeon; and thou, moon, in the Valley of Ajalon,’ is the man who for hours lay prostrate upon the earth in prayer in the camp at Gilgal. The men of prayer are the men of power.” PP p. 509*

\*Note: All **bolding**, *italicizing*, and underlining in this document are supplied by the compiler.

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