

Pray for:

- ✿ Japan: That the disaster would cause the Japanese to repent of their sins and seek God; that the Lord would console the suffering Japanese with the consolation of Christ; that the gospel of the kingdom would run in an unprecedented way; the strengthening of the Lord's testimony through the churches in Japan.
- ✿ Israel: The care of new contacts, including one family contacted through Bibles for Canada on the Internet; the preparation of Hebrew gospel tracts for Israelis; preparations for two couples to attend the FTTA and FTTMA.
- ✿ Warming of the hearts of people who live around the meeting hall in Montreal, as we prepare to distribute tracts in the neighbourhood.
- ✿ English-speaking saints in Montreal: for families to be built together and form vital groups; for a house-to-house church life; blending among all the languages; that the parents would raise their children in a proper way; that the YP and children grow up to be useful vessels.
- ✿ The renovation plan for the meeting hall. The first step is to fix the roof, then the service and fellowship rooms.
- ✿ Pray for various local needs, including saints in Montreal, contacts, and those in need of care and shepherding.

Weekly Readings

- ✿ New Testament Recovery Version with footnotes: Week 72, Col 2:1 – 4:18
- ✿ HWMR: Crystallization-Study of Isaiah, Vol 2, Week 3
- ✿ Truth Equipping Series – Ministry Literature Sets Reading Schedule: *The Economy of God*, Chapter 23

Announcements

- ✿ The college meeting this coming week has been moved to Monday Mar 21 because of college saints from Seattle are visiting Monday and Tuesday. This coming college meeting will still be at Andrea's, but starting Mar 30 it will be at the sisters house. It starts at 6:30pm with dinner.
- ✿ There will be an International Memorial Day Conf. in Dallas, Texas, from May 27-30, 2011. Hotel cost \$83/night, Children's service provided. Please register with Monica
- ✿ The Live Summer Training in Anaheim will be from July 4th to 9th. Please register with Monica by May 1st.

Lord's Day Lunch Serving and Clean-up Schedule

Mar 20	✿ Serving: N.D.G ✿ Cleaning: Chinese (East, Central)
27	✿ Serving: French/Spanish ✿ Cleaning: English ✿ Whole meeting hall cleaning
April 3	✿ Serving: Chinese East ✿ Cleaning: French, Spanish, and university
10	✿ Serving: Chinese West ✿ Cleaning: Chinese (North, South, West)

Upcoming Events

- ✿ April 1-3, 2011, Anaheim, CA: **International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones.**
- ✿ April 22-25, 2011, Meeting hall: **Local Conference.**
- ✿ May 12-14, 2011, Karei Deshe on the Sea of Galilee, Israel: **Spring Conference in Israel**
- ✿ May 27-30, 2011, Dallas, TX: **International Memorial Day Conf.**
- ✿ July 4-9, 2011, Anaheim, CA: **Live Summer Training**

This Week's Activities

MARCH 20 LORD'S DAY	✿ 10am to 12:30 pm, Meeting hall: Lord's table and prophesying meetings ✿ 12:30pm to 1:30pm, Meeting hall: Love feast
21 Monday	✿ 6:30pm, Andrea's place: College meeting
22 Tuesday	✿ 7:30pm: District prayer meetings at various homes
23 Wednesday	
24 Thursday	✿
25 Friday	✿ Various home meetings (Chinese/ English / French)
26 Saturday	✿ 7pm – 9:30pm, Meeting hall: Young People Meeting

Prayer

Scripture Reading: John 16:24; James 4:2-3; Luke 11:9-10; Psa. 66:18; Mark 11:24; Luke 18:1-8

D. Believing (continued)

3. *The Lord's Act—God Has Done (continued)*

Consider a simple illustration. A person has just heard the gospel. If you ask him, "Have you believed in the Lord Jesus?", he may answer, "I have." You may then ask, "Are you saved?" If he says, "I will be saved," you know that he is not saved. Suppose you ask him again, "Do you really believe that you are saved?" If he says, "I will surely be saved," you know that he is still not saved. You may want to ask him again, "Are you really sure that you will be saved?" If he answers, "I think I will," his words do not sound like someone who is saved. If one says, "I will be saved," "I will surely be saved," or "I think I will surely be saved," there is no guarantee that he is saved. If the person says, "I am saved," he has the right tone. Once a man believes, he is saved. Any faith, if it is faith at all, believes in what has been accomplished. For example, once a person possesses faith at the time of his salvation, he immediately says, "Thank God, I have received." Let us lay hold of these three things—God can, God wills, and God has done.

Faith is not a psychological exercise. Faith is receiving God's word and believing with much assurance that God can, God wills, and God has done. If you have not received His word, do not take the spiritual risk of trying to tempt God. The exercise of psychology is not faith. Take illness as an example: All who are healed through genuine faith are not afraid of a medical checkup (Mark 1:44). The result of a medical checkup for those who have experienced a genuine divine healing will prove that it was a genuine healing rather than something psychological.

When new believers learn to pray, they should pray in two stages. In the first stage they should pray until they receive a promise. They should pray until they receive God's word. All prayers begin by asking God for something. Such prayers can continue for a period of time, sometimes lasting for three to five years. One needs to keep asking. Some prayers are answered quickly, while other prayers continue to go unanswered for years. This is the period of time when one needs to continue to ask. The second stage begins from the time one receives a promise and extends to the time the promise is realized. It begins from the time one receives God's word and extends to the time His word is fulfilled. This stage is not for praying, but for praising. In the first stage one prays, but in the second stage one praises. In the first stage he prays until he receives a word. In the second stage he praises the Lord continuously until the word is fulfilled. This is the secret to prayer.

Some people only know two points about prayer: First, they pray on their knees for what they do not have, and second, they have it; God has given it to them. Suppose I ask for a watch from the Lord, and after a few days the Lord gives me a watch. There are only two events: being without something and having something. Some do not realize that there is another event in between these two—the event of faith. Suppose I pray for a watch and one day say, "Thank God, He has already heard my prayer." Although my hands are still empty, I am clear within that I already

have the watch. Indeed, after a few days the watch arrives. We cannot be concerned with just two events: not having and then having. We must be concerned with a third event—an additional event between not having and having, in which God gives us a promise, and then we believe and rejoice over it. Perhaps we have to wait three days before we actually receive the watch. But in our spirit, we received it three days ago already. A Christian should experience this kind of receiving in the spirit. If a person never experiences this kind of receiving in the spirit, he does not have faith.

We hope that new believers will know what faith is, and we hope that they will learn to pray. Perhaps, you have prayed continually for three or five days, a month, or even a year, and still your hands are empty. But deep in your heart, you have a little assurance that the matter will eventually be accomplished. At that time you should begin to praise God. You should continue praising Him until you have received the thing in your hand. Simply put, the first stage is to pray from nothing to having faith, and the second stage is to praise from having faith to actually receiving.

Why should we divide our prayers into these two stages? Suppose a person prays from having nothing to having faith. If he continues to pray, he may lose his faith. Once a person has acquired faith, he should begin praising. If he continues to pray, he may pray away his faith and not receive anything in the end. "You will have it" is an actual having in the hands, while "you have received it" is a having in the spirit. If the faith is already there, but the things have not materialized, one has to remind God with praise; he should not try to remind Him with prayer. If God has said that He will give us something, what else do we need to say? If we have the inward assurance that "we have received it," what more do we need to pray for? Many Christians have the experience that as soon as their prayer strikes faith, they can no longer continue to pray. They can only say, "Lord! I praise You." They have to keep their faith and praise, "Lord! I praise You. You have heard my prayer. I praise You because You answered my prayer a month ago." If you do this, you will receive. Unfortunately, some people do not have the knowledge. God has already promised them something, yet they still pray. In the end their prayer drives away their faith. This is a great loss.

The word in Mark 11:24 is too precious. In the whole New Testament, we cannot find another passage that explains faith as clearly as this one. "All things that you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and you will have them." If a person sees this, he will know what prayer really is, and prayer will be a powerful tool in his hands.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series #11 by Watchman Nee