

Gleanings from the Missionary

THE KOKENZIE FAMILY
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ANSWERED PRAYERS

Prayer—it seems like one of the easiest things a Christian can do, but often is found to be the most difficult. Sadly, men find it difficult because they have devalued it. God, however, who with extravagant promises guarantees answered prayer, has also given some very plain guidelines. Lest we mar our confidence in what God can do through prayer, we must adhere to these guidelines. The one praying must make sure he: (1) is saved (Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 10:9-13); (2) is not regarding iniquity in his heart (Psa. 66:18); (3) is asking according to God's will (I Jn. 5:14-16); (4) has already pardoned those who have done something against him (Mk. 11:25); (5) is praying sincerely, without hypocrisy (Matt. 6:5-8); (6) is seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33); and, (7) is praying in faith, without wavering (He. 11:6; Js. 1:5-8).

USELESS PRAYERS

“Christians were once revolutionists—moral, not political—but we have lost our revolutionary character. It is no longer either dangerous or costly to be a Christian.... Grace has become...cheap. We are busy these days proving to the world that they can have all the benefits of the Gospel without any of the inconvenience to their customary way of life. It's 'all this and heaven too.'... For this reason it is useless for... believers to spend long hours begging God to send revival. Unless we intend to reform, we may as well not pray. Unless praying men have the insight and faith to amend their whole way of life to conform to the New Testament patters, there can be no true revival” (*Keys to the Deeper Christian Life*, A. W. Tozer, 1984, pp. 22-23).

THE GREATEST THOUGHT BOB JONES, SR. EVER HAD

“I am going to tell you the greatest thought I ever had. It is a simple little thing. One time as a country boy I was walking down a road. Suddenly it occurred to me that I had to live somewhere forever. Of course, I had known that. The Bible taught me that. My mother had told me that. The Sunday School teacher had told me that. But I had never realized it before. It dawned on me in a moment that I had to live somewhere forever. I said to myself, ‘It doesn't matter whether I want to live or not. I may prefer to die and sleep a dreamless sleep in the silent dust, but I can't do it. I've got to live. I've got to live as long as God Almighty lives. I've got to live until God dies. I've got to live until angels sing a funeral dirge over His grave. Like it or not like it, I've got to live.’ I said, ‘Since I've got to live, I had better learn how to live’” (*Things I Have Learned*, Bob Jones, 1986, p. 11).

POWER AND PRAYER

“If you are strangers to prayer you are strangers to the greatest source of power known to human beings” (*Billy Sunday: The Man and His Message With His Own Words Which Have Won Thousands for Christ*, William Ellis, 1914, p. 277).