



NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

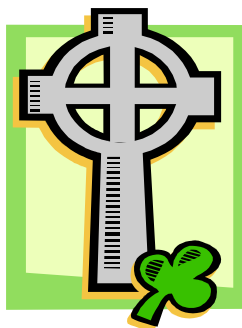
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Dear Friends,

A few months ago we spent several sessions of Nightlight wrestling with the subject of justice. I was not satisfied with it but I had to bring it to a close, though I felt I had not made clear what I was hoping to communicate. Then I spent many sessions on the sovereignty of God and our free will, and again. I felt as if I had only started when it seemed time to change course. It is really rather silly to think I would feel either was a task that could be completed. The best we can ever do is offer our small contribution to such vast issues.

But more than any other, we have spent our time unpacking the issue of prayer. After eight, maybe ten sessions, I laid it aside too. But on this issue I never entertained the idea that I might fully cover the subject. Prayer is the expression of our inner lives in relationship to God. But prayer is also as large as the cosmos. I only offered what I hoped would be encouragements to help us engage more deeply in our own private adventure in prayer. And this is one we could all spend ages unpacking with each other, and probably will one day.

No matter what I focus on in our teaching ministry, I come back over and over to this one thing. God has called us as a study community of **Nightlight** to do far more than merely gather information on this or that topic. I believe more than ever, we are to be a LIGHT in the NIGHT. We are to be a praying assembly, a governmental ruling army of people set in place by the Holy Spirit for intercession and warfare.

The night is now far spent. The day is approaching. Time is running out for the evil system of this present age. And like Daniel, who was studying the prophecies of Jeremiah and realized the time was now present for God to fulfill His word through Jeremiah about the restoration of Jerusalem, so we are being made aware of a similar time. Daniel didn't roll up the scroll and passively lay it aside trusting in fate. He did just the opposite. He took the words of the prophet as a directive, and set himself to fast and pray. He literally threw himself into the very battle by fighting on his knees.

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This action of one man on the earth set in motion a war in the heavenlies (see Daniel 9-10). What occurred in the invisible realm, which directly moved events on earth was first set in motion by the Holy Spirit in Daniel. This is the hour for you to throw aside all that keeps you from prayer, including condemnation, passivity, or unbelief. Remember, the more powerfully prayer moves through you the more pressure you will experience as the enemy tries to discourage you from prayer. If you feel pressure against you to not pray, THAT should be your signal to PRAY!!!

Turn aside from your normal day to day activities on a regular basis to BE with Him. It is most often in the quiet of His presence that we come to know the place we are to take in prayer as we join together to advance His kingdom in truth and love.



PRAYING, RESTING, STRIVING... WHICH?

In the imagery of the tabernacle, which is a glorious map of the mysteries of God for us, the priests who stood and ministered to the Lord wore linen instead of wool, for they were not to sweat when ministering before the Lord. I have heard some good teaching on this, reminding us that His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Some folks turn prayer into a grueling, begging, self-flagellating ordeal. God hates that, and has given us a clear image of what He wants when we come to Him. BUT... There IS a kind of prayer that is not ministering to the Lord but working WITH God in battle against His enemies. And that kind of praying is not symbolized by cool 'no sweat' peacefulness. This other kind is referred to by Paul as *striving*. This word in Greek is (you will love this) where we get our word *agony*. Now before you get freaked out, the word *agon* in Greek is the word for 'a gathering.' And it eventually came to mean 'a gathering where conflict is encountered' or 'the games.' So without getting into more detail than you may want, the words *fight - labor - battle - or strive* - all work together to give us a picture. *Agony* in the Greek NT means to 'strive towards a victory,' not to merely *agonize*. There is a kind of prayer that is *striving* alongside God against an opponent of God. What form this takes is not up to me to describe. I have mentioned some experiences that would come under this heading, but it is most likely very private and personal to each of us. I hope to re-visit this subject in far more detail soon. But as Mary reminds me, I say that far too often on far too many subjects and seldom get to them. But I still HOPE to... without striving :)



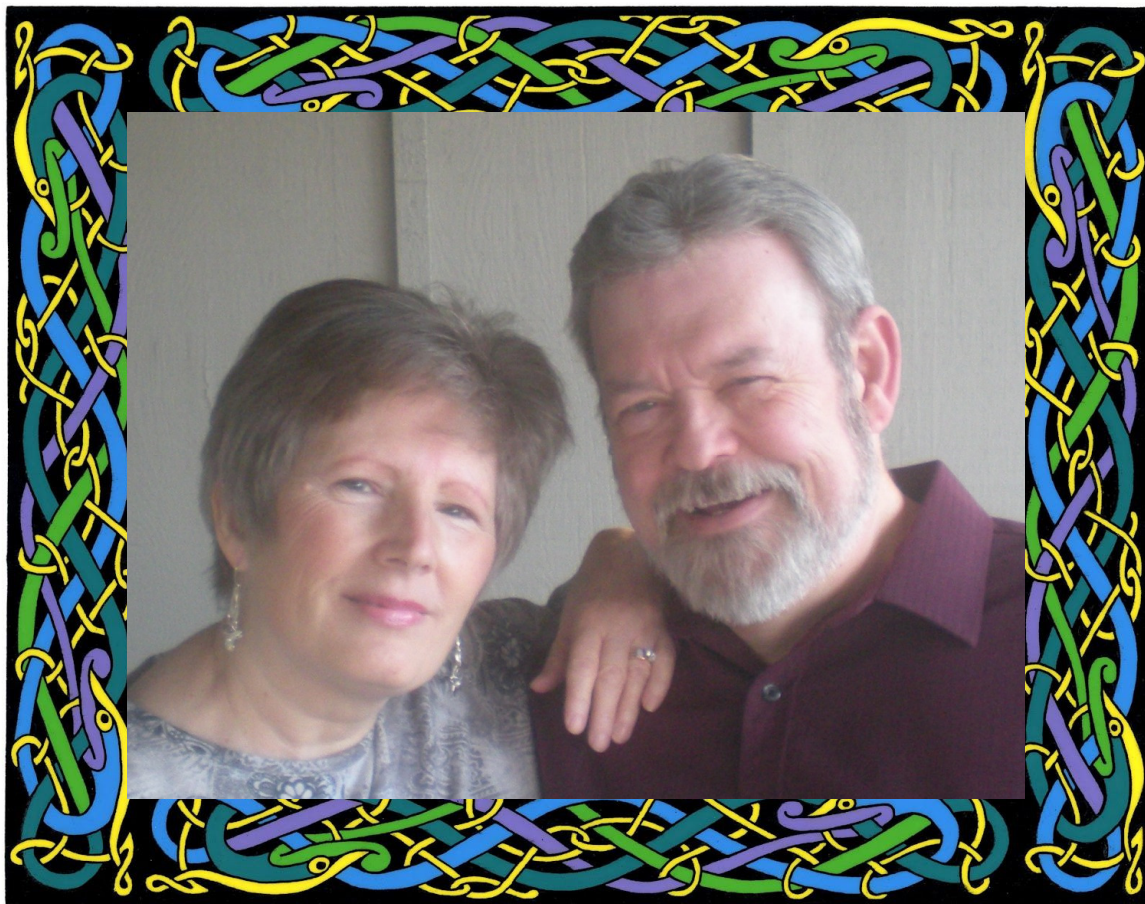
Closing Thoughts...

When you pray, go into your room,
close the door,
and pray to you Father,
who is unseen...

This is how you should pray:

Our Father in Heaven...

(Matthew 6,9-13)



In His Presence, Clay & Mary

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