



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,



Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:9-13



Since we are certainly in a time of war, I have taken great comfort and instruction from men and women of God who were carrying the weight of ministry when facing times of great national and international struggle. One such treasury is a book written by P.T. Forsyth during the same period as Oswald Chambers' **Baffled to Fight Better**, which I reference in our Job study. I want to quote a few of Forsyth's instructions to his war-torn people, taken from **The Soul of Prayer** published in 1917. The wisdom is as contemporary as the current battles are, and has helped me many times to press through that dark resistant barrier that wants to keep me from praying. I hope you will keep these words handy for that same aim. Each sentence is a book. Take the time to unpack these words of wisdom from a past way of speaking. Drink them slowly; don't rush.

We do not simply spread our thoughts out before God, but we offer them to Him, press them upon Him, and this sacrifice of the fruit of our lips becomes a kind of 'pressure on God' that He welcomes.

This grows by exercise. First it groans, but soon it glides...There are thoughts that seem to think themselves in us, prayers that pray themselves in us...this pressure on us is kept up till the soul's union with God is set. Instant relief to us would not establish the habit of prayer. 'Fast acting' prayer may result in developing faith in prayer instead of faith in God.

Prayer can show us how far from God we are. We realize our greatest need and correct it all at the same time.

Words fail us in prayer more than anywhere else.

Our certainty about Him is surrounded with much uncertainty about His process of doing things. But we can't 'pray wrong' for God will correct us as we pray regularly.

It would paralyze prayer to be certain of its prevailing as it is being offered. Prayer forms more need in us as it satisfies it.

Those who understand their total dependence on Grace have no difficulty about the range of prayer. They pray about everything.

If you say, "I cannot pray, I'm not in the spirit," then pray till you get in the spirit. If you are averse to pray then pray more. Do not call it lip service. It is His Spirit acting in your self-motivating will, just not yet in your heart. What is unwelcomed to God is lip service which is untroubled at not being more than it is. So just as appetite comes with eating so prayer comes with praying. Our heart learns the language of our lips.

To be sure of God's sympathy is to be moved to prayer.

You will not be so timid about praying wrongly if you will pray humbly.

In all your distress that mars your peace, accusing you of no faith, asking in prayer must be the form your faith takes.

It is the person who most nearly has God that most really seeks God.

Don't try to pray as you think you should, as if God only cares about the great posturing issues. The reality of prayer is bound up with the reality of intimacy in your life with Him.

God has many old prayers long-maturing of yours.

Sometimes prayer must be the wrestling of the conscience before it becomes the cry of the heart. Prayer should be wrestling, not always, but often. Prayer is an encounter of wills.

We are living carelessly till a God-designed pressure comes and we begin to pray. We pray as if we expect God to hear and we cease living carelessly then. This change in us moves a 'change' in God. He alters the circumstances pressing us. We have in a very limited way, changed God. So we pray and pray, and yet no full answer comes. It is because we are not fully ready for the complete answer, or other variables are still in flux. But the persistence, the importunity of faith is having great effect on our spiritual nature. It ripens. A time comes when we are ready for an answer. We press ourselves into God in a spiritual condition which reasonably causes Him to answer.

Jesus sets more value on importunity than on passive submission-wrestling with God versus fatalism. This is a resistance God loves. For in love there is a kind of resistance that embraces LOVE.



Steady & Ready



We are getting more than normal response to the current study in Job. This seems to reflect a strong hunger in many to dive into the ongoing mystery of evil and suffering, and an even greater hunger to explore the nature and character of God. We will be doing just that in future issues of *Nightlight*, even though only monthly. Yet some folks tell me they would rather have the teaching come only once a month because they need the time to digest it. Actually, I am very encouraged by that! It means you are studying, thinking, and praying through demanding topics rather than merely treating each session lightly. That is far more fruitful. I have always been slow, and electronic fast-moving messages overwhelm me when I listen to them too often. I would rather be slow and go deep than be swift and shallow. There are a few voices out there now that are both swift and deep, and we can access them as needed. But for our purposes in *Nightlight* (to shine the Light of His presence into this present darkness), our current format seems to be pleasing to the Lord. It is a great privilege being invited to enter your world monthly. We will continue on at our steady turtle pace, rather than try to keep up with the rabbit! When I can pray and wrestle with and work to express what I truly believe the Holy Spirit is showing me, then I have joy in sharing with you what the Lord has put on my heart. Thank you all for your feedback. We welcome your comments and questions. It is very helpful to hear from you about how the teaching is impacting your world. The following quote from a long-time *Nightlighter* is one such example, whose encouraging words we wanted to share with you all.

"Each month I am again encouraged and strengthened in God through your messages...I feel like a bystander watching the world go crazy, yet my confidence stands firm knowing that events will push so many into a vulnerable and receptive place that prepares their heart for the Good News - Real truth in the Real person of Christ. I WANT TO BE READY - TO SPEAK, TO COMFORT, TO ENCOURAGE, TO GIVE, TO SERVE, TO LOVE. GOD ENRICH ALL OF US WITH READINESS! Thank you for your 'long obedience' that has nurtured so many for so long."

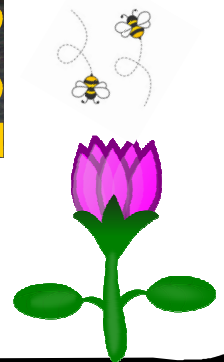
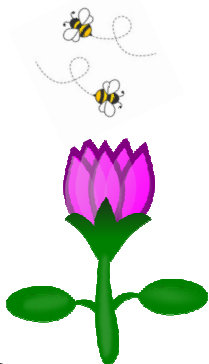
Closing Thoughts...



There are great victories being won all over the world. Little by little, the awakening church is refusing passive submission to evil and standing for truth. Continue in prayer against the many foolish evils being paraded as if they are in control. The exposure of evil by evil is the greatest advertisement for truth and reality. May the Lord bless and fully awaken the Moms and Dads out there who will not stand for the state telling them what to do with their own children. Some may be late in seeing clearly, yet many ARE seeing! The love that parents have for their children is awakening them to take a stand against evil. And thanks be to God! All love leads to the Cross ultimately!



*With Love & Joy,
Clay & Mary*



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