

## **Leveled for Prayer**

**"The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity. If we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let us answer God's standing challenge, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not!" (J. Hudson Taylor)**

Isaiah 56:3-8 (NASB) **3**Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely separate me from His people " Nor let the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree." **4**For thus says the LORD, "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant, **5**To them I will give in My house and within My walls a memorial, And a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which will not be cut off. **6**"Also the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD, To be His servants, every one who keeps from profaning the Sabbath And holds fast My covenant; **7**Even those I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples." **8**The Lord GOD, who gathers the dispersed of Israel, declares, "Yet others I will gather to them, to those already gathered."

David Wilkerson - It was February 9, 1958, and a young Assemblies of God pastor in rural Pennsylvania was watching "The Late Show" on TV while his wife and small children were asleep. A few years earlier, this young pastor had been in the car pool with my sister riding from Pittsburgh to Central Bible Institute in Springfield, Missouri. As a student, he had wanted to preach in my Dad's church; but even though Dad's church only had about thirty or forty people, Dad thought this young skinny kid had not yet had enough experience to preach in Dad's "big church".

A few years had gone by, and this young man's small rural church had grown from 50 to 250 – his first pastorate. That February night he evaluated his life. "How much time am I spending in front of the TV each night?" he asked himself. "A couple of hours at least. What if I sold the TV set and spent that time praying?"

Next morning he and his wife agreed to sell the TV if after putting the ad in the paper it sold within half an hour after the paper hit the streets. At the twenty-ninth minute, the phone rang. "How much?" The young pastor had not even thought of the price. He blurted out, "one hundred dollars." The caller said, "I'll take it. I'll be there in fifteen minutes."

On February 25, a late Tuesday evening near the end of his prayer time – just two weeks and two days after the decision to sell the TV – this young pastor was in his study praying, and began to feel a great heaviness. He felt an urge to pick up Life magazine, but resisted at first because he didn't want to fall into a trap of reading a magazine during his prayer time. He had been fidgeting that evening - his wife and children had been away visiting grandparents in Pittsburgh. The magazine beckoned to him from his desktop. Finally, he said, "Lord, is there something You want me to see?" He sat down in his brown swivel chair and opened the magazine.

He leafed through it and came to a page that at first seemed to have nothing to interest him. It carried a pen drawing of a trial taking place 350 miles away in New York City – a place he had never been. His attention was caught by the eyes of the figure in the drawing, a boy, one of seven on trial for murder. The look in the boy's eyes was one of bewilderment, hatred, and despair. The young pastor began to cry. He said aloud to himself, "What's the matter with me?"

He looked at the picture more carefully. The boys were all teenagers. They were members of a gang called the Dragons. They had brutally attacked and killed a fifteen-year-old polio victim named Michael Farmer. The seven boys had stabbed Michael in the back seven times with their knives, then beat him over the head with garrison belts. They went away wiping blood through their hair, saying, "We messed him good."

The story revolted the young pastor. It turned his stomach. Then a thought came, "Go to New York City and help those boys." On Friday morning, the young pastor was in the courtroom – and the rest is history. Had David Wilkerson not given himself to prayer, Teen Challenge would never have happened.

### **Isaiah 56:3-8 (The Message)**

3 Make sure no outsider who now follows God  
ever has occasion to say, 'God put me in second-class.  
I don't really belong.'  
And make sure no physically mutilated person  
is ever made to think, 'I'm damaged goods.  
I don't really belong.'"

**4-5**For God says:

"To the mutilated who keep my Sabbaths  
and choose what delights me  
and keep a firm grip on my covenant,  
I'll provide them an honored place  
in my family and within my city,

even more honored than that of sons and daughters.  
I'll confer permanent honors on them  
that will never be revoked.

**6-8**"And as for the outsiders who now follow me,  
working for me, loving my name,  
and wanting to be my servants—  
All who keep Sabbath and don't defile it,  
holding fast to my covenant—  
I'll bring them to my holy mountain  
and give them joy in my house of prayer.

They'll be welcome to worship the same as the 'insiders,'  
to bring burnt offerings and sacrifices to my altar.  
Oh yes, my house of worship  
will be known as a house of prayer for all people."

The Decree of the Master, God himself,  
who gathers in the exiles of Israel:  
"I will gather others also,  
gather them in with those already gathered."

**I have always read these verses as pertaining to praying for all nations or peoples not a place where God gathers all peoples to pray.**

**Suddenly this story takes on a whole new meaning**

Matthew 21:12-14 (NLT) Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. 13 He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves!" 14 The blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them.

Matthew 21:15-16 (NLT) The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David." But the leaders were indignant. 16 They asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?" "Yes," Jesus replied. "Haven't you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, 'You have taught children and infants to give you praise.'"

Charles G. Finney, who lived from 1792 to 1875, had a remarkable ministry that revived many Christians and God used his preaching to bring 500,000 to Christ. Finney said that the spirit of prayer which prevailed in his meetings was a very

marked feature. New converts were so moved that they sometimes spent whole nights of prayer. A preacher named Daniel Nash traveled with Finney as a prayer partner. Nash would pray three or four hours a day. Finney himself spent so much time in prayer that he sometimes thought he was literally praying "without ceasing." Through prayer God moved mightily.

***It is no accident that some of the great awakenings in history have begun in prayer. A prayer meeting under a haystack in a rainstorm in 1806 led to the first large-scale American missionary efforts. In 1830 some 30,000 people were converted in Rochester, New York, under the ministry of Charles Finney; later Finney said the reason was the faithful praying of one man who never attended the meetings but gave himself to prayer. In 1872 the American evangelist Dwight L. Moody began a campaign in London, England, which was used of God to touch countless lives. Later Moody discovered that a humble bedridden girl had been praying. The list could go on and on.***

I wonder what is not happening because we are not praying

Read 1 Tim 2:1-8

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, **2** for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. **3** For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**5** For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, **7** for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ *and* not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

1 Tim 2:8 (NKJV) "I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;"

"I desire therefore that the men pray" Who? That the men pray.

"I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere" Literally in every place.

"I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands"

Holy as used here signifies having a righteous Christian character interesting then what it says in James 5:16 (NKJV) "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

"I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath" Without anger, prayers must be properly motivated, and we must have a right spirit.

"I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and (without) doubting;" We must pray in faith.

PPP - Blog

Prayer E-Chain

Event Prayer Task Force

They'll be welcome to worship the same as the 'insiders,'  
to bring burnt offerings and sacrifices to my altar.  
Oh yes, my house of worship  
will be known as a house of prayer for all people."

Leveled