

321 "If you would unitedly put away your peculiar hereditary and cultivated
322 traits of character, and work together, the Lord could work through you. But
323 souls will not be convicted and converted until you come into unity and
324 Christian fellowship. Lose sight of self. Keep your eyes fixed on the
325 Redeemer. {7MR 95.2}

326 "The representation that you make before believers and unbelievers is one
327 of variance and strife. Clear away this rubbish. Press together. Let not the
328 workers think of going elsewhere before a thorough work of humiliation and
329 repentance takes place. Work as for your lives to overcome every evil trait of
330 character. You are not placed in this field of labor to create dissension and
331 alienation. Sweep away the evils that have crept in. 'Consider one another to
332 provoke unto love and to good works.' {7MR 95.3}

333 "The Lord designs that all His children shall blend in unity. Do you not
334 expect to live together in unity in the same heaven? Is Christ divided against
335 Himself? Will He give success in this field before all the rubbish of evil
336 surmising and discord is swept away; before the laborers, with unity of
337 purpose, devote heart, soul, mind, and strength to the work so holy in God's
338 sight? 'As He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of
339 conversation.' {7MR 95.4}

340

341

342 Concluding Thoughts

343

344 God will do marvelous things for those who trust in him. The reason why his
345 professed people have no strength, is that they trust so much to their own
346 wisdom, and do not give the Lord an opportunity to reveal his power in their
347 behalf. He will help his believing children in every emergency, if they will
348 place their entire confidence in him, and implicitly obey him. {ST, April 14,
349 1881 par. 19}

350 ...

351 Many who profess to be children of God are in this position. They are weak
352 because they trust to their own strength. God works mightily for a faithful
353 people, who obey his word without questioning or doubt. The Majesty of
354 Heaven, with his army of angels, leveled the walls of Jericho before his
355 people. The armed warriors of Israel had no cause to glory in their
356 achievements. All was done through the power of God. Let the people give up
357 all desire for self-exaltation, let them humbly submit to the divine will, and
358 God will again manifest his power, and bring freedom and victory to his
359 children. {ST, April 14, 1881 par. 21}

360

361 *Learn more at path2prayer.com.*

362 *Contact Dan & Rose: path2prayer@gmail.com*

363 *9/4/2014*

Persist

1 "Yet because of his persistence, he will rise and give him as many as he
2 needs."—Luke 11:9

3

4

5 Introductory Thoughts

6

7 Of all the mysteries of the prayer world, the need of persevering prayer is one
8 of the greatest. That the Lord, who is so loving and longing to bless, should
9 have to be supplicated time after time, sometimes year after year, before the
10 answer comes, we cannot easily understand. It is also one of the greatest
11 practical difficulties in the exercise of believing prayer. When, after
12 persevering supplication, our prayer remains unanswered, it is often easiest for
13 our slothful flesh, and it has all the appearance of pious submission, to think
14 that we must now cease praying, because God may have His secret reason for
15 withholding His answer to our request. Andrew Murray, *With Christ in the*
16 *School of Prayer*

17

18

19 Biblical Examples

20

21 *Jacob (Gen. 32:24-28)*

22

23 Jacob would not be turned away. He knew that God was merciful, and he
24 appealed to his mercy. He pointed back to his past sorrow for, and repentance
25 of, his wrongs, and urged his petition for deliverance from the hand of Esau.
26 Thus his importuning continued all night. As he reviewed his past wrongs, he
27 was driven almost to despair. But he knew that he must have help from God or
28 perish. He held the angel fast, and urged his petition with agonizing, earnest
29 cries, until he prevailed. Thus will it be with the righteous. As they review the
30 events of their past lives, their hopes will almost sink. But as they realize that
31 it is a case of life or death, they will earnestly cry unto God, and appeal to him
32 in regard to their past sorrow for, and humble repentance of, their many sins,
33 and then will refer to his promise: "Let him take hold of my strength, that he
34 may make peace with me, and he shall make peace with me." Thus will their
35 earnest petitions be offered to God day and night. God would not have heard
36 the prayer of Jacob, and mercifully saved his life, if he had not previously
37 repented of his wrongs in obtaining the blessing by fraud. Every effort was put
38 forward by Satan and his host to discourage Jacob and break his hold upon
39 God by forcing upon him a sense of the sin of his falsehood and deception.

40 But Jacob was not left alone; the Captain of the Lord's host, attended by an
41 army of angels, was close beside the depressed, fear-stricken man, that he
42 might not perish. {ST, November 27, 1879 par. 4}

43
44 Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an
45 evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's
46 promises as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed
47 as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God,
48 to pray long and earnestly for his blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with
49 God--how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out
50 after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When
51 waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant,
52 how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God. {4SP 438.2}

53
54 Jacob's earnest, persevering wrestling with the angel, should be an example
55 for Christians. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined.
56 All who desire the blessing of God, as did Jacob, and will lay hold of the
57 promises as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed
58 as he succeeded. Why there is so little exercise of true faith, and so little of the
59 weight of truth resting upon many professed believers, is because they are
60 indolent in spiritual things. They are unwilling to make exertions, to deny self,
61 to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for the blessing, and
62 therefore they do not obtain it. That faith which will live through the time of
63 trouble must be daily in exercise now. Those who do not make strong efforts
64 now to exercise persevering faith, will be wholly unprepared to exercise that
65 faith which will enable them to stand in the day of trouble. {1SP 124.1}

66
67 Many are weary of their half-hearted service. Their souls cry out after the
68 living God. They cannot be satisfied with a form of godliness; they long for
69 the deep movings of the Holy Spirit. Let the weary, discouraged one cry, as
70 did Jacob, for the Comforter. Let him lay bare his soul in the secret place
71 before God. Let him with loathing put away soul-defilement. The work is
72 between him and his God. {HM, November 1, 1890 par. 29}

73 God is at work; he doeth wonders; and although he is high and lifted up,
74 prayer will reach his throne. He that is turning and overturning, he that can do
75 marvelous things, will regard the contrite prayer of faith from the humblest of
76 his children. {HM, November 1, 1890 par. 30}

77
78
79 *Hannah (1Sam. 1:10-11)*

80
81 Hannah had been communing with God. She believed that her prayer had
82 been heard, and the peace of Christ filled her heart. Hers was a gentle,
83 sensitive nature, yet she yielded neither to grief nor to indignation at the unjust
84 charge of drunkenness in the house of God. With due reverence for the
85 anointed of the Lord, she calmly repelled the accusation and stated the cause
86 of her emotion. "No my Lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk

275 in unlooked-for blessings, greater than you have asked or thought. Remember
276 that you are not to doubt because you do not receive the very thing for which
277 you asked. Paul requested that the troublesome thorn in the flesh might be
278 removed, but the Lord gave that which was more valuable,--grace to endure it
279 patiently. The strength of Jesus was made perfect in weakness, and Paul was
280 able through Christ to bear about in his body the dying of the Lord Jesus.
281 Jesus prayed that if it were possible, the bitter cup might be removed, but He
282 was not released from the obligation of drinking it. Strength was imparted to
283 Him to drain its bitterest dregs. Jesus said, "Not as I will, but as Thou wilt."
284 With these precious examples before us, let us trust in the name of the Lord,
285 and stay upon our God. {PrT, January 30, 1890 par. 18}

286 We do not glorify God when we walk in sadness and gloom, and complain
287 that we have no light. "Thus saith the Lord, in an acceptable time have I heard
288 thee, and in the day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee,
289 and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to
290 inherit the desolate heritages; that thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth;
291 to them that are in darkness, Show yourselves. They shall feed in the ways,
292 and their pastures shall be in all high places. They shall not hunger nor thirst;
293 neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for He that hath mercy on them shall
294 lead them, even by the springs of water shall He guide them." {PrT, January
295 30, 1890 par. 19}

296
297
298 *Early Church (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:3,4)*

299
300 "By your failure to work in harmony, you are greatly dishonoring God. The
301 enemy of your souls delights to see you working at cross purposes with one
302 another. You need to cultivate brotherly love and tenderness of heart. If you
303 could draw aside the curtain veiling the future, and see the result of your
304 present course of action, you would surely be led to repent. By repentance you
305 can save yourselves much sorrow. {7MR 94.3}

306 "Would it not be well for you to seek the Lord as the disciples sought Him
307 before the day of Pentecost? After Christ's ascension, His disciples--men of
308 varied talents and capabilities--assembled in an upper chamber to pray for the
309 gift of the Holy Spirit. In this room 'all continued with one accord in prayer
310 and supplication.' They made thorough work of repentance by confessing their
311 own sins. Upon them was laid no burden to confess one another's sins. Settling
312 all differences and alienations, they were of one accord, and prayed with unity
313 of purpose for ten days, at the end of which time 'they were all filled with the
314 Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them
315 utterance.' {7MR 94.4}

316 "The Holy Spirit cannot be revealed to the church members in Greater New
317 York while dissension and strife exist. Would it not be well for you to lay
318 aside 'all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil
319 speakings,' and 'as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye
320 may grow thereby?' {7MR 95.1}

228 ministering spirits angels are sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs
229 of salvation. Pray, my brethren, pray as you have never prayed before. We are
230 not prepared for the Lord's coming. We need to make thorough work for
231 eternity (Letter 201, 1899). {4BC 1173.7}

232
233

234 *Paul (2Cor. 12:7-10)*

235

236 Make your requests known to your Maker. Never is one repulsed who comes
237 to Him with a contrite heart. Not one sincere prayer is lost. Amid the anthems
238 of the celestial choir, God hears the cries of the weakest human being. We
239 pour out our heart's desire in our closets, we breathe a prayer as we walk by
240 the way, and our words reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. They
241 may be inaudible to any human ear, but they cannot die away into silence, nor
242 can they be lost through the activities of business that are going on. Nothing
243 can drown the soul's desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the
244 confusion of the multitude, to the heavenly courts. It is God to whom we are
245 speaking, and our prayer is heard. You who feel the most unworthy, fear not to
246 commit your case to God. {HP 82.4}

247 There is a mighty power in prayer. Our great adversary is constantly
248 seeking to keep the troubled soul away from God. An appeal to Heaven by the
249 humblest saint is more to be dreaded by Satan than the decrees of cabinets or
250 the mandates of kings. {HP 82.5}

251

252 Many are impatient if they do not at once receive special evidences that God
253 has heard their prayers. They will manifest gratitude if all their expectations
254 are met immediately; but they repine and become fretful if they have to wait,
255 and trust in God. The Lord Jesus is the great Teacher, and it is His providence
256 to teach us lessons of patient trust. He does not propose to indulge us as some
257 parents indulge spoiled children. The promises of God are sure, and they act
258 an important part in our spiritual training; but if the promise should be fulfilled
259 in the very way that we had marked out, it might work our ruin. The promise
260 which, if fulfilled when we desired, would work us injury, waits for fulfilment
261 until we are further disciplined, that we may appreciate the blessing when God
262 sees best to bestow it. Special mercies are often withheld for a time, that we
263 may more earnestly supplicate the throne of grace. We must stay ourselves
264 upon God, and not measure the time by our own finite fancies. Our impulses
265 must not rule over us, but we must rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him,
266 nor let our sunshine turn to darkness, our faith to distrust. The Psalmist says,
267 "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine
268 heart." Let not your hope languish; only believe that God is true. "The
269 husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience
270 for it," and shall not we have that patience and faith that will endure the test,
271 and wait for the harvest of God's promises? {PrT, January 30, 1890 par. 17}

272 It is not best to mark out some special way in which God must work to
273 fulfil your desires. Your ways, your plans, may not be God's ways or God's
274 plans. The promise that you have thought suited to your need will be fulfilled

87 neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.
88 Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial, for out of the abundance of
89 my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto." Convinced that his reproof
90 had been unjust, Eli replied, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant thee thy
91 petition that thou hast asked of him." {ST, October 27, 1881 par. 10}

92 In her prayer, Hannah had made a vow that if her request were granted, she
93 would dedicate her child to the service of God. This vow she made known to
94 her husband, and he confirmed it in a solemn act of worship, before leaving
95 Shiloh. {ST, October 27, 1881 par. 11}

96 Hannah's prayer was answered, and she received the gift for which she had
97 so earnestly entreated. As she looked upon the pledge of divine favor she
98 called the child Samuel--Asked of God. {ST, October 27, 1881 par. 12}

99 As soon as the little one was old enough to be separated from its mother,
100 she fulfilled her solemn vow. She loved her child with all the devotion of a
101 mother's heart; day by day her affections entwined about him more closely as
102 she watched his expanding powers, and listened to the childish prattle; He was
103 her only son, the especial gift of Heaven; but she had received him as a
104 treasure consecrated to God, and she would not withhold from the Giver his
105 own. Faith strengthened the mother's heart, and she yielded not to the
106 pleadings of natural affection. {ST, October 27, 1881 par. 13}

107 Once more Hannah journeyed with her husband to Shiloh, taking the child
108 to present him unto the Lord, and bearing also gifts for sacrifice and thank-
109 offering. Reaching the tabernacle, she sought the presence of the high priest.
110 He did not recognize her. There was indeed a striking contrast between the
111 pallid, grief-stricken suppliant and the grateful, happy mother. Hannah related
112 the circumstances of her previous interview, and then presented to the priest,
113 in the name of God, her precious gift, saying: "For this child I prayed, and the
114 Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him. Therefore also I have
115 lent him to the Lord. As long as he liveth, he shall be lent to the Lord." Eli was
116 surprised and deeply impressed by the faith and devotion of this woman of
117 Israel. Himself an over-indulgent father, he was awed and humbled as he
118 beheld this mother's great sacrifice in parting with her first and only child, that
119 she might devote him to the service of God. He felt reproved for his own
120 selfish love, and in humiliation and reverence he bowed before the Lord and
121 worshiped. {ST, October 27, 1881 par. 14}

122

123

124 *Elijah (1Kings 18:42-44)*

125

126 When upon Mt. Carmel he offered the prayer for rain, his faith was tested, but
127 he persevered in making known his request unto God. Six times he prayed
128 earnestly, and yet there was no sign that his petition was granted, but with a
129 strong faith he urged his plea to the throne of grace. Had he given up in
130 discouragement at the sixth time, his prayer would not have been answered,
131 but he persevered till the answer came. We have a God whose ear is not closed
132 to our petitions; and if we prove His word, He will honor our faith. He wants
133 us to have all our interests interwoven with His interests, and then He can

134 safely bless us; for we shall not then take glory to self when the blessing is
135 ours, but shall render all the praise to God. God does not always answer our
136 prayers the first time we call upon Him; for should He do this, we might take
137 it for granted that we had a right to all the blessings and favors He bestowed
138 upon us. Instead of searching our hearts to see if any evil was entertained by
139 us, any sin indulged, we should become careless, and fail to realize our
140 dependence upon Him, and our need of His help. {2BC 1034.7}

141 Elijah humbled himself until he was in a condition where he would not take
142 the glory to himself. This is the condition upon which the Lord hears prayer,
143 for then we shall give the praise to Him. The custom of offering praise to men
144 is one that results in great evil. One praises another, and thus men are led to
145 feel that glory and honor belong to them. When you exalt man, you lay a snare
146 for his soul, and do just as Satan would have you. You should praise God with
147 all your heart, soul, might, mind, and strength; for God alone is worthy to be
148 glorified (RH March 27, 1913). {2BC 1035.1}

149 Elijah's Heart Search.--The servant watched while Elijah prayed. Six times
150 he returned from the watch, saying, There is nothing, no cloud, no sign of rain.
151 But the prophet did not give up in discouragement. He kept reviewing his life,
152 to see where he had failed to honor God, he confessed his sins, and thus
153 continued to afflict his soul before God, while watching for a token that his
154 prayer was answered. As he searched his heart, he seemed to be less and less,
155 both in his own estimation and in the sight of God. It seemed to him that he
156 was nothing, and that God was everything; and when he reached the point of
157 renouncing self, while he clung to the Saviour as his only strength and
158 righteousness, the answer came. The servant appeared, and said, "Behold,
159 there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand" (RH May 26,
160 1891). {2BC 1035.2}

161
162
163 *Children of Israel (Deut. 8:2-4)*

164
165 Christ desires nothing so much as to redeem His heritage from the dominion
166 of Satan. But before we are delivered from Satan's power without, we must be
167 delivered from his power within. The Lord permits trials in order that we may
168 be cleansed from earthliness, from selfishness, from harsh, unchristlike traits
169 of character. He suffers the deep waters of affliction to go over our souls in
170 order that we may know Him and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, in order that
171 we may have deep heart longings to be cleansed from defilement, and may
172 come forth from the trial purer, holier, happier. Often we enter the furnace of
173 trial with our souls darkened with selfishness; but if patient under the crucial
174 test, we shall come forth reflecting the divine character. When His purpose in
175 the affliction is accomplished, "He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the
176 light, and thy judgment as the noonday." Psalm 37:6. {COL 174.3}

177 There is no danger that the Lord will neglect the prayers of His people. The
178 danger is that in temptation and trial they will become discouraged, and fail to
179 persevere in prayer. {COL 175.1}

180

181

182 *Joseph (Gen. 50:18-21)*

183

184 God's work of refining and purifying must go on until His servants are so
185 humbled, so dead to self, that, when called into active service, their eye will be
186 single to His glory. He will then accept their efforts; they will not move
187 rashly, from impulse; they will not rush on and imperil the Lord's cause, being
188 slaves to temptations and passions and followers of their own carnal minds set
189 on fire by Satan. Oh, how fearfully is the cause of God marred by man's
190 perverse will and unsubdued temper! How much suffering he brings upon
191 himself by following his own headstrong passions! God brings men over the
192 ground again and again, increasing the pressure until perfect humility and a
193 transformation of character bring them into harmony with Christ and the spirit
194 of heaven, and they are victors over themselves. {4T 86.2}

195

196

197 *Daniel (Daniel 10:12,13)*

198

199 We have before us in the Word of God instances of heavenly agencies
200 working on the minds of kings and rulers, while at the same time satanic
201 agencies were also at work on their minds. No human eloquence, in strongly
202 set forth human opinions, can change the working of satanic agencies. Satan
203 seeks continually to block the way, so that the truth shall be bound about by
204 human devising; and those who have light and knowledge are in the greatest
205 danger unless they constantly consecrate themselves to God, humiliating self,
206 and realizing the peril of the times. {4BC 1173.4}

207 Heavenly beings are appointed to answer the prayers of those who are
208 working unselfishly for the interests of the cause of God. The very highest
209 angels in the heavenly courts are appointed to work out the prayers which
210 ascend to God for the advancement of the cause of God. Each angel has his
211 particular post of duty, which he is not permitted to leave for any other place.
212 If he should leave, the powers of darkness would gain an advantage. . . .
213 {4BC 1173.5}

214 Day by day the conflict between good and evil is going on. Why is it that
215 those who have had many opportunities and advantages do not realize the
216 intensity of this work? They should be intelligent in regard to this. God is the
217 Ruler. By His supreme power He holds in check and controls earthly
218 potentates. Through His agencies He does the work which was ordained
219 before the foundation of the world. {4BC 1173.6}

220 As a people we do not understand as we should the great conflict going on
221 between invisible agencies, the controversy between loyal and disloyal angels.
222 Evil angels are constantly at work, planning their line of attack, controlling as
223 commanders, kings, and rulers, the disloyal human forces. . . . I call upon the
224 ministers of Christ to press home upon the understanding of all who come
225 within the reach of their voice, the truth of the ministration of angels. Do not
226 indulge in fanciful speculations. The written Word is our only safety. We must
227 pray as did Daniel, that we may be guarded by heavenly intelligences. As