

A Word on Prayer

I want to say something in regard to prayer. I've traveled, and preached seven days a week for years. Rarely have I ever had a service that I didn't have at least an hour of public prayer before the meeting. There may have been some exceptions that were beyond my control, such as maybe the pastor didn't want the prayer meeting, or the services were too close together for an hour of prayer before the meeting. Nevertheless, anyone who's ever been to my meetings, whether it is a church service or seminar, knows there's an hour of prayer before the service. In our prayer meetings, we don't do anything else except pray. We pray the Word, we pray in our known language and pray in the spirit, but we get on our knees and pray for one hour. I've done this since my first meeting when I got out of Bible school.

Paul wasn't against tongues... He said **I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all** (1 Corinthians 14:18). Paul wasn't boasting or bragging that he spoke in tongues more than anyone else; he was using it as an illustration to convey a point to the people living then, and also to believers today. He was saying that speaking in tongues is important, just don't misuse the gift. And, as for me personally, I put time in prayer day and night. I've told friends of mine, and other ministers, sometimes jokingly, *"You're not going to beat me in prayer."* I'm only saying this because I want you to know I haven't met the person who believes in prayer, or in prayer meetings, more than I do.

I've met people I thought were a lot better Christians than I am, and people I thought were a better person than I am, or a better preacher than I am -- *you wouldn't have to go far to beat me in that*. But fortunately, I got saved in a church that put a lot of time in prayer. I'm telling you, they had prayer meetings that went **...alllllllllll ...niiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiggghht ...loooooooonnggg**. They may not have known a whole lot about *"name it and claim it"* and *"speak the Word only"*, but these people seemed to be oblivious to time when it came to prayer!

It wasn't until later on, that I got a hold of the Word of faith. I've been blessed to have had the best of both groups: to have a life of prayer, and to be a Word person. So when I'm talking about prayer, I'm not belittling prayer any more than Paul was belittling tongues when he was giving instructions and corrections about it. He was just attempting, by the Holy Spirit, to steer the people in the right direction. And that is what a pastor and a minister have to do sometimes: they have to correct some things when people start getting off.

And when you correct people, you'll have them criticize you and say, *"I don't feel the love."* We live in a world that doesn't want to be corrected. And, that same spirit, or attitude has gotten over into the church, the body of Christ. Some people, all they want to be is loved, and never corrected. Their attitude is, *"Don't correct me, just love me, because I don't need to be corrected. I need to be loved."* But if we're going to grow, we must be corrected. And the sooner you make the adjustment and correction, the sooner you'll begin to realize the person doing the correction really loved you.

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

Your Word of faith pastor,

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