

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Newsletter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 KJV)

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Throw-Away Prayers

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We live in a disposable society. Almost everything can be purchased for a one-time use and then tossed in the garbage. It makes things more convenient and easier to clean up. It wasn't always this way. Both my wife's and my parents grew up during the Depression. They learned to save everything because it might be needed later. Throwing things away, even those things that were designed to be throw-away, was a real problem for them. Right up to her passing, my Mother-in-law would wash plastic eating utensils to be used again.

Our shallow, quick-fix, disposable society has also affected the Church. Prayer time has become a quick-fix problem session with God, filled with disposable prayers. Not at all the type of prayer time practiced by Jesus and expected of us.

Look at what God does with the prayers of the saints:

Revelation 5:8 NASB

(8) When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Revelation 8:3-4 NASB

(3) Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne.

(4) And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.

It would appear from these verses that the Lord saves the prayers of His people to be mixed with incense on the altar before God so that the smoke ascends before Him at the appropriate time according to the purposes of God.

Now, think about the prayers that we pray. Are they the type of prayer that God would save to be offered up to Him at the appropriate time? Or, are they the type of prayer that is disposable, a

one-time use throw-away?

Sometimes many of us will treat prayer like an emergency first aid kit. Everything in the first aid kit is designed to be used during the emergency and then thrown away. We do the same thing spiritually. We get into a problem or emergency and we pull out the prayer first aid kit—"God I need this or that ... God help me to ... deliver me from ... heal me ..." Patch me up so that I can get on with my life. Prayers that are designed for the moment—not intended to be saved for incense before God.

Jesus told us in the Model Prayer that we should pray for "His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven". These are the types of prayers that I believe God saves. Prayers that deal with His plans and purposes in the earth. Prayers that take territory from the enemy and extend or increase His Kingdom. These are the selfless prayers of God's desires not the selfish prayers of our own wants.

As we move further into the end times, the plans of God and the events of the world take on new significance. He needs for His people to pray. Not trite, disposable prayers but earnest prayers for workers for the harvest, for protection from the evil one, for the restraining and casting down of Satan, for the clothing of the Bride in righteousness, for the completing of the Body, for the fulfillment of the God's plan for the ages, for the return of the Lord, for anything that is close to the heart of God.

Help us Lord! Teach us to pray!

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