



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

March 1, 2015

After God Answers

Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. –Deuteronomy 8:17-18

Reality is highly underrated. Follow your dream is a mantra these days, and the power to see and pursue “things that are not” is power to change things. It was visionary thinking that ended slavery and established civil rights for all. It is as people dream big dreams and pursue big goals that they accomplish great things for themselves and for others. But there are certain realities that our dreams must not deny.

The reality is that there is a God, and everything comes from and depends on Him. Our good Lord is the essential connection. Every dream depends on Him. For ancient Israel, the dream of living in the Promised Land motivated them to live forty years in the wilderness. It was the prize that got them to wake up every day and keep walking. But the dream was not the ultimate reality. The God who gave them the dream was.

Every morning for forty years, manna appeared on the ground to feed Israel. God sent it. Each day in a vast desert, water came from a rock to quench their thirst. By the hand of God. Every enemy who attacked they vanquished, with God's help. The reality is that God is the ultimate reality. To deny this is the essence of sin and the fountain of evil. To acknowledge it is the essence of life, but it goes utterly against our nature.

That's why Moses solemnly warned God's people not to forget the God who gave them not only the Promised Land, but the very hope of the Promised Land. Knowing how sin distorts our view of reality, God warned His people to take care. Once they conquered Canaan and started living off the land, they would deny the reality of their dependence on God. This they ultimately did to their destruction.

We American Christians of this generation have grown up in the single most prosperous, free, and secure period of history. We have enjoyed peace and plenty so long, that we take them for granted. We receive blessings so freely, that we forget the Hand that provides them. Rather than thank God for our freedom, we take pride in ourselves for our founding. Rather than delighting in the Lord, we pursue pleasure at break-neck speed and at all costs. The blessings of liberty have become rotgut pleasures and the freedom to enjoy them has turned into our addiction. We are out of touch with reality and no longer know our God.

The life of Christ is the path of freedom. He died to this world—a world detached from its Maker—and rose again to enter into heaven's eternal reality. In Him alone we have a renewed connection to ultimate Reality, the One who created and sustains all things and is the Source of eternal liberty and bounty for all who believe. Turn to Him from everything else.

Prayer for Northpoint, the United States, and the World: Ask God to lead every nation, kindred, and tongue to pray along with our Lord (Matthew 6:9-13):

- *Our Father in heaven:* To honor God as Father, look to Him for good, and expect to know His love
- *Hallowed be Your name:* To make God's glory our priority and His worship our delight
- *Your kingdom come:* To unite the purpose of our prayer with the extension of His kingdom
- *Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven:* To submit to God's will, as good and acceptable and perfect
- *Give us this day our daily bread:* That prayer will be our declaration of dependence on God for every need
- *Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors:* To make grace is the currency of God's kingdom
- *Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:* God's spiritual protection is our most significant need.
- *Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever:* God is the cause we serve, the power we need, and the source of our eternal joy.

Prayer Supporting Ministry:

- *Women's Conference:* Ask God to teach the women of Northpoint to trust God to bear fruit in their busy lives.
- *Grief Share:* Ask God to turn the hearts of those who are hurting to Him to find hope and healing.
- *Carranza:* God has a people in northern Mexico that He is reaching with His love. Pray for our work there.

