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wait till we knock? Is God really able to accomplish His own will? But if He truly is able, then why is His opening of doors (God's will) governed by our knocking (man's prayer)?

By asking all these questions we come to realize that prayer is a great mystery. For here we see a principle of God's working, which is, that God's people must pray before God Himself will rise up and work. His will is only to be realized through the prayers of those who belong to Him: the prayers of the believers are to accomplish His will. God will not fulfill His will alone—He will perform only after His people show their sympathy in prayers.

Prayer is no other than an act of the believer working together with God. Prayer is the union of the believer's heart and thought with the will of God. The effective prayer which a believer utters on earth is but the voicing of the Lord's will in heaven.

Prayer does not alter that which God has determined. It never changes anything; it merely achieves what God has already foreordained. Prayerlessness, though, does effect a change, because God will let many of His resolutions go suspended due to the lack from His people of prayerful cooperation with Him.

A servant of the Lord has well said: Prayer is the rail for God's work. Indeed, prayer is to God's will as rails are to a train. The locomotive is full of power: it is capable of running a thousand miles a day. But if there are no rails, it cannot move forward a single inch. It may be able to travel over great distances, yet it cannot go to any place where no rails have been laid.

Such is the relation between prayer and God's work. Hence, our work is to prepare the way of the Lord through prayer.

Oh let us see that prayer in sympathy with God is more vital than any other thing! May we pray through in all directions—so that God's will may prosper at all points!

—The above was excerpted from the book, "Let Us Pray" by Watchman Nee, Christian Fellowship Publishers, Inc., and re-published from IFA's May 1990 Prayer Letter.



CHURCH PRAY! is a monthly corporate prayer help to local churches published since 1991. This bulletin is posted for free download at "Resources" on our Web site or available as a one-sheet master for use on a copy machine or for quick print services. A monthly First Friday Prayer Letter and mid-week Alert are also available upon request. To subscribe to Church Pray! or inquire about other services, contact: INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA PO Box 915, Purcellville, VA 20134. Tel 540-317-2070; E-mail ifa@ifapray.org Web sites: www.IFAPray.org www.GetAmericaPraying.com

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

**CHURCH
PRAY!**

LET US PRAY

BY WATCHMAN NEE

The power and effectiveness of prayer lies not in how much we pray, but in how much our prayers are in accordance with "the principle of prayer."

The foremost question to be asked is, Why pray? What is the use of praying?

Is not God omniscient as well as omnipotent? Why must He wait till we pray before He commences to work? Being almighty, why does God not work directly? Why is it that only those who ask are given, only those who seek find, and only those who knock enter in? (Matthew 7:7) Why does God say: "Ye have not, because ye ask not?" (James 4:2)

We know God never does anything against His own will. If opening doors is God's will, why should He wait until we knock before He opens? Being omniscient, God knows we need to have doors opened; why then, must He wait for our knocking before He opens? What advantage does our knocking give to God?

Yet we must further ask these questions: Since God's will is to open the door and since opening the door is in accord with righteousness, will God nevertheless open the door if we do not knock? Or would He rather have His will and righteousness delayed without accomplishment in order to wait for our prayers? Will He really allow His will of opening doors to be restrained by our not knocking? If so, will not the will of God be limited by us?

Is God really almighty? If He is almighty, why can He not open the door all by Himself—why instead must He

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*"He is not here;
for He is risen, as He said.
Come, see the place
where the Lord lay."
—Matthew 28:6*

**APRIL 2011
PRAYER FOCUS**

Sunday, April 3, 2011

ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOR - U.S. culture is permeated with compulsive and addictive sinful behavior. Much is related to alcohol, drug use, pornography, gambling, decadent entertainments and wasteful lifestyles. Pray that the Holy Spirit convict you, family members and local believers of any areas in which God desires repentance, salvation, deliverance and recovery.

Sunday, April 10, 2011

HOMELAND SECURITY - Offer thanksgiving for the security that God has provided our country, and pray for all who are working on the deterrence of nuclear, biological, chemical and other forms of terrorism.

Sunday, April 17, 2011

YOUTH - Offer thanksgiving for an increasing move of God among America's youth; pray it will continue and increase. Pray for salvation and/or spiritual growth in those students who will soon graduate from high school or college. Pray they receive wisdom, direction, pastoral care and wise counsel concerning their destiny in Christ.

Sunday, April 24, 2011

EASTER SUNDAY - Pray that multitudes of unbelievers in your area will be open and impacted by the Gospel and Resurrection message this weekend. Pray that you and fellow Christians will receive a greater understanding of the atonement and receive grace for personal surrender in your prayer life.