



Praying Scripture

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Devotional Meditation – No Refusal Rights: Challenging the Challenge (Part 1 of 2)

How imperative is the imperative? To what degree can we dilute an imperative and leave it still a command? Or is the structure of the imperative impervious to dilution and incapable of being weakened? It is my contention that while we may play around with grammar rules and make exceptions to suit ourselves, we cannot change the intention of the Savior when he uttered his “Go!”

The recruitment technique commonly practiced today follows the challenge-volunteer method. By using this missionary-challenge approach, we have unintentionally and unconsciously substituted a lower standard than God intends.

Let us scrutinize this challenge-volunteer technique. We are all acquainted with the voice of the challenger, sometimes pleading, sometimes denouncing. Always, it seems, the attention moves from the speaker to the addressed and then focuses on those from the group that volunteer. The volunteer takes the stage while the Lord Jesus is unconsciously moved to one side. The young person is given a choice: If she accepts the challenge, the prize includes distinction, kudos, and the praise of other people. On the other hand, if she refrains from making an offer, she will not be singled out for particular blame; she is safely hidden in the crowd (except perhaps in her own mind).

The challenge method sparks the wrong motivation. It leaves the car in neutral while the volunteer make up his or her mind. Instead of demanding an immediate response, it tolerates delay. It avoids the imperatives that the Scriptures insist on. Thus while Jesus Christ commands, “Go,” the challenge permits an alternate and preferred reading - “Won’t you go? –thus switching the unqualified imperative into a meek and negotiable interrogative. By allowing a rationalizing of the implications of Christ’s command, it quiets the voice of conscience.

Taken from R. Arthur Mathews *Ready for Battle: 31 Studies in Christian Discipleship*, pgs. 11-12, © OMF Books www.omf.org

Prayer for the Middle East

- Pray that a spirit of repentance will come upon this land and that they will acknowledge God as their Lord.
- The spirits of Islam seek to divert worship to Allah, a false moon-god of Saudi Arabia. Pray that worship of the true and living God will spread throughout the Middle East.

- Pray for a breakthrough in the governments in this region that leaders would be saved and governments would make Christian friendly policies.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better Ephesians 3:17

Behold I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too difficult for me? Jeremiah 32:27

Taken from the *Lydia Prayer Journal*, March Monthly Prayer Focus Middle East pg. 60

Prayer for Those Going Out

Please be praying for **Patsy Lewis** as she speaks to the Women of the **Evangelical Church in Dayton, Ohio** this weekend **March 6-8**. Pray that God's transforming grace and presence will fill that place and that the women will leave living in active obedience to Him.

Please be praying for **Eldred and Luanne Kelley** as they speak to the men and women of **Clay United Methodist Church in Clay, Alabama March 5-8**. Pray that God the hearts of the congregation will be hungry and that they will have ears to hear all that God longs to say to them this weekend.

Please be pray for **Sherman and Dot Reed** as they attend the **Annual Meeting for the Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting**. Let's pray that the Holy Spirit will divinely order Sherman and Dot's conversations and meetings with people. Pray that God will lead Sherman and Dot to hungry minds and hearts, and that God will give Sherman and Dot His Words of life to share.

Please pray for **Stephanie Hogan and Vicki New** as they speak at the **Women's Refresher for the Association of Independent Methodists (AIM) in Odenville, Alabama March 6-7**. Pray that every word spoken would be of Him. Please also be praying for **Janis Lane** who is leading the retreat and for **Kim McLean and Devon O'Day** who are leading worship and for **Susan Brabon** who will be sharing about Dynamic Women in Missions with OMS International. Please pray that the women would come face-to-face with Jesus and never be the same.

Please be praying for the **Women's Retreat hosted by Cornerstone Baptist Church in Nicholasville, Kentucky, March 13-15**. Pray for **Kim Ball** as she coordinates and leads this time. Pray that God will pull together the remaining details for Kim and that He will give her divine wisdom. Pray for the women of her church, that they will have eyes to see and a heart that says "yes" to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Other Prayer Requests

Thank you for your prayers for **Pam Harriman**. Jim reports on his blog: *Pam's fever seems to have subsided for now...today was a better day for her than yesterday, and so we are thankful for that. There is still not much mobility in Pam. PT should be starting up again soon for her. Pray for her as the days get ever so long laying in bed looking up at the ceiling. It is not an easy life being paralyzed. "LORD if it please you, let Pam regain some strength." I know I say this a lot, but that's okay. I just want to say "thank you" again for all your prayers. It continues to be a great blessing to Pam and our little family. May the LORD bless you. Jim*

Other Titus Women Bible Study Prayer Requests

Tricia Garrison's mom has an aneurysm that is too deep in the brain to operate. Tricia went to Oregon today and plans to be gone for a month.

Please continue to pray for our own Elsie Smiley. She has cancer somewhere in her abdomen that is rapidly growing. She is in great spirits and is looking forward to being with Jesus. All of her family members close by have visited and are in unity about their decision not to treat the cancer. She is comfortably at home with her daughter Susan and says, "This is the Father's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom! Praise Him!"

Please also pray for Janelle Bigam. She needs wisdom for choosing a medical treatment that she needs.

Praises! God at Work Through Your Prayers

Thank you for praying for **Beth and Al** as they spoke at a **couple's retreat in Georgia**. Beth said that Jesus really helped them as they spoke five times and Al was fighting the flu. The hearts of the people were so hungry for Jesus. They really sensed your prayers and thank you so much!

Thank you for praying for **Jim Harriman** as he spoke at **Faith Wesleyan Chapel in Terre Haute, Indiana** last weekend. From the words of encouragement members of the congregation have shared with Jim on Diane's blog, it seems God really met them and spoke through Jim's life and preaching and their suffering. Thank you for carrying them during the difficult time Jim was away from the family.

Thank you for praying for **Connie Brandon's new Monday morning Bible Study in Kansas**. She reports, "The Monday study was so precious.... God is helping, I am trusting, and the ladies are sooo sweet! May He show us new truths this week." Thank you for praying.

Opportunity to Participate in God's Heart for the World

Dynamic Women in Missions with OMS International is sponsoring a **missions trip to Ecuador March 21-29, 2009**. For more information please contact Susan Brabon at sgrabon@omsinternational.org.

There will be no E News next week. Look for the next one on March 16th.

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