

Canadian Missionary Link

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NO METHOD BUT PRAYER

"The Apostle Paul regarded prayer as a method of work, a great avenue of service. To him it was no half-hearted spiritual form, but a real missionary service and labor. He used the phrase "Laboring fervently for you in prayer," and classed those who prayed as his real co-laborers." "Ye also helping together by prayer for us," and "Strive together with me in your prayers to God for me," besought this great pioneer missionary, of the early Christians. He recognized that his victories came through the prayers of those who interceded for him, for he wrote, "Through your prayers I shall be given unto you." In to-day's acts of the apostles, prayer has the same primal place. Pastor Ding Li Mei, China's great man of prayer, who has influenced more men to go into the ministry and other forms of Christian service than any other man of modern times in Asia, was asked by some who marvelled at the results of his work, what his method was. Pastor Ding answered simply, "I have no method but prayer."—The Missionary Outlook.

REAL PRAYER COSTS

"First, real prayer means holy living. The fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much in its working." The petitioner must either be living in communion with God, or he must be so earnest in his desire to come into that fellowship that he will permit nothing to stand in the way. Known sin must be abandoned, if we should pray.

"Second, true prayer costs time. If our Lord spent whole nights in prayer alone with the Father, can we expect answer to petitions, uttered hurriedly because we are more interested in other things? There is no merit in much

speaking, and a brief petition may be most effective, but time is a large factor in communion with God.

"Third, true prayer costs spiritual energy. Some prayers are asked as casually as if we were asking a servant for a glass of water. Christ, in prayer, sweat as it were great drops of blood in the agony of His Spirit; and the Christian's earnestness will be indicated by the whole-heartedness with which he devotes himself to prayer. There is labor in such intercession.

"Fourth, true prayer costs co-operation. How can a man pray for food if he will not work; how can he pray for the needy if he will not give; how can he pray for the conversion of men if he will not witness; how can he pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God if he is not doing all in his power to help hasten that Kingdom?

"Fifth, true prayer means study of world conditions. A man cannot know how to pray as he ought if he is ignorant of the needs of mankind. Carey prayed with a map of the world before him; a book or a magazine presenting facts is an excellent prayer book. We must visualize the condition and the possibilities of multitudes before we can truly have Christ-like compassion on them.

"Sixth, true prayer means knowledge of God. The knowledge of His program and ideals, familiarity with His promises, and sympathy with him are essentials.

"Seventh, true prayer means identification with Christ. 'Whatever ye ask in My name, that will I do.' (John 14: 13.) The indorsement of the Son of God means the certain granting of the petition, but such indorsement means that the petitioner is identified with Christ in desires, in life and in service.

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