

PRAYER IS THE WORK



A Cubist Prayer One World One God Anthony Falbo

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Some people sit around and pray, while others go out there and get the job done.

Maybe so---when it comes to building projects, “church growth”, and fund-raising.

But in the kingdom of God, prayer is the work.

Nothing happens until we pray.

...Pray the way the Master teaches us.

“Lord, teach us to pray!”

He was praying in a certain place, and when he ceased, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

We never see Jesus teaching the disciples how to preach, or heal, or cast out demons. But he never stops teaching them how to pray.

Here’s where you start

And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread;

and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive every one who is indebted to us;

and lead us not into temptation."

The Lord began by giving them the Lord’s Prayer---

---which is the door to the world of prayer.

The Lord’s Prayer is the door we enter every day,

as the Spirit keeps teaching us how to pray for the rest of our lives.

Intercession---where prayer becomes work



A Prayer from the Heart Anthony Falbo

And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'...."

God keeps sending people to us who need what we are powerless to give them.

Like the friend pounding on his neighbor's door at midnight, we turn to God and cry for help.

"Lord God, my hands are empty! Give me what I need to help this person!"

So why doesn't God respond? How come nothing happens?

...."And he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything'.

I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him whatever he needs."

This kind of prayer is rarely answered in an instant. It takes tenacity and discipline.

It takes faith.

"And I tell you, Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?"

Child-like faith. Confidence that the Father will answer.

Don't slink away with a pout. Keep pounding on the door of heaven!

*"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
Luke 11:1-13*

The help we need, the *only* help we need, is the Holy Spirit of God.

We cry out for the Holy Spirit, not so we can see visions and perform signs and wonders or drift into ecstasy.

We cry out for the Holy Spirit so we can pray!

The Holy Spirit is the one who teaches us to pray, helps us to pray, and even prays with us!

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will

Romans 8:26-27

Prayer is not preparation for the work.

Prayer is not support for the work.



Garden of Prayer Anthony Falbo

Prayer IS the work!

The outcome of our thanksgiving and praise and faithful listening to the voice of the Lord, is the work of intercession.

We lift before God's throne the names of those the Spirit puts on our hearts—
and they are instantly bathed in supernatural light.

When we name that person before the throne,
heaven touches them, wherever they may be on this earth.

Starting with our loved ones and expanding all the way out to the people who despise us,
we simply lift their names before the throne of heaven...

...that God may touch them with redemptive power.

We pray for refugees and children, the sick and wounded, the tyrants and the martyrs.

A waste of time?

Satan keeps telling us that we're wasting our time, lifting those names every day before God's throne.

Because Satan knows the power of intercession, and dreads it.

How many souls have been delivered from Satan's grip through the relentless intercession of
those who never give up!



One Praying Woman Anthony Falbo

How many "Simons" have been "turned again" through the work of prayer!

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have all of you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren."

Luke 22:31-32

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All art in today's post is by Anthony Falbo who is inspired by the Holy Spirit to paint.



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