

Building Toward Effective Prayer for Communal Impact

A conversation with Gordon Macdonald's book, *Ordering Your Private World*

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Bridget Herman, *European Christian - 90yrs ago*

“When we read the lives of the saints, we are struck by a certain large leisure which went hand in hand with a remarkable effectiveness. They were never hurried; they did comparatively few things, and these not necessarily striking or important; and they troubled very little about their influence. Yet they always seemed to hit the mark; every bit of their life told; their simplest actions had a distinction, an exquisiteness which suggested the artist. The reason is not far to seek. Their sainthood lay in their habit of referring the smallest actions to God. They lived in God. they acted from pure motive of love towards God.... They possess God and possessed themselves in God (150).”

- Bridget Herman

Communal Impact that is rooted in prayer is not just teaching prayer so that we are as strong as our weakest link, it is finding strength in the simple idea that we are linked.

How are we praying as individuals/parts that affect the whole? Are we presenting our simplest actions as prayer to God?

Trouble in

prayer

I. Worship & Intercession Seem to be Unnatural Acts

- Men and women were originally created to desire communion with God, but sin turned a natural activity into an unnatural function
 - Our instinctive preoccupations with food, various pleasures and security (152)
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I. Worship & Intercession are Tacit

- Prayer becomes an admission and introspection of personal weakness
 - Maybe it is not our place to pray for the community because our personal lives are in shambles
 - What is the intra-communal weakness that we need to intentionally address as to synch our prayer lives?
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III. Prayer Sometimes Seems to be Unrelated to Actual Results

- May not come when you want Him..
 - We are used to results in response to OUR arrangements.
 - Our prayer life cannot be directly tied to the results we expect or demand (155)
 - Prayer, worship and intercession is more about us aligning with God's purposes OVER God aligning with our purposes
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what's the

pivot?

The Content of Prayer:

I. Adoration

II. Confession

III. Intercession

I. Adoration centers God as Creator and as Revealer

Our communal prayer & impact has to point back to God who constantly reveals to us the importance of community.

I. Confession centers our frailty and weakness before God.

This builds the spiritual discipline of regular acknowledgement of our true human nature and how our disobedience has not been pleasurable to a God who has sought our fellowship and obedience.

“There are too many people claiming to be followers of Christ who lost sight of their own sinfulness years ago.. (161).”

Intercession: *to stand between two parties and plead the case of one to the other.*"

- **Who do we genuinely intercede for? Do we intercede because they look like us? Think like us? Believe like us?**

Acts 6: The Apostles, Leaders of the Early Jerusalem Church asked associates to take the tasks of ministering, so that they could “devote themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word.”

**Our communal prayer and intercession must
become a pillar in our devotion**