



# THE SIGNAL

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS  
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In Luke 11, the disciples of our Lord ask Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." This request comes just after a visit in the home of the sisters Mary and Martha when He gives Martha some timely advice. She was upset because Mary was not helping her serve as hostess. There was much to do, and Martha was "cumbered about much serving." "Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Prayer is coming before the Lord and lifting our hearts to Him in worship and praise. It is spreading our cares and complaints at Jesus' feet, trusting Him with our burdens and the outcomes of our requests. Time spent in prayer is one way of laying up treasures in heaven. Time cannot be recalled down here, but it can be stored away in heaven where moths, rust, and thieves cannot touch it.

Often we wonder how to go about this privilege and spiritual discipline. In the passage we learn that "praying in a certain place, when He was ceased, one of His disciples said unto Him, Lord, teach us to pray." What follows is often referred to as The Lord's Prayer, the Disciples' Prayer, or the Model Prayer. Rather than restricting this beautiful teaching to something to learn by rote, it is best considered as a Guide to Prayer or an outline to help us organize our praying. Our Lord gives us five departments to assist us in praying effectively. I've given the titles in alliteration to help us remember them: [1] Praise [vs. 2], [2] Petition [vs. 2], [3] Provision [vs. 3], [4] Penitence [vs. 4], and [5] Protection [vs. 4].

We are to "Praise" our God. His name sets Him apart from all other beings in heaven and on earth. Jeremiah 9:23-24 says, "Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty glory in his might, let not the rich glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth, and knoweth Me; that I am the Lord." Exodus 15:11 says, "Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among

the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" Jesus tells us to begin in prayer by hallowing God's name. The word "hallow" means "to mentally venerate, purify, consecrate, to make holy." Prayer includes praising God for all He is, all He has done, and all He has promised to do.

Next is "Petition." "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth." Much of our praying should be asking the Lord's will to be revealed to us and for it to be accomplished on earth. We cannot imagine the heavenly host delaying, complaining, or questioning the carrying out of God's will. We think of the angels quickly, obediently, and joyously hastening to obey.

The next department is "Provision." "Give us this day our daily bread." Bread was the staple of their diet. It is synonymous with food or any tangible need we may have. "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" [Phil. 4:6]. All that we truly need, we are to petition the Lord for it. "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" [vs. 19].

"Penitence" is the fourth category. "And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us." God has graciously granted us forgiveness and cleansing when we come to Him earnestly confessing it [1 John 1:9]. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" [Prov. 28:13]. We are to keep short accounts with God and with others.

Lastly is the plea for "Protection." "And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil." Temptation means "to test." It is like a coin with two sides. From God's perspective, He allows tests to perfect us, to increase our faith, and to draw us close to Him [Job 1]. He never desires to discourage us or cause us to sin. From Satan's perspective temptation is to lead us into sin. He uses it to solicit us to sin. This is the crux of James' teaching on the matter [James 1:13-16]. We are to ask God for strength, wisdom, and guidance through every test He allows. We want to pass the test and glorify Him in doing so.

There is a wonderful promise in regards to testing found in 1 Corinthians 10:13: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

I trust that the five "departments" of prayer will help you organize your thoughts and adequately express yourself to the Lord in your daily worship.

What a wonderful way to begin this new year.

Thank you for helping us carry out the Great Commission here at the *Where God Is Blessing Broadcasting Network*. Your prayers for us and your support are coveted.

Your servant,  
Chris Lamb

## **BACK TO THE BIBLE**

### **DR. WARREN WIERSBE**

### **MONDAY-FRIDAY, 6:30 A.M.**

Warren W. Wiersbe is a well-known international Bible conference teacher with a heart for missions and is a former pastor of Moody Church in Chicago.

Dr. Wiersbe studied at Indiana University in Indianapolis, Roosevelt University, and graduated in 1953 from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Illinois. While attending the seminary, he was ordained as pastor of Central Baptist Church in 1951 and served until 1957. From September 1957 to 1961, Warren served as Director of the Literature Division for Youth for Christ International. From 1961 to 1971 he pastored Calvary Baptist Church in Covington, Kentucky, south of Cincinnati, Ohio. His Sunday sermons were broadcast as the *Calvary Hour* on a local Cincinnati radio station.

From 1971 to 1978, Dr. Wiersbe pastored Chicago's Moody Church, named for nineteenth century evangelist Dwight L. Moody. While at Moody Church he continued in radio ministry including serving as the host of *Songs in the Night*, a national radio program that moved to Moody Church in 1968. For several years during this time, Dr. Wiersbe taught practical theology classes at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois, and wrote the course material and taught "Imagination and the Quest for Biblical Preaching," a Doctor of Ministry course at Trinity and Dallas Seminary. While pastoring in Chicago, Warren served on the board of Slavic Gospel Association [SGA] from 1971 to 1983, ten of those years as chairman of the board.

From 1980 to 1990 he went to work for the *Back to the Bible* radio broadcasting network and served as general director the last six years of his time there. In 1995, Dr. Wiersbe became Writer in Residence at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Distinguished Professor of Preaching at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. As a contributing editor to Baker Book House, he has been writing books since the 1950s under several publishing house labels, completing more than 150 books including the popular "BE" series of commentaries on every book of the Bible, which has sold over four million copies. He is known as a "pastor's pastor," and his speaking, writing, and radio ministries have brought new understanding of the truths of God's Word to people around the world. Warren and his wife, Betty, live in Lincoln, Nebraska.

"FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST: FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH; TO THE JEW FIRST, AND ALSO TO THE GREEK."

ROMANS 1:16