

While it Is Day – C.J. Ritchie

III. Prayer

In this section we are dealing with the training Jesus gave His disciples, and from His methods we seek to learn how we might do His work more proficiently. The place of prayer in our personal lives and experience will find a place in another chapter. Here we consider its place in the winning of souls. Jesus taught His disciples to pray. The Lord's Prayer was part of His program of instruction. But Jesus did much more than teach His disciples to pray. He earnestly prayed for souls. He earnestly prayed for His disciples. He also prayed with them. "And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, He took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray." Luke 9:28. Souls are first won upon our knees. By faith we wrestle with God in prayer for those for whom we have a burden. Then we work in harmony with our petitions and seek to let God answer our prayers through our own humble efforts. We should also invite others to join us who carry a similar burden upon their hearts. We would see many more converted if a great wave of intercessory prayer swept over our churches. There should be little groups constantly pleading for souls as they carry forward their missionary labors. If only little groups of earnest workers would plead for one and then another, as they labor for them, we would see many more souls "coming over the line." Especially should there be earnest praying when an evangelistic effort is in progress and when men and women are facing the great testing truths of the message.

Why not let us join in a great "Fellowship of prayer"? Suppose the various bands choose a special hour when they will, in their private devotions, each day, remember their missionary activities and the people they are laboring for. Prayer is the secret of power in fruit bearing. The Son of God prayed long and earnestly over His work. Should we do less? In a certain mission school a group of teachers united together in a personal workers' band. Here they studied methods of personal work and then united in prayer for those of their student body who were unconverted. Then, dividing that needy group among themselves, they personally appealed to them to accept Christ as their Savior. The results of that combination of earnest prayer and faithful work were astonishing. Joy thrilled the hearts of these teachers as they saw one after another of these students accept the Savior. In the evangelistic efforts and in the churches where souls are constantly being horn into the truth there is a spirit of prevailing, intercessory prayer. Would that this spirit of prayer activated every believer and permeated the life of every church.