

March 1999 Prayer

by Aaron Greenway

In a few days, I will be singing at First Baptist Church here in Dallas, TX for a “prayer service.” The person who scheduled me to sing is adamant about the need of prayer in our country and in our every day lives. The new Rebecca St. James CD is entitled ‘Pray.’ I flew up to Denver for a Christian coffee house youth rally a few weeks ago and heard about the need for prayer amongst many of the people. Several days earlier, many of the brothers at DTS were discussing this very issue in the dorm. My best friend, Mark Bahr, recently made a profound statement, “The greatest need in our country is not leadership; the greatest need in our country is prayer.” At the beginning of this year, God began moving in me personally to spend at least a half hour every night with Him.

Many times, our prayer lives consist of quick sentences in the middle of traffic “God, get this traffic going! I am going to be late for work!” Or, “Lord what I am going to do about my finances?” I have often carried on conversation with the Lord while going about my everyday life. But I really have come to realize that God longs to drag me away from all of that and get me alone with Him. Moses had to get away from the children of Israel and go be alone with God. And when he came down, it was evident that he had been in the presence of the Lord (Exodus 34:29-35).

I really believe that this is where God is going to see true change — first in the lives of His children, and second, in the lives of the people around us. The reason why we don’t care for others is because our hearts haven’t been broken enough. The heart of our Lord breaks over lost sinners, and God has called us to reach out to them. But first, He wants our hearts. God is not interested in what service we can give Him, until He has those things that are most precious to us. The Lord isn’t interested in what we can do until He has made us what He wants us to be.

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I believe, when these things happen, the hardest heart melts, the lowest are made great, the farthest are made near, the powers of Hell are bound. And most of all, the name of Jesus is lifted up. Isn't that what we live for?

How many of us today can commit to spending a certain amount of time with the Lord even if it is just a half hour. Trust me, after precious moments with Jesus, our half hour will turn into 45 minutes and then an hour, because we will begin to be broken, and our lives will be changed....and then the lives around us will truly be ministered to.

How many will commit? Can we afford not to?

Psalm 16:11 "You will show me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."