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We continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the  
ministry of the word.

Acts 6: 4 ASV

## Welcome to Bible Study and Prayer

### WHAT STRONGHOLDS?

Wednesday 7 June, 2017 A.D.  
(Anno Domini – In the year of our Lord)

Wednesday 13 Sivan, 5777

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- The Holy Spirit inspired Luke to convey the temptation of Jesus was a diabolical plan, when the devil in a moment of time put on display his kingdoms. A portion of the diabolic plan was to blind the minds of the unbelieving?

- **Text:** Ephesians 6: 12 ASV

For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

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- **Text:** II Corinthians 10: 3-6 ASV

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds),  
<sup>5</sup> casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ; <sup>6</sup> and being in readiness to avenge all disobedience, when your obedience shall be made full.

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- All of us know that we should be praying. Yet prayer is not practiced with any regularity, fervency, or quantity. Why are we not praying like we should?
- Cynicism undergirds our resistance to this divinely ordained practice. We think to ourselves, *God does not actually answer prayers. Why should I bother? Everything will turn out the same anyway.* This is the reason Wednesday night Prayer and Bible Study meetings are barren.

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- If we thought God answered prayers, Bible Study would be full, as long as food is on the table and everything is in order, we are confident that we have everything handled. We are not desperate enough to pray!
- Health concerns are the primary topic of prayer. Such prayer is not bad, but significant issues are usually absent.
- Are we praying for the renewal of our minds, the transformation of our deceitful hearts, are we praying for repentance and revival?

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- The apostle Paul prayed this model for the saints at Philippi: Philippians 1: 9-11 ASV

I pray, that your love may abound, Philippians 1: 9  
more and more in knowledge and all discernment.

Philippians 1: 9

So that ye may approve the things that are  
**excellent;** Philippians 1: 10

that ye may be sincere and void of offence

Philippians 1: 10

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unto the day of Christ. Philippians 1: 10

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness,

Philippians 1: 11

which are through Jesus Christ, Philippians 1: 11

unto the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1: 11

Amen and Amen

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- How should Christians engage culturally?
- They often make one of two errors.
- Some reject culture, distancing themselves from it, forgetting they are the salt of the earth, and without sustained reflection how their belief should shape their engagement.
- Others embrace it without analysis of the deficiency.
- Christians must recognize how a Christ shaped

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gospel shapes their life!

- The Word addresses moral and ethical issues in a way that trains saints and institutions to reflect gospel wisdom.
- Most sinners and some Christians make evaluation based on feelings and formulate their perceptions on the basis not of logical reason, but of gut feeling.
- Ministers must proclaim a message that doesn't

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just transform the heart in salvation and healing, but cultivates instincts in sanctification.

- Messages have one goal; to address misconceptions of culture and confront hearers with the gospel of Christ.
- One of the ways the devil deceives is to blind the mind to a right understanding.
- Culture is one of his sharpest tools.
- The proclaimed Word can tear down any stronghold he has set up – if it is heard!

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- When the gospel is oversimplified, to reflect only salvation, we have no words for ongoing pursuit of Christian life.
- The gospel of Christ must be whole, it conforms believers into the image of Christ who was whole.
- The Word reshapes unbelievers into believers and then reshapes believers into the image of Christ.

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- Christ overcame the curse of sin and death and purchased their healing with His stripes. He makes that whole gift to anyone and everyone who will receive it.
- What is Divine Healing? It is the divine power of Jesus Christ to heal the sick and afflicted in answer to the prayers of His people, without medicine or surgery, even as He did almost nineteen hundred years ago when He walked upon this earth.

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- Is Divine Healing for Today? Many of God's dear children have the mistaken idea that the day of miracles is past and the Lord Jesus no longer heals the sick. They honestly believe, and some have even preached, that these things were only for Bible days, that Christ has now withdrawn this power (which they say, was only given as a sign to the Jews), and that we now must do the best we can for these human bodies, looking for help from doctors, surgeons,

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medicines, herbs, massage, morphine, quacks,  
- in fact anybody or anything except the Lord  
Jesus Christ.

- There is not one verse in the dear old Bible to substantiate such teaching.
- What is the Difference Between Divine Healing and Christian Science? Christian Science teaches there is no sin and no sickness, that such thoughts are error and that all that is

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needed is the power of mind over matter to overcome. Their foundation for this is based upon the Scriptures that tell us that without God, nothing was made that has been made (see [John 1: 3](#)), and that God saw everything that He had made and, behold it was very good (see [Genesis 1: 31](#)). Because, they say, there was nothing made except that which God made, and because He made neither sin nor sickness, there is therefore no such thing as sin or

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sickness. Train your mind to believe this, disregard sickness and pain, exert your mind to correct this error, and all is well.

- This however, is not the teaching of the Bible. Sin and sickness were brought into the world through the fall, when Satan entered the garden of Eden in the form of a serpent, deceived Eve, and brought in, through disobedience to God, the curse of sin, suffering, thorns, and thistles.

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- The Bible teaches us that there is not only such a thing as sin but that it is exceedingly sinful, and no amount of correct thinking or turning over of new leaves or cultivation of self-righteousness can cleanse us from its stain. We are told that there is but one remission of sin, and that is the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father.
- Will Turning to Medical Aid Keep Me from Heaven? No, it is sin that bars us out of heaven. Divine healing is not law; it is a blessed

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privilege.

- When we bought our automobile, a salesman kindly said to us, "Now, any time your car needs fixing up or servicing, we will be glad to have you come right in. We will fix it free of charge. This is our own make of car, we understand it thoroughly, and our system of service is included for a certain length of time without any additional cost to you."
- So it is with our blessed Lord. It is He who

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made us, not we ourselves. If you would prefer an earthly physician to the Great Physician, or feel that you could trust him more, then go to him. But it is your blessed privilege to come to the Lord who made us, who understands our frame and knows just how to heal us without pain or suffering.

- What Is Your Attitude Toward the Medical Fraternity? "Do you fight the doctoral?" we are sometimes asked. Not at all. Some of our most

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blessed Christian friends and brethren are in the medical profession, but the very best of them have told us they could only do just so much with their powders and pills and that the Lord must do the rest. We have known doctors who have much more confidence in God than their medicines and who kneel and pray with their patients, seeing Christ conquer where they have failed.

- What Should Be the Attitude of the Church Toward Divine Healing? There is only one way

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to answer this question, and that is from the Word of God. The attitude taken by the church today should be identical to that taken by the children of God in Bible days. Our attitude should be that of Peter when, in Acts 5, by the power of Jesus, the healing of the sick, and working of signs and wonders through his prayer, the entire country was shaken for miles around; or Philip, when in Acts 8, a whole city was turned to Christ because they saw and heard "the miracles which he did" (verse 6); or James,

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when he left explicit directions for the healing of the sick through the prayer of faith.

(See James 5: 13-15.) It should be the attitude of John Wesley when he prayed for the healing of the sick and saw so many diseases among the people, and even the lameness of his horse, healed in answer to prayer.

- What Is the Difference Between the Prayer of Faith and Gifts of Healing? The Prayer of Faith

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as we understand it, is just what its name indicates – a prayer of faith: "Oh Lord, Your Word is true. Your promises are yes and amen to everyone who believes. And now dear Jesus, we bring our brother or sister in the arms of faith to Your throne. Be pleased to lay Your hand in healing and blessing upon this afflicted one, that he/she may be made whole from this very hour."

- The gifts of healing, coming as a special

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unction from God, at special times, in special cases, usually according to the tide of the cry of faith, cry: "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, be made whole! Rise up and walk!" (See Acts 3: 6.) This gift commands the blind eyes to be opened and the deaf ears to be unstopped. It is as though the power and authority of God, through the Holy Spirit, descends upon and envelopes one for the time being, even as the mantle of Elijah fell upon

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and clothed Elisha.

- Just What Benefits to the Church Are Derived from Divine Healing? The practical benefits that the church derives from the healing of the sick are substantial and manifold.
- It awakens the interest of entire communities and convinces infidels who have heretofore cried, "Where is your God?" Like the dynamic challenge of Elijah, "The God that answereth by fire, let him be God!" (1 Kings 18: 24), it brings down

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the power from heaven.

- It draws multitudes unto Jesus, causing them to repent and make Him their Savior, who were previously cold and indifferent to revivals or religion of any kind. The very act of preparing for healing, as set forth leads the petitioner to Calvary's fountain and places him upon the altar of consecration.
- It is a death blow to indifferece and sets thousands to the unaccustomed task of reading

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the Bible to see whether these things are so.

- It packs the church that has been previously only occasionally filled by some gigantic entertainment or special effort, and it gives you the opportunity to pour the blessed gospel into open, receptive hearts.
- It is God's answer to Christian Science, and as such, it will help you win back members you have lost when they return to the only church

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they could find that expressed any interest in the physical welfare of the people.

- It will benefit the blind in that, when healed, they can read the Bible; the deaf in that they can hear the preached Word; the lame knees, in that they can again kneel in prayer to the Lord Jesus. It will stimulate your own faith insomuch that you can see and feel the hand of the Lord working with you, confirming the Word with signs following.

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- May It Not Be That Much of Our Sickness Is Sent from the Hand of the Lord to Make Us Better Christians or to Keep Us from Wandering Away? This is an old and often advanced theory, but it is without foundation in the Word of God. The thought of our tender, sympathizing Jesus planting within His children cruel cancers to burn and gnaw and eat their way into the very heart of the sufferer, or paralysis to the limbs of little children so that

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they can run and play no more, or blindness to the eyes of the father so he can no more earn his daily bread, or venereal diseases to children so that they will be made imbecile and crippled, is hideous and not to be thought of.

- This is not the work of our Lord but of the archfiend Satan, whose work Jesus came to destroy.
- If, as you say, the Lord sends diseases, creates

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suffering bodies and sorrowing homes, to make us better Christians, why not get some vials of germs – diphtheria, TB, infantile paralysis, and the like – from the laboratories and scatter them over the congregation to make us all more patient and Christlike? If a little is good, would not more be better?

- Is It Then Sin to Be Sick? No. Some of the godliest men and women you know are saints of the Most High and will be soon be over on

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the glory side. And there are some for whom, for some reason, deliverance does not seem to come; and as we have already said, divine healing is not a law but a blessed privilege for those who can press through and touch the Master's garment.

- Do You Hold the Theory That We Can Live Forever in This Mortal Body? No. Not at all. But there is protection for the saints of God.

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- I agree word for word with every answered question in this Bible Study, as spoken from the lips of one of God's Generals, Aimee Semple McPherson, in her groundbreaking ministry. Her message is as powerful today as a century ago. She blessed us.
- Jesus gave us <sup>19</sup> the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever we shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven. Matthew 16: 19 ASV
- **Let's bind healing with a prayer of faith:**

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- My Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Luke 11: 2
- I come boldly unto the throne of grace, that I may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4: 16
- Jehovah commands I walk in His ways, keep His statutes, commandments, ordinances, and hearken unto His voice with all my heart, and with all my soul. Deuteronomy 26: 16-18

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- Jehovah knows the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish. Psalm 1: 6
- By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice, witness he was righteous, in respect of his gifts: though he was dead. Hebrews 11: 4
- Might all things be added to me when I seek first His kingdom, and righteousness. Matthew 6: 33
- I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer with fasting. Daniel 9: 3

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- May my offering be pleasant unto Jehovah, in righteousness. Malachi 3: 3
- In gladness, blow the trumpets over my offerings, and sacrifices, a memorial before Jehovah. Numbers 10: 10
- A devout man, fears God with all his house, gives much alms and prays always, memorial before God. Acts 10: 2-4
- What I give, shall be given unto me; good measure, pressed down, shaken together,

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running over. With my measure it shall be measured to me. Luke 6: 38

- Jesus said; whatever I shall ask the Father in His name, You will give it to me. John 16: 23
- Your promises are yes and amen to everyone who believes. Oh Lord, Your Word is true.  
John 4: 23
- Be pleased to lay Your hand in healing and blessing upon this afflicted one.

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- I pray for another, knowing effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Now dear Jesus, I bring brother, AKM2 in the arms of faith to Your throne.

James 5: 16

- Lord, grant thy servant to speak thy word with all boldness, while thy stretchest forth thy hand to heal; that signs and wonders be done through the name of Jesus. Acts 4: 29-30
- Right now I cast the care of it all on You.

1 Peter 5: 7

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- Your Word states; what things soever I desire, when I pray, believe that I receive them, and I shall have them. Mark 11: 24
- Father, I thank You now even before I can see it. I stand upon my watch, and look forth concerning my complaint. Habakkuk 2: 1
- Jehovah said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tablets. Habakkuk 2: 2
- The vision is yet for the appointed time, and though it tarry, it will surely come, it will not delay. Habakkuk 2: 3

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- This day, 7 June 2017, I believe the prayer of faith is met.
- Now I offer praise and thanksgiving.
- The confidence I have in You, that, if I ask any thing according to Your will, You hear me: I know that You hear me, I know that I have the petitions that I desire of You. I John 5: 14-15
- Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as in heaven. Matthew 6: 10

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- For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Matthew 6: 13
- Asking all in Jesus name. John 14: 14
- Amen.

*You are invited to join us!*

*We continue steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.*