

ZAWADI YA MWAKA MPYA
KWA WASOMA KISWAHILI WOTE

SIRI ZA MAOMBI

Yanayojibiwa....!

*Imenukuliwa kutoka kwenye vitabu
vya RYU.*

2025 SWAHILI Edition -Hazina ya Kujifunza Kusali

Kimetafsiriwa kutoka kwenye Kitabu cha Kingereza cha Prayer by EGW

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Mpendwa Msomaji

Hitaji letu kuu katika huduma hii ya Machapisho Uhamishoni ni Roho Mtakatifu na kisha Maombi yako msomaji. Kumbuka pia huduma zingine za machapisho kwa kila lugha, taifa na jamaa. Toka mtambo wa kuchapa ubuniwe kule Ujerumani mwaka 1456 na Johannes Gutenberg, Neno la Mungu limefikia mabilioni, ila bado kuna makundi 4000 kati ya 7000 bado hayajafikiwa, angalia Joshugaproject.org na habari za '1040 window' Sambaza Biblia popote ndiyo kauli mbiu ya muumini, Sambaza Neno la Mungu kote. Jiunge nasi katika kuandika vitabu vya kuboresha watu, kutafsiri, kuhakiki, na kuhariri.

Ombi letu, usibadilishe chochote, tuite kama kuna kosa! Sasa umefika wakati wa kuandika vitabu ambavyo vinaendana na muktadha wa rasilimali, mazingira na utamaduni wetu, kwani ulimwengu wa Kikristo sasa umehamia Afrika na Amerika ya Kusini, ila hapa Kwetu Afrika Mashariki, nasit umekuwa wazito kuandika kuhusiana na Mada mbalimbali ambazo zinaendana na mazingira yetu kwenye mada za afya, lische, mahusiano kati ya wazazi au ndoa, kilimo na mazao yake, kulea na kukuza watoto, aina za biashara zinazoendelea, hali ya kisiasa na muumini, utendaji wa kufikia watu na kujenga makanisa, nyimbo zetu na noti zake, haya yote tunayasoma na kuyaiga kwenye vitabu vya magharibi na ni mema tu, ila kama ulimwengu wa Kikristo umehamia kwetu, tunabidishwa pia kuwa waandishi kwasababu tunajua hali yetu katika kufikia wengine au kuboresha afya na jamii kuliko mtu mwingine.

Kwanini nyimbo zetu nzuri zenye ujumbe mzito zisichaguliwe kwa makini, nyimbo zilizoimbwa miaka 50 hivi na kuwekwa kwenye vitabu na kisha watu waimbe. Tenzi tunazoimba za magharibi ni nzuri, ila nasi hapa tuna nyimbo nzuri na zinaendana na utamaduni wetu, kwanini tusijiongeze nasi, ili tuongeze kwenye maktaba yetu ya nyingine, vizuri vingine, tuna wataalamu wengi wa nyimbo sasa.

Na hata vitabu vya watoto, tunahitaji watu wanaopenda watoto kufanya kazi hii kwa kushirikiana. Pia umefika wakati wa 'Reverse Mission' Watu wa Amerika ya Kusini

sasa ni wainjilisti kila mahali duniani, ikiwemo magharibi kama vile Ulaya, Marekani na hata, Asia, Australia, Mashariki ya kati na Afrika! Sisi Afrika tuna Waumini wengi kuliko Amerika ya kusini, ila bado tunaona kwamba tupate waandishi kutoka nchi zenye Wakristo wachache kuliko sisi ambao hawaandiki kwa muktadha wa mazingira yetu na watoto wetu wanaona pengine wawe na vile vitu walivyo navyo nchi zile au wawe na mwenendo kama ule, na mfano mdogo sana utakuwa kuhusu chakula, wanafikiri sisi ni lazima tule kimchi, taco, panzit, empanada, manicotti, tortellini, sushi, falafel, je viwanda vyetu vinatengeneza vitu hivi? Kila chakula duniani kinacholimwa hufanana tu, ila matayarisho hupishana, Mwafrika atatumia ngano kupika ugali, Mhindi chapati, Mchina Noodle, Mzungu mkate nk.

Ni kweli Kiswahili ilikuwa lugha ya kuzungumzwa na siyo ya Maandishi, ila wakati umefika maandishi kuongezwa kwenye mambo mazuri! Naelewa kwamba si utamaduni wetu kuandika, ila si utamaduni wetu kufanya mambo mengi ambayo sasa tunayafanya! Nategemea tunaiga mazuri tu! Na si kila kitabu tunachoandika ni lazima kiuzwe, vingine ni vya kusaidia jamii, wewe hautaweza kuuza kila kitu katika dunia hii kama unataka kufanya uinjilisti au kubariki watu.

Watu husema utamaduni wa mtu mweusi ni kusaidia jamaa na ndugu zake wa damu tu na wala sio taasisi. Yawezekana ni kweli ila tuna la kujifunza kutoka kwa kila mwanadamu. Wenzetu wa Nigeria wameanza kuweka vitabu vyao vya kuboresha jamii mtandaoni ili watu wasome na kufaidika katika nyanja mbalimbali kama vile uchumba, maombi ya kuondoa laana kwenye familia nk. Joel Nanauka ni mfano mzuri katika Ulimwengu wa Kiswahili kwenye kuandika na kugawia watu ujuzi wake, tumevisoma vitabu vyake vizuri ambavyo ametubariki kwa mamilioni kwenye ujasiliamali nk. Ukiwa na chochote, hata ni kama senti mbili za Mjane, ujuzi, uwezeshaji wa aina fulani tafadhali usisite kutufikia na pia kama una ujuzi wa kuandika vitabu au kufundisha wengine kuandika vitabu, tuwasiliane, maana ulimwengu wa Kiswahili una umasikini wa Maandishi yaliyoandikwa kwa muktadha wa utamaduni, nyenzo, na maisha yetu ya kila siku, tunaomba mashauri pia kwa kutumia [Email:](#)

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YESU Anarudi! Roho na Bibi arusi waseme, “Njoo!” Kila mtu asikiaye hili, na aseme, “Njoo!” Aliye na kiu na aje; anayependa, na achukue maji ya uzima bila malipo. Amina. Njoo Bwana

Tunawatakieni Nyote Neema Ya MUNGU Wetu Mkuu Idumu Ndani Yenu. MARANATHA Wapendwa Wa BWANA! Amina

Kila mwanadamu anahitaji maombi. Hivyo sambaza kwa wote ili tuweze kujiombea na kuombeana! Masihi anakuja, tuombe tuwe tayari kwa zawadi ipitayo zote! Kiswahili ni Lugha ya kumi duniani, na ya tatu kwa madhehebu mengi makubwa, hivyo ombea tafsiri ya maandiko ya uzima wa milele ya Kiswahili.

Mwisho wa sura za kitabu hiki kuna nukuu toka Runinga Ya Upendo kuhusu Maombi na zaidi ya Mafungu 500 ya Maandiko yamenukuliwa humu.

UTANGULIZI

Maandiko yanatuhimiza "Kuomba bila kukoma." Hii haimaanishi kwamba tunapaswa kutumia muda wetu wote tukiwa tumepiga magoti yetu katika maombi rasmi. Bali Inamaanisha kwamba lazima tuishi na kumtumikia Bwana wetu katika mazingira ya maombi yaliyo rasmi na yasiyo rasmi (structured and unstructured), rasmi na yasiyo rasmi, yenye mpangilio na yasiyo na mpangilio, mfano ukiwa kwenye basi au safarini, ukiwa kanisani, ukiwa kibaruni, si lazima kufumba macho, ila unaweza kuinua mikono mitakatifu kama Biblia inavyoshauri ikibidi, usifikiri ni mambo ya dini fulani kuinua mikono, (1Tim2:5) hapana! Hutakuwa umekiuka sheria za Biblia kuinua mikono bila hasira wala magomvi, hata hivyo polisi akisema “mikono juu -hands up” si utaiweka? Basi kwanini usimwinulie mikono Mungu na kujisalimisha Kwake! Siku moja Kila goti litapigwa na kila ndimi itakiri Masihi ni Bwana).

Maombi ni njia ya mawasiliano kati ya nafsi zetu na MUNGU. MUNGU huzungumza nasi kupitia Neno Lake; tunamwitikia Neno Lake anapozungumza kupitia maombi

yetu, Naye hutusikiliza daima. Hatuwezi kumchosha au kumlelea kwa mawasiliano yetu ya mara kwa mara ya mioyo yetu kwenda kwa moyo Wake.

Tumefika kwenye nyakati ngumu. Matukio katika ulimwengu wetu yanamuhitaji kila mfuasi wa Kristo kuwa na bidii kabisa ndani ya uhusiano wake na MUNGU. Ili kuimarisha uhusiano huu na kutosheleza mahitaji yetu ya kihisia, kijamii, kimwili, kiuchumu na pia kiroho, ni lazima tujifunze nguvu ya maombi. Ni lazima tumsihi Bwana, kama wanafunzi wa awali, tukisema, “Bwana, tufundishe kuomba.” Lazima tuseme kwa kusisitiza kwamba katika nukuu hizi zote maneno mawili yametumika kupita maneno mengine nayo ni Maombi ya Dhati, na Maombi ya bidii na Usongo/ari (Earnest and Fervent Prayers). Hebu yafanyie utafiti maneno haya yana maana gani maana yamesheheni tunu kubwa, ambayo mpaka leo nasi tunajikanyaga kuyaelewa, tunaomba utuandikie na kutumegea nasi upatapo uelewa wake tafadhali sana! Mara nyingi watu hujiita Prayer Warrior wakimaanisha wapigana vita vya maombi, Sura ya Maombezi au Intercessory Prayer ni muhimu kujua tunapojiita jina Hili.

Kwamba MUNGU yuko radhi na yuko tayari kusikiliza na kujibu maombi yetu yanayotoka moyoni katika hali zote ni jambo lenye kutia moyo sana. Yeye ni Baba Mwenye upendo ambaye huzingatia wakati mambo yanaenda vizuri na wakati mabadiliko ya maisha yanapotuletea mapigo yenye kuhuzunisha, yaliyo magumu, na ya kutisha. Tunapojisikia kulia, “MUNGU, uko wapi?” Ni vizuri kujua kwamba Yeye Yupo karibu kupitia kuomba.

Mwandishi mmoja alisema, “Mambo mengi zaidi hufanywa na maombi kuliko ndoto za ulimwengu huu.” Hili ni kweli pia kwa kanisa. “Uamsho wa Ucha MUNGU wa kweli miongoni mwetu ndilo hitaji kuu na la msingi kuliko mahitaji yetu yote. Kuutafuta huu inapaswa kuwa kazi yetu ya kwanza” (Selected Messages 1:121). MUNGU atatenda kwa ajili yetu tunapomba kile ambacho hangetenda ikiwa hatukumuomba. (The Great Controversy, 525 Nafikiri hii inahusika sana uchaguzi na pambano kuu linaloendelea). Tunakubali kwamba tunahitaji kumimiwa kwa Roho Mtakatifu. Lakini hili linaweza kutimizwa tunapomba maombi ya binafsi na ya pamoja tu. Watu wa MUNGU wanapomba kwa bidii, kwa unyofu, mmoja mmoja, na

kwa pamoja, MUNGU atajibu. Mambo makubwa yatatokea ndani na miongoni mwa watu wa MUNGU. Na ulimwengu utahisi matokeo wakati Roho Mtakatifu anakuja kuwatayarisha na kuwawezesha watu Wake.

Tunaamini kitabu hiki kitapata mapokezi kwa utayari miongoni mwa watu wa asili zote. Tunaposoma nukuu teuzi kutoka kwa RYU- Runinga ya Upendo au Roho ya Unabii juu ya somo muhimu la maombi, tutaona mioyo yetu ikiwa imechochewa kwa njia ya ajabu na changamfu. Jumbe hizi zitagusa mioyo yetu. Tutasadikishwa kwa mambo mengi yaliyoelezwa nayo yatapata nafasi ndani ya mioyo yetu, na kuibua mwitikio wa kuafiki wito wa MUNGU juu ya maisha ya maombi ya kina na mengi zaidi.

"Baba yetu wa mbinguni anasubiri kutupatia ukamilifu wa baraka Zake. Ni nafasi ya upendeleo kwetu kunywa kwa kadiri tuwezavyo kutoka kwenye chemchemi ya upendo usio na ukomo/kifani. Kinachoshangaza ni kwamba tunaomba kidogo sana. MUNGU Yuko radhi na Yuko tayari kusikia maombi ya dhati ya watoto Wake walio wanyenyekevu zaidi Kwa nini wana na binti za MUNGU wanasita kuomba, wakati maombi ndiyo ufunguo katika mkono wa imani ili kufungua ghala za mbinguni, pahali ambako zimetunzwa hazina tele za Mweza wa Yote?" (Steps to Christ, 94, 95).

Binafsi tumebarikiwa sana kukisoma kitabu hichi, hebu nawe ubarikiwe na kuviombea vitabu hivi 30 kwenye mlolongo huu vipate mhakiki-Proofreader na wataalamu wanaohusika kuvisambaza

Maranatha!

Katika kutafsiri, Mambo manne ndiyo yalikuwa kwenye mawazo yetu kuliko mengine

- Yesu Anarudi Upesi, inabidi shuhuda hizi ziwafikie watu mapema na kutayarisha tabia zetu na siku moja tusikie "Vyema mtumishi mwema, ulikuwa mwaminifu."
- Kubeba ujumbe kama ulivyo ili watu wapate kilichonuiwa, bila kupotosha neno la Mungu
- Lugha rahisi itakayoweza kusomeka Kenya, Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda na Tanzania

- Sarufi ya lugha ya Kiswahili sanifu iwe imezingatiwa. Basi tuendeleo kuyazingatia mambo 7 Muhimu kwa Kila mwanadamu
- Tumwamini Mungu na Kumkiri, na kuziungama dhambi zetu
- Tusome Maandiko Matakatifu Kila siku
- Tusali kila siku bila kukoma
- Tutafute Ushirika unaoafuata Maandiko
- Mtindo wa Maisha Uendane na Maandiko Matakatifu ambayo tunakiri kuwa ni Pumzi na barua ya Mwenyezi Mungu
- Huduma za Jamii, kusaidia wenye mahitaji, yatima, Wajane, masikini, wapekwe nk
- Tuenende ulimwengu kote na kuwaambia watu ujumbe ili wajitayarisha na Ujio wa Masihi (Share!) na hili ndilo sisi tunafanya hapa, nawe tunaomba usambaze kwa magroup yako!

Maombi yetu makuu yawe manne ni Roho Mtakatifu, kujisalimisha kwa MUNGU, tufundishe mambo ya kuombea na kuwa ndani Yake Naye ndani yetu. Mungu Atufungulie milango ya kuenenda ulimwenguni mwetu kwa muktadha wa utamaduni wetu. Haya manne yatakuja na baraka zote tunazozihitaji tunaposoma.

SURA YA 1

MUNGU ANATUALIKA TUOMBE

Kuunganishwa Na MUNGU Kupitia Mnyororo Wa Maombi—Ni jambo la ajabu kwamba tunaweza kuomba kwa ufanisi; kwamba wanadamu tusiostahili, tunaokosea tunayo nguvu ya kutoa maombi yetu kwa MUNGU. Je! Ni nguvu gani ya juu zaidi ambayo mwanadamu anaweza kutamani kuliko hii, - kuunganishwa na kuwasiliana na MUNGU asiye na ukomo? Mtu dhaifu, mwenye dhambi ana nafasi ya kuzungumza na Muumba Wake. Tunaweza kutamka maneno ambayo yanafika kwenye kiti cha enzi cha Mfalme wa ulimwengu. Tunaweza kuongea na Yesu tunapotembea

njiani, Naye anasema, Mimi Niko mkono wako wa kuume.
[Pr 7.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Twaweza kuzungumza na MUNGU mioyoni mwetu; tunaweza kutembea katika ushirika na Kristo. Tunapofanya kazi zetu za kila siku, tunaweza kupumua matamania ya mioyo yetu, shauku isiyoweza kusikiwa na sikio la mwanadamu; lakini neno hilo haliwezi kufa na kunyamaza kimya, wala haliwezi kupotea. Hakuna kitu kinachoweza kuzamisha shauku ya roho. Kwani hii huiuka juu ya sauti za mitaani, juu ya kelele za mashine. Ni MUNGU Ndiye ambaye tunazungumza Naye, na maombi yetu husikilizwa.
[Pr 7.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Omba, kisha; omba, nawe utapokea. Omba unyenyekevu, hekima, ujasiri na ongezeko la imani. Kwa kila ombi unalotoa kwa dhati na kusadiki moyoni, jibu litakuja. Linaweza lisije kama vile unavyotamani, au kwa wakati unaolitafuta jibu hilo; lakini litakuja kwa njia na kwa wakati ambao utakidhi mahitaji yako. Maombi unayotoa katika upweke, katika uchovu, katika majaribu, MUNGU hujibu, sio kila wakati kulingana na matarajio yako, lakini kila wakati kwa faida yako. (Gospel Workers, 258) [Pr 7.3; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Yesu hutualika sisi Kuomba—Bwana anatupatia sisi fursa binafsi ya kumtafuta Yeye katika maombi ya bidii, ya kutua mizigo ya roho zetu Kwake, bila kumficha chochote Yeye ambaye ametualika, “Njooi Kwangu, ninyi nyote msumbukao na wenye kulemewa na mizigo. Nami nitawapumzisha.” Oh, tunapaswa kushukuru kwa ukubwa wa kiasi gani, kwamba Yesu Yuko tayari na ana uwezo wa kubeba madhaifu yetu yote na kututia nguvu na kuponya magonjwa yetu yote ikiwa itakuwa kwa faida yetu na kwa utukufu Wake. - (Medical Ministry, 16) [Pr 8.1; Maombi Aya ya 4]

“Njooi Kwangu,” ndio mwaliko Wake. Haijalishi wasiwasi na majaribu ya kiasi gani wewe uliyo nayo moyoni, wewe lianike wazi tu shauri lako mbele za Bwana. — (The Desire of Ages, 329) [Pr 8.2; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Mwambie Yesu Mahitaji Yako Yote—Kuna watu wachache wanaothamini au kuboresha fursa/upendeleo wa thamani wa maombi tuliopewa na Mungu. Tunapaswa kwenda kwa Yesu na kumwambia mahitaji yetu yote.

Tunaweza kumpelekea wasiwasi, masumbufu au fadhaa zetu ndogo na mashaka pamoja na shida zetu kubwa. Chochote kinachojitokeza kutusumbua au kutufadhaisha, tunapaswa kukipeleka kwa Bwana katika maombi. Tutakapohisi kuwa tunahitaji uwepo wa Kristo katika kila hatua, Shetani atakuwa na nafasi ndogo ya kupenyeza majaribu yake. Ni juhudi yake ya makusudi kutuweka mbali na rafiki Yetu bora na mwenye huruma. Hatupaswi kumfanya mtu yeyote kuwa msiri wetu ila Yesu. Tunaweza kuzungumza Naye kwa usalama, yale yote yaliyomo ndani ya mioyo yetu. –(Testimonies for the Church 5:200, 201) [Pr 8.3; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Kufungua Moyo kwa Rafiki—Sala ni kufungua moyo kwa MUNGU kama kwa rafiki. Sio kwamba tunamjulisha MUNGU jinsi tulivyo, lakini ili kutuwezesha kumpokea. Maombi hayamshushi MUNGU kwetu, bali hutupeleka Kwake juu. [Pr 8.4; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Wakati Yesu alipokuwa duniani, aliwafundisha wanafunzi Wake jinsi ya kuomba. Aliwaelekeza kuwasilisha mahitaji yao ya kila siku mbele za MUNGU, na kudondosha mizigo yao yote Kwake. Na uhakikisho aliowapa kwamba maombi yao yatasikilizwa, ni uhakikisho pia kwetu. - (Steps to Christ, 93) [Pr 8.5; Maombi Aya ya 8]

MUNGU hutukaribisha Kwenye Chumba Chake cha kuonana Naye (mtu mmoja Pamoja na Mungu au wengi)—Tunamwendea MUNGU kwa mwaliko maalum, na Yeye anasubiri kutukaribisha kwenye chumba Chake cha kuonana Naye (chumba cha Enzi!). Wanafunzi wa kwanza waliomfuata Yesu hawakuridhika na mazungumzo ya haraka-haraka pamoja Naye njiani; wakasema, "Rabi,... Wewe unakaa wapi? ... Walikuja na kuona mahali alipokuwa akiishi, wakakaa pamoja Naye siku hiyo." Yohana 1:38, 39. Kwa hivyo hata nasi tunaweza kuingizwa katika mahusiano ya karibu sana, na kuwasiliana na Mungu na kuwa na ushirika pamoja na Yeye. "Yeye aketiye mahali pa siri pa Aliye Juu atakaa chini ya uvuli wa Mwenyezi." Zaburi 91: 1. Hebu wale wanaotamani baraka za MUNGU wabishe hodi na kungojea hapo kwenye mlango wa rehema na uhakikisho thabiti, wakisema, Kwa maana Wewe, Bwana, umesema, "Kila mtu aombaye hupokea; naye atafutaye hupata; na yeye abishaye

atafunguliwa.”(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings, 131)
[Pr 9.1; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Upendeleo uliotukuka—Wanapopatwa na matatizo, wanaposhambuliwa na vishawishi vikali, wao [watoto wa MUNGU] wana upendeleo wa maombi. Je, ni fursa iliyotukuka kwa kiasi gani! Viumbe vyenye ukomo, ambavyo ni vumbi na majivu tu, kwamba wamekubaliwa kupitia upatanishi wa Kristo, kwenye chumba Chake cha faragha ili kuonana na Yeye Aliye Juu. Katika mazoezi kama hayo roho, huletwa katika ukaribu mtakatifu na MUNGU, na hufanywa upya katika maarifa, na utakatifu wa Kweli, na kisha kulindwa na kuimarishwa dhidi ya mashambulio ya adui. - (An Appeal to Mothers, 24) [Pr 9.2; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Ombi ni hitaji la Kiroho na ni Upendeleo—Wale ambao wanakiri kwamba wanampenda Kristo, hawafahamu au hata kupata fununu ya uhusiano uliopo kati yao na MUNGU, ... Hawajatambua upendeleo wa hali ya juu na umuhimu mkubwa wa maombi, toba, na utendaji wenye nguvu wa Maneno ya Kristo.-(Selected Messages 1:134) [Pr 9.3; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Maombi Yanatuwezesha Kuishi Katika Mwanga jua wa Uwepo Wake—Ni fursa yetu kuifungua mioyo yetu, na kuruhusu mwangaza wa jua wa uwepo wa Kristo ndani. Kaka yangu, dada yangu, geuka na utazame nuru. Ingia katika mawasiliano halisi, na ya kibinafsi na Kristo, ili uweze kuwa na ushawishi unaoinua na kuleta uamsho. Hebu imani yenu iwe imara, yenye usafi wa moyo na thabiti. Hebu shukrani kwa MUNGU ijaze mioyo yenu. Unapoamka tu asubuhi, piga magoti kando ya kitanda chako, na umwombe MUNGU akupe nguvu ya kutimiza majukumu ya siku hiyo, na kukabiliana na majaribu yake. Mwambie akusaidie kuleta katika kazi zako za siku uzuri wa tabia ya Kristo. Mwambie akusaidie kusema maneno ambayo yatawapatia wale wanaokuzunguka matumaini na ujasiri, na kukuvuta/kukusogeza wewe karibu na Mwokozi. (Sons and Daughters of God, 199)- [Pr 9.4; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Maombi yetu siyo mzigo kwa Mungu na Yeye hachoshwi nayo kamwe— Hakuna wakati au mahali ambapo hapafai kutoa sala/maombi kwa MUNGU. Hakuna

kitu kinachoweza kutuzuia kuinua mioyo yetu katika roho ya maombi ya bidii na dhati. Katika umati wa watu mitaani, katikati ya biashara au pilikapilika, tunaweza kutuma maombi yetu kwa MUNGU na kuomba mwongozo Kwake, kama vile Nehemia alipofanya ombi lake mbele ya Mfalme Artashasta. Ushirika wa karibu unaweza kupatikana popote tulipo. Tunapaswa kufungua mlango wa moyo kila wakati na kutoa mwaliko wetu kwenda juu ili kumwalika Yesu aje kukaa kama mgeni wa mbinguni katika mioyo yetu. [Pr 10.2; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Ingawa kunaweza kuwa na mazingira yenye mawaa ya ufisadi na yaliyoharibiwa karibu nasi, sisi hatuhitaji kuivuta hewa hiyo mbaya yenye uvundo, kwenye mapafu yetu na kupata harufu hiyo mbaya na sumu, inayoharibu afya zetu, lakini tunaweza kuishi katika hewa safi ya mbinguni. Tunaweza kufunga kila mlango dhidi ya mawazo yasiyo safi na mawazo yasiyo matakatifu kwa kuinua roho mbele ya MUNGU kupitia maombi ya dhati. Wale ambao mioyo yao iko wazi kupokea msaada na baraka za MUNGU watatembea katika hali takatifu kuliko ile ya dunia na watakuwa na mawasiliano/ushirika wa mara kwa mara na mbingu. [Pr 10.2; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Tunahitaji kuwa na maoni yakinifu zaidi juu ya Yesu na ufahamu kamili wa thamani ya Ukweli wa milele. Uzuri wa utakatifu utajaza mioyo ya watoto wa MUNGU; na ili kwamba hili liweze kutimizwa, tunapaswa kutafuta mafunuo ya Bwana/mbingu kuhusiana na vitu vya mbinguni. [Pr 10.3; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Hebu roho ivutwe na kwenda juu, ili MUNGU atupe pumzi ya anga la mbinguni. Tunaweza kukaa karibu na MUNGU ili kwamba katika kila jaribu lisilotarajiwa mawazo yetu yatamgeukia Yeye kama asili ya ua ligeukiavyo jua (automatiki!). [Pr 10.4; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Yaweke mahitaji yako, furaha yako, huzuni yako, wasiwasi wako, na hofu yako mbele za MUNGU. Hauwezi kumlelea Yeye; huwezi Kumchosha Mwenyezi Mungu. Yeye anayehesabu nywele za kichwa chako, hapuuzii yale yalusuyo mahitaji ya watoto Wake. "Bwana amejaa huruma na rehema" (Yakobo 5:11). Moyo Wake wa upendo unaguswa na huzuni zetu na hata tunapozitaja na kupeleka Kwake kila kitu kinachotatanisha akili. Hakuna kitu

kikubwa mno kwake kitakachomshinda kubeba, kwani Yeye anaushikilia ulimwengu. Yeye Anatawala juu ya mambo yote ya ulimwengu. [Pr 11.1; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Hakuna jambo lolote lile linalohusu mvurugiko wa amani mioyoni mwetu ambalo ni dogo sana Kwake Yeye kutambua. Hakuna sura katika uzoefu wa maisha yetu iliyo yenye giza mno Kwake Yeye kuisoma; hakuna mifadhaiko migumu sana Kwake kuweza kuiondoa Uhusiano kati ya MUNGU na kila nafsi umetofautiana na umesheheni sana, kana kwamba hakuna mwanadamu mwingine duniani ambaye amewahi kushiriki utunzaji Wake, ni kama vile hakuna mtu mwingine duniani ambaye kwaye alimtoa Mwanaye mpendwa isipokuwa mtu huyu mmoja tu. - (Steps to Christ, 99, 100) [Pr 11.2; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Ladha ya Mbinguni—Jipumzishe kabisa mikononi mwa Yesu. Tafakari kwa kina kuhusu upendo Wake mkuu, na wakati unatafakari juu ya kujikana Kwake, kafara Yake isiyo na kikomo iliyotolewa kwa niaba yetu ili uweze kumwamini Yeye, moyo wako utajazwa na furaha takatifu, amani tulivu, na upendo usioweza kuelezeka. Tunapozungumza juu ya Yesu, tunapomwita kupitia maombi, imani na ujasiri wetu kwamba Yeye ni Mwokozi wetu sisi Mwenye upendo, utaimarika na tabia Yake itaonekana kupendeza na kuvutia zaidi.... Tunaweza kufurahia karamu nyingi za upendo, na tunapoamini kabisa kuwa sisi ni Wake kwa kuasiliwa, tunaweza kuwa na muonjo/ladha ya mbinguni. Msubiri Bwana kwa imani. Bwana huuvuta moyo katika maombi, na hutupatia sisi kuhisi upendo Wake wa thamani. Tunao ukaribu Naye, na tunaweza kufanya ushirika mtamu/mzuri sana na Yeye. Tunapata maoni dhahiri juu ya ukarimu na huruma Yake, na mioyo yetu inavunjika na kuyeyuka na kutafakari upendo ambao tumepewa moyoni. Hakika tunapata hisia ya Kristo anayekaa na kudumu ndani ya nafsi. Hakika tunahisi Kristo anayekaa ndani ya mioyo yetu, na tunajisikia kuwa nyumbani na Yesu. Ahadi hutiririka rohoni. Amani yetu ni kama mto, wimbi baada ya wimbi la utukufu linapita ndani ya moyo, na hakika tunakula mlo wa usiku pamoja na Yesu na Yeye pamoja nasi. Tunayo hisia ya kutambua upendo wa MUNGU, na tunatulua katika upendo Wake. [Pr 11.3; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Hakuna lugha inayoweza kuielezea, ni zaidi ya maarifa. Sisi ni wamoja na Kristo, maisha yetu yamefichwa pamoja na Kristo katika MUNGU. Tumehakikishiwa kwamba wakati Yeye ambaye ni maisha yetu atakapotokea, ndipo pia nasi tutatokea pamoja Naye katika utukufu. Kwa ujasiri mkubwa, tunaweza kumwita MUNGU Baba yetu. - (The SDA Bible Commentary 3: 1147, 1148) [Pr 12.1; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Maombi Huleta kufanywa upya kwenye Maisha ya Kiroho – Maisha yetu yanapaswa kuunganishwa na maisha ya Kristo; tunapaswa kuchota kila wakati kutoka Kwake, tukila mwili Wake (uhai wake), Mkate ulio hai ulioshuka kutoka mbinguni, tukichota kutoka kwenye chemchemi iliyo safi/freshi kila wakati, ikitoa hazina zake tele. Ikiwa tunamuweka Bwana mbele ya macho yetu daima, tukiruhusu mioyo yetu kumshukuru na kumsifu, tutakuwa na hali mpya katika maisha yetu ya kidini. Maombi yetu yatachukua mfumo wa mazungumzo na MUNGU kama ambavyo tungezungumza na rafiki. Yeye Atazungumza na sisi kuhusu mafumbo na siri Zake. Mara nyingi zitatuja hisia tamu za kufurahisha za uwepo wa Yesu. Mara nyingi tutahisi mioyo yetu ikiwaka ndani yetu, Bwana anapokaribia kuzungumza nasi kama alivyofanya na Henoko. Pale ambapo uzoefu huu utakuwa halisia kwenye uzoefu wa maisha ya Mkristo, maisha yake yataonyesha unyenyekevu, utulivu, upole, na moyo wa kujishusha chini, kisha ataonekana kwa wale wenzake waliomzunguka kwamba amekuwa na Yesu na kujifunza kutoka Kwake (Christ's Object Lessons, 129, 130) [Pr 12.2; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Mahali pa Kukimbilia Ambapo pako wazi daima – Njia ya kuendea kwenye kiti cha enzi cha MUNGU iko wazi kila wakati. Hauwezi kupiga magoti kila wakati kwa ajili ya maombi, lakini maombi yako ya kimya yanaweza kuendelea kupaa juu kwa MUNGU kila wakati kwa ajili ya kuwezesha na kuongozwa. Utakapojaribiwa, kama itakavyokuwa, unaweza kukimbilia mahali pa siri pa Aliye Juu. Mikono yake ya milele itakuwa chini yako. - (In Heavenly Places, 86) [Pr 12.3; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Siri ya Nguvu za Kiroho—Maombi ni pumzi ya roho. Ni siri ya nguvu za kiroho. Hakuna njia nyingine ya neema inayoweza kuwa mbadala na halafu afya ya roho ikawa

salama na hata kuhifadhiwa. Ombi huupatia moyo mawasiliano ya haraka na Chemchemi ya uzima, na kuimarisha mishipa na misuli ya uzoefu wa kidini. Puuzia zoezi la sala, au jihusishe na maombi bila mpangilio, yenye kushtukizwa, mara hapa, au pale kama unavyoona inafaa kwako, nawe utafanya mkono wako upoteze kumshikilia MUNGU. Nguvu za kiroho hupoteza ukali wake, na uzoefu wa kidini hukosa afya na nguvu . [Pr 12.4; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Ni jambo la kushangaza na kupendeza sana, kwamba sisi wanadamu tusiostahili tunaweza kuomba kwa ufanisi, kwamba sisi wakosefu tunao uwezo wa kuwasilisha maombi yetu kwa MUNGU. Je! Ni nguvu gani ya juu zaidi ambayo mwanadamu anaweza kutamani kuliko hii,- kuunganishwa katika ushirika na MUNGU asiye na kikomo (wa milele)? Mtu dhaifu, na mwenye dhambi ana upendeleo wa kuzungumza na Muumba wake. Tunaweza kutamka maneno ambayo yanafikia kwenye kiti cha enzi cha Mfalme wa malimwengu yote. Tunaweza kuzungumza na Yesu tunapotembea njiani, na Yeye anasema, Mimi Niko mkono wako wa kuume. (Messages to Young People, 249. [Pr 13.1; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Maombi ya Siri, moyo wa Dini (moyo wa mionjo ya kiroho)— Usipuuizie maombi ya siri, kwa maana ni moyo wa mambo ya kiroho. Kwa maombi ya dhati, ya bidii omba usafi wa roho. Omba kwa bidii, kwa shauku, na kwa dhati, kama ambavyo ungelionba endapo maisha yako yangekuwa hatarini. Endelea kubakia hapo kwenye uwepo Wake, ukimtumainia MUNGU mpaka matamania ambayo hayawezi kutamkika, yatakapozaliwa ndani yako kwa ajili ya wokovu, na ushahidi mzuri wa dhambi zilizosomehewa umepatikana. —(Spiritual Gifts 2:264) [Pr 13.2; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Kila Ombi la Dhati na bidii husikiwa— Bado wanafunzi walikuwa hawajajua rasilimali za Mwokozi ambazo hazina ukomo. Yeye Akawaambia, "Mpaka sasa hamkuomba chochote kwa Jina Langu." Yohana 16:24. Alielezea kuwa siri ya mafanikio yao itakuwa katika kuomba nguvu na neema kwa Jina Lake. Kwamba Yeye Atakuwepo mbele za Baba kuwaombea. Maombi ya mwombaji mnyenyekevu

huwasilishwa Naye kama matamano Yake Mwenyewe binafsi kwa niaba ya roho hiyo. Kila ombi la dhati na usadikisho husikika mbinguni. Linaweza lisiwasilishwe kwa ufasaha; lakini ikiwa linatoka moyoni kwa dhati, basi litapanda kwenda mahali Patakatifu ambapo Yesu anahudumu, Naye ataliwasilisha kwa Baba bila hata neno moja la kuudhi, lenye utata, na lenye kigugumizi, bali kwa Neno zuri na lenye harufu nzuri ya ubani wa ukamilifu Wake Mwenyewe. [Pr 13.3; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Njia ya unyofu na uadilifu sio njia isiyo na kizuizi, lakini katika kila shida tunapaswa kuona mwito kwaajili ya kutoa maombi. Hakuna mtu aliye hai ambaye anayo nguvu yoyote ile ambayo hajaipokea kutoka kwa MUNGU, na chanzo zinapotoka nguvu hizo iko wazi na huru hata kwa yule mwanadamu aliye dhaifu zaidi. "Nanyi mkiomba lolote kwa Jina Langu, hilo nitalifanya, ili Baba atukuzwe ndani ya Mwana. Mkiniomba chochote kwa Jina Langu, nitafanya." [Pr 13.4; Maombi Aya ya 27]

"Kwa Jina Langu," Kristo aliwaamuru wanafunzi Wake waombe katika Jina Lake Kristo. Ni katika Jina la Kristo, ndiyo wafuasi Wake wanapaswa kusimama mbele za MUNGU. Kupitia thamani ya kafara iliyotolewa kwa ajili yao, wao wana thamani machoni pa Bwana. Kwa sababu ya haki kupitia Kristo, wanahesabiwa kuwa wa thamani. Kwa ajili ya Kristo, Bwana huwasamehe wale wamchao. Yeye haoni ubaya/uovu wa mwenye dhambi ndani yao. Yeye Anatambua mfano wa Mwanawe, ambaye wanamuamini, ndani yao. - (The Desire of Ages, 667) [Pr 14.1; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Malaika hunakili Maombi yetu na kutushawishi kuelekea yale yaliyo mema—Unapoamka asubuhi, Je! Unahisi kukosa kwako msaada na kutojiweza, na hitaji lako la kuwezesha kutoka kwa MUNGU? Na je, kwa unyenyekevu, kwa moyo wote unamjulisha Baba yako wa mbinguni matakwa yako? Ikiwa ndivyo, malaika hunakili maombi yako, na ikiwa maombi haya hayajatoka nje ya midomo ya unafiki/feki, basi, wakati umo katika hatari ya kutenda mabaya bila kujua na kutoa ushawishi ambao utasababisha wengine kutenda mabaya, malaika wako mlezi/mlinzi atakuwa kando yako, kukufundisha kilicho bora, akikuchagulia maneno, na kuathiri matendo yako. [Pr 14.2; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Ikiwa hauhisi hatari yoyote, na ikiwa hautoi maombi ya kusihhi msaada na nguvu za kupinga vishawishi, hakika utapoteza dira, kwani utaenda kwenye njia zisizo sahihi; kupuuza kwako wajibu kutaandikwa katika kitabu cha MUNGU mbinguni, na utakutwa umepunguka katika siku ile ya hukumu. - (Testimonies for the Church 3: 363, 364) [Pr 14.3; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Kama Musa, Sisi Tunaweza Kufurahia Ushirika wa Karibu Na MUNGU— Mkono huo uliomba malimwengu yote (universe), Mkono huo ambao unaishikilia milima ikae katika nafasi zake, unamchukua mtu huyu aliyeumbwa kutoka kwenye mavumbi, - mtu huyu mwenye imani yenye nguvu, - na kwa rehema inamfunika katika pango la mwamba, wakati utukufu wa MUNGU na wema Wake wote ukipita na kujidhihirisha mbele zake. Je! Kweli sisi Tunaweza kushangaa kwamba "utukufu unaopita ubora wote" ulioakisiwa kutoka kwa Yeye Aliye na Nguvu zote uliangaza usoni mwa Musa na mwangaza uliosheheni, kiasi kwamba watu hawakuweza kuutazama kwa macho. Alama hii ya MUNGU iliyokuwa juu yake, ilimfanya aonekane kama mmoja wa malaika wanaoang'aa kutoka kwenye kiti cha enzi. [Pr 14.4; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Uzoefu huu, tofauti na uzoefu wa hapo awali ulionyesha kwamba MUNGU atasikia maombi yake, na kwamba uwepo Wake MUNGU utamhudumia kikamilifu, na jambo hilo likawa la thamani zaidi kwa Musa kama kiongozi kuliko elimu na mafunzo yote aliyopata kwa Wamisri, au mafanikio yake yote katika sayansi ya kijeshi ya Misri. Hakuna nguvu ya kidunia au ustadi au kisomo/elimu, inayoweza kuchukua nafasi ya uwepo wa MUNGU. Katika historia ya Musa tunaweza kuona ushirika wa karibu sana na MUNGU ambao ni fursa ya kila mwanadamu kuufurahia. Kwa mkosaji ni jambo la kutisha kuanguka katika mikono ya Mungu aliye hai. Lakini Musa hakuogopa kuwa peke yake na Mwandishi wa sheria hiyo ambayo ilikuwa imenenwa utukufu na ukuu wa kutisha namna ile, kutoka Mlima Sinai; kwani roho yake ilikuwa katika upatanifu wa mapenzi ya Muumba wake. [Pr 15.1; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Maombi ni kuufungua moyo kwa MUNGU kama tuufunguavyo kwa rafiki. Jicho la imani litamtambua MUNGU aliye karibu sana, na mwombaji anaweza kupata

ushahidi wa thamani wa upendo wa Mungu na kujali Kwake. - (Gospel Workers, 34, 35) [Pr 15.2; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Omba kwa ujasiri mtakatifu—Mkikaa ndani Yangu na Maneno Yangu yakikaa ndani yenu, basi, ombeni chochote mtakacho nanyi mtapewa. "Unapoomba, wasilisha ahadi hii. Ni fursa ya upendeleo kwetu kumwendea Yeye tukiwa na ujasiri mtakatifu. Tukiwa dhati na wanyofu, tunamwomba Yeye aache nuru Yake iangaze juu yetu, Yeye Atatusikia na kutujibu. - (Child Guidance, 499) [Pr 15.3; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Mbingu iko wazi kwa ajili ya maombi yetu, na tunaalikwa kwenda "kwa ujasiri kwenye Kiti cha Neema, ili tupate rehema, na kupata neema ya kutusaidia wakati wa shida." Tunapaswa kwenda kwa imani, tukiamini kwamba tutapata vile vitu tunavyoomba Kwake. - [Pr 15.4; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Ombea Mahitaji Yetu — Kila ahadi katika Neno la MUNGU huja pamoja na jambo/mada ya kuombea, ikileta Neno la Yehova lililoahidiwa kama uthibitisho kwetu. Baraka yoyote ya kiroho tunayohitaji, tumependelewa kuiomba kupitia Yesu. Tunaweza kumwambia Bwana, tukiwa na unyenyekevu wa mtoto, kile tunachohitaji haswa. Tunaweza kumwambia mambo yetu ya muda, tukimwomba mkate, mavazi na Mkate wa Uzima na vazi la haki ya Kristo. Baba yako wa mbinguni anajua kuwa unahitaji vitu hivi vyote, nawe umealikwa kumuomba kuhusu hivi vyote. Ni kwa kupitia Jina la Yesu tu, ndiyo tunapokea kila neema, baraka na kibali (favor). MUNGU ataheshimu Jina hilo, na atakidhi mahitaji yako kutoka katika utajiri wa ukarimu Wake. —(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 133) [Pr 15.5; Maombi Aya ya 36]

Omba na Amini — Unapomwomba Bwana akusaidie, Mtukuze Mwokozi wako kwa kuamini kwamba unapokea baraka Yake. Nguvu zote, hekima zote, ziko chini ya maamuzi/uwezo wetu kuziagiza zije * (ziko chini ya amri yetu!). Wajibu wetu sisi ni kuomba tu. [Pr 16.1; Maombi Aya ya 37]

Tembea daima katika nuru ya MUNGU. Tafakari mchana na usiku juu ya tabia Yake. Ndipo utaona uzuri Wake na kufurahi kwa wema Wake. Moyo wako utaangaziwa na

kung'aa na hisia ya upendo Wake. Utainuliwa kana kwamba umebebwa na mikono ya milele. Ukiwa na nguvu na nuru ambayo MUNGU hutoa, unaweza kuelewa zaidi na kutimiza mengi zaidi ya ulivyoona kuwa inawezekana hapo awali. - (The Ministry of Healing, 514) [Pr 16.2; Maombi Aya ya 38]

Songa mbele, ukimtumaini MUNGU— Tunapaswa kuhamasishana katika imani iliyo hai ambayo Kristo amemwezesha kila muumini kuwa nayo. Kazi inapaswa kusonga mbele wakati Bwana akiandaa njia. Yeye Anapowapitisha watu Wake katika maeneo yenye dhiki, basi ni fursa yenye upendeleo kwao kukusanyika pamoja kwa ajili ya maombi, wakikumbuka kuwa vitu vyote vinatoka kwa MUNGU. Wale ambao bado hawajapitia nyakati ngumu, ambazo zinahusu kazi katika siku hizi za mwisho, hivi karibuni watalazimika kupita kwenye matukio ambayo yatajaribu sana imani na ujasiri wao kwa MUNGU. Ni wakati ambapo watu Wake hawaoni njia ya kusonga mbele, wakati Bahari ya Shamu iko mbele yao na jeshi likiwafuata nyuma yao, hapo ndipo MUNGU anawaamuru: "Songeni mbele." kwa kufanya hivi, Yeye anazijaribu imani zao. Wakati uzoefu kama huo unakujia, wewe songa mbele, ukimtumainia Kristo. Tembea hatua kwa hatua katika njia Anayoionyesha kwa kuiwekea alama. Majaribu yatakuja, lakini songa mbele. Hii itakupa uzoefu ambao utaimarisha imani yako kwa MUNGU na kujipatia stahiki kwa huduma ya Kweli. —(Testimonies for the Church 9:273) [Pr 16.3; Maombi Aya ya 39]

SURA YA 2

UHITAJI WETU WA MAOMBI (Hitaji Letu la Sala)

Sala ni ya Muhimu Maishani kama Chakula cha Kila Siku - Maombi ya kila siku ni muhimu sana katika ukuaji wa neema, na hata kwa maisha ya kiroho yenyewe, kama vile chakula cha kidunia kilivyo, kwa ustawi wa mwili. Tunapaswa kujizoesha kuinua mawazo kwa MUNGU katika

sala. Ikiwa akili itamangamanga, lazima tuirudishe kwa bidii isiyokoma, hatimaye mazoea haya, yatafanya mambo kuwa rahisi. Hatuwezi hata kidogo kujitenga mbali na Kristo hata kwa nukta moja na kisha tukawa salama. Tunaweza kuwa na uwepo Wake pamoja nasi katika kila hatua tunayopiga, lakini ni kwa kuzingatia tu masharti ambayo Yeye Mwenyewe ameyaweka. – (Messages to Young People, 115) [Pr 17.2; Maombi Aya ya 40]

Maombi ni muhimu Kiroho – Ingawa Kristo alikuwa amewapa wanafunzi Wake ahadi kwamba wangepokea Roho Mtakatifu, hii haikuondoa umuhimu wa sala. Waliomba kwa bidii zaidi; waliendelea kusali kwa moyo mmoja. Wale ambao sasa wanahusika na kazi kuu ya kuandaa watu kwa ajili ya kuja kwa Bwana, wanapaswa pia kuendelea katika maombi. (Gospel workers, 371) [Pr 17.2; Maombi Aya ya 41]

Wanafunzi wa Yesu hawakutii onyo lililorudiwa "Kesheni na mkaombe." Mwanzoni walipata tabu sana kumwona Bwana na Mwalimu wao, aliyekuwa na tabia tulivu, mwungwana na mwenye kujistahi au hadhi ya kifalme, sasa akipambana mieleka na huzuni ambayo ilikuwa zaidi ya ufahamu wa kawaida. Walikuwa wameomba waliposikia kilio kikuu cha Yule Anayetaabika. Hawakuwa na nia ya kumtelekeza Mola wao, lakini walionekana kupooza kwa usingizi ambao wangeweza kuutupilia mbali ikiwa wangeendelea kumwomba MUNGU. Hawakutambua umuhimu wa kukesha na kuomba kwa bidii ili kuhimili majaribu. - (The Desire of Ages, 688) [Pr 17.3; Maombi Aya ya 42]

Uzoefu wa wanafunzi katika Bustani ya Gethsemane una somo kwa watu wa Bwana leo....Hawakutambua umuhimu wa kukesha na kuomba kwa bidii ili kuyapinga majaribu. Wengi leo wamelala usingizi mzito, kama walivyokuwa wanafunzi. Hawakeshi na kuomba ili wasiingie katika majaribu. Hebu nasi tusome na kuchunguza mara kwa mara kwa uangalifu sehemu hizo za Maneno ya MUNGU ambazo zinarejelea siku hizi za mwisho, yakionyesha hatari ambazo zitakuwa tishio kwa watu wa MUNGU. - (In Heavenly Places, 97) [Pr 18.1; Maombi Aya ya 43]

Maombi ni uhai wa roho – Maombi ni muhimu; kwani ni uhai wa roho. Maombi ya familia, maombi ya hadhara, haya

yana nafasi yake; lakini ni ushirika wetu binafsi wa siri na MUNGU ndio unaodumisha maisha ya roho. (Education, 258) [Pr 18.2; Maombi Aya ya 44]

Sala ni muhimu kwa Afya ya Kiroho - Mara kadhaa, kila siku, nyakati bora zenye thamani, zinatakiwa kuwekwa wakfu kwa njia ya maombi na kusoma Maandiko, hata ikiwa ni kwa kuweka maandishi kwenye kumbukumbu kwa kukariri, ili maisha ya Kidini/kiroho yaweze kuwepo ndani ya roho. Maslahi anuwai ya msingi ya kazi ya Mungu huja/hutupatia chakula cha kutafakari na nguvu kwa sala zetu. Ushirika na MUNGU ni muhimu sana kwa afya ya kiroho, na hapa tu ndipo inaweza kupatikana ile hekima na maamuzi sahihi ambayo ni muhimu sana katika kutekeleza majukumu ya kila siku. –(Testimonies for the Church 4:459) [Pr 18.3; Maombi Aya ya 45]

Kielelezo cha Yesu Huonyesha Umuhimu wa Maombi—Laiti wale wapazao sauti kuu za maonyo kwa ajili ya wakati huu wangelitambua wajibu wao kwa Mungu, wangeliona umuhimu wa maombi yenye bidii/ari. Pale miji iliponyamazishwa tuli katika usingizi wa usiku wa manane, wakati kila mtu alikuwa ameenda nyumbani kwake, Kristo, Mfano wetu, Alienda Mlima wa Mizeituni, na huko katikati ya miti yenye giza nene, alikuwa akikesha usiku mzima katika maombi. Yeye, Yule ambaye hakuwa hata na doa la dhambi,- nyumba ya hazina ya baraka; ambaye sauti Yake ilisikika katika mkesho wa usiku na kisha wanafunzi wakaogopa katika ile bahari yenye dhoruba, katika baraka ya ombi la kimbangu; na ambaye Neno Lake linaweza kuwaita wafu kutoka makaburini mwao, Yeye Ndiye Yule aliyeomba dua kwa kilio kizito na machozi. Yeye hakuomba kwa ajili Yake Mwenyewe, bali kwa wale ambao alikuja kuwaokoa. Alipokuwa mwombezi, Akitafuta kwenye Mkono wa Baba Yake nguvu mpya, na akatoka akiwa amepewa nguvu mpya na kama mbadala wa mwanadamu, Alijitambulisha na mateso ya ubinadamu, na akawapa mfano wa umuhimu wa maombi. [Pr 18.4; Maombi Aya ya 46]

Asili Yake haikuwa na doa au uchafu wa dhambi. Kama Mwana wa Adamu, Aliomba kwa Baba, kuonyesha kwamba asili ya ubinadamu inahitaji msaada wote utokao kwa Bwana, ambao mwanadamu anaweza kupata ili aweze kujiandaa kwa majukumu na kutayarishwa kwa majaribu na

mitihani ya maisha. Kama Mfalme wa Uzima, alikuwa na nguvu na MUNGU, na Aliwashindia watu Wake. Mwokozi huyu, ambaye aliwaombea wale ambao waliona hawakuwa na haja ya maombi, na kulia kwa ajili ya wale ambao hawakuona haja ya kutoa machozi, sasa Yuko mbele ya kiti cha enzi, kupokea na kuwasilisha kwa Baba Yake maombi ya wale Aliowaombea duniani (soma kitabu cha Waebrania nane na tisa, kuhusu huduma Yake sasa). Mfano wa Kristo umewekwa kwetu ili tuufuate. Maombi ni muhimu katika utendaji kazi wetu kwa wokovu wa roho za watu. MUNGU peke Yake Ndiye anayeweza kutoa ongezeko la mbegu tunazopanda.–(Gospel Workers, 28, 29) [Pr 19.1; Maombi Aya ya 47]

Yesu alihimiza Umuhimu wa Maombi – Yeye [Yesu] aliwahimiza watu umuhimu wa sala, toba, kukiri, na kuitelekeza dhambi. Aliwafundisha uaminifu, uvumilivu, rehema, na huruma, akiwaamuru wapende sio tu wale wanaowapenda, bali hata wale wanaowachukia, ambao wanawaudhi. Kwa hili alikuwa akiwafunulia tabia ya Baba, ambaye ni mvumilivu, Mwenye huruma, na Mwenye neema, si mwepesi wa hasira, na amejaa wema na Ukweli. - (Christian Education, 74) [Pr 19.2; Maombi Aya ya 48]

Maombi yalikuwa Muhimu kwa Danieli – Danieli alikabiliwa na vishawishi vikali ambavyo vinaweza kuwashambulia vijana wa leo; na bado alikuwa imara kwa mafundisho ya kidini aliyoyapokea hapo awali katika maisha. Alikuwa amezungukwa na vishawishi vilivyokorokotolewa kupotosha wale ambao wangelegalega kutoka katika kanuni na mwelekeo; ila Neno la MUNGU linamwonyesha kama mtu asiye na makosa. Daniel hakuthubutu kutumainia nguvu zake mwenyewe za kiadili. Maombi yalikuwa ni ya lazima kwake. Alimfanya MUNGU kuwa nguvu yake, na hofu ya Mungu ilikuwa mbele yake kila wakati katika shughuli zote, za maisha yake.- (Fundamentals of Christian Education, 78) [Pr 19.3; Maombi Aya ya 49]

Kukua kiroho kunategemea Maombi - Ikiwa kungekuwa na kusali zaidi kati yetu, mazoezi zaidi ya imani hai, na kutegemea kwa udogo sana maombi ya mtu mwingine kuwa kama mbadala wa uzoefu wetu, basi tungekuwa mbali zaidi na mahali tulipo leo katika akili ya kiroho. Tunachohitaji ni uzoefu wa kina, wa moyo na roho wa mtu binafsi. Ndipo

tutaweza kusema ni nini MUNGU anafanya na jinsi anavyofanya kazi. Tunahitaji kuwa na uzoefu hai katika mambo ya MUNGU; na sisi hatuko salama mpaka tutakapokuwa na uzoefu huo. Kuna wengine ambao wana uzoefu mzuri, na wanaweza wakuambie juu yake; lakini unapokuja kuupima, unaona kuwa huo sio uzoefu sahihi, kwani hauedani na Ukweli wa “Bwana asema hivi.” Ikiwa kuna wakati katika historia yetu tuliohitaji kujinyenyekeza roho zetu binafsi mbele za MUNGU, basi ni leo. Tunahitaji kumwendea MUNGU kwa imani katika yote yaliyoahidiwa katika Neno, na kisha tutembeee katika nuru na nguvu zote ambazo MUNGU anatoa. - (The Review and Herald, Julai 1, 1909) [Pr 20.1; Maombi Aya ya 50]

Maombi Yanahitajika Kila Siku – Dini lazima ianze kwa kuumimina, kuusafisha na kuutakasa moyo, na inapaswa kurutubishwa, nakulishwa kwa sala ya kila siku. – (Testimonies for the Church 4:535) [Pr 20.2; Maombi Aya ya 51]

Inafaa, na inawezekana kabisa, na pia ni muhimu sana kwetu, kuomba mara tatu kwa siku kama ilivyokuwa kwa Danieli. Maombi ni pumzi ya roho, msingi wa ukuaji wa kiroho. Nyumbani kwako, mbele ya familia yako, na mbele ya watendakazi wako, unapaswa kushuhudia Ukweli huu. Na unapobahatika na fursa ya kukutana na ndugu zako kanisani, waambie juu ya umuhimu wa kuweka wazi njia ya mawasiliano kati ya MUNGU na moyo wako. Waambie kwamba ikiwa watapata moyo na sauti ya kuomba, basi MUNGU Naye atakuwa na majibu ya maombi yao. Waambie wasipuuze majukumu yao ya kidini. Wahimize ndugu kuomba. Lazima tutafute ikiwa tutapata, lazima tuombe ikiwa tutapokea, lazima tubishe hodi ikiwa tutafunguliwa mlango. - (The Signs of the Times, Februari 10, 1890) [Pr 20.3; Maombi Aya ya 52]

Katika huduma ya ukuhani wa Kiyahudi tunakumbushwa kila wakati juu ya dhabihu na maombezi ya Kristo. Wote wanaokuja kwa Kristo leo wanapaswa kukumbuka kuwa neema Yake ni uvumba unaochanganyika na maombi ya wale wanaotubu dhambi zao na kupokea msamaha na rehema na neema. Hitaji letu la maombezi ya Kristo ni endelevu. Siku kwa siku, asubuhi na jioni, moyo mnyenyekevu unahitaji kutoa maombi ambayo yatarudishiwa majibu ya neema na amani na furaha. “Basi,

kwa njia ya Yesu, tumtolee MUNGU dhabihu ya sifa daima, hayo ni matunda ya midomo yetu, ikitoa shukrani kwa Jina Lake. Msisahau kutenda mema na kusaidiana, maana hizi ndizo dhabihu zinazompendeza Mungu. SDA Bible Commentary 6:1078) [Pr 21.1; Maombi Aya ya 53]

Kama wazee wa zamani, wale wanaodai kumpenda MUNGU tunapaswa kumjengea Bwana madhabahu popote pale wanapopiga hema zao. Ikiwa kuna muda ambapo kila nyumba ilipaswa kuwa nyumba ya sala, basi ni sasa. Akina baba na mama wanapaswa kuinua mioyo yao kwa MUNGU kwa dua ya unyenyekevu kwao na kwa watoto wao. Hebu baba kama kuhani wa nyumba, aweke juu ya madhabahu ya Mungu dhabihu ya asubuhi na jioni, wakati mke na watoto wanaungana katika maombi na sifa. Katika nyumba kama hiyo Yesu atapenda kukaa hapo na atakawia-kawia kutoka hapo. [Pr 21.2; Maombi Aya ya 54]

Nuru takatifu inapaswa kuangaza kutoka katika kila nyumba ya Kikristo. Upendo unapaswa kufunuliwa kwa vitendo. Nao unapaswa kutiririka katika mahusiano yote ya nyumbani, ukijionyesha katika ukarimu, upole, na adabu iliyo na uungwana usio na ubinafsi. Kuna nyumba ambazo kanuni hii hufanywa, nyumba zile ambazo MUNGU huabudiwa, na upendo wa Kweli hutawala. Kutoka kwa nyumba hizi sala ya asubuhi na jioni hupanda juu kwa MUNGU kama uvumba mtamu, na rehema Zake na baraka hushuka juu ya waombaji kama umande wa asubuhi. - (Patriarchs and Prophets, 144) [Pr 21.3; Maombi Aya ya 55]

Katika kumfuata Kristo, kumtazama Yeye Mwenye kuanzisha Na kuitimiza imani yetu, utahisi kuwa unafanya kazi chini ya jicho Lake, kwamba unaathiriwa na uwepo Wake, na kwamba Yeye Anajua nia zako. Katika kila hatua utauliza kwa unyenyekevu: Je! Hili litampendeza Yesu? Je! hii itamtukuza MUNGU? Asubuhi na jioni sala zako za dhati zinapaswa kupaa kwa MUNGU kwa baraka na mwongozo Wake. Maombi ya Kweli humshika Mweza yote na hutupatia ushindi. Kwa magoti yake, Mkristo anapata nguvu ya kuyapinga majaribu. - (Testimonies for the Church 4:615, [Pr 21.4; Maombi Aya ya 56]

Kadiri makuhani walivyoingia asubuhi na jioni mahali Patakatifu wakati wa uvumba, dhabihu ya kila siku ilikuwa tayari kutolewa juu ya madhabahu mahali pa wazi. Huu

ulikuwa wakati wa kuvutia/kupendeza sana kwa washiriki waliokusanyika katika mahali pa kuabudia. Kabla ya kuingia katika uwepo wa MUNGU kupitia huduma ya kuhani, walipaswa kushiriki kwa unyofu na bidii katika kuuchunguza moyo na kukiri dhambi. Waliungana katika sala ya kimya, nyuso zao zikielekea pahali Patakatifu. Kwa hivyo maombi yao yalipaa pamoja na wingu la ubani, huku imani ikiwa juu ya stahiki na sifa za Mwokozi aliyeahidiwa, na zikiwakilisha dhabihu ya upatanisho. Saa zilizowekwa kwa ajili ya dhabihu ya asubuhi na ya jioni zilizingatiwa kuwa takatifu, na zikatumika kama wakati uliowekwa kwa ibada katika taifa lote la Kiyahudi. Na wakati wa baadaye Wayahudi walipotawanyika/walipotawanywa kama mateka katika nchi za mbali, bado waliendelea katika saa ile ile iliyowekwa kuelekeza nyuso zao kuelekea Yerusalemu na kutoa maombi yao kwa MUNGU wa Israeli. Katika desturi hii Wakristo wana mfano kuhusiana na sala ya asubuhi na jioni. Wakati MUNGU analaani milolongo ya kaida na sherehe tu, bila roho ya ibada, Yeye huwaangalia kwa furaha wale wanaompenda, wainamao asubuhi na jioni ili kutafuta msamaha wa dhambi walizotenda na kuwasilisha maombi yao kwa baraka zinazohitajika.—(Patriarchs and Prophets, 353, 354) [Pr 22.1; Maombi Aya ya 57]

Maombi Hutuunganisha na Mbingu — Wale ambao watavaa silaha zote za MUNGU na kutenga muda kila siku kwa ajili ya kutafakari na kufanya maombi na kusoma Maandiko, wataunganishwa na mbingu, kisha watakuwa na mvuto uokoao, na unaobadilisha kwa wale wanaowazunguka. Mawazo mazuri, matamania bora, ufahamu dhahiri kuhusu Ukweli na wajibu kwa MUNGU, haya yote yatakuwa yao. Watamiliki shauku ya kuwa usafi wa moyo, nuru, na upendo, na neema zote zinazozaliwa Mbinguni. Maombi yao ya dhati na bidii kabisa yatapenya ndani ya pazia. Watu hawa watakuwa na ujasiri mtakatifu mbele ya Yeye Asiye na Kikomo. Watahisi kuwa nuru na utukufu wa mbinguni vipo kwa ajili yao, nao watasafishwa, watainuliwa, na kuboreshwa na uhusiano huu wa karibu na MUNGU. Huo ndio upendeleo walio nao Wakristo wa Kweli. (Testimonies for the Church 5:112, 113) [Pr 22.2; Maombi Aya ya 58]

Maombi Yanapaswa kuwa Shughuli ya Kwanza ya Siku (mkakati wa kwanza wa siku) — Jiweke wakfu kwa MUNGU

wakati wa asubuhi; fanya hili kuwa kazi yako ya kwanza kabisa. Hebu Ombi lako liwe, “Nichukue, Ee Bwana, niwe Wako kabisa. Ninaweka mipango yangu yote miguuni Pako. Nitumie leo katika huduma Yako. Kaa nami, na kazi yangu yote ifanyike ndani Yako.” Hili ni suala la kila siku. Kila asubuhi jiweke wakfu kwa MUNGU kwa ajili ya siku hiyo. Salimisha mipango yako yote, ili itekelezwe au isitelekezwe kulingana na hekima/majaliwa Yake Mungu yatakavyoongoza. Kwa namna hiyo unakuwa umeyatoa maisha yako mikononi Mwake MUNGU, na kwa njia hiyo utaumbwa/utafinywanga na kufanana zaidi na zaidi na maisha ya Kristo. - (Steps to Christ, 70) [Pr 23.1; Maombi Aya ya 59]

Shauku ya kwanza kabisa ya roho wakati wa asubuhi inapaswa kuwa kwa ajili ya uwepo wa Yesu. "Pasipo Mimi," Anasema, " wewe huwezi kufanya lolote." Yesu Ndiye tunayemhitaji; Nuru Yake, Maisha Yake, na Roho Yake, vinapaswa kuwa vyetu daima. Tunamuhitaji Yeye kila saa. Na tunapaswa kuomba wakati wa asubuhi kwamba kama jua linavyoangazia nchi, na kuweka nuru katika ulimwengu, basi vivyo hivyo Jua la Haki liangaze katika vyumba vya ubongo na moyo, na kutufanya sisi sote kuwa nuru katika Bwana. Hatuwezi kufanya jambo lolote bila uwepo Wake hata nukta moja. Adui anajua pale tunapoamua kufanya mambo bila Bwana wetu, naye yupo karibu, tayari kuzijaza akili zetu na mapendekezo yake ya uovu ili tushindwe kuwa thabiti; lakini ni shauku ya Bwana kwamba kila wakati tuwe ndani Yake, na kwamba tuwe wakamilifu ndani Yake. - (My Life Today, 15) [Pr 23.2; Maombi Aya ya 60]

Maombi ni Wajibu—Hakuna kitu chenye kukuza afya ya mwili na roho zaidi kuliko roho ya shukrani na sifa. Ni jukumu letu chanya, la uhakika na muhimu sana, kuipinga roho ya huzuni, na pia mawazo na hisia za kutoridhika kama ambavyo ilivyo muhimu kuomba. - (The Ministry of Healing, 251) [Pr 23.3; Maombi Aya ya 61]

Pale Ambapo Hatujisikii Kuomba ndio Maombi yahitajika zaidi — Pale ambapo hatujisikii kuwasiliana na Yesu, hebu tuombe zaidi, kwani ndipo tunapopaswa kuomba zaidi. Kwa kufanya hivyo tutavunja mtego wa Shetani uliojificha, kisha mawingu ya giza yatatoweka, na

tutahisi uwepo wa Yesu. - (Lift Him Up, 372) [Pr 24.1; Maombi Aya ya 62]

Giza Huwafunga Wale Wanaopuuza Maombi – Ikiwa Mwokozi wa wanadamu, Mwana wa Mungu, alihisi hitaji la maombi/kusali, Je basi hitaji la maombi ya dhati na ya bila kukoma halitakuwa zaidi kwa wanadamu dhaifu, wanyonge, wenye dhambi na wanaokufa? [Pr 24.2; Maombi Aya ya 63]

Baba yetu wa mbinguni anasubiri kutupatia ukamilifu na wingi wa baraka Zake. Tumependelewa kunywa kwa kadiri tuwezavyo kutoka kwenye chemchemi ya upendo Wake usio na mipaka. Inastaajabisha kwa kiasi gani kwamba tunaomba kidogo sana! MUNGU Yupo tayari kusikia maombi ya dhati na ari ya watoto Wake wanyenyekevu na walio na hali duni sana, na bado kuna kusitasita kwingi kwa upande wetu kumjulisha MUNGU matakwa yetu. Malaika wa mbinguni wanaweza kufikiria nini jamani, kuhusu wanadamu hawa maskini wasiojiweza, ambao wanakabiliwa na majaribu, wakati moyo wa MUNGU wenye upendo usio na kikomo unawainamia wao kwa matamano, Naye akiwa tayari kuwapa zaidi ya vile wanavyoweza kuomba au kuwazia, lakini bado wanaomba kidogo sana na wana imani ndogo sana? Malaika wanapenda kusujudu mbele za MUNGU; wanapenda kuwa karibu Naye. Wanaona kuwa karibu na MUNGU ndiyo furaha yao kuu; lakini wanadamu waishio chini duniani, ambao wanahitaji msaada mkubwa ambao unaweza kutolewa na MUNGU tu, wanaonekana kuridhika kutembea bila nuru ya Roho Wake, bila ushirika wa uwepo Wake. [Pr 24.3; Maombi Aya ya 64]

Giza la yule mwovu linawafunga wale wanaopuuza kuomba. Minong'ono ambayo adui anawanong'onezea huwashawishi kutenda dhambi; na hii yote ni kwa sababu hawatumii fursa ambazo MUNGU amewapa katika wasaa mzuri wa miadi Naye kwa maombi. Kwa nini wana na binti za MUNGU wanasita-sita kuomba, wakati maombi ni ufunguo katika mkono wa imani ili kufungua ghala za hazina za mbinguni, ambako zimetunzwa tunu tele, zisizo na kikomo za Mweza wa Yote? - (Steps to Christ, 94) [Pr 24.4; Maombi Aya ya 65]

Epuka Kupuuzia Maombi-Kesha na chungu ndugu, wakati nuru yako ya kwanza inaanza kufifia, wakati

unapuuzia sala kwa mara ya kwanza, wakati unaona dalili za kwanza ya usingizi wa kiroho. –(Testimonies for the Church 4:124) [Pr 24.5; Maombi Aya ya 66]

Unapaswa kukesha, ili pilikapilika nyingi za maisha haya zisisababishe upuuzie maombi wakati unapohitaji zaidi nguvu ambayo maombi yanaweza kutoa. Hali ya utauwa, yaani kumpenda Mungu, ipo hatarini kwa roho kuzongwa/kuminywa zaidi na shughuli za maisha haya. Ni uovu mkubwa kuinyima roho nguvu na hekima ya mbinguni inayokusubiri, na unayoihitaji mno na ambayo ipo tayari kwa ajili yako unapoiomba. Unahitaji nuru ile ambayo MUNGU pekee Ndiye anayeweza kutoa. Hakuna mtu anayeweza kuwa na stahiki ya kuanza kufanya kazi Yake, isipokuwa awe na hekima hii.- (Testimonies for the Church 5:560) [Pr 25.1; Maombi Aya ya 67]

Shetani Huwadanganya Wale Wasiofanya Maombi—
(Wale ambao hawayachunguzi maandiko kwa bidii na kusalimisha kila shauku na kusudi la maisha Kwake Yule Asiyekosea, wote ambao hawamtafuti MUNGU katika maombi kwa ajili ya kuyajua mapenzi Yake, hakika watatangatanga mbali na njia sahihi na kuangukia kwenye hila/udanganyifu wa Shetani—((Testimonies for the Church 5: 192) [Pr 25.2; Maombi Aya ya 68]

Majaribu Hufanya Maombi Kuwa ya Lazima – Nguvu inayopatikana katika kupeleka maombi kwa MUNGU, ikiunganishwa na juhudi za mtu binafsi katika kuifundisha na kuizoeza akili kufikiri kwa kina na kuwa mwangalifu, humwandaa mtu huyo kwa ajili ya majukumu ya kila siku na hufanya roho iwe na amani katika mazingira yote, haijalishi hali ni ngumu kiasi gani. Majaribu ambayo tunaanikwa katika mazingira yake kila siku, hufanya maombi kuwa jambo la lazima. Ili tuweze kulindwa na uweza wa MUNGU kwa njia ya imani, shauku ya nia, inapaswa kuelekezwa daima mbinguni katika maombi ya kimya ili kupata msaada, kupata nuru, kupata nguvu, kupata maarifa. Lakini fikra na maombi hayawezi kuchukua nafasi ya kuwa dhati na juhudi katika kuboresha utumiaji wa muda vizuri na kwa uaminifu. Kazi na sala vyote vinahitajika katika kukamilisha tabia ya Kikristo. [Pr 25.3; Maombi Aya ya 69]

Lazima tuishi maisha ya pande mbili, maisha ya kufikiri na kutenda, maisha ya maombi ya kimya na kufanya kazi kwa juhudi.... Mungu anatutaka tuwe barua hai, zinazojulikana na kusomwa na watu wote. Roho inayomgeukia Mungu kwa ajili ya kupata nguvu, sapoti/msaada, uwezo, kwa maombi ya bidii ya kila siku, itakuwa na mawazo yaliyoboreshwa, uelewa dhahiri wa ile Kweli na wajibu, malengo ya juu kwenye utendaji, na kuendelea kuwa na njaa na kiu ya haki.—(God’s Amazing Grace, 317) [Pr 25.4; Maombi Aya ya 70]

Sala Inahitajika Sasa Zaidi Kuliko Siku Za Awali – Lazima tuwe katika maombi sana ikiwa tutaendelea mbele katika maisha ya ucha Mungu (Kiungu/kimbingu). Wakati ujumbe wa ile Kweli ulipotangazwa kwa mara ya kwanza, Lo! ni kwa bidii kiasi gani tuliomba. Ni mara ngapi sauti ya maombezi ilisikika chumbani, ghalani, kwenye bustani ya miti ya matunda, au kwenye vijisitu. Mara kwa mara tulitumia masaa kadhaa kwa maombi ya dhati, watu wawili au watatu wakiwa pamoja walidai ahadi; mara nyingi sauti ya kulia ilisikika na kisha sauti ya shukrani na wimbo wa sifa. Sasa siku ya MUNGU (yaani hukumu ya mwisho) iko karibu kuliko wakati tulipoanza kuamini, na tunapaswa kuwa na bidii, kudumu kuwa na usongo/ari, na shauku nzito zaidi kuliko siku zile za mwanzo. Hatari zetu ni kubwa sasa kuliko hapo awali. Mioyo imefanywa kuwa migumu zaidi. Tunahitaji sasa kujazwa na roho ya Kristo, na hatupaswi kupumzika mpaka tuipokee. —(Testimonies for the Church 5:161, 162) [Pr 26.1; Maombi Aya ya 71]

Mtafute Bwana kwa Moyo Wote – Maombi yetu yanapaswa kujazwa na upole, huruma na upendo. Tunapotamani ufahamu wa kina na mpana zaidi wa upendo wa Mwokozi, tutamlilia MUNGU atupatie hekima zaidi. Ikiwa kulikuwa na haja ya sala na mahubiri yanayochochea roho, ni sasa. Mwisho wa vitu vyote umekaribia. Laiti tungeweza kuona kama tunavyotakiwa, kuhusiana na umuhimu wa kumtafuta Bwana kwa moyo wote! Basi Tungelimpata. Hebu MUNGU na awafundishe watu Wake jinsi ya kuomba. —(God’s Amazing Grace, 92) [Pr 26.2; Maombi Aya ya 72]

Maombi Sio upotezaji wa muda - Kila asubuhi chukua muda kuanza kazi yako na sala. Usifikirie kuwa kufanya hivi

ni kupoteza mida tu; huu ni wakati ambao utaishi zama za umilele wote (enzi zote). Kwa njia hii mafanikio na ushindi wa kiroho vitaletwa. Mwili wako utaitikia mguso wa Mkono wa Mwalimu na Bwana. Hakika baraka za MUNGU zinastahili kuombwa, na kazi haiwezi kufanywa vyema au inavyopaswa, isipokuwa ina mwanzo ulio sahihi. Mikono ya kila mfanyakazi lazima iimarishwe, moyo wake lazima utakaswe, kabla Bwana hajamtumia mtu huyo kwa ufanisi zaidi.—(Testimonies for the Church 7:194) [Pr 26.3; Maombi Aya ya 73]

Wachache Wanathamini Fursa ya Maombi – Tunapaswa kukesha na kufanya kazi na kuomba kana kwamba hii ndiyo siku yetu ya mwisho ambayo tumepewa/tutapewa. Je, maisha yetu yangukuwa na bidii nzito na ya dhati kiasi gani. Na ni kwa ukaribu wa jinsi gani tungemfuata Yesu katika maneno na matendo yetu yote. [Pr 26.4; Maombi Aya ya 74]

Kuna wachache tu wanaothamini au kuboresha upendeleo wa thamani wa maombi. Tunapaswa kwenda kwa Yesu na kumwambia mahitaji yetu yote. Tunaweza kumpelekea masumbufu na wasiwasi wetu mdogo, dhiki zetu ndogo na hata shida zetu kubwa. Chochote kinachojitokeza kutusumbua au kutufadhaisha, tunapaswa kukipeleka kwa Bwana katika maombi. Tutakapohisi kuwa tunahitaji uwepo wa Kristo kwa kila hatua, Shetani atakuwa na nafasi ndogo ya kupenyeza majaribu yake bila ya kukaribishwa. Ni juhudi yake ya makusudi/anayokusuidia, na anayoifanyia utafiti, kutuweka mbali na rafiki Yetu bora na Mwenye huruma. Hatupaswi kumfanya mtu yeyote kuwa msiri wetu, na kumtumaini, ila Yesu. Tunaweza kuzungumza na kuwasiliana Naye kwa usalama kuhusiana yote yaliyo ndani ya mioyo yetu. – (Testimonies for the Church 5:200, 201) [Pr 27.1; Maombi Aya ya 75]

Maombi Zaidi yanahitajika Mwisho Unapokaribia – Mashirikisho ya vyama yataongezeka kwa idadi na nguvu tunapokaribia mwisho wa wakati (confederacies or unions). Mashirika haya yataunda ushawishi kinzani dhidi ya ile Kweli, na kuunda miungano mipya ya wanaojiita waumini ambao wataziweka kwenye vitendo nadharia zao za udanganyifu. Uasi utaongezeka. "Wengine watajitenga na

imani, wakizingatia roho zidanganyazo, na mafundisho ya mashetani" (1 Timotheo 4: 1). Wanaume na wanawake wameungana kumpinga Bwana MUNGU wa mbinguni, na kanisa bado halijaamka kikamilifu ili kuitambua hali hiyo kwa ukamilifu wake. Kuna haja ya kuwa na maombi zaidi, na bidii zaidi, kati ya wale wanaodai kuwa waumini. – (Selected Messages 2:383) [Pr 27.2; Maombi Aya ya 76]

“Kama kulikuwa na wakati ambapo tunapaswa kukesha na kuomba kwa dhati na bidii, ni sasa. Kunaweza kuwa na vitu vinavyodhaniwa kwa mwonekano wake kama ni vitu vizuri, ila bado vinahitaji kuchujwa kwa uangalifu na maombi mengi, kwani ni nyenzo maalum za adui zinazomereta ili kupotosha roho za wanadamu kwenda katika njia inayokaribiana sana na njia ya Kweli na hata kuleta utata katika kutofautisha na ile njia inayoongoza kwenye utakatifu na mbinguni. Lakini jicho la imani linaweza kugundua kwamba njia hii, imechepuka kutoka kwenye njia sahihi, ingawa hila hizo sio rahisi kugundulika. Mwanzoni inaweza kudhaniwa kuwa ni njia chanya na sahihi, lakini baada ya muda itaonekana kuwa imetofautiana sana na njia yenye usalama, mbali sana na njia inayoongoza kwenye utakatifu na mbinguni. - (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 229) [Pr 27.3; Maombi Aya ya 77]

Ushindi Kupitia Maombi ya Kila Siku – Kupitia maombi ya kila siku kwa MUNGU, watakuwa na hekima na neema kutoka Kwake ili kumudu mizozo, mitafaruku na hali halisi ngumu na kali za maisha, na kisha watatokeza kama washindi. Uadilifu na utulivu wa akili unaweza kuhifadhiwa kwa kukesha na kuomba tu. (Messages to Young People, 80) [Pr 28.1; Maombi Aya ya 78]

Ushindi Unahitaji Maombi ya Dhati – Ushindi haupatikani bila maombi mengi ya bidii, bila kujishusha nafsi kwa kujinyenyekeza katika kila hatua. Nia au mapenzi yetu hayatakiwi kulazimishwa kushirikiana na wakala wa MUNGU/Mbingu, lakini ni lazima yatolewe kwa Bwana kwa hiari yetu wenyewe.-(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 142) [Pr 28.2; Maombi Aya ya 79]

Lazima tutenge muda wa Kuomba – Tunapaswa sasa kujifunza na kujizoeza katika kumfahamu MUNGU kwa kuthibitisha ahadi Zake. Malaika wanatunza kumbukumbu ya kila sala ambayo ni ya dhati, yenye usadikisho na yenye unyofu (Malaika wanarekodi kila ombi). Ni bora kujitenga au kutupilia mbali tamaa zetu zenye ubinafsi kuliko kupuuzia ushirika na MUNGU. Umasikini wa kilindi kirefu, kujikana nafsi kwa hali ya juu, vikiwa na kibali Chake, ni bora kuliko utajiri, heshima, maisha rahisi, na urafiki bila kibali Chake. Ni Lazima tuchukue muda na kuutenga kwa kwaajili ya sala - (The Great Controversy, 622) [Pr 28.3; Maombi Aya ya 80]

We Must Take Time to Pray—We should now acquaint ourselves

Tumia muda mwingi katika Maombi – Hebu muda mwingi utumike katika maombi na kutafuta kwa ukaribu Neno. Hebu wote wapate Ukweli halisi wa imani katika mioyo yao kwa kuamini kwamba Roho Mtakatifu atamwagwa kwao kwa sababu wana njaa halisi na kiu ya haki.....Hebu kuwe na maombi zaidi, kuamini, na kupokea, na kufanya kazi zaidi pamoja na MUNGU. —(Testimonies for the Church 6:65, 66) [Pr 28.4; Maombi Aya ya 81]

Omba kuliko ulivyowahi kuomba maishani Mwako – Mtazame Yesu kwa usahili na imani. Mkodolee macho Yesu mpaka roho izimie chini ya nuru iliyosheheni. Hatusali hata nusu ya tunavyopaswa kusali. Hatuamini hata nusu ya tunavyopaswa kuamini, tunaambiwa. "Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa." Luka 11:9 Ombeni, aminini, na imarishaneni. Ombeni kuliko mlivyowahi kuomba maishani mwenu, kwamba Bwana atawawekea mkono Wake, ili muweze kufahamu marefu na mapana na kina na kimo, na kujua upendo wa Kristo, upitao ujuzi wote, ili mjazwe utimilifu wote wa MUNGU. —(Testimonies for the Church 7:214) [Pr 28.5; Maombi Aya ya 82]

Omba, ndiyo, omba kuliko ulivyowahi kuomba maishani mwako, ili usidanganywe na hila za Shetani, ili usipate kuangukia ugonjwa wa kutokuwa na usikivu, uzembe, moyo usiojali, na wenye ubatili, na kisha ujihudhurisha kwenye majukumu na shuguli za kidini kwaajili tu ya kutuliza dhamiri yako mwenyewe. — (Testimonies for the Church 2:144) [Pr 29.1; Maombi Aya ya 83]

Ombeni Daima - "Ombeni daima-ombeni bila kukoma;" hiyo ni kwamba, Daima uwe katika roho ya maombi, na hapo ndipo utakapokuwa tayari kwa Ujio wa Bwana wako. – (Testimonies for the Church 5:235) [Pr 29.2; Maombi Aya ya 84]

Hitaji la Maombi mengi – Sasa kuna hitaji la maombi mengi. Kristo anaamuru, "Ombeni bila kukoma;" yaani, ielekeze akili yako juu kwa MUNGU, Chanzo cha nguvu zote na ufanisi. – (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 510) [Pr 29.3; Maombi Aya ya 85]

Shughuli sio mbadala wa Maombi (Pilikapilika nyingi hazichukui nafasi ya Sala)– kadiri shughuli zinavyoongezeka na watu kufanikiwa katika kufanya kazi yoyote kwa MUNGU, kuna hatari ya kutegemea mikakati na njia za kianadamu. Kuna tabia ya kuomba kwa udogo na kuwa na imani kidogo. Kama wanafunzi, tuko katika hatari ya kupoteza machoni mwetu utegemezi wetu kwa MUNGU wetu, na kutamani kufanya shughuli zetu kuwa ndiyo mkombozi. Tunahitaji kumtazama Yesu daima, huku tukitambua kuwa ni nguvu Yake ndiyo ambayo hutenda kazi. Wakati tukiendelea kufanya kazi kwa dhati na bidii kwa ajili ya wokovu wa wapotevu, lazima pia tutenge wakati wa kutafakari, kwa maombi, na kujifunza Neno la MUNGU. Ni ile kazi pekee iliyotekelezwa kwa maombi mengi, na kutakaswa kwa uwezo, stahiki na sifa ya Kristo ndiyo mwishowe itathibitisha kuwa imefaulu kwa ufanisi kwa mema. - (The Desire of Ages, 362) [Pr 29.4; Maombi Aya ya 86]

Maombi yanahitajika ili kuchukua misimamo isiyopendwa au isiyo maarufu -Inahitaji ujasiri wa kiadili, uthabiti, kuazimia, uvumilivu, na maombi mengi kukaa katika upande ule tofauti usio mashuhuri au usiopendwa na wengi. Tunashukuru kwamba tunaweza kuja kwa Kristo kama wale watu maskini waliokuwa wanateseka, walivyomjia Kristo hekaluni.- (Evangelism, 240). [Pr 29.5; Maombi Aya ya 87]

Maombi yanahitajika ili Kufanya Kazi ya MUNGU- Maombi mengi na mazoezi ya nguvu ya akili ni muhimu

ikiwa tungependa tuwe na utayari wa kuifanya kazi ambayo MUNGU atatukabidhi na atatuamini tuifanye. Wengi hawafikii nafasi ambayo wanaweza kuimiliki, kwa sababu wanangojea MUNGU awafanyie yale ambayo Yeye amewapa uwezo wa kuyafanya wao wenyewe. Wote ambao wamechaguliwa kufaa kwa utumishi katika maisha haya lazima wafundishwe kwa nidhamu kali ya kiakili na kimaadili, na kisha MUNGU atawasaidia kwa kuchanganya nguvu Zake za Kiungu/Uungu na juhudi za kianadamu. - (Testimonies for the Church 4: 611) [Pr 30.1; Maombi Aya ya 88]

Maombi Yanahitajika ili Kuielewa ile Kweli -Mada za ukombozi ni mada muhimu na nzito mno leo na siku za usoni, na ni wale tu ambao wana nia ya kiroho, ndiyo wanaweza kutambua kina na umuhimu wake. Ni usalama kwetu, maisha yetu, na furaha yetu, kuishi ndani ya zile Kweli za mpango wa wokovu. Imani na maombi ni muhimu ili tuweze kuyaona mambo ya kina ya MUNGU. Fikra zetu zimefungwa sana na maoni finyu na hafifu, kiasi kwamba tunapata maoni na mitazamo michache tu ya uzoefu ambao ni upendeleo wetu kuwa nayo. Sisi tunaelewa kwa udogo kiasi gani, lile ombi la mtume, aliposema, "kwamba atawapatia, kwa kadiri ya utajiri wa utukufu Wake, Muimarishwe kwa nguvu na roho Yake katika utu wa ndani; ili Kristo akae mioyoni mwenu kwa imani; ili ninyi, mkiwa na shina, na msingi wa upendo, mpate kuweza kujua pamoja na watakatifu wote jinsi ya mapana, na marefu, na kina, na kimo; na kuujua upendo wa Kristo, upitao ujuzi, ili mjazwe utimilifu wote wa Mungu. Sasa Kwake Yeye awezaye kufanya mengi kupita yote tunayoomba au kufikiria, kwa kadiri ya nguvu itendayo kazi ndani yetu, utukufu umrudie Yeye kanisani kupitia Kristo Yesu katika vizazi vyote, milele na milele. Amina (na amina, ombi zito sana kupita yote!). The Review and Herald, Novemba 17, 1891) [Pr 30.2; Maombi Aya ya 89]

Maombi Yanahitajika Nyumbani — Mapenzi hayawezi kudumu, hata katika mzunguko wa nyumbani, isipokuwa kuna upatanifu na mwelekeo kwa mapenzi ya MUNGU. Vitivo na shauku zote vinapaswa kuletwa katika upatanifu na sifa za Yesu Kristo. Ikiwa baba na mama katika upendo na hofu ya MUNGU wataungana katika maslahi/shauku na kuwa na mamlaka nyumbani, wataona umuhimu wa

maombi mengi, na kutafakari kwa umakinizaidi. Na wanapomtafuta MUNGU, macho yao yatafunguliwa kuona wajumbe wa mbinguni waliopo kuwalinda kama jibu la maombi ya imani. Watashinda udhaifu wa tabia zao na kutembea kuelekea kwenye ukamilifu. - (The Adventist Home, 315, 316) [Pr 30.3; Maombi Aya ya 90]

Maombi yanahitajika kudumisha uhusiano/muunganiko na MUNGU— Puuza mazoezi ya maombi, au jihusishe na maombi kwa muda mfupi hapa na pale, kwa kushtukiza, na bila mtiririko wa daima, ukitenda kile kinachokuwa rahisi kwako au jinsi unavyopenda, basi utapoteza uhusiano wako na MUNGU. Maisha Kikristo hugeuka kuwa makavu, na nguvu za kiroho zitakuwa hazina makali. kisha Uzoefu wa kidini unakosa afya na nguvu. - (The Signs of the Times, July 31, 1893) [Pr 31.1; Maombi Aya ya]

Maombi yanahitajika ili kupata Nguvu za Kiroho — Sababu ambayo wengine hawana utulivu, ni kwamba hawaendi kwa Yeye ambaye Ndiye Chanzo pekee cha Kweli cha furaha. Kila mara wanajaribu kutafuta kujifurahisha mbali na ile furaha inayopatikana ndani ya Kristo Yake pekee. Ndani Yake Yeye hakuna matumaini yaliyokatishwa tamaa kamwe. Oh! Ni kwa jinsi gani fursa ya thamani ya maombi imepuuziwa! Usomaji wa Neno la MUNGU huandaa akili kwa ajili ya maombi. Moja kati ya sababu kubwa ya kwa nini wengi wana mkao wa kujitoa kwa udogo katika kumkaribia MUNGU kwa njia ya maombi ni, kwamba wamejitenga wenyewe na kazi hii takatifu kwa kusoma hekaya zinazowavutia, ambazo zimeyasisimua mawazo na kuamsha tamaa mbaya. Neno la Mungu linakuwa lenye ladha isiyopendeza (mionjo yao imebadilika kwa habari wanazokula machapishoni au mtandaoni); saa ya maombi haiwekwi mawazoni. Maombi ni nguvu ya Mkristo. Wakati muumini yuko mwenyewe, yeye hayupo peke yake; anahisi uwepo wa Yule aliyenena, "Tazama, Mimi Niko pamoja nawe siku zote."The Review and Herald, Machi 11, 1880) [Pr 31.1; Maombi Aya ya 91]

Maombi Yanahitajika ili Kuingia Mbinguni — Hakuna kitu kama kuingia kwetu kwenye malango ya mbinguni kupitia kujifurahisha, kujiendekeza na upumbavu, maburudisho, ubinafsi, bali tu ni kwa kukesha na kuomba

bila kukoma. Kukesha kiroho kwa kila mmoja wetu ndiyo gharama/bei ya usalama. Usiegeme upande wa Shetani hata sentimita moja, asije akapata manufaa kwako na kukuteka. - (SDA Bible Commentary 6: 1094) [Pr 31.2; Maombi Aya ya 92]

Maombi hutufanya kudumu kuwa Waaminifu – Bila maombi yasiyokoma na kukesha kwa bidii, tuko katika hatari ya kuongeza uzembe, kutojali na kupotoka mbali na njia sahihi. Adui daima anatafuta kuzuia au kufunga njia ya kukifikia Kiti cha Rehema, ili kwa sala ya dhati na imani tusipate neema na nguvu ya kupinga majaribu. - (The Review and Herald, Desemba 8, 1904) [Pr 31.3; Maombi Aya ya 93]

Omba kwa ajili ya roho- Ikiwa tunataka kujifunza juu ya Kristo, lazima tuombe kama vile ambavyo mitume waliomba Roho Mtakatifu alipomwagwa juu yao. Tunahitaji ubatizo wa Roho wa MUNGU. Hatuko salama hata kwa saa moja tunaposhindwa kutoa utii kwa Neno la MUNGU.– (Fundamentals of Christian Education, 537) [Pr 32.1; Maombi Aya ya 94]

Udhaifu hugeuzwa na kuwa Nguvu Kupitia Maombi – Wao [watu wengi wa MUNGU] hawaoni umuhimu wa kuijua mioyo yao na pia kuzitawala nafsi zao wenyewe. Hawakeshi na kuomba, ili wasije wakaingia majaribuni. Ikiwa wangekesha, wangepeweza wangepielimisha kuzitambua pointi/vipengele vyao dhaifu, ambavyo vina uwezekano mkubwa kuwaingiza hatarini, na kuwashambulia kwa majaribu. Kwa kukesha na kuomba, vipengele/maeneo yao dhaifu yanaweza kulindwa vyema na hata mwishowe yakawa vipengele vyao vyenye kuwafanya wawe imara/nguvu, na wanaweza kukabiliana na majaribu bila kushindwa. Kila mfuasi wa Kristo anapaswa kujichunguza mwenyewe kila siku, ili aweze kuujua kwa ukamilifu mwenendo wake mwenyewe.– (Testimonies for the Church 2:511) [Pr 32.2; Maombi Aya ya 95]

Omba katika Hali Zote – Katika biashara yako, katika nyakati za kuburudika kwa pamoja na wengine, na katika muingiliano wa maisha, acha kila mahusiano unayoingia, yawe katika maombi ya dhati, na ya unyenyekevu. Kwa njia hiyo utaonyesha kwamba unamheshimu MUNGU, na

MUNGU atakuheshimu na kukutunukia. Omba moyo unapokuwa dhaifu na kuzimia. Unapokata tamaa, funga mdomo wako kwa wanadamu (Usinyanyue mdomo wako kuwaelezea watu shida zako); usifuate njia ya wengine na kuwa kivuli chao; bali mwambie Yesu kila kitu. Nyosha mikono yako juu na kuomba msaada. Katika udhaifu wako shikilia nguvu isiyo na kikomo. Omba unyenyekevu, hekima, ujasiri, ongezeko la imani, ili uweze kuona mwanga katika nuru ya MUNGU na ufurahie upendo Wake.- (The Ministry of Healing, 513) [Pr 32.1; Maombi Aya ya 96]

SURA YA 3

MUNGU HUSIKIA MAOMBI

MUNGU husikia Maombi ya Wanyenyekavu – Baba yetu wa mbinguni anasubiri kutupatia ujazo/ukamilifu wa baraka Zake. Ni nafasi ya upendeleo kwetu kunywa kwa kadiri tuwezavyo kutoka kwenye chemchemi ya upendo usio na ukomo. Inashangaza kwa kiasi gani kwamba sisi tunaomba kidogo sana! MUNGU Yuko tayari kusikia maombi ya dhati na imani ya watoto Wake wanyenyekavu, na bado kuna kusitasita kwingi kwa upande wetu kumjulisha MUNGU yale tunayoyataka. Malaika wa mbinguni wanafikiria nini juu ya wanadamu maskini wasiojiweza, ambao wanakabiliwa na majaribu, wakati moyo wa MUNGU wa upendo usio na kikomo unawainamia kwa matamania, akiwa tayari kuwapa zaidi ya vile wanavyoweza kuomba au kufikiri, ila bado wao wanaomba kidogo sana na wana imani ndogo sana? Malaika wanapenda kusujudu mbele za MUNGU; wanapenda kuwa karibu Naye. Wanauchukulia ushirika wao na MUNGU kuwa ndiyo furaha yao kubwa kupita furaha zote; ila wanadamu, ambao wanahitaji msaada mkubwa ambao ni MUNGU tu anayeweza kuutoa, wanaonekana kuridhika kutembea bila nuru ya Roho Wake, ushirika wa uwepo Wake. –(Steps to Christ, 94) [Pr 33.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Wale ambao wana unyenyekevu, wamtegemeao Mungu, na kuwa na moyo uliopondeka, Mungu huwakubali, na husikia maombi yao; na MUNGU anaposaidia, vikwazo vyote vitaondolewa. Ni watu wangapi wenye uwezo mkubwa wa vipaji vya asili, akili nyingi, na elimu ya hali ya juu wameshindwa walipowekwa katika nafasi za uwajibikaji, wakati wale wenye akili dhaifu, na mazingira duni, wamefanikiwa sana. Siri ilikuwa: Wale wa kwanza wenye vipaji na visomo, walijiamini wao wenyewe, wakati wale dhaifu na duni waliungana na Yeye ambaye ni Mshauri wa ajabu na hodari katika kufanya kazi ili kutimiza mapenzi Yake. –(Testimonies for the Church 4:538, 539) [Pr 33.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

MUNGU husikia na Kujibu Maombi – MUNGU husikia maombi. Kristo amesema “Mkiniomba chochote kwa Jina Langu, Nitafanya.” Tena anasema, “Mtu yeyote

Akinitumikia, Baba Yangu atamheshimu." Yohana 14:14; Yohana 12:26. Ikiwa tunaishi kulingana na Neno Lake, kila ahadi ya thamani aliyoitoa itatimizwa kwetu. Hatustahili rehema Yake, lakini tunapojitoa Kwake, Yeye hutupokea. Yeye atafanya kazi kwa ajili, na kupitia wale wanaomfuata. - (The Ministry of Healing, 226, 227) [Pr 34.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Hakika Bwana atasikia na kujibu maombi ya watendakazi Wake ikiwa watamtafuta kwa ajili ya ushauri na mafundisho. - (Evangelism, 399) [Pr 34.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

MUNGU husikia maombi ya wote wanaomtafuta katika Kweli. Yeye Ana nguvu ambayo sisi sote tunahitaji. Yeye Anajaza moyo kwa upendo, na furaha, na amani, na utakatifu. –(Testimonies for the Church 9:169) [Pr 34.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Niliona kwamba kila ombi ambalo hutolewa kwa imani kutoka katika moyo mwaminifu litasikiwa na MUNGU na kujibiwa, na yule aliyetuma ombi atapata baraka wakati anapoihitaji zaidi, na mara nyingi majibu atakayopata yatazidi matarajio yake. Hakuna ombi la mtakatifu wa kweli linalopotea ikiwa limetumwa kwa imani kutoka katika moyo mkweli/mnyofu. –(Testimonies for the Church 1:121) [Pr 34.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

MUNGU husikiliza Kila ombi – MUNGU aliye wa milele, alisema Yesu, hufanya iwe fursa yako kumwendea Yeye kwa Jina la Baba. Hebu elewa kila kinachomaanishwa hapa. Hakuna mzazi yoyote wa duniani aliyewahi kumsihi sana mtoto aliyekosea kama Yeye Aliyekuumba anavyomsihi mkosaji. Hakuna nia ya ya upendo wa kibinadamu iliyowahi kumfuata yule asiyetaka toba kwa miito ya upole kiasi hicho. MUNGU hufanya makazi Yake katika kila makazi; Yeye husikia kila neno linalosemwa, husikiliza kila ombi linalotolewa, anaonja huzuni na kukatishwa tamaa kwa kila mwanadamu, Anazingatia jinsi baba, mama, dada, rafiki, na jirani wanavyotendewa. Yeye hujali mahitaji yetu, na upendo Wake na rehema na neema Zake zinaendelea kububujika ili kukidhi hitaji letu.- (The Signs of the Times, Oktoba 28, 1903) [Pr 34.5; Maombi Aya ya 7]

MUNGU husikia kila Maombi ya Dhati – Biblia inatuonyesha MUNGU katika mahali Pake pa juu na

Patakatifu, sio katika hali ya kutokuwa na shughuli, sio kwa ukimya na upweke, ila akiwa amezungukwa na elfu kumi mara elfu kumi na maelfu ya maelfu ya viumbe watakatifu na wenye akili (malaika), wote wakingojea kufanya mapenzi Yake. Kupitia mikondo ambayo hatuwezi kutambua Yeye Yuko katika mawasiliano hai na kila sehemu ya himaya Yake. Lakini ni katika sehemu hii ndogo sana kama punje tu ukilinganisha na himaya Yake, yaani dunia yetu, ndipo zipo roho ambazo Yeye, alimtoa Mwanawe wa pekee ili kuziokoa, ambapo shauku Yake na masilahi ya mbinguni yote yamejikita hapo. MUNGU anainama kutoka kwenye kiti Chake cha enzi kusikia kilio cha wanaoonewa. Kwa kila ombi la dhati na imani, Yeye Anajibu, "Mimi hapa." Yeye huwainua waliofadhaika na waliodhulumiwa kwa kukanyagwa-kanyagwa. Katika taabu zetu zote Yeye pia anataabika. Katika kila jaribu na kila mtihani malaika wa uwepo Wake yuko karibu kuokoa. - (The Desire of Ages, 356) [Pr 35.1; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Yaonekana kana kwamba wanafunzi walikuwa bado kujua rasilimali na nguvu za Mwokozi zisizo na kikomo. Akawaambia, "Mpaka sasa hamkuomba chochote kwa Jina Langu." Yohana 16:24. Alielezea kuwa siri ya mafanikio yao itakuwa katika kuomba nguvu na neema kwa Jina Lake. Kwamba Angelikuwepo mbele za Baba kuomba kwa niaba yao. Maombi ya mwombaji mnyenyekevu Yeye huyawasilisha kama matamania Yake mwenyewe kwa niaba ya mtu huyo (roho hiyo). Kila ombi la dhati husikika mbinguni. Linaweza lisiwasilishwe kwa ufasaha; lakini ikiwa linatoka moyoni, litapanda kwenda mahali Patakatifu ambapo Yesu anahudumu, Naye ataliwasilisha kwa Baba bila neno hata moja la kuudhi, lenye kigugumizi, bali kwa Neno zuri na lenye harufu nzuri ya ubani wa ukamilifu Wake Mwenyewe. [Pr 35.2; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Njia ya uaminifu na uadilifu sio kwamba inakosa kizuizi, ila katika kila shida tunapaswa kuona wito wa kuomba. Hakuna mtu aliye hai ambaye ana nguvu yoyote ambayo hajaipokea kutoka kwa MUNGU, na chanzo kinachotoka nguvu hizo kiko wazi hata kwa mwanadamu dhaifu zaidi. "Nanyi mkiomba lolote kwa Jina Langu, hilo nitalifanya, ili Baba atukuzwe ndani ya Mwana. Mkiniomba chochote kwa Jina Langu, nitalifanya." [Pr 35.3; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Kristo aliwaagiza wanafunzi Wake waombe "Kwa Jina Langu,". Katika Jina la Kristo wafuasi Wake wanapaswa kusimama mbele za MUNGU. Kupitia thamani ya kafara iliyotolewa kwa ajili yao, wana thamani machoni pa Bwana. Kwa sababu ya kupewa haki kupitia Kristo, wanahesabiwa kuwa wa thamani. Kwa ajili ya Kristo Bwana huwasamehe wale wamchao. Haoni uovu wa kutisha ndani ya wenye dhambi hao. Anatambua mfano wa Mwanawe ndani yao, ambaye wanamuamini. - (The Desire of Ages, 667) [Pr 36.1; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Hakuna Ombi la dhati na bidii ambalo linalopotea – mjulishe maombi yako Muumba wako. Hakuna aliyewahi kumwendea kwa moyo uliopondeka na akafukuzwa. Hakuna ombi hata moja la dhati na imani lilipotea. Katikati ya nyimbo za kwaya ya mbinguni, MUNGU husikia kilio cha mwanadamu dhaifu. Tunamwaga matamaniao ya mioyo yetu ndani ya vyumba vyetu vya siri, tunapumua maombi tunapotembea njiani, na maneno yetu yanafika kwenye kiti cha enzi cha Mfalme wa ulimwengu/malimwengu. Sauti zetu zinaweza zisisikike kwenye sikio lolote la mwanadamu, lakini haziwezi kufa kimyakimya tu, wala haziwezi kupotea kupitia shughuli na kelele zinazoendelea. Hakuna kitu kinachoweza kuzamisha matamaniao ya moyo. Haya huinuka juu ya sauti za mitaani, juu ya machafuko ya kadarnasi za watu, na kwenda hadi nyua za mbinguni. Ni MUNGU Ndiye ambaye tunaongea Naye, na maombi yetu yanasikika. Wewe ambaye unajiona hustahili kabisa, usiogope kabisa kuikabidhi kesi yako inayokukabili kwa MUNGU. - (In Heavenly Places, 82) [Pr 36.2; Maombi Aya ya 12]

MUNGU husikia Maombezi ya Yesu Yaliyochanganyika na Maombi Yetu – Kristo ameahidi Mwenyewe kuwa mbadala na mdhamini wetu, na hampuuzii au kumuacha mtu yeyote. Kuna fungu/mfuko usiopungukiwa wa utii kamili unaotokana na utii Wake nao unatitirika daima. Kule mbinguni sifa Zake, kujikana Kwake Mwenyewe na kujitoa mhanga Mwenyewe, kunathaminiwa kama uvumba unaopaswa kutolewa pamoja na maombi ya watu Wake. Wakati maombi ya dhati na usadikisho, na ya unyenyekevu ya mwenye dhambi yanapopanda kwenye kiti cha enzi cha MUNGU, Kristo anachanganya maombi hayo na sifa za maisha Yake Mwenyewe za utii mkamilifu. Maombi yetu

yafanywa kuwa na harufu nzuri na uvumba huu. Kristo ameahidi kufanya maombezi kwa niaba yetu, na siku zote Baba humsikia Mwanawe.—(Sons and Daughters of God, 22) [Pr 36.3; Maombi Aya ya 13]

MUNGU daima hujibu, ingawa wakati mwingine twaweza tusitambue- Ikiwa tunamwendea MUNGU, tukijisikia kwamba tu wanyonge, tusio na uwezo na tegemezi, kama tulivyo, na kwa imani ya unyenyekevu tukitumaini tunawasilisha matakwa yetu Kwake Yeye ambaye maarifa Yake hayana mwisho, anayeona kila kitu katika uumbaji, na ambaye anatawala kila kitu kwa mapenzi na Neno Lake, Yeye anaweza na atashughulikia kilio chetu, na ataangaza nuru mioyoni mwetu. Kupitia maombi ya dhati na imani, tunaletwa katika muunganiko wa akili ya Yule Asiyeye wa milele. Labda hatuwezi kuwa na ushahidi unaoonekana na wa kustaajabisha wakati huo ambao uso wa Mkombozi wetu umeinama juu yetu kwa huruma na upendo, lakini huo ndio Ukweli wenyewe. Tunaweza tusihisi mguso Wake unaoonekana, lakini mkono Wake uko juu yetu kwa upendo na huruma ya upole.- (Steps to Christ, 97) [Pr 37.1; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Majibu ya MUNGU siku zote sio yale tunayotarajia— Omba basi; Omba, nawe utapata. Omba unyenyekevu, hekima, ujasiri, ongezeko la imani. Kwa kila ombi la dhati jibu litakuja. Linaweza lisije vile vile tunavyotamani, au kwa wakati tunalitafuta; lakini litakuja kwa njia na kwa wakati ambao litakidhi mahitaji yako kwa ubora zaidi. Maombi unayotoa kwa upweke, kwa uchovu, katika majaribio, MUNGU hujibu, sio kila wakati kulingana na matarajio yako, lakini kila wakati kwa faida yako (kwa wema kwako). — (Messages to Young People, 250) [Pr 37.2; Maombi Aya ya 15]

MUNGU husikia Maombi kwa ajili ya kuongoa Roho — Wakati wale wanaojua Ukweli wanapofanya mazoezi ya kujikana nafsi yaliyoamriwa katika Neno la MUNGU, ujumbe utaenda kwa nguvu. Bwana atasikia maombi yetu ya kuongolewa kwa roho. Watu wa MUNGU wataacha nuru yao iangaze, na wale wasioamini, wakiona matendo yao mema, watamtukuza Baba yetu wa mbinguni. - (Counsels on Stewardship, 302) [Pr 37.3; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Amini kwamba MUNGU husikia maombi yako-Watu wa MUNGU lazima wasonge kwa uelewa. Hawapaswi kuridhika mpaka kila dhambi inayojulikana imetubiwa; kisha ni haki na wajibu wao kuamini kwamba Yesu anawakubali. Hawapaswi kungojea mpaka wengine wapige gwaride kusonga mbele ili kuliacha giza na kupata ushindi kwaajili yao kufurahia. Furaha kama hiyo itadumu hadi mkutano utakapofungwa tu. Lakini MUNGU lazima atumikiwe kutoka kwa kanuni badala ya hisia. Asubuhi na usiku jipatieni ushindi kwaajili yenu wenyewe katika familia yenu. Usiruhusu kazi yako ya kila siku ikuzuie katika hili. Chukua muda kuomba na unapoomba, amini Mungu anasikia maombi yako. Ruhusu imani yako ichanganyike na maombi yako. Unaweza usihisi jibu la haraka wakati wote; lakini basi ni kwamba imani hiyo inakuwa inajaribiwa. Unathibitishwa kuona ikiwa utamtegemea MUNGU, ikiwa una imani hai, na inayodumu. “Yeye analiyewaita ninyi atafanya hivyo kwani ni mwaminifu.” Tembea kwenye boriti nyembamba ya imani. Yaache yote juu ya ahadi za Bwana. Mtumaini MUNGU gizani. Huo ni wakati wa wewe kuwa na imani. Lakini mara nyingi mnaruhusu hisia zikutawale. Mnaangalia kustahili ndani yenu wenyewe wakati hamuhisi kufarajiwa na Roho wa MUNGU, na mnakata tamaa kwa sababu hamuwezi kupata. Hamumtumaini Yesu vya kutosha, Yesu wa thamani. Hamfanyi sifa na stahiki Zake kuwa yote, katika yote. Hata mkifanya kwa ubora mnavyoweza kufanya haitaweza kustahili fadhili za MUNGU. Ni kustahili kwa Yesu ndiyo kutawaokoa, damu Yake ndiyo itakayowatakaswa. Lakini mnayo juhudi ya kufanya. Lazima ufanye kile unachoweza kwa upande wako. Uwe na bidii na kutubu, kisha mwamini.

- (Ushuhuda kwa Kanisa 1: 167) [Pr 38.1; Maombi Aya ya 17]

SURA YA 4

MAOMBI NA KULETA ROHO KWA BWANA

Maombi ni Sehemu Muhimu ya Mafanikio katika kuongoa Roho-Ikiwa washiriki wa makanisa wangezifanyia kazi nguvu za akili walizo nazo, kwa juhudi zinazoelekezwa vizuri, katika mipango iliyokomaa vizuri, basi wangeweza kumfanyia Kristo mara mia zaidi ya wanavyofanya sasa. Endapo wangesonga mbele kwa maombi ya dhati, kwa upole na unyenyekevu wa moyo, huku wao binafsi wakitafuta kuwapa wengine ujuzi wa wokovu, ujumbe huo unaweza kuwafikia wakazi wa dunia. - (The Review and Herald, Aprili 11, 1893). [Pr 39.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Tunapaswa kuja kwa MUNGU kwa imani, na kumimina dua zetu mbele Yake, tukiamini kwamba atafanya kazi kwa niaba yetu, na kwa niaba ya wale ambao tunatafuta kuwaokoa. Tunapaswa kutumia wakati mwingi kusali kwa bidii.— (SDA Bible Commentary 3: 146, 1147) [Pr 39.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Chagua roho nyingine na nyingine tena na kisha kila siku tafuta mwongozo kutoka kwa MUNGU, ukiweka kila kitu mbele Zake kwa maombi ya dhati na bidii, na ufanye kazi kwa hekima ya Bwana. Unapofanya hivi, utaona kwamba MUNGU atampa Roho Mtakatifu kusadikisha, na nguvu ya Ukweli kuiongoa roho. - (Medical Ministry, 245). [Pr 39.3; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Kumbuka kwamba kufaulu kwa karipio kunategemea kwa ukubwa roho ambayo kupitia kwayo onyo linatolewa. Usipuuze maombi ya dhati ili uwe na roho ya kujishusha, inayonyenyekea, na kwamba malaika wa MUNGU waende

mbele yako na kufanya kazi juu ya mioyo unayojaribu kuifikia, na hivyo wailainishe kwa hisia za mbinguni ili juhudi zako zipate kuwa zenye faida. –(Testimonies for the Church 2:53) [Pr 40.1; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Ikiwa watu kadhaa wangekutana pamoja kwa nia moja, na mioyo iliyolemewa na mzigo kwa ajili ya roho zinazoangamia, na watoe maombi ya dhati, ya bidii, hakika matokeo yangekua mazuri. - (The Review and Herald, Agosti 23, 1892) [Pr 40.2; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Kuziombea roho Kutatuleta Karibu na MUNGU— Tunapotafuta kuwaleta wengine kwa Kristo, tukibeba mzigo wa roho za watu katika maombi yetu, mioyo yetu itadunda na ushawishi wenye nguvu wa kuhuishwa wa neema ya MUNGU; mapenzi yetu wenyewe yatang'aa kwa unyofu na bidii zaidi ya Kiungu; maisha yetu yote ya Kikristo yatakuwa yenye uhalisia zaidi, dhati, na yenye bidii zaidi, na ya maombi zaidi. - (Christ Object Lessons, 354). [Pr 40.3; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Pale ubinafsi unapokufa, kutakuwa na mwamko mkubwa wa matamano ya kina kuhusiana na wokovu wa wengine, - hamu ambayo itasababisha kufanyika kwa juhudi za kudumu katika kutenda mema. Kutakuwa na kupanda kando ya maji yote; na sala ya dhati na yenye msukumo na mkazo (king'ang'anizi!), na maombi ya kujitolea, yataingia mbinguni kwa niaba ya roho zinazoangamia. - (Gospel Workers, 470). [Pr 40.4; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Mkutane pamoja kuombea uongoaji wa roho— Ikiwa katika sehemu moja wapo wawili tu au watatu tu ambao wanaujua Ukweli, basi na wajifanyie kikundi cha watenda kazi. Hebu watunze mshikamano/dhamana ya muungano wao usivunjike, wakivuta nyavu pamoja kwa upendo na umoja, wakitiana moyo kusonga mbele, kila mmoja akijipatia ujasiri na nguvu kutoka kwenye msaada wa wengine..... Wanapoendelea kufanya kazi na kuomba kwa Jina la Kristo, idadi yao itaongezeka. –(Testimonies for the Church 7:21) [Pr 40.5; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Hebu kanisa la Los Angeles, California liwe na msimu maalum wa maombi kila siku kwa kazi ambayo inafanywa. Baraka ya Bwana itakuja kwa washiriki wa kanisa ambalo linashiriki katika kazi hiyo, wakikusanyika katika vikundi vidogo kila siku kuombea mafanikio yake. Na hivyo

waumini watapata neema, na kazi ya Bwana itasonga mbele.—(Evangelism, 111, 112) [Pr 40.6; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Tunapaswa kufanya makongamano ya maombi, tukimwomba Bwana afungue njia ili Ukweli upate kuingia katika ngome ambazo Shetani ameweka kiti chake cha enzi, na kuondoa kunuiza kwake au kivuli alichotupa katika njia ya wale ambao anatafuta kuwadanganya na kuwaangamiza. —(Testimonies for the Church 6:80) [Pr 41.1; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Oh, kwamba sala ya dhati ya imani ipande kwenda juu kutokea kila mahali, Nipe roho zilizozikwa sasa kwenye takataka za makosa, la sivyo nife! Walete kwenye ujuzi wa Ukweli kama ulivyo ndani ya Yesu. —(This Day With God, 171). [Pr 41.2; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Kila mtu Anaweza Kuziombea roho — Sio wote walioitwa kufanya kazi binafsi katika maeneo ya nchi za kigeni, lakini wote wanaweza kufanya kitu kwa maombi yao na zawadi zao kusaidia kazi ya umishenari. — (Testimonies for the Church 6:29) [Pr 41.3; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Kaka na dada, mmesahau kwamba sala zenu zinapaswa kutoka na kwenda nje, kama mundu kali, pamoja na watendakazi katika shamba kubwa la mavuno? — (Testimonies for the Church 3:162) [Pr 41.4; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Hebu wale walio wa kiroho wazungumze na roho hizi. Omba pamoja nao na kwa ajili yao. Hebu muda mwingi utumike katika maombi na uchunguzaji wa karibu wa Neno kwa karibu. Hebu wote wapate Ukweli halisi wa imani katika nafsi zao kwa kuamini kwamba Roho Mtakatifu ataingia kwao kwa sababu wana njaa halisi na kiu ya haki. —(Testimonies for the Church 6:65) [Pr 41.5; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Wakati nyavu ya injili inatupwa majini, hebu kuwe na kukesha karibu na nyavu, kwa machozi na maombi ya bidii. Hebu watendakazi wadhamirie kutovunjika moyo; na wasiiachilie nyavu hadi itakapotolewa pwani, na matunda ya kazi yao. - (The Signs of the Times, Machi 16, 1882) [Pr 41.6; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Je! Tunawezaje kumheshimu MUNGU, Je, tunawezaje kulitetea na kulithibitisha Neno Lake, pasipo kusali sana na kumwomba aonyeshe nguvu Zake kwa niaba ya wale wanaoangamia? - (The Review and Herald, Agosti 23, 1892) [Pr 42.1; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Jitihada za binafsi za kuongoa zafanikishwa kwa Maombi – Niliamua kwamba juhudi zangu hazipaswi kukoma kwa hizi roho pendwa, nilizokuwa na matamano makubwa nazo, mpaka zimejisalimisha kwa MUNGU. Baadhi ya siku, katika nyakati za usiku, nilizitumia katika maombi ya dhati na imani, kwa wale ambao nilikuwa nimewatafuta na kuwaleta pamoja kwa kusudi la kuwafanyia kazi na kuomba pamoja nao..... [Pr 42.2; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Katika kila moja ya mikutano yetu midogo niliendelea kuhimiza na kumwomba kila mmoja mmoja, hadi kila mmoja alipojitoa kwa Yesu, nikikiri neema na sifa za upendo Wake unaosamehe. Kila mtu aliongolewa kwa MUNGU.—(Testimonies for the Church 1:33, 34) [Pr 42.3; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Kuombea Roho huitoa akili katika wasiwasi wa mambo madogomadogo-Waombe watu watoe sala kwa ajili ya roho za watu unazofanyia kazi; wawasilishe mbele ya kanisa kama mada za dua au maombezi mazito. Litakuwa ni hitaji ambalo ni muhimu kwa kanisa, kuziweka akili zao kutoka kwenye shida zao ndogo na za kipuuzi, ili kuhisi mzigo mkubwa, kuwa na shauku binafsi, juu ya roho ambayo iko tayari kuangamia. - (Medical Ministry, 244, 245) [Pr 42.4; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Ombea Ufanisi Zaidi katika kuongoa roho-Oh! na ionekane ndugu zangu, kwamba Yesu anaishi moyoni, anatia nguvu, anategemeza, anaimarisha, anafariji. Ni fursa yako kupewa ugavi, siku hadi siku kiwango kikubwa cha Roho Wake Mtakatifu, na kuwa na maoni mapana juu ya umuhimu na upeo wa ujumbe tunaotangaza kwa ulimwengu. Bwana Yu tayari kukufunulia mambo ya ajabu na mema kutoka kwenye sheria Yake. Subiri mbele Zake kwa unyenyekevu wa moyo. Omba kwa dhati na bidii sana

ili upate ufahamu wa nyakati tunazoishi, kwa dhana kamili ya kusudi Lake, na kwa kuongezeka kwa ufanisi katika kuokoa roho. –(Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 513, 514) [Pr 42.5; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Kuna roho nyingi zinazotamani nuru kupita maelezo, kupata uhakikisho na nguvu zaidi ya vile wanavyoweza kuelewa. Wanahitaji kutafutwa na kufanyiwa kazi kwa uvumilivu, bila kuchoka. Mwombe Bwana katika maombi ya bidii ili kupata msaada. Mwasilishe Yesu kwa watu kwasababu unamjua Yeye kama Mwokozi wako binafsi. Acha upendo Wake unaoyeyusha moyo na laini, neema Yake nyingi, itiririke kutoka kwenye midomo ya wanadamu. Haupaswi kuwasilishe hoja za Mafundisho makuu ya imani isipokuwa umehojiwa au kuulizwa. Lakini chukua Neno, na kwa upendo mwororo na wenye shauku kwa ajili ya roho, waonyeshe haki ya thamani ya Kristo, ambaye Kwake Yeye, wewe na wao lazima muokolewe. - (Evangelism, 442) [Pr 43.1; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Wanafunzi waliomba kwa bidii nzito kwa ajili ya kufaa na utayari wa kuwaendea watu na katika mahusiano yao wa kila siku kuzungumza maneno ambayo yangewaongoza wenye dhambi kwa Kristo. Waliweka pembeni tofauti zao zote, na hamu yote ya ukuu, wakakutana pamoja katika ushirika wa Kikristo. Wakajisogeza karibu na karibu zaidi na MUNGU, na walipofanya hivi walitambua ni upendeleo wa kiasi gani kwao kuruhusiwa kushirikiana kwa karibu na Kristo. Huzuni ilijaza mioyo yao walipofikiria ni mara ngapi walikuwa wamemhuzunisha Yeye kwa uzito wao katika kuelewa, kushindwa kwao kuelewa masomo ambayo, kwa faida yao wenyewe, alikuwa akijaribu kuwafundisha. [Pr 43.2; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Siku hizi za maandalizi zilikuwa siku za uchunguzi wa moyo kwa kina. Wanafunzi walihisi hitaji lao la kiroho na wakalia kwa Bwana kwa ajili ya upako wa Roho mtakatifu, ambaye angewafaa kwa kazi ya kuokoa roho. Hawakuomba baraka kwao wenyewe tu. Walielemewa na mzigo wa kuongoa roho. Walitambua kwamba injili inapaswa kupelekwa ulimwenguni, nao wakadai nguvu ambayo Kristo alikuwa ameahidi. - (The Acts of the Apostles, 37) [Pr 43.3; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Maombi mengi yanahitajika ili kujua jinsi ya kuwafikishia watu Ukweli – Sio kila mtu anayeweza kufanya kazi kwa busara kwa ajili ya ukombozi wa roho. Panahitajika kuwa na kufikiri na tafakari ya kina. Hatupaswi kuingia katika kazi ya Bwana hovyoyvya bila kupanga mikakati na kutarajia mafanikio. Bwana anahitaji watu wenye akili, watu wenye tafakari. Yesu anatoa wito ili kupata watendakazi wenza, na sio waborongaji. MUNGU anataka watu wenye mafikara sahihi na walio na akili kufanya kazi kubwa inayohitajika kwa ajili ya wokovu wa roho. [Pr 43.4; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Fundi mitambo, wanasheria, watu wa stadi mbalimbali, na taaluma zote, hujielimisha wenyewe ili waweze kuwa magwiji waliobobea katika fani zao. Je! Wafuasi wa Kristo wanapaswa kupungukiwa na ufahamu, na akili mahiri na kisha wale wanaodai kuhusika na utumishi Wake ni wajinga (mbumbumbu) katika njia na mbinu zile wanazozitumia? Shughuli ya kupata uzima wa milele iko juu ya kila zingatiao la kidunia. Ili kuongoza roho kwa Yesu lazima kuwe na maarifa ya asili ya mwanadamu na kuisomea akili ya mwanadamu. Tafakari makini sana na maombi ya dhati yanahitajika kujua jinsi ya kuwafikia wanaume na wanawake juu ya mada kuu ya Ukweli. – (Testimonies for the Church 4:67) [Pr 44.1; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Maombi hutenda zaidi Katika kuongoa roho Kuliko Maneno Peke yake— Shetani anakufuatilia kwenye njia yako. Yeye ni mpinzani mjanja, na roho mbaya yenye sumu ambayo unakutana nayo katika kazi yako vimeangaziwa na yeye. Wale ambao yeye huwaweka chini yake wanarudia mwangwi wa maneno yake. Ikiwa pazia lingeweza kuchanwa kutoka kwenye macho yao, wale waliofanya kazi hiyo wangeona Shetani akitumia sanaa yake yote kuwavuta kutoka kwenye Ukweli. Katika kuziokoa roho kutoka katika hila zake, mafanikio yatapatikana zaidi kupitia sala ya unyenyekevu kama ya Kristo kuliko kwa maneno mengi bila maombi. - (Colporteur Ministry, 81) [Pr 44.2; Maombi Aya ya 26]

MUNGU anataka vijana wenye kiasi, wenye kujistahi, wanyenyekevu, watulivu, wenye akili timamu, na wanaume wenye umri wa kukomaa, ambao wana msawaziko wa kanuni (balansi), ambao wanaweza kuomba na kuongea, ambao watainuka mbele ya wazee wenye mvi,

ili kuonyesha heshima kwao, na kuwatendea waliowazidi kwa kuwaheshimu. [Pr 44.3; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Kazi ya MUNGU inateseka kwa ajili ya upungufu wa watenda kazi wenye ufahamu na nguvu ya akili. Ndugu na dada zangu, Bwana amewabariki na uwezo wa vitivo vya kiakili unaoweza kuboresheka zaidi. Kuza talanta zako kwa unyofu na bidii ya kudumu-endelevu. Fanya mazoezi na ifundishe akili kwa kusoma, kwa uchunguzi, kwa kutafakari na kucheua.

Hauwezi kukutana na akili ya MUNGU isipokuwa umetumia kila nguvu. Uwezo wa akili utaimarika na kukuzwa ikiwa utaenda kufanya kazi kwa hofu ya MUNGU, kwa unyenyekevu, na kwa maombi ya dhati na imani. Kusudi thabiti litatimiza maajabu. Muwe wazi, thabiti, Wakristo walioazimia. Mtukuze Yesu, zungumza juu ya upendo Wake, sema juu ya uweza Wake, na hivyo uache nuru yako iangaze kwa ulimwengu. - (Life Sketches, 275) [Pr 44.4; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Ombea Roho -Anza kuombea roho; mkaribie Kristo, karibu na upande Wake unaovuja damu. Hebu roho ya upole na utulivu ipambe maisha yenu, na ombi lenu la bidii na dhati, lililopondeka, na la unyenyekevu lipande Kwake kwaajili ya kupata hekima ili mpate kufaulu kuokoa sio nafsi zenu tu, bali na roho za wengine. Omba zaidi ya uimbavyo. Je! Wewe huna hitaji kubwa la maombi zaidi kuliko kuimba? Vijana na wanawake, MUNGU anawaiteni mfanye kazi, mumfanyie kazi. Fanya mabadiliko yote katika mwenendo wako. Unaweza kufanya kazi ambayo wale wanaohudumu kwa Neno na mafundisho hawawezi kufanya. Unaweza kulifikia lile tabaka ambalo ambalo wachungaji hawawezi kulifikia.—(Testimonies for the Church 1:513. [Pr 45.1; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Hebu na tuombe kwa bidii pia kwa niaba ya wale ambao tunatarajia kuwatembelea, kwa imani hai kuwaleta, mmoja baada ya mwingine, katika uwepo wa MUNGU. - (Christian Service, 169) [Pr 45.2; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Fanya kazi miongoni mwa watu wa hali ya chini, masikini, na walioonewa. Tunapaswa kuwaombea na kuomba nao wale wanyonge, watu wasiojiweza, wasio na msaada ambao hawana nguvu ya kutawala hamu ya chakula au tamaa ya mwili imeiharibu. Jitihada za dhati na bidii na

za kudumu lazima zifanyike kwa wokovu wa wale ambao mioyo yao imepata uamsho. –(Testimonies for the Church 6:84) [Pr 45.3; Maombi Aya ya 31]

SURA YA 5

AHADI ZA MUNGU KUHUSU MAOMBI

MUNGU Huahidi Kusikia na Kujibu Maombi – Kristo Ndiye kiunganishi kati ya MUNGU na mwanadamu. Yeye Ameahidi maombezi Yake Mwenyewe binafsi kwa kutumia Jina Lake. Anaweka fadhila yote ya haki Yake upande wa mwombaji. Kristo anamuomba mwanadamu kwa kusihi, naye mwanadamu, aanayehitaji msaada wa Mwenyezi Mungu, anajiombea Mwenyewe mbele za MUNGU, akitumia nguvu ya ushawishi wa Yule aliyetoa maisha Yake kwa ulimwengu. Tunapokiri mbele za MUNGU kuthamini na ukubali wetu wa haki na sifa ya Kristo, manukato hutolewa kwa maombezi yetu. Oh, ni nani anayeweza kuthamini rehema na upendo huu mkubwa! Tunapomkaribia MUNGU

kupitia sifa ya Kristo, tunavikwa mavazi Yake ya kikuhani. Yeye hutuweka karibu Yake, akituzunguka kwa mkono Wake wa kibinadamu, wakati huo huo kwa mkono Wake wa Kiungu Yeye anashika kiti cha enzi cha Yeye Asiye na mwisho. Anaweka haki, uzuri na sifa Zake, kama uvumba mtamu, ndani ya chetezo mikononi mwetu, ili kutia moyo maombi yetu. Anaahidi kusikia na kujibu sala zetu. [Pr 46.2; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Maombi rahisi yanayovuviwa na Roho Mtakatifu yatapanda juu kupitia Lango lililofunguliwa, mlango ule ulio wazi ambao Kristo ametangaza: Nimefungua, na hakuna mtu anayeweza kufunga. Maombi haya, yaliyochanganywa na uvumba wa ukamilifu wa Kristo, yatapanda juu kama manukato kwa Baba, na majibu yatakuja. –(Testimonies for the Church 6:467) [Pr 46.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Niliona kwamba kila ombi ambalo hutolewa kwa imani kutoka katika moyo mwadilifu litasikika juu kwa MUNGU na kujibiwa, na yule aliyetuma ombi atapata baraka wakati anapoihitaji sana, na kwa kawaida majibu yatazidi matarajio yake. Hakuna ombi la mtakatifu wa kweli linalopotea ikiwa limetumwa kwa imani kutoka katika moyo mwadilifu/mkweli.–(Testimonies for the Church 1:121) [Pr 47.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Kuomba kama Nehemia alivyoomba katika saa yake ya uhitaji ni nyenzo ambayo Mkristo anaimiliki na inamuongoza Mkristo katika mazingira ambapo aina nyingine za maombi zitashindikana. Wale wanaofanya kazi zenye kutoa jasho pahali ambapo maisha yana pilikapilika nyingi (busy), waliosongwa na wako karibu kuzidiwa na mifadhaiko, wanaweza kutuma ombi kwa MUNGU kwa ajili ya mwongozo Wake Bwana. Wasafiri baharini na nchi kavu, wanapotishiwa na hatari kubwa, wanaweza kujikabidhi katika ulinzi wa Mbingu. Wakati wa shida ya ghafla au hatari, moyo unaweza kutuma kilio chake cha kuomba msaada kwa Yule ambaye ameahidi kuwasaidia waaminifu Wake, waaminio kila wanapomwita. Katika kila jambo, chini ya kila hali, nafsi iliyolemewa na huzuni na masumbufu ya maisha haya, au kushambuliwa vikali na majaribu, inaweza kupata uthibitisho, msaada, na usaidizi katika upendo usiomwangusha mtu na nguvu ya MUNGU

anayeshika agano.— (Prophets and Kings, 631, 632) [Pr 47.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Tukimwomba, MUNGU atajibu -Ni sehemu ya mpango wa MUNGU kutupatia, kwa kujibu maombi ya imani, yale ambayo hangetoa ikiwa hatukuomba. - (The Great Controversy, 525) [Pr 47.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

MUNGU husikia maombi. Kristo amesema, Mkiniomba chochote kwa Jina Langu, Nitafanya.” Tena anasema, "Mtu yeyote Akinitumikia, Baba Yangu atamheshimu." Yohana 14:14; Yohana 12:26. Ikiwa tutaishi kulingana na Neno Lake, kila ahadi ya thamani aliyotoa itatimizwa kwetu. Sisi hatustahili rehema Yake, lakini tunapojitua Kwake, Yeye hutupokea. Yeye Atafanya kazi kwaajili yetu na kupitia wale wanaomfuata. - (The Ministry of Healing, 226, 227) [Pr 47.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Unapomwomba Bwana akusaidie, Mtukuze, na kumpa heshima Mwokozi wako kwa kuamini kwamba unapokea baraka Yake. Nguvu zote, hekima yote, ziko chini ya amri/mamlaka yetu. Sisi tuunachopaswa kufanya, ni kuomba tu. - (The Ministry of Healing, 514) [Pr 48.1; Maombi Aya ya 7]

MUNGU ana mbingu iliyojaa mibaraka ambayo Yeye anataka kuwapa wale ambao wanatafuta kwa bidii msaada ule ambao Bwana peke Yake Ndiye anaweza kutoa.—(Sons and Daughters of God, 123) [Pr 48.2; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Yesu Huwasilisha kwa Baba Maombi Yetu Yenye Maneno Mabovu na duni -Kila ombi la dhati husikika mbinguni. Linaweza lisiwasilishwe kwa ufasaha; lakini ikiwa linatoka moyoni, litapanda kwenda mahali Patakatifu ambapo Yesu anahudumu, na ataliwasilisha kwa Baba bila hata Neno moja la kuudhi, na lenye kigugumizi, bali kwa Maneno mazuri na yenye harufu nzuri ya ubani wa ukamilifu Wake Mwenyewe. [Pr 48.3; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Nguvu ya Kushinda majaribu inatolewa kwa Wale Wanaoomba- Wote wanawajibika kwa matendo yao wakiwa katika ulimwengu huu wakati mlango wa rehema haujafungwa bado. Wote wana uwezo wa kudhibiti matendo yao ikiwa watataka. Wakiwa ni dhaifu katika wema na usafi wa mawazo na matendo, wanaweza kupata msaada kutoka kwa Rafiki wa wanyonge. Yesu anauelewa udhaifu wote wa asili ya kibinadamu, na, ikiwa ataombwa,

atatoa nguvu kushinda majaribu yenye nguvu zaidi. Wote wanaweza kupata nguvu hii ikiwa wataitafuta kwa unyenyekevu. - (Child Guidance, 466, 467) [Pr 48.4; Maombi Aya ya 10]

MUNGU Hujibu Maombi Yetu Wakati na Jinsi Anavyoona inafaa - Kila mtakatifu anayekuja kwa MUNGU kwa moyo wa Kweli, na kutuma kwa imani maombi yake yaliyo na unyofu Kwake, atajibiwa maombi yake. Imani yako haipaswi kuachilia ahadi za MUNGU, ikiwa hautaona au kuhisi jibu la haraka la maombi yako. Usiogope kumtumaini MUNGU. Zitegemee ahadi Zake za Kweli: "Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa." MUNGU ni Mwenye busara mno kukosea, na ni mwema sana kuwazuilia watakatifu Wake wanaotembea katika unyoofu kitu chochote kizuri. Mtu hufanya makosa, na ingawa maombi yake yanatumwa kutoka katika moyo mnyofu/mkweli, mara zote huwa haombi vitu ambavyo ni vyema kwake, au ambavyo vitamtukuza MUNGU. Wakati hili likiwa hivyo, basi Baba yetu Mwenye busara na mwema husikia maombi yetu, Naye atajibu, wakati fulani hujibu haraka-; lakini Yeye hutupatia vitu ambavyo ni kwa faida yetu na utukufu Wake Mwenyewe. MUNGU hutupatia baraka; laiti tungeangalia mpango Wake, tungeliona wazi kwamba Yeye Anajua kile kilicho bora kwaajili yetu na kwamba maombi yetu huwa yamejibiwa. Hatupewi chochote cha kutuumiza, bali baraka tunazohitaji hutolewa badala ya kitu ambacho tuliomba ambacho hakitakuwa kizuri kwetu, ambacho kingetuumiza. [Pr 48.5; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Niliona kwamba ikiwa hatuhisi majibu ya haraka ya maombi yetu, tunapaswa kushikilia imani yetu kwa ujasiri, bila kuruhusu mashaka, kwani hayo yatatutenganisha na MUNGU. Imani yetu ikitetereka, hatutapokea chochote kutoka Kwake. Imani na ujasiri wetu kwa MUNGU vinapaswa kuwa imara; na tunapohitaji sana, baraka itatuangukia kama maji ya mvua inaponyesha. – (Testimonies for the Church 1:120, 121) [Pr 49.1; Maombi Aya ya 12]

MUNGU Hutoa Hekima Kwa Kujibu Maombi – Bwana ametupa ahadi hii, “Ikiwa yeyote kati yenu amepungukiwa na hekima, na aombe kwa MUNGU, ambaye huwapa watu wote kwa ukarimu, wala hakemei; naye atapewa.” Ni katika utaratibu wa MUNGU kwamba wale wanaobeba

majukumu mara nyingi wanapaswa kukutana pamoja ili kushauriana wao kwa wao, na kuomba kwa bidii hekima hiyo ambayo Yeye peke Yake Ndiye anaweza kutoa. Kwa pamoja mumjulishe MUNGU shida zenu. Zungumzeni kidogo; muda wa thamani unapotea katika mazungumzo ambayo hayana nuru. Ndugu waungane katika kufunga na kuomba kwa ajili ya hekima ambayo MUNGU ameahidi kutoa kwa ukarimu na uhuru mwingi sana. (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 499) [Pr 49.2; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Neema ya Kristo yapatikana hata kabla ya sisi kuiomba - hata kabla ya maombi kutamkwa, ... neema kutoka kwa Kristo inaenda kukutana na neema inayofanya kazi juu ya roho ya mwanadamu.— (Christ's Object Lessons, 206) [Pr 49.3; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Tunaweza Kudai Ahadi Zake Kwa Ujasiri— “Mkikaa ndani Yangu, na Maneno Yangu yakikaa ndani yenu, mtaomba kila mnachotaka, nanyi mtatendewa.” Unapoomba, wasilisha ahadi hii. Ni upendeleo kwetu kumwendea Yeye tukiwa na ujasiri mtakatifu. Tukimwomba kwa dhati nuru Yake iangaze juu yetu, Naye Atatusikia na kutujibu. Lakini lazima tuishi kulingana na maombi yetu. Kwani hayana huwa faida yoyote ikiwa tutatembea kinyume nayo. Nimemuona baba ambaye, baada ya kusoma sehemu ya Maandiko kutoa ombi, alipoinuka tu kutoka magotini baada ya sala, mara nyingi alianza kuwagombeza watoto wake. Je! MUNGU angewezaje kujibu ombi hilo aliloomba? Na ikiwa, baada ya kukemea watoto wake, baba atasali, je, sala hiyo itawanufaisha watoto? Hapana; labda ikiwa ni maombi ya kuungama kwa MUNGU. - (Child Guidance, 499) [Pr 50.1; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Malaika Watatusaidia sisi Katika kujibu Maombi — Unapotaka kuzungumza kwa jazba/hasira, funga mdomo wako. Usitamke neno lolote. Omba kabla ya kuzungumza, na malaika wa mbinguni watakuja kukusaidia na watawarudisha nyuma malaika wabaya, ambao wangukuongoza wewe kumvunjia MUNGU heshima, kuiletea aibu au fedheha kazi Yake Mungu, na kudhoofisha roho yako mwenyewe.—(Testimonies for the Church 2:82) [Pr 50.2; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Malaika Watakuwa upande Wetu katika kujibu Maombi
– Uangalizi/ulinzi wa jeshi la mbinguni umetolewa kwa wote ambao watafanya kazi katika njia za MUNGU na kufuata mipango Yake. Tunaweza, kwa maombi ya dhati na bidii, yenye usadikisho, yenye kupondeka moyo na yenye majuto kuwaita wasaidizi wa mbinguni upande wetu. Vikosi vya nuru na nguvu visivyoonekana vitafanya kazi na wanyenyekevu, wapole na wale waliojishusha. [Pr 50.3; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Injili itasonga mbele haraka ikiwa ni matokeo ya maombi – MUNGU angefanya kazi kwa nguvu za kushangaza kwa watu Wake leo ikiwa wangejiweka chini ya uongozi Wake kikamilifu. Wanahitaji kufungamana na Roho Mtakatifu kila wakati. Ikiwa kungekuwa na maombi zaidi katika mabaraza ya wale waliobeba majukumu, unyenyekezaji wa moyo zaidi mbele za MUNGU, tungeliona ushahidi mwingi wa uongozi wa Bwana, na kazi yetu ingelisonga mbele haraka. - (Testimonies for the Church 8: 238) [Pr 50.4; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Maombi Yataleta Uwezo wa Kushinda- Lazima tuwe na silaha zote za MUNGU na tuwe tayari wakati wowote kwa vita dhidi ya nguvu za giza. Wakati majaribu na mitihani vinatukimbilia kwa kasi, twendeni kwa MUNGU na kuteseka/kuhuzunika Naye katika maombi. Hataturudisha na mikono mitupu, lakini atatupa neema na nguvu za kushinda, na kuvunja nguvu za adui. -(Early Writings, 46) [Pr 51.1; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Baraka Zitaendana na Imani Yetu – Omba kwa imani. Na hakikisha unauleta mtindo wako wa maisha upatane na maombi yako, ili upate baraka ambazo unaziombea. Hebu imani yako isidhoofike, kwani baraka zinazopatikana zinalingana na imani inayotumika. "na iwe kwako kulingana na imani yako". Na mkiwa na imani, chochote mtakachoomba katika sala, mtapata." Mathayo 9:29; Mathayo 21:22. Omba, amini, furahi. Mwimbieni MUNGU sifa kwa sababu amejibu maombi yenu. Mchukue kwa Neno Lake. "Yeye ni mwaminifu aliyeahidi." Waebrania 10:23. Hakuna ombi hata moja la dhati litakalopotea. Mfereji upo wazi; kijito kinatiririka. Kinabeba pamoja nacho sifa za uponyaji, kinamimina umeme wa uzima, afya na wokovu. –(Testimonies for the Church 7:274) [Pr 51.2; Maombi Aya ya 20]

SURA YA 6

MAOMBI YA IMANI

Maombi ni Njia ya Mafanikio ya Mbingu katika Kuishinda Dhambi – Kuna wengi ambao, ingawa wanajitahidi kutii amri za MUNGU, wana amani kidogo au furaha. Upungufu huu katika uzoefu wao ni matokeo ya kushindwa kuizoesha/kuitumia imani yao. Wanatembea kana kwamba wapo katika ardhi yenye chumvi, nyika iliyokauka na udongo wa kupasukapasuka. Wanaomba

kidogo- wanadai ahadi chache, wakati wangeweza kudai mengi; kwani hakuna kikomo kwa ahadi za MUNGU. Hao hawawakilishi kwa usahihi utakaso unaokuja kwa kuitii ile Kweli. Bwana angependa wana na binti Zake wote wawe na furaha, amani, na utiifu. Kupitia kuizoesha imani, yule anayeamini anamiliki baraka hizi. Kupitia kuizoesha imani, kila upungufu wa tabia unaweza kurekebishwa/kujazwa, kila unajisi unaweza kusafishwa, kila kosa kurekebishwa, kila ubora unapata kuendelezwa-kila maboresho yanaweza bora na bora zaidi. [Pr 52.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Maombi ni njia ya mbingu, iliyowekwa ili kupata mafanikio katika vita dhidi ya dhambi na ukuaji wa tabia ya Kikristo. Ushawishi wa Mwenyezi Mungu ambao unaokuja ili kujibu ombi la imani utatimiza katika roho ya mwombaji yote ambayo anaomba. Kwa msamaha wa dhambi, kwa Roho Mtakatifu, kwa hulka/haiba kama ya Kristo, kwa hekima na nguvu ya kufanya kazi Yake, kwa zawadi yoyote ambayo Yeye ameahidi, tunaweza kuomba; na ahadi ni, "Mtapokea." Matendo ya Mitume, 563, 564) [Pr 52.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

MUNGU hutamani Kutufanyia Mambo Makubwa – Fungu/kazi yetu ni kuomba na kuamini. Kesheni mkiomba. Keshu, na ushirikiane na MUNGU anayesikia maombi. Iweke akilini mwako kwamba "sisi ni watenda kazi pamoja na MUNGU." 1 Wakorintho 3: 9. Sema na tenda kwa kupatana na maombi yako. Itafanya tofauti ya milele kwako endapo jaribu litathibitisha imani yako kuwa ni ya kweli, au kuonyesha kwamba maombi yako ni mfumo fulani tu. [Pr 53.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Wakati fadhaa zinatokea, na magumu yanakukabili, usitafute msaada kwa wanadamu. Muachie, mtumaini na kumtegemea MUNGU kwa yote. Kitendo au mazoea ya kuwaambia wengine shida zetu hutufanya tuwe dhaifu tu, na hakileti nguvu yoyote kwao. Kinaweka juu yao mzigo wa udhaifu wetu wa kiroho, ambao hawawezi kuutua. Tunatafuta nguvu kutoka kwa mwanadamu anayekosea, mtu mwenye mwisho/ukomo, anayekufa, wakati tunaweza kuwa na nguvu ya MUNGU asiyekosea, na asiye na ukomo. [Pr 53.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Hauna haja ya kujipelekea au kusafiri huku na kule hadi miisho ya dunia ili kupata hekima, kwa maana MUNGU Yuko

karibu nawe. Sio uwezo ulionao sasa au utakaokuwa nao mbeleni, ndio ambao utakupa mafanikio. Ni kile ambacho Bwana anaweza kukufanyia. Tunahitaji kuwa na ujasiri na imani ndogo sana juu ya kile mwanadamu anachoweza kufanya na ujasiri mkubwa zaidi kwa kile MUNGU anachoweza kufanya kwa kila roho inayoamini. Yeye Anatamani mno wewe umuendee kwa imani. Yeye Anatamani sana utarajie kutoka Kwake mambo makubwa mno. Yeye Anatamani kukupa ufahamu katika mambo ya kidunia na pia katika mambo ya kiroho. Yeye Anaweza kuzinoa bongo/akili zako na zikawa bora zaidi. Yeye Anaweza kutoa busara na ustadi. Weka talanta zako katika kazi hiyo, mwombe MUNGU akupe hekima, nawe utapewa. - (Christ's Object Lessons, 146) [Pr 53.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Maombi na Imani vitafanya Mambo ya Ajabu – Ninaogopa kwamba hakuna imani hiyo ambayo ni muhimu na nyeti kuwa nayo. Je! Hatutavaa njuga dhidi ya kukatishwa tamaa na vishawishi hata tuvunjike moyo? MUNGU ni Mwenye rehema, na tukifurahi katika Kweli, inayotakasa, na inayoboresha maisha, tunaweza kufanya kazi nzuri na thabiti kwa MUNGU. Maombi na imani vitafanya mambo ya kushangaza (mema). Neno lazima liwe silaha yetu ya vita. Miujiza inaweza kufanywa kupitia Neno; kwa kuwa lina faida/manufaa kwa vitu vyote. - (Evangelism, 489) [Pr 53.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Imani Kuchanganywa na maombi Yetu -Watu wa MUNGU lazima wasonge kwa uelewa. Hawapaswi kuridhika mpaka watakapotubu kila dhambi inayojulikana; kisha ni haki na wajibu wao kuamini kwamba Yesu anawakubali. Hawapaswi kungojea wengine washinikize kupitia gizani na kupata ushindi ili wafurahie. Furaha kama hiyo itadumu hadi mkutano utakapofungwa tu. Lakini MUNGU lazima atumikiwe kwa kanuni badala ya hisia. Asubuhi na usiku jipatieni ushindi kwako mwenyewe na katika familia yenu. Usiruhusu kazi yako ya kila siku ikuzuie katika hili. Kuwa na muda wa kuomba, na unapoomba, amini kwamba MUNGU anakusikia. Kuwa na imani iliyochanganywa na maombi yako. Unaweza usipate jibu la haraka wakati wote; lakini basi ni kwamba imani hiyo inakuwa inajaribiwa. Unathibitishwa kuona ikiwa utamtegemea MUNGU, ikiwa una imani hai, na inayodumu. “Yeye ni Mwaminifu ambaye awaita, Naye atafanya hivyo (kwani ni Mwaminifu).

Tembea katika njia nyembamba ya imani. Yaache yote juu ya ahadi za Bwana. Mtumaini MUNGU gizani. Huo ndio wakati wa kuwa na imani. Lakini mara nyingi mnaruhusu hisia ziwatawale. Mnatafuta kustahili ndani yenu wakati hamuhisi kufarajiwa na Roho wa MUNGU, na mnakata tamaa kwa sababu hamuwezi kupata. Hamjamtumaini Yesu vya kutosha, Yesu wa thamani. Hamfanyi kustahili Kwake kuwa yote, katika yote, naam yote kabisa. Namna bora zaidi mnayoweza kuifanya kwa uwezo wenu, bado haitazidi fadhili za MUNGU. Ni thamani ya Yesu ndiyo itakayowaokoa, damu Yake ndiyo itakayowatakasa. Lakini mnayo kazi ya kufanya. Lazima mfanye kile mnachoweza kwa upande wenu. Muwe na bidii na kutubu, kisha muamini. [Pr 54.1; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Usichanganye imani na hisia pamoja. Vipo tofauti. Tunapaswa kuwa na imani. Imani hii lazima tuifanyie mazoezi. Amini, amini. Hebu imani yako ishikilie baraka, nazo zitakuwa zako. Hisia zako hazina uhusiano wowote na imani hii. Imani inapoleta baraka moyoni mwako, na unafurahi katika baraka, hiyo sio imani tena, bali ni hisia. – (Testimonies for the Church 1:167) [Pr 54.2; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Sala na Imani Hushikilia Nguvu za Mungu—Imani ya Kweli na sala ya Kweli—zina kubwa nguvu ilioje! Ni kama mikono miwili ambayo mwombaji wa mwanadamu anashikilia nguvu ya Upendo usio na kikomo. Imani ni kumtegemea Mungu,— kuamini kwamba Yeye anatupenda, na anajua ni nini kilicho bora na cha manufaa kwetu. Hivyo, badala ya njia yetu wenyewe, inatuongoza kuchagua njia Yake. Badala ya ujinga wetu, inakubali hekima Yake; badala ya udhaifu wetu, nguvu Zake; badala ya dhambi zetu, haki Yake. Maisha yetu, sisi wenyewe, tayari ni Yake Yeye; imani inakiri umiliki Wake Mungu, na inakubali baraka Zake. Ukweli, unyoofu, usafi, husondwa kidole kwamba ndiyo siri za mafanikio ya maisha. Ni imani ndiyo inatuweka katika kumiliki na kuyashika haya. Kila msukumo wa jambo jema au matamaniao mema ni zawadi ya kutoka kwa Mungu; imani hupokea kutoka kwa Mungu uhai ambao pekee Yake ndiyo unaweza kutokeza ukuaji na ufanisi wa Kweli.—(Gospel Workers, 259) [Pr 54.3; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Maisha yetu Yanapaswa kuendana na Maombi Yetu – Omba kwa imani. Na hakikisha unayapatanisha maisha yako na maombi yako, ili upate baraka ambazo unaziombea. Imani yako isidhoofike, kwani baraka zinazopatikana zinalingana/zinatoshana na imani tuliyo nayo. "na iwe kwako kulingana na imani yako. "Na mkiwa na imani, chochote mtakachoomba katika sala, mtapata." Mathayo 9:29; Mathayo 21:22. Omba, amini, furahi. Mwimbieni MUNGU sifa, kwa sababu amejibu maombi yenu. Muendee kwa Neno Lake. "Yeye ni Mwaminifu aliyeahidi." Waebrania 10:23. Hakuna ombi hata moja la dhati litakalopotea. Mfereji upo wazi; nao mkondo unatiririka. Unabeba sifa za uponyaji, ukimimina mkondo/umeme wa uhai unaorejesha upya, afya na wokovu. –(Testimonies for the Church 7:274) (Pr 55.1; Maombi Aya ya 10]

MUNGU hukubali Maombi ya Imani - Ombi lililo na unyenyekevu, akili na imani, ambalo hutoka kwenye midomo isiyo feki/udanganyifu, linakubalika kikamilifu kwa MUNGU. Ni maombi ya kina ya moyo, ndiyo ambayo husikika mbinguni na kutuzwa kwa jibu hapa duniani. "Lakini kwa mtu huyu nitamtazama, hata yeye ambaye ni maskini, na mwenye roho iliyopondeka, na anayetetemeka Neno Langu." "Kwa maana asema huyu Mkuu, aliye juu, akaaye milele, Jina Lake ni Mtakatifu; Ninakaa mahali pa juu na Patakatifu, pamoja na yeye ambaye pia ni mwenye roho iliyopondeka na mnyenyekevu, ili kufufua roho ya wanyenyekevu, na kufufua moyo wa wale waliopondeka. "Roho iliyopondeka ni Dhabihu kwa MUNGU; Moyo uliovunjika na uliopondeka, oh! MUNGU, hutaudharau." (The Signs of the Times, December 3, 1896) (Pr 55.2; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Peleka Maombi yako kwa Imani bila kukoma – MUNGU atakuwa kila kitu kwetu kama tunavyohitaji awe. Maombi yetu dhaifu, ya moyo wa nusu nusu hayatatuletea majibu kutoka mbinguni. Lo, tunahitaji kushinikiza ombi letu bila kuchoka! Omba kwa imani, subiri kwa imani, pokea kwa imani, furahiya kwa tumaini, kwani kila mtu atafutaye hupata. Uwe na bidii katika jambo hilo. Mtafute MUNGU kwa moyo wote. Watu huweka moyo mnyofu na bidii katika kila kitu wanachofanya japo ni mambo ya muda mfupi na ya kupita tu, hukazana hadi hadi jasho lao linavalishwa taji ya mafanikio. Kwa bidii kubwa jifunze stadi ya kutafuta

baraka nyingi ambazo MUNGU ameahidi, na kwa uvumilivu, na juhudi zenye bidii utakuwa na nuru Yake na Ukweli Wake na neema Yake nyingi. (Pr 56.1; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Kwa unyofu wa moyo, katika njaa ya kiroho, mlilie MUNGU. Shindana na mawakala wa mbinguni hadi upate ushindi. Wekeza mwili na Roho yako yote mikononi mwa Bwana, nafsi, mwili, na roho, na amua kuwa wakala Wake mpendwa aliyejiweka wakfu, akiongozwa na mapenzi Yake, akidhibitiwa na akili Yake, na kujazwa na Roho Wake. (Pr 56.2; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Mwambie Yesu matakwa yako kwa unyofu wa roho yako (kwa dhati). Siyo lazima ufanye mabishano au mjadala mrefu Naye, au kumhubiria MUNGU, lakini kwa moyo wa huzuni kwaajili ya dhambi zako, sema, "Niokoe, Bwana, la sivyo nitaangamia." Kuna matumaini kwa roho kama hizo. Watatafuta, wataomba, watabisha, na watapata. Wakati Yesu ameondoa mzigo wa dhambi inayousagasaga moyo, utaburudishwa kwa baraka ya amani ya Kristo. –(Our High Calling, 131) (Pr 56.3; Maombi Aya ya 14]

MUNGU hujibu Maombi ya Imani Kwa Uweza – Wakati watu wanajitoa kama Eliya na wana imani aliyokuwa nayo, MUNGU atajifunua kama alivyofanya wakati huo. Watu watakapokuwa wanamsihi Bwana kama vile Yakobo, majibu/matokeo ambayo yalionekana wakati huo yataonekana tena. Nguvu zitatoka kwa MUNGU kujibu maombi ya imani. - (Gospel Workers, 255) (Pr 56.4; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Elewa Sayansi ya Maombi-Maombi na imani ni marafiki walioshikamana kwa karibu sana, na vyote vinahitaji kufunzwa kwa pamoja. Katika ombi la imani kuna sayansi ya Bwana; ni sayansi ambayo kila mtu ambaye anatamani kufanikisha kazi yake ya maisha lazima aelewe. Kristo anasema, "Yoyote myaombayo mkisali, aminini ya kwamba mnayapokea, nayo yatakuwa yenu." Marko 11:24. Anaweka wazi kwamba ombi letu lazima liwe kulingana na mapenzi ya MUNGU; lazima tuombe vitu ambavyo ameahidi, na chochote tunachopokea lazima kitumike katika kufanya mapenzi Yake. Masharti yakitimizwa, ahadi haizuiliki. [Pr 57.1; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Kwa ajili ya msamaha wa dhambi, kwa ajili ya Roho Mtakatifu, kwa ajili ya tabia kama ya Kristo, kwa ajili ya hekima na nguvu ya kufanya kazi Yake, kwa ajili ya zawadi yoyote ambayo Ameiahidi, tunaweza kuomba; basi tunapaswa kuamini kwamba tunapokea, na kurudisha shukrani kwa MUNGU kwamba tumepokea.—(Education, 257, 258) [Pr 57.2; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Maombi ya siri hudumisha Maisha ya Roho – Hatuna haja ya kutafuta ushahidi wa nje unaoonyesha baraka. Zawadi iko katika ahadi, na tunaweza kuendelea na kazi yetu tukiwa na hakika kwamba kile ambacho MUNGU amekiahidi Ana uwezo wa kukitekeleza, na kwamba zawadi, ambayo tayari tunayo, itadhihirika wakati tunapoihitaji zaidi. (Pr 57.3; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Kuishi kwa Neno la MUNGU kunamaanisha kusalimisha Kwake maisha yote. Kutakuwa na hisia ya kuendelea kuwa na uhitaji na utegemezi, kuuvuta moyo kumfuata MUNGU. Maombi ni lazima; kwani ni uhai wa roho. Maombi ya familia, maombi ya hadhara, yana nafasi yake; lakini ni ushirika wa siri na MUNGU ndiyo unaodumisha maisha ya roho. (Pr 57.4; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Ilikuwa katika mlima pamoja na MUNGU ndiko ambako Musa aliona mfano wa jengo lile la ajabu ambalo lingekuwa mahali pa kukaa pa utukufu Wake. Ni katika mlima pamoja na MUNGU- mahali pa siri pa ushirika - ambapo tunapaswa kuutafakari mpango Wake wa utukufu kwa wanadamu. Ndipo tutakapowezeshwa, na hivyo kutengeneza/kuumba muundo wa tabia yetu ili ahadi Yake itimizwe kwetu, "Nitakaa ndani yao, na nitatembea kati yao, Nami nitakuwa MUNGU wao, nao watakuwa watu Wangu." 2 Wakorintho 6:16. [Pr 57.5; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Ilikuwa ni katika masaa ya maombi ya faragha ndipo ambapo Yesu alipokea hekima na nguvu katika maisha Yake ya duniani. Hebu vijana wafuate mfano Wake katika kutafuta alfajiri na jioni muda wa utulivu kwaajili ya ushirika na Baba yao aliye mbinguni. Hebu wainue mioyo yao kwa MUNGU siku nzima inapoendelea kusonga mbele. Katika kila hatua ya njia zetu anasema, 'Kwa maana Mimi, Bwana, MUNGU wako, nitakushika mkono wako wa kuume, nikikuambia, Usiogope; nitakusaidia..... Isaya 41:13. Endapo watoto wetu wangeliweza kujifunza masomo haya katika

miaka yao ya mapema/awali, ni upya gani na nguvu, furaha na utamu ulioje, ambao ungeletwa maishani mwao!— (Education, 258, 259) [Pr 58.1; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Kuomba kwa Imani Huleta Baraka nyingi — Kwa maneno tunayoongea kwa watu na katika maombi tunayotoa, MUNGU anatutaka tutoe ushahidi dhahiri kwamba tuna maisha ya kiroho. Hatufurahii utimilifu wa baraka ambazo Bwana ametuandalia, kwa sababu hatumwombi/hatumwulizi Bwana kwa imani. Laiti tungeitumia imani katika Neno la MUNGU aliye hai tungelikuwa na baraka nyingi. Tunamvunjia MUNGU heshima kwa ukosefu wetu wa imani; na hivyo hatuwezi kuwapa maisha wengine kwa kutoa ushuhuda ulio hai, na wenye kuinua. Hatuwezi kutoa kile ambacho hatumiliki. — (Testimonies for the Church 6:63) [Pr 58.2; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Omba kwa Imani; Kisha Pokea — Kuna nguvu inayopatikana kutoka kwa MUNGU. Yeye Anaweza kusaidia. Yeye Anaweza kutoa neema na hekima ya mbinguni. Kama utaomba kwa imani, utapata; lakini ni lazima ukeshe katika maombi. Kisha, omba, fanya kazi, ndiyo inapaswa kuwa kauli mbiu yako. - (Testimonies for the Church 2:427) [Pr 58.3; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Imani hupokea Baraka Kabla haijatambulika wala kuhisiwa — nimeona mara kwa mara kwamba watoto wa Bwana hupuuza maombi, haswa maombi ya siri zaidi; kwamba wengi hawatunii imani hiyo ambayo ni haki yao na wajibu wao kuwa nayo, mara nyingi wakingojea hisia ambayo imani pekee inaweza kuleta. Hisia sio imani; hivi ni vitu viwili tofauti. Imani ni yetu, tumepewa ili kuizoeza, lakini hisia za furaha na baraka ni MUNGU hutoa. Neema ya MUNGU huijia nafsi kupitia mkondo wa imani hai, na imani hiyo iko katika uwezo wetu kuwa kuifanyia mazoezi, na kuwa nayo. [Pr 58.4; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Imani ya Kweli inashikilia na kudai baraka iliyoahidiwa kabla haijatambulika na kuhisiwa. Lazima tupeleke ombi letu kwa imani ndani ya pazia la pili na kuacha imani yetu ichukue baraka iliyoahidiwa na kuidai kama yetu. Kisha tunapaswa kuamini kwamba tunapokea baraka, kwa sababu imani yetu imeishikilia, na ni kulingana na Neno, basi ni yetu. Kristo anasema, "Yoyote myaombayo mkisali, aminini

ya kwamba mnayapokea, nayo yatakuwa yenu." Marko 11:24. Hapa kuna imani, imani dhahiri, iliyo wazi kabisa, kuamini kwamba tunapokea mibaraka, hata kabla ya kuitambua. Baraka iliyoahidiwa inapogunduliwa, inapoonekana na hata kufurahiwa, basi imani inamezwa. Lakini wengi hudhani wanayo imani kubwa wanapokuwa wana ushirika kwa kiasi kikubwa na Roho Mtakatifu na kwamba hawawezi kuwa na imani isipokuwa wanahisi nguvu ya Roho. Hilo linachanganya imani na baraka ambayo huja kupitia imani. Wakati hasa wa kutumia imani ni pale tunapohisi kukosa msaada wa Roho. Wakati mawingu mazito ya giza yanaonekana kuigubika akili, basi huo ndio wakati wa kuruhusu imani iliyo hai itoboe giza na kutawanya mawingu. Imani ya Kweli inapatikana katika ahadi zilizo katika Neno la MUNGU, na ni wale tu ambao wanaolitii Neno hilo ndio ambao wanaweza kudai ahadi Zake tukufu. "Mkikaa ndani Yangu na Maneno Yangu yakikaa ndani yenu, basi, ombeni chochote mtakacho nanyi mtapewa. (Yohana 15:7). na twaweza kupokea Kwake chochote tunachoomba, maana tunazitii amri Zake na kufanya yale yanayompendeza." 1 Yohana 3:22.—(Early Writings, 72, 73) [Pr 59.1; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Usizimie nguvu ikiwa Hakuna Jibu La Mpapo kwa hapo lililotolewa — Imani yako haipaswi kuachilia ahadi za MUNGU, ikiwa hautaona au kuhisi jibu la haraka la maombi yako. Usiohofu kumtumaini MUNGU. Zitegemee ahadi Zake za kweli: "Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa." MUNGU ni mwenye hekima mno kukosea, na ni mwema sana kuwazuilia watakatifu Wake wanaotembea katika unyoofu kitu chochote chema- (Testimonies for the Church 1:120) [Pr 59.2; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Omba; na Kisha Matokeo mwachie MUNGU— Fanya kazi kwa imani, na mwachie MUNGU matokeo. Omba kwa imani, na mafumbo na siri ya majaliwa Yake italeta jibu Lake. Kuna mwingine inaelekea kama hutaweza kufaulu. Lakini fanya kazi na uamini, ukiwekamo katika jitihada yako imani, tumaini, na ujasiri. Baada ya kufanya uwezavyo, umngojee Bwana, ukitangaza uaminifu Wake, Naye atatimiza Neno Lake. Subiri, sio kwa hofu, na wasiwasi lakini kwa imani yenye ujasiri, isiyotishika na uwe na kumtegemea Yeye kusikoyumbayumba.—(Testimonies for the Church 7:245) [Pr 59.3; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Omba kwa Ujasiri – Ni maombi ya kutoka moyoni ya imani ambayo husikika mbinguni na kujibiwa duniani. MUNGU anaelewa mahitaji ya wanadamu. Yeye Anajua kile tunachotamani hata kabla hatujamwomba. Yeye Anaona mgogoro/mzozo wa roho na mashaka na majaribu. Yeye Anaona unyofu wa mwombaji. Naye Atapokea fedheha na mateso ya roho. "Nitamtazama mtu huyu," anatangaza, "hata yeye aliye maskini na mwenye roho iliyopondeka, na anayetetemeka kwa Neno Langu." [Pr 60.1; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Ni fursa yetu kuomba kwa ujasiri, Roho akichochea maombi yetu. Kwa unyenyekevu tunapaswa kuelezea mahitaji yetu kwa Bwana, na kudai ahadi Yake. - (God's Amazing Grace, 92) [Pr 60.2; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Yesu Yu tayari Kusikiliza Maombi Leo Kama Alipokuwa Duniani – Hekima ya Ulimwengu inafundisha kwamba sala sio muhimu. Wanasayansi wanadai kuwa hakuna jibu halisi la ombi; kwamba hii itakuwa ukiukaji wa sheria, muujiza, na kwamba miujiza haipo. Wao husema Ulimwengu unasimamiwa na sheria zisizobadilika, na MUNGU Mwenyewe hawezi kufanya chochote kinyume na sheria hizi. Kwa hivyo wanamwakilisha MUNGU akiwa amefungwa na sheria Zake Mwenyewe-kana kwamba utendaji wa sheria za Mungu unaondoa uhuru wa Bwana, Mwenyezi. Mafundisho hayo yanapingana na ushuhuda wa Maandiko. Je! Miujiza haikufanywa na Kristo na mitume Wake? Mwokozi Huyu Huyu Mwenye huruma anaishi hivi leo, na Yuko tayari kusikiliza maombi ya imani kama vile alipotembea miongoni mwa wanadamu na kukutana nao uso kwa uso (waziwazi kwa kuonekana au mbashara). - (The Great Controversy, 525) [Pr 60.3; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Maombi ya Imani huonyesha Matakwa Rahisi ya roho— Maombi sio mpatanishi wa dhambi; hayana fadhila au sifa yake yenyewe. Maneno yote tunayoyamiliki na kuyarembesha tunapoyatoa hayalingani hata na shauku moja takatifu. Maombi yaliyopangiliwa vizuri kwa ufasaha zaidi hayana tofauti na maneno ya kubwatikabwatika tu ikiwa hayaonyeshi hisia za Kweli za moyo. Lakini ombi linalotoka kwenye moyo wenye dhati na makini, wakati mahitaji sahili ya roho yanapowasilishwa, kama vile tunavyoweza kumwomba jambo rafiki wa kidunia kupata upendeleo (kuomba feva), tukitarajia tutapata-hili ni ombi

la imani. MUNGU hatamani pongezi zetu za sherehe za ibada ya destruri, bali kilio kisichoneneka cha moyo uliovunjika na kuhuzunishwa na hisia za dhambi na udhaifu mwingi hupata kibali kwa Baba wa rehema zote. - (Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing,86, 87) [Pr 60.4; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Maombi humwamsha MUNGU Kutenda-Kwa maombi yako ya imani yenye bidii unaweza kufanya mkono wenye nguvu zote, unaoendesha na kutawala ulimwengu ujongee. Unaweza kuwafundisha watoto wako kuomba kwa ufanisi wanapopiga magoti kando yako. Hebu maombi yapande juu kwenye kiti cha enzi cha MUNGU, "Uwasamehe watu Wako, Ee Bwana, wala usiwape urithi Wako wakosaji, ili mataifa wasiwatawale; wasije kusema miongoni mwao, Yuko wapi MUNGU wao?" MUNGU Yuko kazini Akitenda. Yeye hufanya maajabu, na ingawa Yupo juu na ameinuliwa, maombi yanaweza kufikia kiti Chake cha enzi. Yeye anayegeuka na kupindua juu-chini mambo au kuyatangua, Yeye anayeweza kufanya mambo ya ajabu, atazingatia maombi ya toba ya imani kutoka kwa watoto Wake wanyenyekavu. - (The Review and Herald, Aprili 23, 1889) [Pr 61.1; Maombi Aya ya 32]

MUNGU Hawezi Kujibu Maombi Asiyooombwa – Maombi na Imani vitafanya kile ambacho hakuna nguvu yoyote duniani inaweza kutimiza. Ni nadra sana, katika hali zote, tunawekwa katika nafasi ile ile mara mbili. Tunakuwa na matukio mapya na majaribu mapya ya kuyashinda, ambapo uzoefu wetu wa zamani hauwezi kuwa mwongozo wa kutosha. Lazima tuwe na nuru siku zote inayotoka kwa MUNGU. Kristo daima hutuma ujumbe kwa wale wanaosikia sauti Yake. [Pr 61.2; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Ni sehemu ya mpango wa MUNGU kutupatia, katika kujibu maombi ya imani, kile ambacho hangeweza kutupa endapo tusingemwuliza/hatukumuomba. - (My Life Today, 15) [Pr 61.3; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Wachungaji/Watumishi Wasichoke Katika Maombi – Watumishi wanapaswa kufanya maandalizi ya moyo kabla ya kuanza kazi ya kuwasaidia wengine, kwani walei wamewatangulia wachungaji walio wengi. Wanapaswa kupigana mieleka bila kuchoka katika sala hadi Bwana awabariki. Wakati upendo wa MUNGU unawaka juu ya

madhabahu ya mioyo yao, hawatahubiri ili kuonyesha busara au ujanja walio nao, bali watamwasilisha Kristo ambaye huondoa dhambi za ulimwengu. - (Testimonies for the Church 5:166) [Pr 61.4; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Tiba ya Kukata Tamaa au kufa moyo Ni Imani, Maombi, na Kazi – Kwa wale wote waliokata tamaa kuna tiba/dawa moja tu, - imani, sala, na kazi. (Testimonies for the Church 6:438) [Pr 61.1; Maombi Aya ya 36]

Maombi Ndio Silaha Ambayo kwayo Tunampinga Adui – Kristo Ndiye tumaini letu pekee. Njoo kwa MUNGU kwa Jina la Yeye aliyetoa uhai wake kwa ajili ya maisha ya ulimwengu. Tumainia ufanisi wa dhabihu Yake. Onyesha kwamba upendo Wake, furaha Yake, imo katika roho yako, na kwa sababu ya hili, furaha yako imejaa. Katika MUNGU ndiyo nguvu zetu. Omba sana. Maombi ni maisha ya roho. Ombi la imani ni silaha ambayo tunaweza kufanikiwa kupinga kila shambulio la adui. - (The Signs of the Times, Agosti 24, 1904) [Pr 62.2; Maombi Aya ya 37]

Maombi hayapotei, hata ikiwa hayajajibiwa kama tunavyotarajia – Ombi la imani halipotei kamwe; lakini kudai kuwa litajibiwa kila wakati kwa njia ileile na kwa jambo lile lile ambalo tumetarajia, ni dhana tu. - (Testimonies for the Church 1:231) [Pr 62.3; Maombi Aya ya 38]

Mfariji Huja katika kujibu Maombi ya Imani – Wakati wote na mahali pote, katika huzuni zote na shida zote, wakati hali ya nje inaonekana kuwa ni ya giza na ile ya wakati ujao inaleta mfadhaiko, nasi tunajisikia wanyonge na peke yetu, Mfariji atatumwa katika kujibu maombi ya imani. Mazingira yanaweza kututenganisha na kila rafiki wa kidunia; lakini hakuna hali/mazingira, wala umbali, unaoweza kututenganisha na Mfariji wa mbinguni. Popote tulipo, popote tutakapoenda, Yeye Yuko mkono wetu wa kuume kila wakati kutusaidia, kutudumisha, kutuunza, na kutupa nguvu. - (The Desire of Ages, 669, 670) [Pr 62.4; Maombi Aya ya 39]

Malaika hubeba Maombi yetu kwenda Patakatifu pa Mbinguni – Malaika husikia sadaka za sifa na ombi la imani, na hubeba maombi kwa Yeye anayehudumu katika Patakatifu kwa ajili ya watu Wake, na wanasihi haki na sifa Yake kwa niaba yao. Ombi la Kweli

hujitegemeza/humshikilia Yeye aliye mkuu na hutupatia ushindi. Akiwa magotini mwake, Mkristo anapata nguvu za kupinga vishawishi. - (The Review and Herald, Februari 1, 1912) [Pr 62.5; Maombi Aya ya 40]

Ombi la dhati litakanganya Jitihada kali za Shetani – Mwanadamu ni mateka wa Shetani na kwa kawaida amejikita katika kufuata maoni yake adui na kutii matakwa na amri zake. Yeye mwenyewe hana uwezo wa kupinga upinzani maridhawa wa uovu. Ni pale tu Kristo anapokaa ndani yake kwa imani hai, akiziongoza shauku zake na kumtia nguvu kwa uwezo utokao juu, ndipo mwanadamu anaweza kujitosa ili kukabiliana na adui mbaya sana. Njia nyingine yoyote ya ulinzi ni kazi bure kabisa. Ni kupitia njia ya Kristo pekee, ndiyo kwamba nguvu ya Shetani inawekewa ukomo. Huu ni Ukweli muhimu ambao wote wanapaswa kuelewa. Shetani yuko ‘bize’ kila wakati, akienda huku na huko, akitembea juu na chini katika dunia, akitafuta mtu ambaye anaweza kumeza. Lakini ombi la dhati la imani litakanganya juhudi zake kali. Kisha chukua "ngao ya imani," ndugu, "ambayo kwayo mtaweza kuzima mishale yote ya moto ya yule mwovu." Testimonies for the Church 5:294) [Pr 63.1; Maombi Aya ya 41]

Ombi la Imani Hushinda Dhidi ya Shetani – Ombi la imani ni nguvu kubwa ya Mkristo na hakika litamshinda Shetani. Hii ndiyo sababu yeye anasisitiza kwamba hatuna haja ya maombi. Jina la Yesu, Wakili wetu, Shetani analichukia; na tunapomwendea Kwake kwa dhati kwa ajili ya msaada, Jeshi la Shetani linaogopa. Kusudi lake linatimia vizuri ikiwa tunapuuza mazoea ya kuomba, kwa kuwa maajabu yake ya uwongo yanapokelewa kwa urahisi zaidi. - (Testimonies for the Church 1:296) [Pr 63.2; Maombi Aya ya 42]

SURA YA 7

MAOMBI NA UTII

Omba na Fanya Kazi – Hatupaswi kukaa kwa utulivu kama maji ya mtungini eti tunangojea udhalimu na dhiki vitufikie, na kukunja mikono yetu, bila kufanya chochote kuzuia maovu. Hebu vilio vyetu kwa pamoja vitumwe juu mbinguni. Omba na ufanye kazi, na fanya kazi na usali. Lakini usifanye chochote kwa kukurupuka. Jifunze kuliko wakati mwingine wowote ule kuwa mpole na mnyenyekevu wa moyo, hili ni lazima. -(Selected Messages 2:370, 371) [Pr 64.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Lazima tuombe na tufanye kazi na kuamini. Bwana Ndiye ufanisi wetu. (Evangelism, 438) [Pr 64.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Utalazimika kupambana mieleka na magumu, kubeba mizigo, kutoa ushauri, kupanga mikakati na kuitekeleza, ukimtazama MUNGU kila wakati kwa ajili ya msaada. Omba na fanya kazi, fanya kazi na omba; kama wanafunzi katika shule ya Kristo, jifunzeni kuhusu Yesu. (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 498, 499) [Pr 64.3; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Maombi ni mkakati wa mbingu wa Mafanikio katika Kuishinda Dhambi – Kuna wengi ambao, japo wanajitahidi kuzitii amri za MUNGU, wana amani kidogo au furaha. Upungufu huu katika uzoefu wao ni matokeo ya kushindwa kupata imani. Wanatembea kana kwamba wapo katika nchi yenye chumvi, iliyo na ardhi iliyokauka na kupasuka-pasukua vipandevipande. Wanaomba au kudai kidogo tu, wakati wanaweza kuomba mengi; kwani ahadi za MUNGU hazina kikomo. Hao hawawakilishi kwa usahihi utakaso unaokuja kwa kuitii ile Kweli. Bwana angependa wana na binti Zake wote wawe na furaha, amani, na utiifu. Kwa kuizoesha Imani, mwamini anafikia mahali pa kuzimiliki

baraka hizi. Kupitia imani, kila upungufu wa tabia unakarabatiwa, kila unajisi unasafishwa, kila kosa linarekebishwa, kila ubora unapata kuendelezwa na kuwa na ufanisi zaidi na zaidi. [Pr 64.4; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Maombi ni njia iliyowekwa na mbingu kwaajili ya mafanikio katika vita na dhambi na ukuaji wa tabia ya Kikristo. Ushawishi wa Bwana unaokuja ili kujibu ombi la imani utatimiza katika roho ya mwombaji yote ambayo anaomba. Kwa ajili ya msamaha wa dhambi, kwaajili ya Roho Mtakatifu, kwaajili sifa na tabia kama ya Kristo, kwa hekima na nguvu ya kufanya kazi Yake, kwa zawadi yoyote ambayo ameahidi, tunaweza kuomba; na ahadi ni, "Mtapokea." (The Acts of the Apostles, 563, 564) [Pr 65.1; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Majaribu ya kila siku Hufanya Maombi Kuwa jambo la Lazima— Nguvu inayopatikana katika maombi na MUNGU, ikiunganishwa na juhudi za mtu binafsi katika kuifundisha akili kufikiri kwa kina na kuwa na uangalifu/usikivu, humwandaa mtu huyo kwa ajili ya majukumu ya kila siku na hufanya roho iwe na amani katika hali zote, haijalishi hali ni ngumu kwa kiasi gani. Majaribu ambayo tunakuwa katika mazingira yake kila siku hufanya maombi kuwa jambo la lazima (majaribu ambayo tunaanikwa kwayo kila siku, hufanya maombi kuwa jambo la lazima). Ili tuweze kulindwa na uweza wa MUNGU kwa njia ya imani, shauku za akili zinapaswa kuelekezwa mbinguni daima katika maombi ya kimya ili kupata msaada, kupata nuru, kupata nguvu, kupata maarifa. Lakini fikra na maombi hayawezi kuchukua nafasi ya kuwa dhati, na kutenda kwa juhudi katika kutumia muda vizuri kwa uaminifu. Kazi na sala zinahitajika katika kukamilisha tabia ya Kikristo. — (Testimonies for the Church 4:459) [Pr 65.2; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Maombi ya Kila siku Hugeuza Makosa Kuwa Ushindi — Ikiwa mtu ambaye kila siku anashirikiana na MUNGU anapotea njia kwa kutenda makosa, ikiwa anageuka kwa nukta chache kutoka kwenye kumwangukia Yesu kwa uthabiti, na sio kwa sababu anatenda dhambi kwa makusudi; kwani anapoliona kosa lake, anarudi tena, na kumtazama Yesu, basi ule uhalisia kwamba amekosea, haumfanyi ashuke thamani mbele ya moyo wa MUNGU.

Anajua kwamba ana ushirika na Mwokozi; na anapokemewa kwa kosa lake katika suala fulani la maamuzi yake, hatembei na jazba moyoni au, au chuki ya kimya kimya na kumlalamikia MUNGU, bali huligeuza lile kosa na kuwa ushindi. Anajifunza somo kutoka kwenye Maneno ya Mwalimu, na anachukua tahadhari ili asidanganyike au kudanganywa tena. - (The Review and Herald, Mei 12, 1896) [Pr 65.3; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Kristo Ndiye Njia Ya Maombi Kati Yetu na MUNGU— Kristo Ndiye kiunganishi kati ya MUNGU na mwanadamu. Ameahidi maombezi Yake binafsi. Anaweka fadhila yote ya haki Yake upande wa mwombaji. Kristo anamuomba mwanadamu, na mwanadamu, anayehitaji msaada wa Mungu, anajiombea mbele za MUNGU, akitumia nguvu ya ushawishi wa Yule aliyetoa maisha Yake kwa ulimwengu. Tunapokiri mbele za MUNGU ukubali wetu wa uzuri wa Kristo, na **manukato** hutolewa kwa maombezi yetu. Tunapomkaribia MUNGU kupitia fadhila ya Mkombozi, Kristo hutuweka karibu na upande Wake, akituzunguka kwa mkono Wake wa kibinadamu, wakati kwa mkono Wake wa Kiungu Yeye anashikishika kiti cha enzi cha Yule Asiye na mwisho. Yeye anaweka sifa, wema na haki Yake, kama uvumba mtamu, ndani ya chetezo mikononi mwetu, ili kutia moyo maombi yetu. Yeye Anaahidi kusikia na kujibu maombi yetu. [Pr 66.1; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Naam, Kristo amekuwa njia ya maombi kati ya mwanadamu na MUNGU. Pia amekuwa njia ya baraka kati ya MUNGU na mwanadamu. Ameunganisha Uungu na ubinadamu. Watu wanapaswa kushirikiana Naye kwa ajili ya wokovu wa roho zao wenyewe, na kisha kufanya jitihada za bidii, za kudumu na za dhati ili kuwaokoa wale ambao wako tayari kufa. - (Testimonies for the Church 8:178) [Pr 66.2; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Wakati kuhani mkuu ananyunyiza damu iliyo na joto bado juu ya Kiti cha Rehema wakati wingu la uvumba lenye harufu nzuri likipanda mbele za MUNGU, ndivyo ambavyo wakati tunakiri dhambi zetu na kuomba ufanisi na haki ya damu ya upatanisho ya Kristo, sala zetu zinapaswa kupaa mbinguni, zikiwa na harufu nzuri na sifa za tabia ya Mwokozi wetu. Pamoja na kutostahili kwetu, tunapaswa kukumbuka kwamba Yupo Yule Anayeweza kuchukua dhambi, na Ambaye Yuko tayari kufanya hivyo, Naye

Anahangaika kumwokoia mwenye dhambi. Kwa damu Yake Mwenyewe alilipa (penalty) adhabu kwa wakosaji wa sheria wote. Kila dhambi iliyowasilishwa mbele za MUNGU kwa moyo uliopondeka, ataiondoa. "Ijapokuwa dhambi zako ni nyekundu, zitakuwa nyeupe kama theluji; zijapokuwa ni nyekundu sana, zitakuwa nyeupe kama sufu." The Review and Herald, Septemba 29, 1896) [Pr 66.3; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Maombi hayana maana au faida yoyote ikiwa Kuna Uovu wa Kukusudia Moyoni- "Neema ya MUNGU iletayo wokovu imeonekana kwa watu wote, ikitufundisha kwamba, tukikataa uovu na tamaa za ulimwengu, tunatakiwa kuishi kwa kiasi, na haki, na utauwa, katika ulimwengu huu wa sasa." Basi, muwe wakamilifu kama Baba yenu wa mbinguni alivyo mkamilifu. Je! Maombi yako yana thamani au faida gani mkiwa mnawazia au kuuzingatia uovu uliopo ndani ya mioyo yenu? Msipofanya badiliko la dhati, muda sio mrefu, mtachoka kukemewa au kupewa maonyo, kama walivyofanya wana wa Israeli; na, kama wao, mtamwasi MUNGU. Baadhi yenu manakubali kukemewa kwa maneno, lakini mioyoni mwenu hamkubali. Mnaenenda sawa na hapo awali, mkiguswa kwa udogo zaidi na ushawishi wa Roho wa MUNGU, mnazidi kupofushwa zaidi na zaidi, na **kuwa na hekima** pungufu zaidi, kujitawala au kujizuia nafsi kwa udogo zaidi, mmepungukiwa na nguvu ya maadili zaidi, na bidii kidogo na kufurahiya uzoefu wa kidini/kiroho kwa udogo zaidi; na, msipoongoka, hatimaye mtatanga mbali na kumwacha MUNGU kabisa. Hamkufanya mabadiliko katika maisha yenu wakati karipio lilipowajia, kwa sababu hamjaona na kugundua kasoro zenu za kitabia na tofauti kubwa kati ya maisha yenu na maisha ya Kristo. Imekuwa sera yenu kujiweka katika mazingira ambayo hamtapoteza kabisa ujasiri mlio nao kwa ndugu zenu. -(Testimonies for the Church 4:332) [Pr 67.1; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Maombi hayachukui Nafasi ya Utii – Kuna masharti ya kutimizwa ahadi za MUNGU, na ombi haliwezi kuchukua mahali pa wajibu. "Ikiwa mnanipenda," Kristo anasema, "mtazishika amri Zangu." "Azipokeaye amri Zangu na kuzishika, yeye ndiye anipendaye. Naye anipendaye Mimi atapendwa na Baba Yangu, Nami nitampenda na kujidhihirisha Kwake." Yohana 14:15, 21. Wale ambao

huleta maombi yao kwa MUNGU, wakidai ahadi Zake wakati hawafuati masharti, wanamtukana Yehova (au wanamkosea heshima Mungu). Hao huleta Jina la Kristo kama mamlaka yao kwa ajili ya kutimiziwa ahadi, lakini hawafanyi mambo yale ambayo yangeonyesha imani katika Kristo na upendo Kwake Yeye. [Pr 67.2; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Wengi wanapoteza haki ya masharti ya kukubaliwa na Baba. Twahitaji kuchunguza kwa ukaribu tendo la kumtegemea Yeye wakati tunapokuwa tunamkaribia MUNGU. Ikiwa sisi si watiifu, tunamletea Bwana hundi ya kupewa malipo wakati sisi hatujatimiza masharti ambayo yangeidhinisha malipo yetu. Tunawasilisha kwa MUNGU ahadi Zake, na kumwomba azitimize, wakati kwa kufanya hivyo atalivunja heshima Jina Lake Mwenyewe. [Pr 68.1; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Ahadi ni “Mkikaa ndani Yangu na maneno Yangu yakikaa ndani yenu, basi, ombeni chochote mtakacho nanyi mtapewa. (Yohana 15:7). Na Yohana anatangaza: “Katika hili twajua ya kuwa tunamjua Yeye, ikiwa tunazishika amri Zake. Mtu akisema kwamba anamjua, lakini hazitii amri Zake, basi mtu huyo ni mwongo, na Kweli haimo ndani yake. Bali yeye ashikaye Neno Lake, katika huyo upendo wa MUNGU umekamilika kweli-kweli.” 1 Yohana 2: 3-5.— (Christ's Object Lessons, 143, 144) [Pr 68.2; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Twapaswa Kuamini MUNGU Anasikia na Kisha kuyaishi Maombi Yetu – Watoto na vijana wanaweza kuja kwa Yesu na mizigo yao na mifadhaiko yao, wakifahamu kwamba Ataheshimu maombi yao Kwake, na kuwapa yale wanayohitaji. Kuwa na bidii; kuwa imara. Wasilisha ahadi ya MUNGU, na kisha uamini bila shaka hata moja. Usingoje kupata hisia maalum kabla ya kufikiria Bwana anajibu. Usikariri na kuweka alama kwamba kuna njia fulani ambayo Bwana lazima aitumie au kuifanyia kazi kwako kabla ya wewe kuamini kuwa utapokea vitu ulivyoomba Kwake; lakini amini Neno Lake, na Ukabidhi kila kitu mikononi mwa Bwana, ukiwa na imani kamili kwamba maombi yako yataheshimiwa, na jibu litakuja wakati muafaka na kwa njia ambayo Baba yako wa mbinguni anaona ni kwa faida yako; na kisha ishi maombi yako. Tembea kwa unyenyekevu na endelea kusonga mbele. -(Messages to Young People, 123) [Pr 68.3; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Omba kwa ajili ya Neema ya kuyapinga majaribu- Katika maisha ya kila siku utakutana na mishangao ya ghafla, kukatishwa tamaa, na vishawishi. Neno linasema nini? "Mpingeni shetani," kwa kumtegemea Mungu kabisa, "naye atawakimbia. Mkaribieni MUNGU, Naye atawakaribia ninyi. Na ashikilie nguvu Zangu, ili afanye amani Nami; naye atafanya amani Nami." Mtazame Yesu kila wakati na kila mahali, ukitoa maombi ya kimya kutoka katika moyo mwaminifu ili ujue jinsi ya kufanya mapenzi Yake. Kisha adui anapoingia kama mafuriko, Roho wa Bwana atakuinua kiwango chako dhidi ya adui. Unapokaribia kuanguka au kutekewa na jaribu, kupoteza uvumilivu na kuitawala nafsi, kuwa mgumu na mwenye kulaani, kutafuta makosa na kumchukia mtu, kukosoa, kufanya ujeuri, kufanya ukatili au kulaumu – huu ni wakati wako kutuma ombi mbinguni, "Nisaidie, Ee MUNGU, kupinga jaribu, kuondoa uchungu wote na ghadhabu na kunena mabaya kutoka moyoni mwangu. Nipe upole Wako, unyenyekevu Wako, uvumilivu Wako, na upendo Wako. Usiniache nimuaibishe Mkombozi wangu, nisitafsiri vibaya maneno na nia ya mke wangu, watoto wangu, na kaka na dada zangu katika imani. Nisaidie nipate kuwa mwema, mwenye moyo laini/mwororo, mwenye huruma, mwenye kusamehe. Nisaidie kuwa mfunga-nyumba (mweka nyumba sawa), yaani mlinzi wa kweli nyumbani mwangu na kuwakilisha tabia ya Kristo kwa wengine." *(mume kingereza ni husband-houseband Kamba ya kufunga nyumba yake kwa ulinzi na upendo na yale bora) (The Adventist Home, 214, 215) [Pr 68.4; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Tunajua hatari na vishawishi zinazowazinga vijana wakati huu sio chache au ndogo.....Twaishi katika wakati ambapo kupinga uovu kunahitaji kukesha na kuomba kila wakati. Neno la MUNGU lenye thamani ndiyo kiwango kwa vijana ambao watakuwa waaminifu kwa Mfalme wa mbinguni. Hebu na wasome Maandiko. Hebu na waweke kwenye kumbukumbu kwa kukariri mstari baada ya mstari, na wapate ujuzi wa kile Bwana Alichosema Na katika majaribu hebu vijana watandaze Neno la MUNGU mbele yao, na kwa mioyo iliyo na unyenyekevu, na kwa imani, wamtafute Bwana kwa ajili ya hekima ili kujua njia Yake, na kwa nguvu wakanyage na kutembea ndani Yake [Pr 69.1; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Hebu vijana wetu waanzishe vita dhidi ya kila tabia ambayo ina hatari hata ile ndogo ya kuongoza roho mbali na wajibu na kujitoa wakfu. Na watenge misimu fulani kwa ajili ya maombi, bila kupuuza masaa hayo kamwe, ikiwa inaweza kuepukika. Ikiwa wataenda vitani na tabia zao mbaya walizokuwa nazo kabla ya kukiri ushirika na Kristo, wataangukia kuwa windo la hila za Shetani kwa urahisi. Lakini wakiwa wamejihami na Neno la MUNGU, wakiwa wamelithamini moyoni na akilini, watatoka bila kuumizwa na mashambulio yote ya maadui wa MUNGU au mwanadamu. - (My Life Today, 315) [Pr 69.2; Maombi Aya ya 18]

SURA YA 8

MAOMBI YALETAYO USHINDI

Usiachilie ahadi za MUNGU— Kila mtakatifu ambaye anamuendea MUNGU kwa moyo wa kweli/dhati, na kutuma maombi yake ya uaminifu Kwake kwa imani, atajibiwa maombi yake. Imani yako haipaswi kuziachilia ahadi za MUNGU, ikiwa hautaona au kuhisi jibu la haraka kwa maombi yako. Basi Usipate hofu kumtumaini MUNGU-Usiogope kumtumaini Mungu. Zitegemee ahadi Zake za Kweli: "Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa." MUNGU ni Mwenye busara isiyo na ukomo kiasi kwamba hawezi kukosea kamwe, na ni mwema sana kuwazuilia watakatifu Wake wanaotembea kwa unyoofu mbele Zake kitu chochote kilicho kizuri. Mwanadamu hukosea, na japokuwa maombi yake yanatumwa kutoka katika moyo ulio mkweli, huwa haombi mara zote vitu ambavyo ni vyema kwake, au vile ambavyo vitamtukuza MUNGU. Wakati hili likiwa hivyo, Baba yetu Mwenye busara na mwema husikia maombi yetu, Naye atajibu, wakati mwingine hujibu haraka-; lakini Yeye hutupatia vitu ambavyo ni kwa faida yetu na utukufu Wake Mwenyewe. MUNGU hutupatia baraka; laiti tungeangalia mkakati Wake, tungeona kwa uwazi kwamba, Yeye Anajua kilicho bora kwaajili yetu na kwamba maombi yetu

hujibiwa. Hakuna chochote cha kutuumiza tutakachopewa, ilar tu baraka tunazohitaji, badala ya kile kitu tuliomba ambacho hakitakuwa kizuri kwetu, na ambacho kingetuumiza. [Pr 70.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Niliona kwamba ikiwa hatuhisi/hatuoni majibu ya haraka ya maombi yetu, tunapaswa kushikilia imani yetu kwa bidii, bila kuruhusu mashaka kuingia ndani yetu, kwani hayo yatatutenganisha tu na MUNGU. Endapo Imani yetu itatetereka, basi hatutapokea kitu chochote kutoka Kwake. Imani yetu kwa MUNGU inapaswa kuwa imara; na tunapokuwa na uhitaji mkubwa zaidi, baraka itatuangukia kama mvua inavyomwagika. –(Testimonies for the Church 1:120, 121) [Pr 70.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Maombi yetu yanapaswa kuwa ya bidii, yasiyochoka na yasiyotikiswa— MUNGU hasemi uombe mara moja tu, na kisha utapokea. Yeye Anatumuru kuomba. Bila kuchoka tusitikisike katika maombi. Kuomba kwa imani imara humleta mwombaji kwenye mkaao wa bidi, na humfanya awe na matamano zaidi, wakati wa kungoja kupokea mambo aliyoyaomba. Kristo alisema kwa Martha kaburini kwa Lazaro, “Mimi sikukwambia ya kwamba ukiamini utauona utukufu wa Mungu?” Yohana 11:40. [Pr 71.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Lakini wengi hawana imani iliyo hai. Hii ndio sababu hawaoni zaidi nguvu za MUNGU. Udhaifu wao ni matokeo ya kutokuamini kwao. Wana imani zaidi katika matendo na kazi zao kuliko utendaji kazi wa MUNGU kwao. Wanajipigania wenyewe-(wanajitunza wenyewe). Wanapanga na kuweka mikakati, lakini husali kidogo, na kumtumaini Mungu, kwa kiasi kidogo tu. Wao hufikiri kwamba wana imani, lakini kumbe ni msukumo tu wa muda mfupi. Wanashindwa kutambua uhitaji wao wenyewe, au utayari wa MUNGU kutoa, nao hawavumilii katika kuweka maombi yao mbele za Bwana. [Pr 71.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Maombi yetu yanapaswa kuwa ya dhati na bidii na yasiyotikiswa kama ilivyokuwa ombi la yule rafiki masikini aliyekwenda kuomba mikate usiku wa manane. Kwa kadiri tunavyoomba kwa dhati, bidii na uthabiti, ndivyo muungano wetu wa kiroho na Kristo utakavyokuwa wa karibu zaidi. Tutapokea baraka zilizoongezeka kwa sababu tumeongezeka kiimani. [Pr 71.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Fungu letu ni kuomba na kisha kuamini. kesheni mkiomba. Kisha, na ushirikiane na MUNGU anayesikia maombi. Kumbuka kwamba "sisi ni watenda kazi pamoja na MUNGU." 1 Wakorintho 3: 9. Sema na kutenda kulingana na maombi yako. Na hilo litafanya tofauti kubwa kwako pale jaribu litakapokujia ili kuhakikisha kuwa Imani yako ni ya Kweli, au kuonyesha kwamba maombi yako ni mfano tu au maneno tu. [Pr 71.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Maombi ya dhati na bidii yana manufaa mno – Sala ile inayotoka katika moyo wenye bidii, na mnyofu, na unaoamini ndiyo itakuwa na matokeo mema, maombi yenye bidii ambayo yatakuwa na matokeo makubwa na mema mno. MUNGU huwa hajibu maombi yetu kila wakati kama tunavyotarajia, kwani hatuna uwezo wa kuombea kile ambacho kingekuwa bora zaidi kwetu; lakini kwa upendo na hekima Yake isiyo na kikomo, Yeye atatupatia vile vitu ambavyo hakika tunavihitaji. -(Testimonies for the Church 4:531) [Pr 71.5; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Usiuachilie mkono wa MUNGU haraka- Nilimuuliza malaika kwa nini hakukuwa na imani na nguvu tena katika Israeli. Alisema, “wanauachilia mkono wa Bwana upesi mno. Peleka maombi yako kwa bidii kwenye kiti cha enzi, na kisha ungojee hapo kwa imani thabiti. Ahadi za Mungu ni za uhakika na Kweli. Amini kwamba unapokea vile ulivyoomba, nawe utapata.” Kisha nikaelekezwa kwa Eliya. Alikuwa na hisia za mwanadamu kama sisi, naye akaomba kwa bidii na unyofu. Imani yake ilivumilia jaribu/mtihani. Aliomba mara saba mbele za Bwana, na mwishowe wingu likaonekana. Niliona kwamba tulikuwa na shaka na ahadi za hakika, na tukamjeruhi Mwokozi kwa ukosefu wetu wa imani. Malaika alisema, “Jifunge silaha, na juu ya yote chukua ngao ya imani; kwa kuwa hiyo italinda moyo, na maisha, dhidi ya mishale ya moto ya muovu.” Ikiwa adui anaweza kusababisha wale waliokata tamaa kuondoa macho yao kutoka kwa Yesu, na wajitazame wenyewe, na kukita kwenye kutostahili kwao, badala ya kukaa juu ya stahiki za Yesu, upendo Wake, sifa Zake, na rehema Zake kuu, ataponyoka na ngao yao ya imani na kulitimiza lengo lake; basi wataanikwa kwenye vishawishi vyake hatarishi. Kwa hiyo wanyonge/dhaifu wanapaswa kumtazama Yesu, na kumwamini Yeye; ndivyo wanavyoizoesha Imani yao na

kuionyesha/kuitumia.—(Early Writings, 73) [Pr 72.1; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Dumu katika maombi bila kuchoka— Wakati mtu anapumua kwa ombi la bidii na dhati kwa MUNGU (Yesu Kristo Ndilo Jina pekee chini ya mbingu walilopewa wanadamu ambalo linatupasa kuokolewa kwalo), katika ile nguvu, unyofu, na bidii kuna ahadi kutoka kwa MUNGU kwamba Yeye Yupo karibu kujibu hilo ombi na zaidi ya inavyopotegemewa, Naye atafanya mambo makuu zaidi ya yale tuwezayo kuomba au kufikiria. Hatupaswi kuomba tu kwa Jina la Yesu, bali kwa uvivio na uwepo na nguvu za Roho Mtakatifu. Hii inaelezea kuwa ina maana gani tunaposema, "Roho Mwenyewe hutuombea kwa kuugua-maumivu mazito yasiyoweza kutamkika." Maombi lazima yatolewe kwa imani ya dhati. Kisha yatakifikia kiti cha rehema. Dumu katika maombi bila kuchoka. MUNGU hasemi, Omba mara moja, Nami nitakujibu. Neno Lake ni omba, uwe mwepesi na mwenye utayari katika kuomba, ukiamini umeshavipata vile vitu unavyoomba, nawe utavipokea; Mimi Nitakujibu. - (Gospel Herald, Mei 28, 1902) [Pr 72.2; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Maombi ya dhati na ya bidii yanahitajika, sio dhaifu, sio Maombi yasiyo na moyo ndani yake — Kuna haja ya maombi, -ya dhati sana, yenye bidii, yenye **uchungu mzito**, - Ombi kama aliloomba Daudi akisema: "Kama paa anayetamani vijito vya maji, ndivyo ninavyo tamani roho yangu ikufuate, ee MUNGU."Nimetamani maagizo Yako; "Nimetamani wokovu Wako."Nafsi yangu inatamani, naam, inazimia kwa ajili ya hekalu la Bwana: moyo wangu na mwili wangu vinamlilia MUNGU aliye hai." Nafsi yangu inavunjika kwa hamu iliyo nayo juu ya hukumu Zako." Hii ni roho ya ombi la kupambana mieleka, Kama aliyokuwa nayo mtunga Zaburi wa kifalme. [Pr 73.1; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Danieli alimwomba MUNGU, hakujiinua mwenyewe wala kudai wema wowote: "Ee Bwana, sikia; Ee Bwana, samehe; Ee Bwana, sikiliza na utende; usichelewe, kwa mapenzi Yako, Ee MUNGU wangu." Hivi ndivyo Yakobo anavyoliita ombi linalofaa, lenye ufanisi, na la bidii. Kuhusu Kristo imeandikwa: "Na akiwa katika uchungu aliomba kwa dhati na bidii zaidi." Kwa kulinganisha na maombezi haya ya Mkuu wa mbinguni ni maombi ya kusikitisha na dhaifu kiasi

gani, maombi yasiyo na kumimina roho, ambayo hutolewa kwa MUNGU. Wengi wanaridhika na huduma ya mdomo au maneno tu, na ni wachache tu, ndio walio na shauku ya dhati, ya bidii, na ya upendo kwa MUNGU. -(Testimonies for the Church 4:534) [Pr 73.2; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Ombi linaloshinda au lenye ufanisi, Si Lazima Litolewe kwa Machozi na Mapambano – Kuna roho nyingi ambazo zinapigana mieleka kwa ajili ya ushindi maalum na baraka maalum ili ziweze kufanya jambo kubwa. Kwenye upande huu wa ulimwengu daima huhisi kwamba lazima wapigane mieleka mikali katika maombi na machozi. Watu hawa wanapochunguza Maandiko na maombi ili kujua mapenzi ya MUNGU yaliyoonyeshwa au kufunuliwa, na kisha kufanya mapenzi Yake kutoka moyoni kwa hali na mali bila kujifurahisha, watapata pumziko. Uchungu na mateso yote, machozi yote na mapambano, hayatawaletea baraka wanayoitamani. Nafsi inatakiwa kujisalimisha kabisa (100%). Lazima wafanye kazi inayojionyesha yenyewe, wakichukua wingi wa neema ya MUNGU ambayo imeahidiwa kwa wote wanaoomba kwa imani. - (Testimonies for the Church 9:165) [Pr 73.3; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Maombi ya bidii na ya daima/kudumu ni ya lazima – Ikiwa Mwokozi wa wanadamu, Mwana wa MUNGU Mwenyewe, alihisi hitaji la maombi, Je, ni muhimu kwa kiasi gani zaidi basi kwa sisi wanadamu tulio dhaifu na wenye dhambi tunatakiwa kuhisi umuhimu wa maombi ya bidii, na endelevu, yale ya kila wakati? [Pr 73.4; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Baba yetu wa mbinguni anasubiri kutupatia ukamilifu wa baraka Zake. Ni nafasi ya upendeleo kwetu kunywa kwa wingi kutoka kwenye chemchemi ya upendo usio na ukomo. Ni jambo la kushangaza kwa kiasi gani kwamba tunaomba kidogo sana! MUNGU Yuko tayari kusikia maombi ya dhati ya watoto Wake wanyenyekevu, lakini bado kuna kusitasita kwingi kwa upande wetu, kumjulisha MUNGU yale tunayoyataka. Malaika wa mbinguni wanafikiria nini juu ya wanadamu maskini wasiojiweza, ambao wanakabiliwa na majaribu, wakati moyo wa MUNGU Mwenye upendo usio na kikomo unainama kwao, tayari kuwapa zaidi ya vile wanavyoweza kuomba au kufikiri, lakini bado wanaomba kidogo sana na wana imani ndogo

sana? Malaika wanapenda kusujudu mbele za MUNGU; wanapenda kuwa karibu Naye. Wanaona kuwa karibu na MUNGU ndiyo furaha kuu kupita zote; lakini wana wa mwanadamu wanaoishi hapa chini duniani, ambao wanahitaji msaada mkubwa ambao unaweza kutolewa na MUNGU tu, wanaonekana kuridhika kabisa kutembea bila nuru ya Roho Wake, ushirika wa uwepo Wake. [Pr 74.1; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Giza la mwovu huwazunguka na kuwafunga wale wanaopuuzia kuomba. Majaribu yanayonong'onezwa na adui yanawashawishi kutenda dhambi; na hii yote ni kwa sababu hawatumii upendeleo/fursa ambazo MUNGU amewapa katika miadi ya maombi pamoja Naye. Kwa nini wana na binti za MUNGU wasitesite kuomba au wawe na tabia ya kutopenda maombi, wakati maombi ni ufunguo katika mkono wa imani ili kufungua ghala za mbinguni, mle ambako zimetunzwa ghala/hazina zisizo na kikomo za Mweza wa Yote? - (Steps to Christ, 94) Bila maombi yasiyokoma na kukesha kwa bidii, tuko katika hatari ya kuongeza uzembe/kutojali, na kuchepuka kutoka kwenye njia sahihi. Kila wakati adui anatafuta kuzinga/kufunga njia inayoelekea kwenye Kiti cha Rehema, ili kwa sala ya dhati na imani tusipate neema na nguvu ya kupinga majaribu. - (Steps to Christ, 93, 94) [Pr 74.2; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Kama vile Yakobo, wewe pambana mieleka katika Maombi – Kuwa na bidii, kuwa mkweli/mnyofu. Maombi ya bidii yanafaa sana. Kama Yakobo, pambana katika maombi. Omba ukiwa na uchungu moyoni. Yesu, bustanini, alitokwa na matone mengi ya jasho la damu; lazima ufanye juhudi. Usiache chumba chako cha siri mpaka ujisikie kuwa na nguvu ndani ya MUNGU; kisha kesho, na maadamu unakesha na kuomba unaweza kuzikanyaga chini dhambi hizi zinazokuzinga vibaya kwa upesi, na kisha neema ya MUNGU inaweza na itaonekana ndani yako. - (Testimonies for the Church 1:158) [Pr 74.3; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Yakobo alishinda kwa sababu alikuwa mvumilivu na aliazimia. Uzoefu wake unathibitisha nguvu ya ombi la dharura, la kutokata tamaa au kuchoka. Ni wakati huu ndiyo ambapo tunapaswa kujifunza somo hili la maombi yanayoshinda na yenye kutochoka, yenye imani isiyokubali kushindwa. Ushindi mkubwa kwa kanisa la Kristo au Mkristo

mmoja mmoja sio ule unaopatikana kwa talanta, kisomo, elimu, kwa utajiri au kupendelewa na watu. Bali ni ushindi ambao hupatikana katika chumba cha siri pamoja na MUNGU, wakati imani ya dhati na yenye bidii, yenye uchungu mzito, inamshikilia Mkono wenye Mkuu wenye nguvu, [Pr 75.1; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Wale ambao hawataki kuacha kila dhambi na kutafuta kwa bidii baraka ya MUNGU, basi hawataipata. Lakini wote watakaoshika ahadi za MUNGU kama alivyofanya Yakobo, na kuwa dhati na bidii na uvumilivu kama yeye, watafaulu kama alivyofaulu. - (Patriarchs and Prophets, 203) [Pr 75.2; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Pambana mweleka katika Maombi Mpaka Ushindi Uje – MUNGU atakuwa kwetu kila kitu tunachotaka Yeye awe. Maombi yetu dhaifu, yasiyo na bidii, yenye moyo nusu-nusu, hayatatuletea majibu kutoka mbinguni. Oh, tunahitaji bidii katika kuwasilisha maombi yetu! Omba/Uliza kwa imani, subiri kwa imani, pokea kwa imani, furahi katika tumaini, kwani kila mtu atafutaye hupata. Uwe dhati na bidii katika jambo hilo. Mtafute MUNGU kwa moyo wote. Watu huweka roho na bidii katika kila kitu wanachofanya katika vitu vya kupita, hadi juhudi zao zitakapofanikiwa. Kwa unyofu na bidii nzito, jifunze stadi ya kutafuta baraka nyingi ambazo MUNGU ameahidi, na kwa uvumilivu, bidii, na juhudi utakuwa na nuru Yake na Ukweli Wake na neema Yake nyingi. [Pr 75.3; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Kwa unyofu, katika njaa ya kiroho, mlilie MUNGU. Shindana na mawakala wa mbinguni hadi upate ushindi. Jiweke kikamilifu mikononi mwa Bwana, nafsi, mwili, na roho, kisha uazimie kuwa wakala Wake mpendwa aliyejiweka wakfu, anayeongozwa na mapenzi Yake, akidhibitiwa na akili Yake, na kujazwa na Roho Wake. [Pr 75.4; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Mwambie Yesu haja zako kwa unyofu wa roho yako. Hautakiwi kufanya mazungumzo marefu kwa vita, au kumhubiria MUNGU (au kumtolea hotuba Mungu), lakini kwa moyo wa huzuni juu ya dhambi zako, sema, "Niokoe, Bwana, la sivyo nitaangamia." Kuna matumaini kwa roho kama hizo. Watatafuta, wataomba, watabisha, na watapata. Wakati Yesu ameondoa mzigo wa dhambi

unaoponda-ponda roho, wewe utapata baraka ya amani ya Kristo. –(Our High Calling, 131) [Pr 75.5; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Omba bila kukoma- Katika kazi ya utunzaji wa moyo, ni lazima tuwe wepesi katika utayari wa maombi, bila kuchoka katika kuomba kiti cha neema ili kupata msaada. Wale ambao huchukua jina la "Mkristo" wanapaswa kumjia MUNGU kwa bidii, unyofu na unyenyekevu, wakiomba msaada. Mwokozi ametuambia tuombe bila kukoma. Mkristo hawezi kuwa katika nafasi au mkao wa kuomba kila wakati, lakini mawazo na matamaniao yake yanaweza kuwa juu kila wakati. Kujiamini wenyewe kungetoweka, kama tungeongea kidogo na kuomba zaidi. - (Sons and Daughters of God, 99) [Pr 76.1; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Kila Pumzi yapaswa Kuwa ombi-Sababu ya watu wengi kuachwa peke yao katika sehemu za majaribu ni kwamba hawamuweki Bwana mbele yao kila wakati. Tunaporuhusu ushirika wetu na MUNGU uvunjwe, ulinzi wetu unaondolewa kwetu. Madhumuni yako yote mazuri na nia njema havitakuwezesha kuhimili uovu. Lazima muwe wanaume na wanawake wa maombi. Maombi yako hayapaswi kuzimia, kuwa ya msimu kwa kushtukiza, au kutetereka (hapa na pale na siyo ya kudumu), bali yawe na bidii, ya kudumu, na ya mara kwa mara. Si lazima kila wakati upige magoti ili kuomba. Palilia tabia ya kuzungumza na Mwokozi unapokuwa peke yako, unapotembea, na unapokuwa na shughuli nyingi katika kazi zako za kila siku. Hebu moyo uinuliwe kila wakati katika ombi la kimya la kuomba msaada, kwa ajili nuru, nguvu, na maarifa. Hebu kila pumzi iwe sala. - (The Ministry of Healing, 510, 511) [Pr 76.2; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Omba kwa Imani Isiyotetereka – Omba, ndio, omba ukiwa na imani isiyoyumbayumba na amini. Malaika wa agano, yaani Bwana wetu Yesu Kristo, Ndiye Mpatanishi na Mwombezi anayesimamia kukubaliwa kwa maombi ya waamini Wake. - (Testimonies for the Church 8:179) [Pr 76.3; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Njoo kwa Ujasiri katika Maombi – Kwanini usisali kana kwamba una dhamiri isiyo na kosa (bila hatia), na kwamba unaweza kuja kwenye kiti cha neema kwa unyenyekevu, lakini kwa ujasiri mtakatifu, ukiinua mikono mitakatifu bila

ghadhabu na mashaka? Usisujudu na kufunika uso wako kana kwamba kulikuwa na kitu ambacho ulitamani kuficha; lakini inua macho yako kuelekea Patakatifu pa mbinguni, pale ambapo Kristo Mpatanishi wetu amesimama mbele za Baba kuwasilisha sala zetu, zilizochanganywa na wema na sifa Zake Mwenyewe na haki Yake isiyo na doa, kama ubani wa manukato. [Pr 76.4; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Wewe umealikwa kuja, kuomba, kutafuta, kubisha; na umehakikishiwa kuwa hautatoka mtupu/bure. Yesu anasema, “Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa; tafuteni, nanyi mtapata; bisheni, nanyi mtafunguliwa; kwa maana kila aombaye hupokea; naye atafutaye hupata; na yeye abishaye atafunguliwa.” Mathayo 7:7, 8.— (Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 241, 242. [Pr 77.1; Maombi Aya ya 26])

Maombi ya bidii hupanda kama manukato yanayovuta usikivu— Wamevumilia kwa shida, ufukara na taabu kwa kudhamiria kwao, na wamekesha na kuomba ili kufanikiwa katika kazi ya Mungu. Zawadi zao na dhabihu zinaonyesha shukrani za dhati na sifa ya mioyo yao kwa Yeye ambaye amewaita kutoka gizani, ili waingie katika nuru Yake ya ajabu. Basi Hakuna manukato ya ushawishi mzuri zaidi yanayoweza kupaa mbinguni. Maombi yao na sadaka zao huja kama ukumbusho mbele za MUNGU. - (Selected Messages 2:212) [Pr 77.2; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Makerubi wawili wa kupendeza, mmoja kila upande wa Sanduku la Agano, walisimama na mabawa yao yakinyoshwa juu yake, na kugusana juu ya kichwa cha Yesu aliposimama mbele ya Kiti cha Rehema. Nyuso zao zilielekeana, na wakatazama chini kwenye sanduku, ikiwakilisha jeshi lote la malaika wakitazama kwa shauku sheria ya MUNGU. Kati ya makerubi kulikuwa na chetezo cha dhahabu, na kadiri maombi ya watakatifu, yalivyotolewa kwa imani, yalipomjia Yesu, Yeye aliyapeleka kwa Baba Yake, wingu la harufu ya manukato likapanda kutoka kwenye uvumba, likionekana kama moshi wa rangi nzuri zaidi. Juu ya mahali ambapo Yesu alisimama, mbele ya Sanduku la Agano, kulikuwa na utukufu wenye mng'ao mkali sana ambao sikuweza kuutazama; ilionekana kama kiti cha enzi cha MUNGU. Wakati uvumba ulipopanda kwenda kwa Baba, utukufu bora

ulimjia Yesu kutoka katika kiti cha enzi, na kutoka Kwake ulimwagwa juu ya wale ambao maombi yao yalikuwa yamekuja kama uvumba mtamu. Nuru ilimiminwa juu ya Yesu kwa wingi sana na kukigubika Kiti cha Rehema, na gari moshi la utukufu likajaza hekalu. Sikuweza kuangalia kwa muda mrefu ule mwangaza unaozidi kipimo. Hakuna lugha inayoweza kuelezea haya. Nilitekewa kwa kuzidiwa, hata kugeuka kutoka kwa Ukuu na utukufu wa tukio lile. - (Writings Early, 252) [Pr 77.3; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Twapaswa Kuiga Mfano wa Kristo wa Maombi yasiyokoma au kuchoka, yanayotegemea ahadi Zake— Nguvu ya Kristo ilikuwa katika maombi. Yeye Alichukua ubinadamu, na kuchukua madhaifu yetu na akawa dhambi kwa ajili yetu. Kristo alitoka kwenda mashambani, misituni au milimani huku akijitenga na ulimwengu na mambo mengine yote. Alikuwa peke yake na Baba Yake. Kwa bidii kubwa na unyofu, Yeye Alimimina maombi Yake, na kuelekeza nguvu Zake zote za roho Yake katika kushikilia mkono wa Yule asiye na mwisho. Wakati Majaribu mapya na makuu yalipokuwa mbele Zake, Yeye alichepuka kwa siri mahali penye utulivu milimani, Naye akiwa peke yake akatumia usiku mzima kwa ajili ya maombi kwa Baba Yake wa Mbinguni. [Pr 78.1; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Kwa kuwa Kristo ni mfano wetu katika mambo yote, nasi ikiwa tutaiga mfano Wake kwa bidii, wa kuwasilisha maombi yasiyochoka, ya dhati na **yenye** bidii kwa Mungu ili tuweze kuwa na nguvu katika Jina Lake, Yeye Ambaye hakujisalimisha kwa majaribu ya Shetani, na akazipinga hila za adui mjanja, vivyo hivyo nasi hatutatekewa naye adui huyu (sisi nasi hatutashindwa na Shetani). - (Mkufunzi wa Vijana, Aprili 1, 1873) [Pr 78.2; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Jitihada za kudumu na Maombi hututayarisha kwa ajili ya Majukumu ya Kila siku — Wale wanaomtafuta MUNGU kwa siri wakimwambia Bwana mahitaji yao na kuomba msaada, maombi yao hayataenda bure. "Baba yako aonaye kwa siri, Mwenyewe atakupa thawabu." Tunapomfanya Kristo kuwa Rafiki yetu wa kila siku, tutahisi kuwa nguvu za ulimwengu usioonekana zinatuzingira; na kwa kumtazama Yesu tutafanana na sura Yake. Kwa kumtazama Yeye, sisi tunabadilishwa. Tabia inalainishwa, inasafishwa, inatakaswa, na kuboreshwa kwa ajili ya ufalme wa mbinguni. Matokeo ya hakika ya muunganiko wetu na

ushirika na Bwana wetu yatakuwa ni kuongeza ucha MUNGU, usafi, utakaso, na shauku. Kutakuwa na kukua katika akili kwenye maombi yetu. Tunapata elimu ya Bwana, na hili linadhahirishwa katika maisha ya bidii, uadilifu, umakini na ari/usongo. [Pr 78.3; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Roho inayomgeukia MUNGU kwa ajili ya kupata nguvu, msaada, uwezo, na sapoti kwa maombi ya dhati na bidii kila siku, itakuwa na matamano bora yanayoelekea juu, uelewa dhahiri wa Ukweli na wajibu, malengo ya juu katika utendaji, na kudumu katika njaa na kiu ya haki. Kwa kudumisha muunganiko na MUNGU, tutawezeshwa kusambaza kwa wengine, nuru, amani, utulivu, utakaotawala mioyoni mwetu, kupitia ushirika wetu nao. Nguvu inayopatikana katika maombi kwa MUNGU, ikiwa pamoja na bidii ya kudumu katika kuifundisha akili na nia kwa makini na kujali, humuandaa mtu kwa ajili ya majukumu ya kila siku na huweka roho katika amani kwenye hali zote. - (Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 85) [Pr 78.4; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Hakuna kinachopaswa Kutuchepusha sisi kutoka kwenye Mafunzo ya Biblia na Maombi ya bidii – Usiruhusu chochote, hata uwe unakipenda kwa jinsi gani, kunyonya akili yako na mapenzi yako, kukukengeusha ili usisome Neno la MUNGU au kuwa maombi ya dhati na bidii. Kesheni mkiomba. Ishi maombi yako mwenyewe. - (Testimonies for the Church 8:53) [Pr 79.1; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Ombi linaloshinda hujumuisha Imani katika ahadi za Mungu, kutokata tamaa na kutochoka – kipengele kingine cha ombi linaloshinda ni imani. "Yeye amwendeaye MUNGU lazima aamini kwamba Yeye Yupo, na kwamba Yeye huwapa thawabu wale wamtafutao." (Waebrania 11:6). Kristo anasema, "Yoyote myaombayo mkisali, aminini ya kwamba mnayapokea, nayo yatakuwa yenu." Marko 11:24.— (Steps to Christ, 96) [Pr 79.2; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Imani ni kipengele muhimu katika maombi yanayoshinda. "Yeye amwendeaye MUNGU lazima aamini kwamba Yeye Yupo, na kwamba Yeye huwapa thawabu wale wamtafutao." "Tukiomba chochote sawasawa na mapenzi Yake, Yeye hutusikia; na ikiwa tunajua kwamba

Yeye hutusikia, lolote tuombalo, tunajua kwamba tuna maombi ambayo tulimwomba." Waebrania 11: 6; 1 Yohana 5:14, 15. Tukiwa na imani ya kudumu na yenye uvumilivu kama ya Yakobo, na uvumilivu kwa kutokata tamaa kama Eliya, tunaweza kuwasilisha maombi yetu kwa Baba, tukidai yote ambayo ameahidi. Heshima ya kiti Chake cha enzi iko hatarini kwaajili ya utimilifu wa Neno Lake (Mungu anatimiza Neno Lake pia kulinda Jina Lake). - (Prophets and Kings, 157, 158) [Pr 79.3; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Maombi Yanatoa Ushuhuda wa ujasiri na Kumtumaini Kwetu MUNGU— Bwana anasema, "Niite Siku ya Taabu." Zaburi 50:15. Yeye Anaturalika kumpa shida zetu na mahitaji yetu, na hitaji letu la msaada Wake Bwana. Yeye anatuamuru tuwe tayari kuomba wakati wowote-tuwe na utayari kuomba muda wowote. Mara tu shida zinapotokea, tunapaswa kumpa Yeye maombi yetu ya dhati, na ya bidii. Kwa maombi yetu ya kujitoa tunatoa ushahidi wa ujasiri na imani yetu kubwa kwa MUNGU. Hisia ya hitaji letu inatuongoza kuomba kwa bidii, na Baba yetu wa mbinguni anaguswa na sala zetu.- (Christ Object Lessons, 172) [Pr 79.4; Maombi Aya ya 36]

MUNGU Hujibu Maombi ya Dhati — Ni pale tu tunapoomba kwa maombi ya dhati, kusadiki, ndipo MUNGU atatupatia haja za mioyo yetu. - (Gospel Workers, 255) [Pr 80.1; Maombi Aya ya 37]

Baada ya Kuomba, Endelea Kudai Ahadi -Baada ya maombi kufanywa, ikiwa jibu halitaonekana mara moja, usichoke kungojea na ukatikisika. Usitetereke kwa mashaka. Ng'ang'ania ahadi, "Yeye ni mwaminifu ambaye Awaita, Naye Atatenda" Kama mjane aliyekazana kwa bidii hata kumuudhi yule jaji, wewe pia sisitiza kwa bidii hoja/shauri lako, ukiwa thabiti katika kusudi lako. Je! Kitu hicho unachoomba ni muhimu na chenye matokeo makubwa kwako? Hakika ni hivyo. Basi usitetereke, kwani imani yako inaweza kujaribiwa. Ikiwa kitu unachotamani ni cha thamani, basi kinastahili juhudi nzito, na yenye bidii. Wewe una ahadi; kesho na uombe. Simama imara na sala yako itajibiwa; Je, sio Mungu Ndiye ambaye ameahidi? Ikiwa inakugharimu kukipata basi utakipa thamani zaidi wakati kitakapopatikana. Unaambiwa waziwazi kwamba ikiwa utayumbayumba kwa mashaka, basi haupaswi

kufikiria kwamba utapokea chochote kutoka kwa Bwana. Tahadhari imetolewa hapa kwamba usichoke, bali utulie tuli katika kwenye ahadi. Ukiomba, Naye atakupa kwa ukarimu na wala hakemei. - (Testimonies for the Church 2:131) [Pr 80.2; Maombi Aya ya 38]

MUNGU hatatuambia tuondoke au kutufukuza tukiwa watupu (bila chochote)— Wakati majaribu na mitihani ya maisha inapotuvamia, hebu tumwendee MUNGU na kumlilia katika maombi. Yeye hatatuambia tuondoke mikono mitupu, lakini atatupa neema na nguvu za kushinda, na kuvunja nguvu za adui. -(Early Writings, 46) [Pr 80.3; Maombi Aya ya 39]

Maombi Bila Imani iliyo Hai hayana manufaa yoyote - Imani sio hisia. “imani ni kuwa na hakika ya mambo yatarajwayo, ni bayana ya mambo yasiyoonekana” Waebrania 11:1. Imani ya Kweli haina uhusiano wowote na dhana potofu ya imani bandia, au ujasiri wenye kiburi. Ni yeye tu aliye na imani ya Kweli, ndiye aliye salama dhidi ya mawazo potofu ambayo yanachukuliwa kuwa kweli kwa msingi wa uwezekano, na kuwa shupavu, kiasi cha kutozingatia mapenzi ya Mungu, na kuwa na imani bandia (presumption), yaani kujiamini kupita kiasi bila kuzingatia Neno la Mungu, imani bandia, kiburi, kwani dhana hii potofu ni udanganyifu na mbadala wa Shetani wa imani. [Pr 80.4; Maombi Aya ya 40]

Imani hudai ahadi za MUNGU na huzaa matunda ya utii. Dhana potofu, yaani imani bandia pia, hudai ahadi hizo, lakini huzitumia kama Shetani alivyofanya, ili kutetea dhambi/makosa. Imani ingewaongoza wazazi wetu wa kwanza kuamini upendo wa MUNGU na kuzitii amri Zake. Dhana potofu yenye imani bandia, isiyotii mapenzi na Neno la Mungu, iliwaongoza kuvunja sheria Yake, wakiamini kwamba upendo Wake mkuu ungewaokoa kutoka kwenye matokeo ya dhambi zao. Imani haidai upendeleo wa Mbingu bila kufuata masharti ambayo kwayo rehema inapaswa kutolewa. Imani ya kweli ina msingi wake katika ahadi na mpango wa Maandiko. [Pr 80.5; Maombi Aya ya 41]

Kuzungumza juu ya dini kwa namna ya kawaida, kuomba bila njaa ya roho na imani hai, havina faida yoyote. Imani ya Jina tu kwa Kristo, ambayo inampokea Yeye kama Mwokozi wa ulimwengu tu, haiwezi kuleta uponyaji rohani.

Imani inayohusu wokovu sio kukubaliana na ile Kweli kwa akili tu. Yeye ambaye anasubiri maarifa kamili kabla ya kutumia imani, hawezi kupokea baraka kutoka kwa MUNGU. [Pr 81.1; Maombi Aya ya 42]

Haitoshi kuamini kuhusu Kristo; lazima tumwamini Yeye. Imani pekee itakayotunufaisha ni ile inayomkubali Yeye kama Mwokozi wetu binafsi; ambayo inaweka sifa Zake kwetu sisi binafsi. Wengi wanashikilia imani kama maoni. Lakini imani inayookoa ni muamala/dili, ambayo wale wanaompokea Kristo hujiunga katika uhusiano wa agano na MUNGU. Imani ya Kweli ni uzima. Imani hai inamaanisha kuongezeka kwa nguvu, uthabiti wa imani, ambavyo kwa hivyo roho inakuwa uwezo wa ushindi. - (Gospel Workers, 260, 261) [Pr 81.2; Maombi Aya ya 43]

Ombi litashinda Dhidi ya Shetani – Maombi ya imani ni nguvu kubwa ya Mkristo na hakika yatamshinda Shetani. Hii ndiyo sababu yeye anasisitiza kwamba hatuna haja ya maombi/kuomba. Jina la Yesu, Wakili wetu; Ibilisi analichukia na tunapomwendea kwa dhati kwa ajili ya msaada, Jeshi la Shetani linashtushwa kwa hofu. Kusudi lake linatimizwa vizuri pale tunapopuuza mazoea ya kuomba (tabia ya kuomba), kwa kuwa maajabu yake ya uwongo yanapokelewa kwa urahisi zaidi. - (Testimonies for the Church 1:296) [Pr 81.3; Maombi Aya ya 44]

Maombi Huleta Ushindi Mkubwa Zaidi – Ushindi mkubwa uliopatikana kwa sababu ya MUNGU sio matokeo ya uhodari wa kuleta hoja zetu kwa juhudi, au kuwa na vifaa au miundo mbinu ya kutosha, ushawishi mpana, au mali nyingi; bali hupatikana katika chumba cha hadhira na MUNGU, wakati kwa imani ya dhati na bidii, na yenye uchungu, wanadamu wanaushikilia Mkono mkuu wenye nguvu. - (Gospel Workers, 259) [Pr 81.4; Maombi Aya ya 45]

SURA YA 9

NGUVU YA MAOMBI

Maombi huongeza nguvu za Kiroho— Wale wanaomtafuta MUNGU kwa siri wakimwambia Bwana mahitaji yao na kuomba msaada, hawataomba au kutoka bure. "Baba yako aonaye kwa siri Mwenyewe atawapa thawabu." waziwazi. Tunapomfanya Kristo kuwa Mwenzi wetu wa kila siku tutahisi kuwa nguvu za ulimwengu usioonekana zinatuzunguka; na kwa kumtazama Yesu tutafanana na Naye (tutafanana na Sura Yake). Kwa kumtazama tunabadilishwa. Tabia inalainishwa, inasafishwa, na kuboreshwa kwa ajili ya ufalme wa mbinguni. Matokeo ya hakika ya muunganiko wa ushirika na Bwana wetu yatakuwa ni kuongeza ucha MUNGU, usafi wa moyo, na ari/usongo. Kutakuwa na kukua akili kuhusiana na maombi. Tunapata elimu ya Mbingu, na hili linadhihirishwa katika maisha ya uadilifu na ari. [Pr 82.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Roho inayomgeukia MUNGU kwa ajili ya kupata nguvu, msaada (sapoti), na uwezo kwa maombi ya dhati na bidii ya kila siku, itakuwa na matamanio bora, uelewa dhahiri wa

ile Kweli na wajibu, malengo makuu, yaliyo juu zaidi katika utendaji kazi, na itadumu kuwa na njaa na kiu ya haki. Kwa kudumisha muungano na MUNGU, tutawezeshwa kusambaza kwa wengine kupitia ushirika wetu nao, nuru, amani, utulivu, unaotawala mioyoni mwetu. Nguvu inayopatikana katika maombi kwa MUNGU, ikiunganishwa na bidii ya kudumu katika kuifundisha akili kwa makini na kujali, huandaa mtu kwa ajili ya majukumu ya kila siku na huweka roho katika amani chini ya hali zote. -(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 85) [Pr 82.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Nguvu na neema zinaweza kupatikana katika maombi. Upendo wa dhati unapaswa kuwa kanuni inayotawala moyo. - (The Adventist Home, 127) [Pr 83.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Itoe wakfu akili yako kwa ajili ya mambo ya kiroho-akili ikite kwenye mambo ya kiroho. Epusha akili yako na mazoea ya kujitegemea mwenyewe. Palilia na kukuza roho ya kuridhika, yenye uchangamfu. Unazungumza sana juu ya vitu visivyo vya muhimu. Haupati nguvu ya kiroho kutoka katika hayo. Ikiwa nguvu ulizotumia katika kuongea zingetumika katika maombi, ungepokea nguvu za kiroho na ungemuimbia wimbo MUNGU moyoni mwako. - (Testimonies for the Church 2: 434, 435) [Pr 83.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Baraka kuu ambayo MUNGU anaweza kumpa mwanadamu ni roho ya maombi ya dhati. Mbingu zote zimefunguliwa mbele ya mtu wa maombi/ Mabalazi wa Kristo watakuwa na nguvu kwa watu baada ya wao, kwa sala ya dhati, kuja mbele za MUNGU. - (The Review and Herald, Oktoba 20, 1896) [Pr 83.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Hatuthamini Nguvu ya Maombi Kama Tunavyopaswa – Hatuthamini nguvu na ufanisi wa maombi kama tunavyopaswa. Maombi na imani vitafanya kile ambacho hakuna nguvu yoyote duniani inaweza kutimiza. Ni kwa nadra sana katika kila kipengele na hali, sisi tunawekwa katika nafasi ile ile mara mbili. Daima tunakutana na matukio mapya, madhari mpya na majaribio mapya ya kuyashinda, ambapo uzoefu wa zamani hauwezi kuwa mwongozo tosha, katika kusaidia. Lazima tuwe na nuru isiyokoma kutoka kwa MUNGU.- (The Ministry of Healing, 509) [Pr 83.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Maombi Hutuweka Katika Nguvu za MUNGU— Nguvu tunayopata katika maombi kwa MUNGU itatutayarisha kwa ajili ya majukumu yetu ya kila siku. Majaribu ambayo tunaanikwa kwayo katika mazingira ya kila siku hufanya maombi kuwa jambo la lazima. Ili tuweze kulindwa na uweza wa MUNGU kwa njia ya imani, shauku za akili yapaswa kuelekezwa mbinguni daima katika maombi ya siri Wakati tunazungukwa na vishawishi vilifanyiwa mahesabu kutupeleka mbali na MUNGU, maombi yetu ili kupata msaada na nguvu yanapaswa yasichoke. Tofauti na hapo, hatutafanikiwa kamwe katika kuvunja kiburi na kushinda nguvu ya majaribu dhidi ya tamaa za dhambi ambazo hutuweka mbali na Mwokozi. Nuru ya ile Kweli, inayotakasa na kusafisha maisha, itagundua kwa mpokeaji tamaa za dhambi za moyo wake, ambazo zinapigana vita kutawala, na ambazo hufanya iwe muhimu kwake huyu mtu, kutumia akili yote kunyumbulisha na kushinikiza kila nguvu ili kumpinga Shetani ili aweze kuwa mshindi kupitia sifa za Kristo. - (Messages to Young People, 248) [Pr 83.5; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Nguvu ya Mungu Huwangojea Wale Wanaoitaka- Unaweza kuwa na hisia ya kina na ya kudumu ya vitu vya milele na ule upendo kwa wanadamu ambao Kristo ameonyesha katika maisha Yake. Muunganiko wa karibu na mbingu utatoa toni sahihi kwa uadilifu wako na utakuwa msingi wa mafanikio yako. Hisia zako kwamba wewe ni mhitaji na tegemezi zitakusukuma kwenye maombi, na akili yako ya kuzaliwa itakuwajibisha kuwa na bidii. Maombi na bidii, bidii na maombi, vitakuwa shughuli ya maisha yako. Lazima uombe kana kwamba ufanisi na sifa zote zinatokana na MUNGU tu, na kisha ufanye kazi kwa juhudi kubwa kana kwamba jukumu lote ni lako mwenyewe. Ukitaka nguvu unaweza kuwa nazo; inasubiri rasimu yako tu ili uwe nazo (nguvu zinangoja wewe ni kuziagiza kuja kwako). Mwamini tu MUNGU, Mchukue kwa Neno Lake- kama Yeye alivyosema, tenda kwa imani, na baraka zitakuja. -(Testimonies for the Church 4:538, 539) [Pr 84.1; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Hata Ombi Fupi laweza Kuleta Nguvu za Kiroho - "Niliomba," alisema [Nehemia], "kwa MUNGU wa mbinguni." Katika sala hiyo fupi Nehemia alisisitiza mbele ya Mfalme wa wafalme na kushinda nguvu inayoweza kugeuza mioyo

kama mito ya maji inavyoweza kugeuzwa. [Pr 84.2; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Kuomba kama vile Nehemia alivyoomba katika saa yake ya uhitaji ni nyenzo iliyo chini ya uwezo na amri ya Mkristo chini ya hali wakati aina nyingine za maombi zinaweza kuwa haziwekani.— (Prophets and Kings, 631) [Pr 84.3; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Ombi ni siri ya nguvu ya kiroho-Maombi ni pumzi ya roho. Ni siri ya nguvu ya kiroho. Hakuna njia nyingine ya neema inayoweza kuwa mbadala na kisha afya ya roho ikatunzwa salama. Ombi huupatia moyo mawasiliano ya karibu kabisa na Chemchemi ya uhai/uzima, na kuimarisha mshipa na misuli ya uzoefu wa kidini. Puuzia zoezi la sala, au jihusishe na maombi hapa na pale kwa kushtukiza, yaani pale unapojisikia kwamba itakuwa mtelemko kwako, au jinsi unavyojisikia, nawe utapoteza ukaribu wako kwa MUNGU. Vitivo vya kiroho hupoteza nguvu, uzoefu wa kidini hupungukiwa afya na nguvu. - (Messages to Young People, 249, 250) [Pr 84.4; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Maombi Huleta Nguvu Kutoka kwa MUNGU- Nguvu zitatoka kwa MUNGU kwenda kwa mwanadamu kujibu maombi ya imani. - (Testimonies for the Church 4:402) [Pr 85.1; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Maombi Huleta Mafanikio katika pambano dhidi ya Dhambi - Maombi ni njia ya mafanikio iliyowekwa na mbingu katika vita na dhambi na ukuaji wa tabia ya Kikristo. Ushawishi wa Bwana unaokuja ili kujibu ombi la imani utatimiza katika roho ya mwombaji yote ambayo anaomba. Kwa ajili ya msamaha wa dhambi, kwa kupata Roho Mtakatifu, kwa uimara kama wa Kristo, kwa hulka kama ya Kristo, kwa hekima na nguvu ya kufanya kazi Yake, kwa zawadi yoyote ambayo Yeye ameahidi, tunaweza kuomba; na ahadi ni, "Mtapokea." (Matendo 1:8). The Acts of the Apostles, 564 au Matendo ya Mitume [Pr 85.2; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Maombi Hushikilia Nguvu isiyo na Ukomo - Imani ya Kweli na ombi la Kweli— Vina nguvu kubwa kwa kiasi gani! Ni kama mikono miwili ambayo mwombaji wa kibinadamu hutegemea na kushikilia nguvu ya Upendo usio na mwisho. - (Gospel Workers, 259) [Pr 85.3; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Maombi Hutuimarisha Dhidi ya Majaribu ya Shetani – Shetani huwasilisha majaribu mengi kwa vijana. Anacheza mchezo wa maisha kwa ajili ya roho zao, na haachi hata njia moja ya kuwavutia waje kwake na kisha awaharibu (hutumia njia zote zilizopo kuwashawishi waje kwake kwa game of life). Lakini MUNGU hawaachi wapambane bila msaada dhidi ya mshawishi. Binadamu wana Msaidizi Mwenye nguvu zinazopita nguvu za adui, Yeye ambaye aliishi katika ulimwengu huu na katika maumbile ya kibinadamu alikutana na Shetani na kumshinda, Yeye anasukumilia mbali na kupinga kila jaribu linalowapata vijana leo. Yeye ni Kaka/Ndugu Yao mkubwa. Ana shauku huruma nyororo na ya kina kwao. Yeye Anaweka juu yao uangalizi wa kila wakati, na anafurahi wanapojaribu kumpendeza. Wanapoomba, Yeye huchanganya maombi yao na uvumba wa haki Yake, na kuyawasilisha kwa MUNGU kama dhabihu yenye manukato mazuri. Kwa nguvu Zake vijana wanaweza kuvumilia ugumu kama askari wazuri wa msalaba. Wakiwa wameimarishwa na nguvu Zake, wamewezeshwa kufikia malengo ya juu yaliyoko mbele yao (wanaweza kabisa kuyafikia). Dhabihu iliyotolewa juu ya Kalvari ni ahadi ya ushindi wao. -(Messages to Young People, 95, 96) [Pr 85.4; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Maombi Yetu Hukifikia Kiti cha Enzi cha MUNGU– Kwa maombi yako ya dhati, ya bidii na imani, unaweza kuusogeza Mkono unaoendesha/unaousogeza ulimwengu. Unaweza kuwafundisha watoto wako kuomba kwa ufanisi wanapopiga magoti kando yako. Acha maombi yako yaende kwenye kiti cha enzi cha MUNGU, "Uwasamehe watu Wako, Ee Bwana, wala usiwape urithi Wako wakoaji, ili mataifa wasiwatawale; wasije kusema miongoni mwao, Yuko wapi MUNGU wao?" [Pr 86.1; Maombi Aya ya 16]

MUNGU Yuko kazini. Yeye hufanya maajabu, na ingawa Yuko juu na ameinuliwa juu na kutukuka, maombi yanaweza kufikikia kiti Chake cha enzi. Yeye anayegeuza-geuza na kupindua-pindua, Yeye anayeweza kufanya mambo ya ajabu, atasikia na kuzingatia maombi ya toba ya imani kutoka kwa watoto Wake wanyenyekevu. - (The Review and Herald, Aprili 23, 1889) [Pr 86.2; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Sauti Zetu Hulifikia Sikio La MUNGU– Neno ambalo lilisemwa kwa Yesu huko Yordani, "Huyu ni Mwanangu

mpendwa, ambaye nimependezwa Naye," linaukumbatia ubinadamu wote. MUNGU alizungumza na Yesu kama Mwakilishi wetu. Pamoja na dhambi zetu zote na udhaifu, hatutelekezwi kama watu wasio na thamani. "Yeye Ametufanya tukubalike katika "Mpendwa." Waefeso 1: 6. Utukufu ambao ulikaa juu ya Kristo ni ahadi ya Mungu ya upendo kwetu sisi. Unatuambia juu ya nguvu ya maombi, - jinsi sauti ya mwanadamu inavyoweza kufikia sikio la MUNGU, na maombi yetu yanapata kukubalika katika kumbi za mbinguni. Kwaajili ya dhambi, dunia ilikatiliwa mbali kutoka mbinguni, na kutengwa na ushirika wa mbingu; lakini Yesu ameiunganisha dunia tena na duru ya utukufu. Upendo Wake umemzunguka mwanadamu, na umefikia mbingu ya juu zaidi. Nuru ambayo ilianguka kutoka kwenye milango wazi juu ya kichwa cha Mwokozi wetu itatuangukia tunapoomba msaada wa kupinga majaribu. Sauti ambayo ilizungumza na Yesu inamwambia kila mtu anayeamini, Huyu ni mwanangu/mtoto Wangu mpendwa, ambaye nimependezwa Naye. - (The Desire of Ages, 113) [Pr 86.3; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Tunahitaji Kupigana mieleka na MUNGU katika Maombi – Je! Tutaendeleza kazi katika njia ya Bwana? Je! Tuko tayari kufundishwa na MUNGU? Je! Tutapigana mieleka na MUNGU katika maombi? Je! Tutapokea ubatizo wa Roho Mtakatifu? Hii ndio tunayohitaji na tunaweza kuwa nayo wakati huu. Ndipo tutakapokwenda na ujumbe kutoka kwa Bwana, na nuru ya ile Kweli itang'aa kama taa inayowaka, huku ikifika sehemu zote za ulimwengu. Ikiwa tutatembea kwa unyenyekevu na MUNGU, Mungu atatembea nasi. Hebu na tunyenyekeze roho zetu, na tutaona wokovu Wake. - (The Review and Herald, Julai 1, 1909) [Pr 87.1; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Ushindi Mkubwa Zaidi hupatikana kupitia Maombi ya Dhati na bidii – Ayubu alishinda kwa sababu alikuwa mvumilivu na aliyeazimia. Uzoefu wake unathibitisha nguvu ya maombi ya kudiriki na yasiyochoka. Ni wakati huu ndio ambao tunapaswa kujifunza somo hili la maombi yanayoshinda, yasiyochoka, na yenye imani isiyokubali kushindwa, inayongoja matokeo kwa uvumilivu. Ushindi mkubwa kwa kanisa la Kristo au kwa Mkristo mmoja mmoja, sio ule unaopatikana kwa talanta, kisomo, elimu, utajiri, au upendeleo wa watu. Bali ni ushindi ule ambao

hupatikana katika chumba cha hadhira na MUNGU ambaye ni Mfalme, wakati imani yenye unyofu, bidii, na uchungu moyoni, inategemea na kuushika Mkono wa Mungu Mkuu Mwenye nguvu. [Pr 87.2; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Wale ambao hawataki kuacha kila dhambi na kutafuta kwa bidii baraka ya MUNGU, hawataipata. Lakini wote watakaoshika ahadi za MUNGU kama alivyofanya Yakobo, na kuwa na bidii, unyofu, na uvumilivu kama yeye, watafaulu kama alivyofaulu. - (Patriarchs and Prophets, 203) [Pr 87.3; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Sifa na Shukrani huleta Nguvu kwenye Maombi yetu – Je! Mazoezi yetu yote ya ibada yote ni lazima yawe katika kuomba na kupewa au kupokea tu? Je! Daima sisi tufikirie mahitaji yetu tu bila hata ya kufikiria faida/manufaa ambayo tumeyapokea tayari? Je! Tutakuwa wapokeaji wa rehema Zake tu na kamwe tusiwe wenye roho ya shukrani, na kumsifu kwa kile ambacho Yeye Mungu ametutendea? Sisi huwa hatuna maombi mengi (wala hatuombi sana), ila shukurani zetu ni chache mno. Ikiwa upendo wa MUNGU utaleta shukrani zaidi na sifa, tutakuwa na nguvu zaidi katika maombi. Sisi tungefungamana zaidi katika upendo wa MUNGU na kupata kitu kitakatochotusaidia kumtukuza. Wewe ambaye unalalamika kwamba MUNGU hasikii maombi yako, badilisha utaratibu wako wa sasa na uchanganye sifa katika maombi yako. Unapozingatia wema na rehema Zake utagundua kuwa atazingatia matakwa yako. [Pr 87.4; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Omba, omba kwa dhati na bidii na bila kukoma, lakini usisahau kumsifu Mungu (Kusifu). - (Testimonies for the Church 5:317) [Pr 88.1; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Nguvu ya Maombi Huleta Matunda katika Kazi Yetu kwa MUNGU— Wale walio katika giza la makosa ni ununuzi uliopatikana kwa gharama ya damu ya Kristo. Wao ni matunda ya mateso Yake, na wanapaswa kufanyiwa kazi. Hebu wainjilisti wa vitabu wajue kwamba wanafanya kazi kwa bidii kwa ajili ya kuendeleza ufalme wa Kristo. Wanapoendelea na kazi waliyopewa na MUNGU, Yeye atawafundisha kwenda kuuonya ulimwengu juu ya hukumu inayokuja hivi karibuni. Ikiandamana pamoja na nguvu ya ushawishi, nguvu ya maombi, na nguvu ya upendo wa MUNGU, kazi ya mwinjilisti wala haitakuwa, na haiwezi

kuwa bila matunda. Fikiria ni kiasi gani Baba na Mwana wanaijali na kuionea shauku kazi hii. Kama vile Baba ampendavyo Mwana, vivyo hivyo na Mwana huwapenda walio Wake--wale wanaofanya kazi hii, kama Yeye Alivyofanya kazi ili kuokoa roho zinazoangamia. Hakuna anayehitaji kuhisi kuwa hana nguvu: kwa maana Kristo anatangaza, "Nimepewa mamlaka yote mbinguni na duniani." Naye Ameahidi kwamba atawapa nguvu hii watendakazi Wake. Nguvu Zake zitakuwa nguvu zao.- (Colporteur Ministry, 108) [Pr 88.2; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Shetani Hawezi Kumshinda Mtu Wa Maombi (Mtu anayesali) - Adui hawezi kumshinda mwanafunzi mnyenyekevu wa Kristo, yule ambaye anatembea kwa maombi mbele za Bwana. Kristo anaingilia kati Mwenyewe kama mlinzi/kivuli, kimbilio, dhidi ya mashambulio ya yule mwovu. Ahadi imetolewa, "Wakati adui atakapokuja kama mafuriko, Roho wa Bwana atainua viwango dhidi yake." ... Hakuna nguvu katika misukumo yote ya kishetani ambazo zinaweza kulemaza roho inayotegemea, kwa ujasiri yakinifu na sahili, katika hekima inayotoka kwa MUNGU. - (My Life Today, 316) [Pr 88.3; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Maombi Huleta Nguvu za kupinga Jaribu -Tusipoomba bila kukoma na kukesha kwa bidii, tuko katika hatari ya kuzembea zaidi, na kuchepuka kutoka katika njia sahihi. Kila wakati adui anatafuta kuziba njia iendayo kwenye Kiti cha Rehema, ili tusipate neema na nguvu ya kupinga majaribu kwa ombi la dhati na imani. - (Steps to Christ, 93, 94) [Pr 89.1; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Kupuuzia Maombi na Kujifunza Biblia Kunatufanya Tuwe katika hatari ya kuingia majaribuni- Majaribu mara nyingi huonekana kuwa hayazuiliki/hayapingiki kwa sababu, kupitia kupuuzia maombi na kusoma Biblia, mtu anayejaribiwa hawezi kukumbuka ahadi za MUNGU kwa haraka na kumkabili Shetani kwa silaha za Maandiko. Lakini malaika wanawazunguka wale ambao wako tayari kufundishwa au kufundishika katika mambo ya Mbingu/Kiungu; na wakati wa uhitaji mkubwa, watawakumbusha Kweli zile ambazo zinahitajika. - (The Great Controversy, 600) [Pr 89.2; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Shetani anaogopa kwa kutetemeka tukiwa tunaomba - Kuna nguvu kubwa katika maombi. Adui yetu mkuu anatafuta kila mara kuiweka roho inayofadhaika mbali na MUNGU. Ombi la mtakatifu mnyenyekevu, linapoenda Mbinguni, linaogopwa na Shetani (linampa homa au fadhaa), na linampa kutetemeka na hofu, kuliko amri za mabaraza au maagizo ya wafalme. - (In Heavenly Places, 82) [Pr 89.3; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Chanzo cha Nguvu katika nyakati za Matengenezo ya kanisa kilikuwa ni Maombi - Kutoka mahali pa siri pa maombi kulikuja nguvu ambayo ilitikisa ulimwengu katika Matengenezo Makubwa. Hapo, kwa utulivu mtakatifu, watumishi wa Bwana waliweka miguu yao juu ya mwamba wa ahadi Zake. Wakati wa mapambano huko mji wa Augsburg, Luther "hakupitisha siku bila kutenga angalau masaa matatu kwaajili ya maombi, na haya yalikuwa masaa yaliyochaguliwa katika yale masaa bora ya kujisomea/kujifunza." Katika faragha ya chumba chake alisikika akimimina roho yake mbele za MUNGU kwa maneno "yaliyojaa ibada ya sifa, kicho, hofu, na matumaini, kama vile ambavyo mtu anapozungumza na rafiki yake." (The Great Controversy, 210) [Pr 89.4; Maombi Aya ya 29]

SURA YA 10

SABABU ZA KUOMBA

Huangazia Akili ijue Ukweli Ni Nini – Je, ni kwanini hatupokei zaidi kutoka Kwake ambaye Ndiye chanzo cha nuru na nguvu? Ni kwa vile "Tunatarajia kidogo sana." Je! MUNGU amepoteza upendo Wake kwa mwanadamu? Je! Upendo Wake hauendelei tena kububujika hapa chini duniani? Je, Yeye Amepoteza shauku Yake ya kujionyesha Mwenye nguvu kwa niaba ya watu Wake? (2Mambo ya

Nyakati 16;9). Kristo atatupa ushindi katika vita. Ni nani anayeweza kutilia shaka hili wakati tunajua kwamba Yeye aliweka kando vazi Lake na taji Yake ya kifalme, kisha akaja ulimwenguni kwa vazi la ubinadamu, ili asimame kama mbadala na mdhamini wa mwanadamu? [Pr 90.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Hatuthamini nguvu na ufanisi wa maombi kama tunavyopaswa. "Roho Naye hutusaidia udhaifu wetu; kwa maana hatujui kuomba kama itupasavyo; lakini Roho Mwenyewe hutuombea kwa kuugua kwingi, yaani uchungu mkubwa usioelezeka." MUNGU anatutaka tuje Kwake katika maombi, ili aziangazie akili zetu. Yeye peke yake Ndiye anayeweza kutupa dhana wazi za Ukweli. Yeye peke yake Ndiye anayeweza kulainisha na kutiisha moyo. Yeye Anaweza kutuhuisha ili kuharakisha uelewa wa kutambua Ukweli dhidi ya uwongo. Yeye Anaweza kuiweka kwenye msingi mwema akili inayotetereka, na kuipatia maarifa na imani ambayo itavumilia mtihani. Omba basi; omba bila kukoma. Bwana aliyesikia maombi ya Danieli, atasikia yako pia ikiwa utamwendea kama Danieli alivyofanya. - (The Review and Herald, Machi 24, 1904) [Pr 90.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Yanatutambulisha kwa Baba – Oh jamani, Je sisi tunamjua MUNGU jinsi tunavyopaswa kumjua? Ni faraja iliyoje, furaha iliyoje, tunayopaswa kuwa nayo ikiwa tungejifunza kila siku masomo ambayo Yeye anataka tujifunze! Lazima tumjue Yeye kwa ujuzi wa vitendo. Itakuwa faida kwetu kutumia muda mwingi katika maombi ya siri, ili tuelekee kwenye safari ya kumjua binafsi, Baba yetu wa mbinguni. - (Medical Ministry, 102) [Pr 91.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Hutuunganisha sisi kwa sisi na sisi na MUNGU- Maombi yanatuunganisha sisi kwa sisi na MUNGU. Maombi humleta Yesu upande wetu, na huipa roho iliyozimia, na kufadhaika nguvu mpya ya kuushinda ulimwengu, mwili, na Shetani. Maombi huyaweka kando mashambulio ya Shetani. - (Christ's Object Lessons, 250) [Pr 91.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Hutusaidia kupinga majaribu- Hivi ni kwanini wana na binti za MUNGU wanasitasita kuomba, wakati maombi ni ufunguo katika mkono wa imani ili kufungua hazina/ghala la mbinguni, mahali ambako zimetunzwa hazina tele za

Mweza wa Yote? - (Steps to Christ, 94) Bila maombi yasiyokoma na kukesha kwa bidii na uadilifu, tuko katika hatari ya kuzembea zaidi, na kupotoka/kuchepuka kutoka kwenye njia sahihi. Daima adui anatafuta kufunga njia ya kuelekea kwenye Kiti cha Rrehema, ili kwa dua ya dhati na imani tusiweze kupata neema na nguvu ya kupinga majaribu. - (Steps to Christ, 93, 94) [Pr 91.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Kristo Ndiye tumaini letu pekee. Njoo kwa MUNGU kwa Jina la Yeye Yule aliyetoa uhai Wake kwa ajili ya uhai/uzima wa ulimwengu. Itumainie dhabihu ya ufanisi Wake. Onyesha kwamba upendo Wake, furaha Yake, imo ndani ya roho yako, na kwa sababu ya hili, furaha yako imesheheni na ni kamili. MUNGU Ndiye Nguvu zetu. Omba sana/mno. Maombi ni uhai wa roho. Maombi ya imani ni silaha ambayo kwayo tunaweza kufanikiwa kwa ukamilifu kupinga kila shambulio la adui. - (Selected Messages 1:88) [Pr 91.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Hutuandaa kwa ajili ya Ushirika katika Kanisa la Huko juu – Kwa ile roho nyenyekevu, na inayoamini, nyumba ya MUNGU duniani ni lango la mbinguni. Wimbo wa Kumsifu Mungu, Sala, na maneno yaliyonenwa na wawakilishi wa Kristo, ni wakala ulioteuliwa na MUNGU kwaajili ya kuwaandaa watu kwa ajili ya kanisa lililo juu, kwa ajili ibada hiyo iliyotukuka juu zaidi ambako chochote kilicho najisi/kichafu kamwe hakiwezi kuingia. - (Testimonies for the Church 5:491) [Pr 91.5; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Huimarisha Usadikisho wetu- Kila siku Usadikisho wetu unahitaji kuimarishwa kwa ombi la unyenyekevu, ombi la dhati na kusoma Neno. Ingawa kila mmoja ana upekee wake, na ijapokuwa kila mmoja wetu anapaswa kushikilia usadikisho yaani imani yake kwa uthabiti, lazima sote tuishike kama Kweli ya MUNGU na katika nguvu ambayo MUNGU Mwenyewe hutoa, tusipofanya hivyo, zitakamuliwa kwa ujeuri ili zitoke nje ya ufahamu wetu. - (Testimonies for the Church 6:401) nje ya ufahamu wetu. [Pr 92.1; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Hutupa/Hutoa Mahitaji ya Muda – Kila ahadi katika Neno la MUNGU huja kwetu na mada ya kuombea, ikileta Neno la Yehova lililoahidiwa kama dhamana/uhakikisho wetu. haijalishi Baraka yoyote ya kiroho tunayoihitaji, sisi

tumependelewa kuiomba kupitia Yesu. Tunaweza kumwambia Bwana, kwa usahili na unyenyekevu wa mtoto, kile tunachohitaji haswa (tubainishe). Tunaweza kumwambia mambo yetu ya muda mfupi, ya hapa duniani, tukimwomba mkate na mavazi na Mkate wa Uzima na Vazi la haki ya Kristo. Baba yetu wa mbinguni anajua kuwa tunahitaji vitu hivi vyote, na sisi tumealikwa kumuomba juu ya vyote. Ni kupitia kwa Jina la Yesu ndiyo kila neema hupokelewa/hutolewa. MUNGU ataheshimu Jina hilo, na atakidhi mahitaji yako kutoka katika utajiri wa ukarimu Wake. –(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 133) [Pr 92.2; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Kila nafsi ina upendeleo/fursa ya kumwambia Bwana mahitaji yake maalum na kuleta shukrani zake binafsi kwa baraka ambazo hupokea kila siku. - (Testimonies for the Church 9:278, 279) [Pr 92.3; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Hayatoi Habari Mpya kwa MUNGU- Maombi au Sala havieleweki kama inavyopaswa kueleweka. Kusali sio kumpasha MUNGU habari ambazo Yeye hazijui. Bwana anazifahamu fika siri za kila roho. Maombi yetu hayapaswi kuwa marefu na yenye sauti ya juu (kubwa). MUNGU anasoma mawazo yaliyofichika ndani. Tunaweza kuomba kwa siri, na Yeye anayeona sirini atasikia, na atatupatia thawabu hadharani. - (Messages to Young People, 247) [Pr 92.4; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Uwepo wa Neema ya kila siku Umetolewa— Wale ambao wakati wa Pentekoste walivikwa na uwezo kutoka juu, hawakuepushwa au kuwa huru dhidi ya majaribu na mitihani inayokuja mbeleni. Waliposhuhudia Ukweli na haki, walishambuliwa mara kwa mara na adui wa ile Kweli Yote, ambaye alitaka kuuteka ujuzi na uzoefu wao wa Kikristo. Walilazimika kuweka jitihada kwa nguvu zao zote walizopewa na MUNGU ili kufikia kimo cha mfano wa wanaume na wanawake walio katika Kristo Yesu. Kila siku waliomba msaada wa ugavi mpya wa neema, ili waweze kufika juu zaidi na kwenda juu zaidi tena kuelekea kwenye ukamilifu. Chini ya utendaji kazi wa Roho Mtakatifu, hata yule aliye dhaifu sana, kwa kuizoesha na kuitumia imani kwa MUNGU, alijifunza kuboresha uwezo aliokabidhiwa na kutakaswa, kusafishwa, na kuboreshwa/kuheshimishwa. Kwa unyenyekevu walitii ushawishi wa Roho Mtakatifu, wakapokea utimilifu wa Uungu na

wakaumbwa/wakafinyangwa kwa mfano wa MUNGU. - (The Acts of the Apostles, 49, 50) [Pr 92.5; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Hekima inatolewa - Lazima tutafute hekima kutoka juu ili tuweze kusimama katika siku hii ya leo ya makosa, upotofu na udanganyifu. - (Early Writings, 87, 88) [Pr 93.1; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Omba kwa bidii sana kwa ajili ya ufahamu wa nyakati tunamoishi, kwa ajili ya dhana kamili ya kusudi Lake, na kwa ufanisi zaidi katika kuokoa roho. -(Selected Messages 2:399) [Pr 93.2; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Ubatizo wa Roho Mtakatifu tuliopewa - wajumbe waaminifu wa MUNGU wanapaswa kutafuta kuendelea na kazi ya Bwana kwa njia Yake iliyoteuliwa. Wanapaswa kujiweka karibu na Mwalimu Mkuu, ili waweze kufundishwa kila siku kuhusu MUNGU. Wanapaswa kupigana mieleka na MUNGU katika maombi ya dhati kwa ajili ya ubatizo wa Roho Mtakatifu ili waweze kukidhi mahitaji ya ulimwengu unaopotea katika dhambi. Nguvu zote zinaahidiwa kwa wale wanaokwenda kwa imani kutangaza injili ya milele. Wakati watumishi wa MUNGU wanapobeba ujumbe hai kwenda kwenye ulimwengu kutoka katika kiti cha enzi cha utukufu, nuru ya Ukweli itang'aa kama taa inayowaka, ikifika sehemu zote za ulimwengu. Kwa hivyo giza la upotovu na kutokuamini vitaondolewa kutoka katika akili za watu waaminifu katika nchi zote, ambao sasa wanamtafuta MUNGU, "Labda watamtafuta, na kumpata." - (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Wafanyakazi, 459, 460) [Pr 93.3; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Mahitaji ya leo Yanakidhiwa kwetu- Kweli ya MUNGU iliyopokelewa moyoni ina uwezo wa kukufanya uwe na hekima katika wokovu. Kwa kuamini na kuitii, wewe utapokea neema ya kutosha kwa ajili ya majukumu na majaribu ya leo. Hauhitaji Neema ya kesho. Unapaswa kuhisi kuwa unahusiana na kushugulika na leo tu. Pata ushindi leo; jikane leo; kesho na uombe leo; jipatie ushindi kwa MUNGU leo. - (Testimonies for the Church 3:333) [Pr 93.4; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Mahitaji ya Kazi ya MUNGU yanatolewa kwetu kwetu- (Mungu anatupa mahitaji ya kazi Yake)-Mahitaji/Masilahi anuwai ya msingi hutupatia chakula cha kutafakari na msukumo kwa ajili ya maombi yetu (Yote tunayoyahitaji ili

kufanya kazi ya Mungu huwa tunayafikiria kwa kina, basi hii itupe nguvu ya kuyaombea mahitaji haya, baada ya kuyacheua). - (Testimonies for the Church 4:459) [Pr 94.1; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Maombi Yaliyojibiwa ni Msingi wa Sifa na Shukrani (Sababu tosha ya Kububujika Shukrani) -Katika sura ya pili ya 1Samweli imeandikwa sala ya mwanamke aliyejitoa wakfu na ambaye alimtumikia na kumtukuzwa MUNGU. Huyu Aliomba: "Moyo wangu wamshangilia BWANA, Pembe yangu imetukuka katika BWANA, Kinywa changu kimepanuka juu ya adui zangu; Kwa kuwa naufurahia wokovu Wako". Hakuna mtakatifu kama Bwana, kwa kuwa hakuna mwingine isipokuwa Yeye, wala hakuna mwamba kama MUNGU wetu." Kutoa shukrani kwa Hana kwa ajili ya jibu la maombi yake ni somo kwa wale ambao leo wanapokea majibu ya maombi yao. Je! Sisi hatupuzii/tunapuuzia kurudisha sifa na shukrani kwa Mungu kwa fadhili Zake? [Pr 94.2; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Daudi anatangaza, "Nampenda Bwana, kwa sababu amesikia sauti yangu na dua zangu. Kwa sababu amenitegea sikio Lake, kwa hivyo nitamwita siku zote za maisha yangu." Wema wa MUNGU katika kusikia na kujibu maombi hutuweka chini ya jukumu zito la kutoa shukrani zetu kwa upendeleo na neema tulizopewa. Tunapaswa kumsifu MUNGU zaidi kuliko tunavyofanya sasa. Baraka zilizopokelewa katika jibu la maombi zinapaswa kutambuliwa mara moja. Kumbukumbu zake zinapaswa kuwekwa katika shajara yetu (diary), ili tunapokishika kitabu mkononi, tuweze kukumbuka wema wa Bwana, na kulisifu Jina Lake takatifu. - (The Review and Herald, Mei 7, 1908) [Pr 95.3; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Tabia zetu zinaweza Kubadilishwa — Mabadiliko tunayohitaji ni mabadiliko ya moyo, na yanaweza kupatikana tu kwa kumtafuta MUNGU, na ili kupata badiliko lolote, mtu binafsi, anapaswa kumtafuta Mungu yeye mwenyewe, kwa ajili ya baraka Zake, kwa kumwomba Yeye kwa ajili ya nguvu Zake, kwa kuomba kwa bidii ili neema Yake itujie, na kwamba tabia zetu zinaweza kubadilishwa. Haya ndiyo mabadiliko tunayohitaji leo, na ili kupata uzoefu huu tunapaswa kutumia nguvu ya kudumu na kuonyesha bidii ya dhati moyoni. Tunapaswa kuuliza kwa dhati, kwa unyofu wa moyo- tukiwa wakweli, "Nifanye

nini ili niokolewe?" Lazima tujue ni hatua zipi tunazichukua ili kuelekea mbinguni ITunapaswa kujua ni yapi ya kufanya ili tueleke mbinguni. - (Selected Messages 1:187) [Pr 94.4; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Uelewa wetu wa Neno la MUNGU utapanuliwa— Hakuna mtu aliye salama hata kwa siku moja au saa bila maombi. Hakika tunapaswa kumwomba Bwana kwa ajili ya hekima ya kulielewa Neno Lake. Hapa Unafunuliwa ujanja na hila zake mshawishi na zile mbinu ambazo anaweza kupingwa kwa mafanikio. Shetani ni mtaalam aliyebobea katika kunukuu Maandiko, akiweka tafsiri yake mwenyewe juu ya Aya ambazo anatarajia kutufanya sisi tujikwae. Tunapaswa kujifunza Biblia kwa unyenyekevu wa moyo, bila kupoteza mtazamo wetu juu ya utegemezi wetu kwa MUNGU. Ingawa inabidi tujilinde kila wakati dhidi ya hila mahiri za Shetani, tunapaswa kuomba kwa imani daima: "Usitutie kwenye majaribu." The Great Controversy, 530) [Pr 95.1; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Biblia haifai kusomwa bila maombi. Roho Mtakatifu Ndiye peke yake anaweza kutufanya tuhisi umuhimu wa vile tunavyovisoma kueleweka, au kutuepusha kuunyagua ule Ukweli mgumu katika ufahamu ili uendane na matakwa yetu. Ni kazi ya ofisi ya malaika wa mbinguni kuandaa mioyo ili kulielewa Neno la MUNGU ili tuweze tuvutiwe na uzuri Wake kama sumaku inavyovuta, tukishauriwa na maonyo Yake, au kuhuishwa, kuchangamshwa na kuimarishwa na ahadi Zake. Tunapaswa kufanya ombi la mwandishi wa-Zaburi kuwa letu wenyewe: "Fungua macho yangu, ili nipate kuona maajabu ya sheria Yako." Zaburi 119:18. Majaribu mara nyingi huonekana kuwa hayapingiki kwa sababu, kupitia kupuuza maombi na kusoma Biblia, mtu aliyejaribiwa hawezi kukumbuka ahadi za MUNGU kwa urahisi na kukutana na Shetani akiwa na silaha za Maandiko. Lakini malaika wanawazunguka wale ambao wako tayari kufundishwa katika mambo ya Bwana/mbingu; na wakati wa ulazima mkubwa au muafaka, watawakumbusha Kweli zile ambazo zinahitajika. Kwa hivyo "wakati adui atakapokuja kama mafuriko, Roho wa Bwana atainua kiwango dhidi yake." Isaya 59: 19— (The Great Controversy, 599, 600) [Pr 95.2; Maombi Aya ya 22]

SURA YA 11

MAOMBI YALIYOJIBIWA

MUNGU Atajibu, ikiwa tutaomba- Hekima ya ulimwengu inafundisha kwamba maombi sio jambo la lazima. Wanasayansi wanadai kuwa hakuna jibu halisi kwa sala; kwamba hii itakuwa ukiukaji wa sheria, yaani muujiza, na kwamba miujiza haipo. Wao husema kwamba Ulimwengu wote (Sayari zote au universe), unasimamiwa na sheria zisizobadilika, na hata MUNGU Mwenyewe hafanyi chochote kinyume na sheria hizi. Kwa hivyo wanamwakilisha MUNGU akiwa amefungwa na sheria Zake mwenyewe-kana kwamba kuendelea kwa utendaji wa sheria za Bwana kunamwondolea Yeye uhuru Wake kama Mungu (Uungu unakosa uhuru na uwezo kufanya unavyotaka). Mafundisho hayo yanapingana na ushuhuda wa Maandiko. Je! Miujiza haikufanywa na Kristo na mitume Wake? Mwokozi Huyu Huyu Mwenye huruma anaishi leo, na Yeye Yuko tayari kusikiliza maombi ya imani kama vile alipotembea waziwazi na akaonekana kwa macho miongoni mwa wanadamu. Maumbile ya asilia hushirikiana na nguvu za Mungu zipitizao nguvu zote, kutenda miujiza. Ni sehemu ya mpango wa MUNGU kutupatia sisi kwa kuyajibu maombi ya imani, yale ambayo Yeye asingetupatia kama tusingemwuliza/tusingemwomba {Leo kuna utafiti mwingi sana wa kisayansi unaopitia hatua 5 za sayansi, kuhusu ufanisi wa maombi, mfano, wagonjwa wa moyo katika hospitali moja wamechukuliwa kwa utafiti, na wakagawa makundi mawili, wagonjwa wa kundi la kwanza hawakuombea na kundi la pili, la wagonjwa likaombewa, majibu ya utafiti yaliyonyesha matokeo tofauti, na walipojaribu tena wakaona hivyo hivyo, kwamba kundi lililombewa watu walipona haraka, walikaa hospitalini

muda mfupi, na hata wengine hawakuhitaji upasuaji! Haya yameandikwa kwenye magazeti maarufu kama vile Times, New York Times, Newsweek, British Medical Journal nk Japokuwa hii si sababu yetu Wakristo kuamini kwamba maombi yanafanya kazi, kwani tunaamini kile Neno la Mungu limesema, Biblia imesema na hiyo inasawazisha yote! Njia za Mungu hazichunguziki, nami siyo lazima nizijue kwa kinagaubaga! Baada ya dhambi Mungu hakuzungumza na mwanadamu uso kwa uso, ila anazungumza nasi kwa maombi. Hata hivyo mimi nisingependa kuwa mgonjwa nisiyeombewa kwaajili ya majaribio au utafiti wa watu fulani wakana-Mungu, je, wewe ungependa iwe hivyo kwako?} (The Great Controversy, 525) [Pr 96.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Unapopata fursa ya kukutana na ndugu zako kanisani, waambie juu ya umuhimu wa kuweka wazi mfereji wa mawasiliano kati ya MUNGU na roho/moyo. Waambie kwamba ikiwa watakuwa/watapata moyo na sauti ya kuomba, basi MUNGU pia atapata/atakuwa na majibu kwa maombi yao. Waambie wasipuuze majukumu yao ya kidini/kiroho. Wahimize na kuwatia moyo ndugu zako kusali. Lazima tutafute ikiwa tutapata, lazima tuombe ikiwa tutapokea, lazima tubishe hodi ikiwa tutafunguliwa mlango. - (The Signs of the Times, Februari 10, 1890) [Pr 96.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Yesu hatuiti tumfuate, na kisha atutelekeze. Ikiwa tusalimisha maisha yetu kwa ajili ya huduma Yake, basi hatuwezi kamwe kuwekwa katika nafasi ambayo MUNGU hajaandaa majaliwa/mipango Yake. Katika hali yetu yoyote, tuna Mwongozo wa kuongoza njia yetu; katika shida zetu zozote, sisi tunaye Mshauri wa kweli; katika huzuni yetu yote, kufiwa, au upweke, tunaye Rafiki anayetuhurumia. Hata pale tunapofanya makosa pasipo kujua, kwasababu ya ujinga wetu, Kristo hatuachi [Pr 97.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Na mkiwa na imani, chochote mtakachoomba katika sala, mtapata." [Mathayo 21:22.] - (Gospel Workers, 263) [Pr 97.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Baraka za MUNGU zitakuja kama matokeo ya Imani ya Unyenyekevu -Uhusiano wa karibu na mbingu utatoa toni/mwitikio sahihi kwa uadilifu wako na utakuwa msingi

wa mafanikio yako. Hisia zako za utegemezi zitakusukuma kwenye sala, na kuhisi kwako kuwajibika kutakupelekea kufanya jitihada za dharura. Maombi na bidii, bidii na maombi, vitakuwa biashara/shughuli ya maisha yako. Lazima uombe kana kwamba ufanisi na sifa zote zinategemea na utendaji wa MUNGU tu, na kufanya kazi kana kwamba jukumu ni lako wewe mwenyewe tu. Ukitaka nguvu unaweza kuwa nayo; inasubiri rasimu/amri yako tu. Mwamini MUNGU tu, muendee kwa Neno Lake, tenda kwa imani, na baraka zitakuja. [Pr 97.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Katika suala hili, uwezo wa akili mahiri za asili kwenye ubongo (genius), mantiki, na ufasaha/umbuji havitafaulu. Wale ambao wana unyenyekevu, wanamtegemea Mungu, na wenye moyo uliopondeka, MUNGU huwakubali, na husikia maombi yao; na MUNGU anaposaidia, vikwazo vyote vitaondolewa. Ni watu wangapi wenye uwezo mkubwa wa asili, talaluma/elimu ya hali ya juu wameshindwa walipowekwa katika nafasi za uwajibikaji, wakati wale wa akili dhaifu, na mazingira duni zaidi, wamefanikiwa kupindukia. Siri ni: Wale wenye uwezo wa asili na elimu, walijiamini wao wenyewe, wakati wale dhaifu waliungana na Yeye ambaye ni Mshauri wa Ajabu na Jemedari hodari katika kufanya kazi kutimiza Yale ambayo amepanga kutokana na mapenzi Yake. – (Testimonies for the Church 4:538, 539) [Pr 97.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Maombi rahisi ambayo yamesukumwa na Roho Mtakatifu, yatapanda kupitia malango wazi, mlango ulio wazi ambao Kristo ametangaza: Nimefungua malango, na hakuna mtu anayeweza kuyafunga. Maombi haya, yaliyochanganywa na uvumba wa ukamilifu wa Kristo, yatapanda kama manukato kwa Baba, na majibu yatakuja. –(Testimonies for the Church 6:467) [Pr 97.5; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Maombi ya Unyenyekevu na Imani kama ya Mtoto Yatajibiwa - "Ikiwa mtu yeyote ana kiu, na aje Kwangu anywe." Lakini atakayekunywa maji nitakayompa Mimi, hataona kiu milele. Maji nitakayompa yatakuwa ndani yake chemchemi ya maji ya uzima na kumpatia uzima wa milele." Yohana 7:37; Yohana 4:14. [Pr 98.1; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Ikiwa, pamoja na ahadi hizi mbele yetu, sisi tunachagua kubaki wakavu-wakavu na kuwa na kiu kwa kukosa maji ya uzima, ni kosa letu wenyewe. Ikiwa tungekuja kwa Kristo tukiwa na unyenyekevu kama wa mtoto anavyokwenda kwa wazazi wake wa kidunia, na kuomba vitu ambavyo ameahidi, tukiamini kwamba tunavipokea, hakika tutakuwa navyo. - (Testimonies for the Church 9:179) [Pr 98.2; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Omba na Amini – MUNGU hasemi, Omba mara moja, nawe utapata. Yeye anatusihi sisi tuombe. Tuendeleo kuomba bila kupata uchovu au kukosa uvumilivu. Kudumu katika maombi kunamleta mwombaji katika kujibidisha zaidi, na kumpa shauku ya dhati zaidi, na kuongeza matamano ya kupokea vitu anavyoomba. Kristo alimwambia Martha kwenye kaburi la Lazaro, "Ikiwa utaamini, utaona utukufu wa MUNGU." Yohana 11:40. [Pr 98.3; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Lakini wengi hawana imani hai. Hii ndio sababu hawaoni uwezo wa MUNGU zaidi. Udhaifu wao ni matokeo ya kutokuamini kwao. Wana imani zaidi katika matendo yao kuliko utendaji kazi wa MUNGU kwao. Wanajipigania na kujitunza wao wenyewe.

Wanapanga na kuweka mikakati makini, na ya kinagaubaga, ila wanasali kidogo, wanamtumiani Mungu kwa udogo tu, na wanatarajia kidogo tu kutoka kwa MUNGU. Wao hufikiri kwamba wana imani, lakini ni mihemko au msukumo tu wa kitambo kidogo tu. Wanashindwa kutambua hitaji lao wenyewe, au utayari wa MUNGU kutoa, hawana uvumilivu katika kuyaweka maombi yao mbele za Bwana. [Pr 98.4; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Maombi yetu yanapaswa kuwa ya dhati, bidii na ya kudumu hata katika wakati mgumu kama ilivyokuwa ombi la rafiki masikini aliyeomba mikate usiku wa manane. Kadiri tunavyoomba kwa bidii na uthabiti, ndivyo muungano wetu wa kiroho na Kristo utakavyokuwa karibu zaidi. Tutapokea baraka zilizoongezeka kwa sababu tumeongezeka kiimani. [Pr 98.5; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Fungu letu ni kuomba na kuamini. kesheni mkiomba. Keshu, na ushirikiane na MUNGU asikiaye maombi. Kumbuka kwamba "sisi ni watenda kazi pamoja na MUNGU." 1 Wakorintho 3: 9. Sema na tenda kulingana na maombi

yako. Itafanya tofauti kubwa kwako hata utakapojaribiwa imani yako kuhakikisha kuwa ni ya kweli, au kuonyesha kwamba maombi yako ni desturi au kutekeleza wajibu tu.— (Christ's Object Lessons, 145, 146) [Pr 99.1; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Omba kwa Imani na Majibu Yatakuja — Masomo ambayo MUNGU hutuma kila wakati, ikiwa yataeleweka vizuri, yataleta msaada kwa wakati unaofaa. Weka tegemeo lako kwa MUNGU Omba sana, na uamini. Kwa Kuamini, kutumaini, kutegemea, mkishikilia kwa nguvu Mkono wenye Nguvu isiyo na kipimo, mtakuwa zaidi ya washindi. [Pr 99.2; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Wafanyakazi wa kweli hutembea na kufanya kazi kwa imani. Wakati mwingine wanachoka kwa kutazama maendeleo ya kazi yanavyozorota wakati vita vinapopamba moto kati ya nguvu za mema na mabaya. Lakini wakikataa kushindwa au kuvunjika moyo wataona mawingu yakitawanyika na ahadi ya ukombozi ikitimizwa. Kupitia ukungu ambao Shetani amewazunguka nao, wataona mwangaza wa miale inayong'aa ya Jua la Haki. [Pr 99.3; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Fanya kazi kwa imani, na mwachie MUNGU matokeo-yakabidhi matokeo Kwake. Omba kwa imani, na mafumbo/siri ya majaliwa Yake, italeta jibu Lake. Wakati mwingine inaweza kuonekana kuwa huwezi kufaulu. Lakini fanya kazi na uamini, ukiweka juhudi zako katika imani, tumaini, na ujasiri. Baada ya kufanya kile uwezacho, wewe mngojee Bwana, ukitangaza uaminifu Wake, Naye atalitimiza Neno Lake. Subiri, sio kwa wasiwasi au kwa kukosa utulivu, lakini kwa imani imara na uaminifu usiotetereka.—(Testimonies for the Church 7:245) [Pr 99.4; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Kuna nguvu inayotakiwa kupatikana kutoka kwa MUNGU. Yeye ana uwezo wa kusaidia. Anaweza kutoa neema na hekima ya mbinguni. Kama utaomba kwa imani, wewe utapokea; lakini ni lazima ukeshe katika maombi. Kesho, omba, fanya kazi, inapaswa kuwa kauli mbiu yako . - (Testimonies for the Church 2:427) [Pr 99.5; Maombi Aya ya 17]

MUNGU ametutuma tufanye kazi katika shamba Lake la mizabibu. Ni wajibu wetu kufanya yote tuwezayo. "Panda

mbegu yako asubuhi, wala usizuie mkono wako jioni; kwa maana haujui ni nini kitafanikiwa, ama hiki au kile." Tuna imani ndogo sana. Tunamwekea mipaka Mtakatifu wa Israeli. Tunapaswa kushukuru kwamba Yeye anashuka chini kabisa na kumtumia yeyote miongoni mwetu kama vyombo Vyake. Kwa kila ombi la dhati na bidii lililowekwa kwa imani, jibu litarudishwa. Linaweza lisije vile vile tulivyotarajia; lakini jibu huja wakati ambao tunalihitaji zaidi (muafaka). Mkikaa ndani Yangu na Maneno Yangu yakikaa ndani yenu, basi, ombeni chochote mtakacho, nanyi mtapewa. The Review and Herald, Machi 23, 1897) [Pr 99.6; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Ikiwa tupata muda wa Kuomba, MUNGU Atapata muda wa Kujibu- Kila ombi la dhati kwa ajili ya kupata neema na nguvu litajibiwa. Mwombe MUNGU akufanyie mambo yale ambayo wewe mwenyewe huwezi kujifanyia. Mwambie Yesu kila kitu. Zianike siri za moyo wako waziwazi mbele Zake; kwani jicho Lake huchunguza vichocho vya ndani kabisa ya moyo, Naye husoma mawazo yako kama kitabu kilicho wazi. Wakati umeomba vitu ambavyo ni muhimu kwa faida ya roho yako, amini kwamba unavipokea, na utakuwa navyo. Kubali zawadi Zake kwa moyo wako wote; kwani Yesu amekufa ili vitu vya thamani vya mbinguni vipate kuwa vyako, na mwishowe upate makao na malaika wa mbinguni katika ufalme wa MUNGU. [Pr 100.1; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Ikiwa utapata sauti na wakati wa kuomba, MUNGU Naye atapata wakati na sauti ya kujibu. - (My Life Today, 16) [Pr 100.2; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Shangilia kabisa Kwamba MUNGU Ameyajibu Maombi Yako – Omba kwa imani. Na hakikisha unayaleta maisha yako kupatana na maombi yako, ili upate baraka ambazo unaziombea. Usiache imani yako idhoofike, kwani baraka utakazopokea huliangana/zinatoshana na imani uliyonayo. "na iwe kwako kulingana na imani yako". Na mkiwa na imani, chochote mtakachoomba katika sala, mtapata." Mathayo 9:29; Mathayo 21:22. Omba, amini, furahi. Mwimbieni MUNGU sifa kwa sababu amejibu maombi yenu. Mwendeeni/mchukue kwa Neno Lake. "Yeye ni mwaminifu aliyeahidi." Waebrania 10:23. Hakuna hata ombi moja la dhati linalopotea. Njia iko wazi; mkondo unabubujika.

Unabeba sifa Zake za uponyaji, ukimimina mkondo unaorejesha uzima/uhai mpya, afya na wokovu. – (Testimonies for the Church 7:274) [Pr 100.3; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Uzito wa Maombi yetu ni Ahadi kwamba MUNGU Atajibu— Wakati mtu anatoa ombi dhati, ari na bidii kwa MUNGU (Yesu Kristo Ndilo Jina pekee tulilopewa chini ya mbingu ambalo Kwalo tunaweza kuokolewa), kuna ahadi katika nguvu na bidii hiyo ya dhati kutoka kwa MUNGU kwamba Yuko njiani kujibu hilo ombi zaidi, na juu ya yote ambayo tunaweza kuomba au kufikiria (kupiga picha kichwani). Hatupaswi kuomba kwa Jina la Yesu tu, bali kwa uvuvio na moto* wa nguvu za Roho Mtakatifu. Hii inaelezea na kumaanisha nini? Ni kusema, "Roho Mwenyewe hutuomba kwa kuugua maumivu makali yasiyoweza kutamkika." Maombi lazima yatolewe kwa imani ya dhati. Kisha yatafikia kiti cha rehema. Endelea kuomba bila kusita. MUNGU hasemi, Omba mara moja tu, Nami nitakujibu. Neno Lake ni omba, na kuwa mwepesi, na mwenye utayari kuomba saa yoyote, ukiamini unavyo tayari vile vitu unavyoomba, nawe utavipokea; Mimi Nitakujibu wewe. - (Gospel Herald, Mei 28, 1902. [Pr 101.1; Maombi Aya ya 22]

("kindling" ni inaweza kuwaka kwa urahisi - kwa maneno mengine, ni kitu kidogo kama vijiti ambavyo vinaweza kutumika kuwasha moto. Kwa kupendeza, Roho Mtakatifu alishuka siku ya Pentekoste katika ndimi za moto. Kwa hivyo naona kwa hapa Roho Mtakatifu ni kama dutu inayoweza kuwaka ambayo huipa maombi yetu nguvu na hutumika kama mbebaji wa maombi yetu kwenye kiti cha enzi cha Mungu)

Masharti ya Kujibiwa kwa Maombi — Kuna mazingira fulani ambayo tunaweza kutarajia kwamba MUNGU atasikia na kuyajibu maombi yetu. La kwanza kati ya sababu hizi ni kwamba tunahisi hitaji letu la msaada kutoka Kwake. Yeye Ameahidi, "Nitamwaga maji juu yake yeye aliye na kiu, na mafuriko juu ya nchi kavu." Isaya 44: 3. Wale walio na njaa na kiu ya haki, ambao wanamfuata MUNGU, wanaweza kuwa na uhakika kwamba watajazwa. Moyo lazima uwe wazi kwa ushawishi wa Roho Mtakatifu, la sivyo baraka ya MUNGU haiwezi kupokelewa. [Pr 101.2; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Uhitaji wetu wenyewe ni hoja kubwa tosha na inasihhi kwa umbuji zaidi kwa niaba yetu. Lakini Bwana anapaswa

kutafutwa ili atufanyie mambo haya. Yeye anasema "Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa." Yeye ambaye hakumhurumia hata Mwanae wa pekee, bali alimtoa kwa ajili yetu sisi sote. Ikiwa amefanya hivyo, je, atakosaje kutukirimia mema yote pia? Mathayo 7:7; Warumi 8:32. [Pr 101.3; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Ikiwa tunazingatia uovu mioyoni mwetu, ikiwa tunaing'ang'ania dhambi yoyote inayojulikana, basi Bwana hatatusikia; lakini ombi la mtu mwenye majuto, kupondeka moyo na toba, daima linakubaliwa. Wakati makosa yote yanayojulikana yanasahihishwa, tunaweza kuamini kwamba MUNGU atajibu maombi yetu. Uzuri au sifa yetu wenyewe haitatufanya tufae kupata upendeleo au neema ya MUNGU; ni sifa na stahiki za Yesu ndizo ambazo zinatuokoa, Ni damu Yake ndiyo ambayo itatutakasa/inatusafisha; lakini tuna kazi ya kufanya ili kutimiza masharti ya kukubaliwa. [Pr 101.4; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Kipengele kingine cha ombi linaloshinda, lenye ustahimilivu na lenye ushawishi ni imani. "Yeye amwendeaye MUNGU lazima aamini kwamba Yeye Yupu, na kwamba Yeye huwapa thawabu wale wamtafutao." (Waebrania 11:6). Kristo anasema, "Yoyote myaombayo mkisali, aminini ya kwamba mnayapokea, nayo yatakuwa yenu." Marko 11:24. Je! Tunamwendea na kumchukua kutokana na Neno Lake? [Pr 101.1; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Hakikisho letu ni pana na halina kikomo, na Yeye ni waminifu ambaye ameahidi. Wakati hatupokei yale tuliyoomba, wakati tunaomba, bado tunapaswa kuamini kwamba Bwana anasikia na kwamba Yeye atajibu maombi yetu. Sisi ni wakosefu sana na tumepungukiwa na uoni (macho yenye mapungufu), na uelewa wetu ni finyu kiasi kwamba wakati mwingine tunaomba vitu ambavyo havingekuwa baraka kwetu, na Baba yetu wa mbinguni kwa upendo hujibu maombi yetu kwa kutupatia kile kitakachokuwa kwa faida yetu ya juu zaidi - kile ambacho sisi wenyewe tungetamani tukiwa na maono/utashi yaliyoangaziwa na MUNGU tunaweza kuona vitu vyote kama vilivyo. Wakati maombi yetu yanaonekana kutojibiwa, tunapaswa kushikilia ahadi; kwani wakati wa majibu hakika utakuja, na tutapokea baraka wakati ule ambapo tunaihitaji zaidi. Lakini kudai kwamba maombi yatajibiwa

kila wakati kwa njia ile ile tuliyoomba na kwa kile kile ambacho tunatamani, ni dhana potofu, isiyoendana na mapenzi ya Mungu (au kiburi wakati mwingine). MUNGU ni Mwenye busara mno kukosea, na ni mwema sana kuwazuilia watakatifu Wake wanaoenenda kwa unyoofu kitu chochote kizuri. Basi usiwe na woga au hofu kumtumainia, ingawa huoni jibu la maombi yako papo hapo. Tegemea ahadi Yake ya hakika, "Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa." [Pr 101.2; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Ikiwa tutachukua ushauri na mashaka na hofu mioyoni mwetu, au kujaribu kutatua kila kitu ambacho hatuwezi kuona wazi, kabla ya kuwa na imani, mashaka yatazidi kuongezeka tu, na kuwa na kina kirefu. Ila pale tunapomwendea MUNGU, tukijisikia tu hoi bin taabani na tegemezi, kama tulivyo kihalisia, na kwa imani ya kumtegemea Yeye na tukiwasilisha matakwa yetu Kwake Yeye ambaye maarifa Yake hayana mwisho, Yule anayeona kila kitu katika uumbaji, na ambaye anasimamia na kuongoza kila kitu kwa mapenzi Yake na Neno Lake, Yeye Anaweza na atashughulikia kilio chetu, na atatuangazia nuru mioyoni mwetu. Kupitia maombi ya dhati tunaletwa katika ushirika na Nia na akili ya Yule Asiye na mwisho/kikomo. Labda hatuwezi kuwa na ushahidi wa wazi, wa kushangaza, usio wa kawaida au unaoonekana wakati huo kwamba uso wa Mkombozi wetu umeinama juu yetu kwa huruma na upendo, lakini hii ndiyo ukweli wenyewe. Tunaweza tusihisi mguso Wake unaoonekana, lakini mkono Wake uko juu yetu kwa upendo, rehema na huruma kubwa. [Pr 102.3; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Tunapokuja kuomba rehema na baraka kutoka kwa MUNGU tunapaswa kuwa na roho ya upendo na msamaha mioyoni mwetu. Je! Tunawezaje kuomba, "Utusamehe deni zetu, kama sisi tunavyowasamehe wadeni wetu," na bado tukaendekeza roho ya kutosamehe? Mathayo 6:12. Ikiwa tunatarajia maombi yetu wenyewe yasikilizwe lazima tusamehe wengine kwa njia ile ile na kwa kiwango kile kile tunachotarajia kusamehewa. [Pr 103.1; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Kutochoka yaani uvumilivu katika maombi kumefanywa kuwa sharti la kupokea. Lazima tuombe kila wakati ikiwa tunataka kukua katika imani na uzoefu. Tunapaswa kuwa "na utayari saa yote katika maombi," "Tunapaswa kudumu katika sala, na kukesha, haya mawili yatoshane na

kushukuru kwetu." Warumi 12:12; Wakolosai 4: 2. Petro anawahimiza waumini kuwa "wenye kiasi, na wakeshe katika maombi." 1 Petro 4: 7. Paulo anaelekeza, "Katika kila jambo kwa maombi na dua pamoja na kushukuru, haja zenu na zijulikane na MUNGU." (Wafilipi 4:6). "Lakini ninyi, wapenzi," anasema Yuda, "mkiomba katika Roho Mtakatifu, jilindeni katika upendo wa MUNGU." Yuda 20, 21 .— (Steps to Christ, 95-97) [Pr 103.2; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Ikiwa tutampa Yeye utii nusu-nusu tu, ahadi Zake hazitatimizwa kwetu. - (The Ministry of Healing, 227) [Pr 103.3; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Lazima tuishi Maombi yetu ikiwa yataenda kujibiwa – Tunapaswa kuomba na kukesha katika maombi, ili kusiwe na mapishano katika maisha yetu-(twapaswa kuwa na uthabiti, uendelevu). Hatupaswi kukosa kuwaonyesha wengine kwamba tunaelewa kuwa kukesha katika maombi kunamaanisha kuishi maombi yetu mbele za MUNGU, ili kwamba Yeye ayajibu. – (Selected Messages 1:116, 117) [Pr 103.4; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Maombi ni kazi bure ikiwa Maisha hayashabihiani na Maombi - "Mkikaa ndani Yangu, na maneno Yangu yakikaa ndani yenu, ombeni mtakalo nanyi mtapewa." Unapoomba, wasilisha ahadi hii. Ni upendeleo kwetu kumwendea tukiwa na ujasiri mtakatifu. Kwa unyofu tukimwomba nuru Yake iangaze juu yetu, Yeye Atatusikia na kutujibu. Lakini lazima tuishi kulingana na maombi yetu. Maombi ni kazi bure, yaani hayana faida yoyote ikiwa tunatembea kinyume nayo. Nimemwona baba ambaye, baada ya kusoma sehemu ya Maandiko na kuomba, mara nyingi kabla ya kuinuka baada tu ya kupiga magoti ili aombe, alianza kuwagombeza/kuwafokea watoto wake. MUNGU angewezaje kweli kujibu ombi lile aliloomba? Na ikiwa, baada ya kuwagombeza watoto wake, baba anasali, je, sala hiyo inawanufaisha watoto kweli? Hapana; labda ikiwa anatoa maombi ya kuungama kwa MUNGU. - (Child Guidance, 499) [Pr 103.5; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Tunapaswa kuambatanisha sifa ikiwa tunahitaji maombi yetu yajibiwe – Je! Shughuli na uzoefu wetu wote wa ibada unapaswa kujumuisha kuomba na kupata peke yake tu? Je! Tunapaswa kufikiria kila wakati matakwa/mahitaji yetu na sio ile faida tunayopokea? Je!

Sisi Tutakuwa wapokeaji wa rehema Zake na kamwe tusitoe shukrani zetu kwa MUNGU, na wala tusimsifu kwa yale aliyotutendea? Sisi wala Hatuombi sana, ila tuna ubahili wa kutoa shukrani. Ikiwa upendo mkarimu wa MUNGU ungeleta shukrani zaidi na kumsifu Yeye, basi tungelikuwa na nguvu zaidi katika maombi. Tungependana zaidi katika upendo wa MUNGU na kuzidi kumtukuza. Wewe ambaye unalalamika kwamba MUNGU hasikii maombi yako, badilisha zoezi la utaratibu wako wa sasa na uchanganye sifa na maombi yako. Unapozingatia wema na rehema Zake utagundua kuwa Yeye atazingatia matakwa yako. [Pr 104.1; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Omba, omba kwa bidii na bila kukoma, lakini usisahau kusifu. - (Testimonies for the Church 5:317) [Pr 104.2; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Kukosa uaminifu katika Uwakili Kunaweza Kuwa Sababu ya Maombi Kutojibiwa – Kama Mtoaji wa kila baraka, MUNGU anadai sehemu fulani ya vitu vyote tulivyo navyo. Huu ni mpango Wake wa kuendeleza kuhubiri kwa injili. Na kwa kumrudishia MUNGU, tunakuwa tumeonyesha kuthamini kwetu na shukrani zetu kwa zawadi Zake. Lakini ikiwa tunamzuilia Yeye kilicho Chake Mwenyewe, tunawezaje basi kumtarajia Yeye atuamini na kutukabidhi vitu vya mbinguni? Je, inawezekana kuwa hii ndiyo siri ya sala isiyojibiwa. – (Christ’s Object Lessons, 144) [Pr 104.3; Maombi Aya ya 36]

Twamtukana Mungu na kumdhalilisha kwa kuzidai Ahadi Zake bila Kukidhi Masharti – Kuna masharti ya kutimizwa kwa ahadi za MUNGU, na maombi hayawezi kuchukua mahali na nafasi ya wajibu (maombi si mbadala wa wajibu). "Ikiwa mnanipenda," Kristo anasema, "mtazishika amri Zangu." Yeye Azipokeaye amri Zangu na kuzishika, yeye ndiye anipendaye. Naye anipendaye Mimi atapendwa na Baba Yangu, Nami nitampenda na kujidhihirisha kwake." Yohana 14:15, 21. Wale ambao huleta maombi yao kwa MUNGU, wakidai ahadi Yake wakati hawafuati masharti yake, wanamtukana na kumdhalilisha Yehova. Wao huleta Jina la Kristo kama mamlaka yao ya kutimiziwa ahadi, lakini hawafanyi mambo ambayo yangeonyesha imani katika Kristo na upendo wao Kwake. - (Christ Object Lessons, 143) [Pr 104.4; Maombi Aya ya 37]

Ikiwa Masharti yametimizwa, Ahadi ya Maombi yanayojibiwa haizuiliki (haina mashaka) – Maombi na imani vimeunganishwa kwa karibu (ni pacha), na vinahitaji kuchunguzwa/kufunzwa kwa pamoja. Katika ombi la imani kuna sayansi ya Bwana/mbingu; ni sayansi ambayo kila mtu ambaye anatamani kufanikisha kazi yake ya maisha lazima aelewe. Kristo anasema, "Yoyote myaombayo mkisali, aminini ya kwamba mnayapokea, nayo yatakuwa yenu." Marko 11:24. Yeye Anaweka wazi kwamba ombi letu lazima liwe kulingana na mapenzi ya MUNGU; lazima tuombe vitu ambavyo ameahidi, na chochote tunachopokea lazima kitumike katika kufanya mapenzi Yake. Masharti yakitimizwa, ahadi haizuiliki (hakuna maswali yanabakia). [Pr 105.1; Maombi Aya ya 38]

Kwa msamaha wa dhambi, kwa Roho Mtakatifu, kwa hulka na tabia kama ya Kristo, kwa hekima na nguvu ya kufanya kazi Yake, kwa zawadi yoyote ambayo Yeye ameahidi, sisi tunaweza kuomba; kisha tunapaswa kuamini kwamba tunapokea, na kurudisha shukrani kwa MUNGU kwamba tumekwishapokea. [Pr 105.2; Maombi Aya ya 39]

Hatuhitaji kutafuta ushahidi wa nje wa baraka. Zawadi iko katika ahadi, na tunaweza kwenda kuendelea na kazi yetu tukiwa na uhakikisho kwamba kile ambacho MUNGU amekiahidi, Yeye Ana uwezo wa kukitekeleza, na kwamba zawadi, ambayo tayari tunayo, itadhihirika haswa wakati tutakapokuwa tunaihitaji zaidi. – (Education, 257, 258) [Pr 105.3; Maombi Aya ya 40]

Maombi yetu Sio Amri za kumwamrisha MUNGU— Tunajua kwamba Yeye hutusikia ikiwa tunaomba kulingana na mapenzi Yake. Maombi yetu hayapaswi kuchukua mfumo wa amri, bali umbo la maombezi Kwake Yeye, ili afanye mambo tunayotamani kutoka Kwake. (Testimonies for the Church 2:149) [Pr 105.4; Maombi Aya ya 41]

Maombi hayajibiwi Papo hapo mara zote – MUNGU ana mbingu iliyojaa baraka kwa wale watakaoshirikiana Naye. Wote wanaomtii wanaweza kudai kwa ujasiri utimizo wa ahadi Zake. Lakini lazima tuonyeshe kumtegemea Yeye kikamilifu na uaminifu thabiti usiokengeuka kwa MUNGU. Mara nyingi Yeye hucheleweshwa kutujibu ili kuitahini imani yetu au kujaribu unyofu wa matamano yetu. Baada ya kuomba kulingana na Neno Lake, sisi tunapaswa kuamini

ahadi Yake na kukazana bila kuchoka katika maombi yetu kwa kunuia ambako hakutakataliwa. – (Christ’s Object Lessons, 145) [Pr 105.5; Maombi Aya ya 42]

Wakati wale wanaojua Ukweli wanapofanya mazoezi ya kujinyima yaliyoamriwa katika Neno la MUNGU, ujumbe utaenda kwa nguvu. Bwana atasikia maombi yetu ya kuongoa roho. Watu wa MUNGU wataruhusu nuru yao iangaze, na kisha wale wasioamini, wakiona matendo yao mema, watamtukuza Baba yetu wa mbinguni. - (Messages to Young People, 315) [Pr 106.1; Maombi Aya ya 43]

Kuchelewa kwa Kristo kwa siku mbili baada ya kusikia kwamba Lazaro alikuwa mgonjwa haukuwa upuuziaji au kukataa kwa upande Wake. Lilikuwa ni kusudi Lake kubaki pale alipokuwa mpaka kifo cha Lazaro kitokee, ili aweze kuwapa watu ushahidi wa Uungu Wake, sio kwa kumponya mtu anayekaribia kufa, bali kwa kumfufua mtu aliyezikwa tayari. [Pr 106.2; Maombi Aya ya 44]

Jambo hili linapaswa kuwa faraja kwetu. Wakati mwingine tunajaribiwa kufikiri kwamba ahadi, “Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa; tafuteni, nanyi mtapata; bisheni, nanyi mtafunguliwa,” haitimizwi mpaka pale ambapo jibu linatolewa mara tu ombi linapowasilishwa. Ni upendeleo kwetu kuomba baraka maalum, na kuamini kwamba tutapewa. Lakini ikiwa baraka zilizoombwa hazitolewi mara moja, hatupaswi kufikiria kwamba maombi yetu hayasikilizwi. Hakika tutapokea, hata kama jibu litacheleweshwa kwa muda. Katika kutekeleza mpango wa ukombozi, Kristo anaona mengi katika ubinadamu ya kumvunja moyo. Lakini Yeye havunjiki moyo au kukata tamaa. Kwa rehema na upendo, Yeye Anaendelea kutupatia fursa na upendeleo. Kwa hivyo tunapaswa kupumzika katika Bwana, na kumngojea Yeye kwa uvumilivu. Jibu la maombi yetu linaweza lisije haraka kama tunavyotamani, na inaweza kuwa sio kile kitu ambacho tuliomba rasmi; lakini Yeye ambaye anajua ni kipi bora kupita vyote kwa ajili ya watoto Wake atatoa mema zaidi kuliko tulivyoomba, tusipopoteza imani (au kuwa makafiri) na kuvunjika moyo. –(The Youth’s Instructor, April 6, 1899) [Pr 106.3; Maombi Aya ya 45]

Sisi sote tunatamani majibu ya haraka na ya moja kwa moja kwa maombi yetu, na tunajaribiwa kuvunjika moyo

wakati jibu linapocheleweshwa au likiwa katika fumbo ambalo hatukulitazamia. Lakini MUNGU ni Mwenye busara sana na mwema kujibu maombi yetu wakati ule ule na namna ile ile tunayotamani mara zote. Yeye Atatutendea zaidi na bora kwetu, kuliko kutimiza matamano yetu yote. Na kwa sababu tunaweza kuamini hekima na upendo Wake, sisihatupaswi kumuomba aridhie mapenzi yetu, lakini tunapaswa kutafuta kuingia safari ya kutimiza kusudi Lake. Matamano na shauku zetu zinapaswa kuzama katika mapenzi Yake. Uzoefu huu unaojaribu imani ni kwa faida yetu. Kwa huo inadhihirishwa kama imani yetu ni ya Kweli na ya dhati, na inayotegemea Neno la MUNGU peke yake, au inatokana na mazingira tu, na inakuwa sio ya kutegemewa na hubadilika-badilika tu. Imani huimarishwa kwa mazoezi/kuizoeza. Lazima tuache uvumilivu utende kazi yake kamilifu, tukikumbuka kwamba kuna ahadi za thamani katika Maandiko kwa wale wanaomsabiri Bwana. - (The Ministry of Healing, 230, 231) [Pr 107.1; Maombi Aya ya 46]

Niliona kwamba watumishi wa MUNGU na kanisa walikuwa wanavunjika moyo kwa urahisi sana. Walipomuomba Baba yao wa mbinguni vitu ambavyo walidhani kuwa wanavihitaji, na hivi havikuja mara moja, imani yao iliyumba, ujasiri wao ukatoweka, na hisia za kunung'unika zikawajaa. Niliona, hili halikumpendeza MUNGU. [Pr 107.2; Maombi Aya ya 47]

Kila mtakatifu anayemwendea MUNGU kwa moyo wa kweli, kwa imani, na kutuma maombi yao ya kweli Kwake, atajibiwa maombi yake. Imani yao haipaswi kuachilia ahadi za MUNGU ikiwa hawaoni au hawasikii majibu ya mara moja ya maombi yao. Usiogope kumtumaini MUNGU. Zitegemee ahadi zake za kweli: Ombeni, nanyi mtapokea.' MUNGU ni mwenye busara mno na hivyo Yeye hakosei kamwe, na ni mwema sana kuwazuilia watakatifu Wake kitu chochote kizuri wanao tembea katika unyoofu. Mtu hukosea, huwa anatoka katika njia nyofu, na ingawa maombi yake yanatumwa kutoka katika moyo mkweli, mara zote huwa haombi vitu ambavyo ni vyema kwake, au ambavyo vitamtukuza MUNGU. Wakati hili likiwa hivyo, Baba yetu Mwenye busara na mwema anasikia maombi yetu, na atajibu, wakati fulani hujibu haraka-; lakini Yeye

hutupatia vitu ambavyo ni kwa faida yetu na utukufu Wake Mwenyewe. [Pr 107.3; Maombi Aya ya 48]

Ikiwa watoto wa MUNGU wangeweza kuona mpango Wake, wangejua kuwa Yeye huwapa kile ambacho ni kwa faida yao. Ingawa hawawezi kupokea yale mambo waliyotarajia tu, au waliyoomba, bado maombi yao yalijibiwa Hakuna chochote cha kuumiza walichopewa, bali baraka waliyohitaji zaidi, badala ya kitu ambacho walikuwa wameomba, ambacho kisingekuwa kizuri kwao, bali kingewaumiza. [Pr 107.4; Maombi Aya ya 49]

Niliona kwamba ikiwa hatuhisi majibu ya haraka ya maombi yetu, tunapaswa kushikilia imani yetu, bila kuruhusu mashaka na fadhaa, kwani hayo yatatutenganisha na MUNGU. Imani yetu ikitetereka, hatutapokea chochote kutoka kwake. Imani yetu kwa MUNGU inapaswa kuwa imara; na wakati tunapoihitaji sana, baraka itatuangukia kama maji ya mvua. [Pr 108.1; Maombi Aya ya 50]

Wakati watumishi wa MUNGU wanapoomba kwaajili ya Roho Wake na baraka, wakati mwingine hivi huja papo hapo; lakini sio kila wakati basi huwa hivyo. Katika nyakati kama hizo, usizimie roho. Hebu imani yako ishikilie ahadi kwamba, itakuja. Acha tumaini lako liwe kamili kwa MUNGU, na mara nyingi baraka hiyo itakuja wakati unapoihitaji zaidi, na bila kutarajia utapokea msaada kutoka kwa MUNGU, wakati unazungumza ile Kweli kwa wale wasioamini, utazungumza kwa uwazi Neno, na kwa nguvu. [Pr 108.2; Maombi Aya ya 51]

Ilionyeshwa kwangu kama watoto wakiomba baraka ya wazazi wao wa kidunia wanaowapenda. Wanaomba kitu ambacho mzazi anajua kitawaumiza; ila mzazi huwapa vitu ambavyo vitakuwa vyema na vyenye afya kwao, mahali pa kile ambacho mtoto alitaka/alitamani. Niliona kwamba kila ombi ambalo hutolewa kwa imani kutoka katika moyo mwadilifu litasikika juu kwa MUNGU na kujibiwa, na yule aliyetuma ombi atapata baraka wakati anapoihitaji sana/zaidi, na mara nyingi majibu yatazidi matarajio yake. Hakuna sala ya mtakatifu wa kweli inayopotea ikiwa imetumwa kutoka katika moyo wa mnyofu kwa imani. - (Spiritual Gifts 4b, 7-9) [Pr 108.3; Maombi Aya ya 52]

Baada kutoa ombi, ikiwa jibu halitakuja mara moja, wewe usichoke kusubiri na kuwa kuanza kuyumbayumba.

Mawazo yako yasimangemange kama wimbi la bahari. Ing'ang'anie ahadi, "Yeye ni mwaminifu ambaye Awaita, Naye Atatenda" Kama mjane aliyekuwa na bidii isiyokatishwa tamaa, peleka kesi yako kwa Mungu, ukiwa thabiti katika kusudi lako. Je! Kitu hicho ni cha muhimu na chenye matokeo makubwa kwako? Hakika ni hivyo. Basi usitetereke, kwani imani yako inaweza kujaribiwa. Ikiwa kitu unachotamani ni cha thamani kubwa, basi kinastahili juhudi imara, na yenye bidii. Unayo ahadi; basi kesho na uombe. Uwe imara na maombi yako yatajibiwa; kwa maana si ni Mungu Ndiye ameahidi? kama itakugharimu kukipata basi utakipa thamani zaidi wakati kitakapopatikana. Unaambiwa waziwazi kwamba ikiwa utakuwa na shaka haupaswi kufikiria kwamba utapokea chochote kutoka kwa Bwana. Tahadhari imetolewa hapa ili usichoke, bali utulie kwa uthabiti kwenye ahadi za Bwana. Unapoomba, Yeye atakupa kwa kwa moyo mkujunfu na ukarimu na wala hutakemewa.-(Testimonies for the Church 2:131) [Pr 108.4; Maombi Aya ya 53]

“Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa.” Uhakikisho ni mpana na hauna kikomo, na Yeye ni Mwaminifu ambaye ameahidi. Wakati mwingine tunashindwa katika imani kwa sababu Hekima isiyo na kikomo haiji kwa kufuata sera au mkataba wetu. Wakati kwa sababu yoyote ile hatupokei yale tunayoomba kwa wakati tunaoomba, bado tunapaswa kuamini kwamba Bwana anasikia, na kwamba atatupatia vitu ambavyo ni bora kwetu. Utukufu Wake Mwenyewe ni sababu tosha ya wakati mwingine kuzuia kile tunachoomba, na kisha kujibu maombi yetu kwa njia ambayo hatukutarajia. Lakini tunapaswa kuikumbatia ahadi; kwani wakati wa majibu utafika, na tutapokea baraka tunazohitaji zaidi. - (The Signs of the Times, Agosti 21, 1884) [Pr 109.1; Maombi Aya ya 54]

MUNGU Hatujibu Kama Tunavyotarajia mara zote, Bali Daima Kwa Manufaa Yetu – omba, basi; omba, nawe utapokea. Omba unyenyekevu, hekima, ujasiri, ongezeko la imani. Kwa kila ombi la dhati (nyofu) jibu litakuja. Linaweza lisije vile vile unavyotamani, au kwa wakati unalitafuta; lakini litakuja kwa njia na kwa wakati ambao utakidhi mahitaji yako kwa ubora zaidi. Maombi unayotoa katika upweke, ukiwa umechoka, katika mitihani ya maisha, MUNGU huyajibu, sio kila wakati kulingana na

matarajio yako, lakini mara zote kwa faida yako. – (Messages to Young People, 250) [Pr 109.2; Maombi Aya ya 55]

Wakati ulipoomba katika shida au mateso yako kwaajili ya amani katika Kristo, wingu la giza lilionekana kutia weusi kwenye akili yako. Pumziko na amani havikuja kama ulivyotarajia. Wakati mwingine imani yako ilionekana kujaribiwa kupita kiasi. Ulipotazama nyuma katika maisha yako ya zamani, uliona huzuni na kukatishwa tamaa; ulipoangalia siku zijazo, yote yakawa yasiyo na uhakika kwako. Mkono wa Bwana ulikuongoza kwa namna ya kushangaza kwa kukuleta wewe msalabani na kukufundisha kwamba hakika MUNGU Ndiye mtoa thawabu kwa wale wanaomtafuta kwa uadilifu. Wale wanaoomba kwa usahihi watapokea. Yule Anayetafuta kwa imani atapata. Uzoefu unaopatikana katika tanuru la majaribu na mateso ni wa thamani zaidi kuliko usumbufu wake wote na gharama ya maumivu yake. [Pr 109.3; Maombi Aya ya 56]

Maombi ambayo ulitoa katika upweke wako, katika kuchoka kwako na majaribu, MUNGU alijibu, sio kila wakati kulingana na matarajio yako, lakini kwa faida yako. Haukuwa na maoni wazi na sahihi kuhusiana na ndugu zako, wala haukujiona katika nuru sahihi. Lakini, kwa majaliwa/mipango/mwongozo wa MUNGU, Yeye Amekuwa kazini kujibu maombi uliyotoa katika taabu yako, kwa namna ya kukuokoa na kulitukuza Jina Lake Mwenyewe. Kwa kutotambua au ujinga wako, wewe uliomba vitu ambavyo havikuwa bora kwako. MUNGU alisikia maombi yako yenye unyoofu, lakini baraka uliyopewa ilikuwa kitu tofauti sana na matarajio yako. MUNGU amekusudia, katika mipango/uongozi Wake, kukuweka moja kwa moja katika uhusiano na kanisa Lake, ili ujasiri wako uwe kwa kiasi kidogo juu yako mwenyewe na uwe mkubwa zaidi katika wengine ambao Anawaongoza kuendeleza kazi Yake mbele. [Pr 110.1; Maombi Aya ya 57]

MUNGU husikia kila ombi la dhati-lenye unyofu wa moyo. - (Testimonies for the Church 3:415, 416) [Pr 110.2; Maombi Aya ya 58]

MUNGU Hujibu Maombi kwa Wakati Wake Aliouchagua- Katika maisha yake yote ya ndoa, Zakaria alikuwa ameomba apate mtoto wa kiume. Yeye na mkewe

walikuwa wamezeeka sasa, na bado maombi yao yalikuwa hayajajibiwa; lakini hakunung'unika. MUNGU hakuwa amesahau. Alikuwa na wakati Wake uliowekwa wa kujibu ombi hili, na suala hilo lilipoonekana kutokuwa na matumaini, Zakaria alipokea jibu lake. - (SDA Bible Commentary, juz. 5, 1114) [Pr 110.3; Maombi Aya ya 59]

Kwa nini majibu kwa maombi yanaweza kuchelewa- MUNGU huwa hajibu mara zote maombi yetu pale tunapomwomba kwa mara ile ya kwanza; kwani akifanya hivi, tunaweza kuichukulia kirahisi kwamba tulikuwa na haki ya mibaraka na neema zote Alizotupatia. Badala ya kuchukua muda katika tukipekua mioyo yetu ili kuona ikiwa tumeendekeza uovu wowote, au dhambi yoyote tunayoifurahia, au kufanya mambo kizembe na kisha tukashindwa kutambua utegemezi wetu Kwake, na hitaji letu la msaada Wake. - (The Review and Herald, Juni 9, 1891) [Pr 110.4; Maombi Aya ya 60]

Kuna ahadi za thamani katika Maandiko kwa wale wanaomsubiri Bwana. Sisi sote tunatamani jibu la haraka kwa maombi yetu na tunajaribiwa kuvunjika moyo ikiwa ombi letu halijajibiwa mara moja. Sasa, uzoefu wangu umenifundisha kuwa hili ni kosa kubwa. Uchelewesho ni kwa faida yetu maalum. Tuna nafasi ya kuona ikiwa imani yetu ni ya Kweli na ya dhati au inaweza kuyumbayumba kama mawimbi ya bahari. Lazima tujifunge juu ya madhabahu kwa kamba kali za imani na upendo, na kuacha uvumilivu uwe na kazi yake kamilifu. Imani inaimarika kupitia mazoezi ya kila wakati. Kusubiri huku hakumaanishi kwamba kwa sababu tumeshamwomba Bwana uponyaji, basi sasa hakuna chochote tunachopaswa kukifanya. Badala yake (kinyume chake), sisi tunapaswa kutumia mbinu bora kabisa ambazo Bwana kwa wema Wake ametupatia katika mahitaji yetu. - (Counsils on Health, 380, 381) [Pr 110.5; Maombi Aya ya 61]

Dumu kuomba, Hata ikiwa Jibu haliji— Wakati mwingine majibu ya maombi yetu huja mara moja; na wakati mwingine tunalazimika kungojea kwa uvumilivu na kuendelea kuomba kwa dhati na bidii vitu tunavyohitaji, kesi zetu zikiwakilishwa kwa mfano wa mwombezi wa mkate mwenye bidii isiyochoka, aliyeingia kwa ghafla nyumbani mwa mtu usiku. "Ni yupi kati yenu ambaye atakuwa na rafiki, na atamwendea usiku wa manane," nk.

Somo hili lina maana zaidi ya vile tunavyoweza kufikiria. Tunapaswa kuendelea kuomba, hata ikiwa hatuyaoni majibu ya haraka kwa maombi yetu. Kwa hiyo, Mimi nawaambieni, ombeni, nanyi mtapewa, tafuteni, nanyi mtapata, bisheni nanyi mtafunguliwa. Maana yeyote aombaye hupewa, atafutaye hupata na abishaye hufunguliwa. Luka 11: 9, 10. [Pr 111.1; Maombi Aya ya 62]

Tunahitaji neema, tunahitaji kuangaziwa na Bwana, ili kupitia kwa Roho Wake tuweze kujua jinsi ya kuomba yale mambo ambayo tunayahitaji. Hebu Bwana na ayaandike maombi yetu kwa ufanisi na kwa ukubali Wake, na kisha ayajibu.— (Counsels on Health, 380) [Pr 111.2; Maombi Aya ya 63]

Majibu Yanacheleweshwa ili kufunua Ubinafsi Wetu — Yeye aliyembariki mtu mwenye cheo wa Kapernaumu anataka kutubariki sisi pia. Lakini kama baba aliyeteseka, mara nyingi tunaongozwa kumtafuta Yesu kwa shauku ya kujipatia mema ya kidunia; na katika kutoa ombi letu, tunaweka imani yetu katika upendo Wake. Mwokozi anatamani kutupa baraka kubwa kuliko tunavyoomba; Naye huchelewesha jibu la ombi letu ili atuonyeshe uovu ulio mioyoni mwetu wenyewe, na hitaji letu kubwa la neema Yake. Yeye Anatamani tuukane ubinafsi, na hii itatuongoza kumtafuta Yeye. Tukiri kutojiweza kwetu na hitaji letu chungu, tunapaswa kujidondosha kikamilifu kabisa katika upendo Wake, tukimtegemea na kumwamini Yeye. [Pr 111.3; Maombi Aya ya 64]

Mtu huyu mwenye cheo alitaka kuona utimilifu wa maombi yake kabla ya kuamini; lakini ilimbidi akubali Neno la Yesu kwamba ombi lake lilisikilizwa na baraka zikatolewa. Sisi nasi tunapaswa kujifunza somo hili pia. Sio kwa sababu tunaona au kuhisi kwamba MUNGU anatusikia ndio tunapaswa kuamini. Tunapaswa kuziamini ahadi Zake. Tunapomjia kwa imani, kila ombi huingia moyoni mwa MUNGU. Tunapokuwa tumeomba baraka Yake, tunapaswa kuamini kwamba tumeipokea, na kumshukuru kwamba tumeipokea. Halafu tunapaswa kuendelea na majukumu yetu, tukiwa na hakika kwamba baraka itapatikana wakati tutapokuwa na uhitaji zaidi. Tutakapokuwa tumejifunza kufanya hivi, tutajua kwamba maombi yetu yanajibiwa. MUNGU atatutendea kwa kupita kipimo na ukarimu "sana",

"kulingana na utajiri wa utukufu Wake," na "utendaji wa nguvu Zake kuu." Waefeso 3:20, 16; Waefeso 1:19 .– (The Desire of Ages, 200) [Pr 112.1; Maombi Aya ya 65]

Maombi yanayoonekana kutojibiwa Yanaweza Kuwa Kati ya Baraka Zetu Kubwa Zaidi – Katika kujali Kwake kwa upendo na masilahi mema kwetu, mara nyingi Yeye ambaye anatuelewa sisi vizuri zaidi ya sisi tunavyojielewa wenyewe hukataa kuturuhusu kujiridhisha wenyewe na ubinafsi na matamania ya ukuu. Yeye hatupi leseni kuyapita majukumu matakatifu ya nyumbani ambayo yanayoonekana kuwa hayavutii ila yapo karibu nasi. Mara nyingi majukumu haya yanatoa mafunzo muhimu sana katika kututayarisha kwa kazi ya juu zaidi. Mara nyingi mipango yetu inashindwa/inafeli ili mipango ya MUNGU kwetu ifanikiwe. [Pr 112.2; Maombi Aya ya 66]

Kamwe hatujaitwa kutoa kafara halisi kwa MUNGU. Kuna vitu vingi ambavyo Yeye anavyotuomba tuvisalimisha Kwakei, lakini kwa kufanya hivyo tunatoa kile kinachotuzuia katika njia ya kwenda mbinguni. Hata tunapoombwa kusalimisha vitu ambavyo kwa vyenyewe ni vyema, tunaweza kuwa na uhakika kwamba MUNGU anafanya kazi kwa mema mengine za juu zaidi kwetu. Mara nyingi mipango yetu hufeli ili mipango ya Mungu ifanikiwe. [Pr 112.3; Maombi Aya ya 67]

Katika maisha ya baadaye mafumbo na siri ambazo hapa zimetukasirisha au kutupa usumbufu na kutukatisha tamaa zitawekwa wazi. Tutagundua kwamba maombi yetu yaliyoonekana kutokuwa na majibu na matumaini au matarajio yetu yaliyokatishwa tamaa, hayo yamekuwa miongoni mwa baraka zetu kubwa. [Pr 112.4; Maombi Aya ya 68]

Tunapaswa kuzingatia kila wajibu kama ni mtakatifu, hata uwe ni wa unyenyekevu au umasikini wa kiasi gani, kwa sababu ni sehemu ya huduma ya MUNGU. Maombi yetu ya kila siku yanapaswa kuwa, “Bwana, nisaidie kufanya bidii kwa kadiri navyoweza. Nifundishe jinsi ya kufanya kazi bora. Nipe nguvu na uchangamfu. Nisaidie kuleta katika huduma yangu huduma ya upendo wa Mwokozi.” (The Ministry of Healing, 473, 474) [Pr 112.5; Maombi Aya ya 69]

Wakati mwingine MUNGU Hatupi Tunachoombea Kwa sababu Ana Kitu Bora zaidi Kwetu – Tunapokuja Kwake tunapaswa kuomba ili tuweze kuingia na kutimiza kusudi Lake, na kwamba matamano yetu na masilahi yetu yazame/yapotee ndani Yake. Tunapaswa kutambua ukubali wetu kwa mapenzi Yake, sio kumuomba akubaliane na mapenzi yetu. Ni afadhali kwetu kwamba MUNGU huwa hajibu maombi yetu kila wakati pale ambapo tunaanza kutaka kitu, na kwa namna tunayotaka. Yeye Atatufanyia zaidi, na mazuri kuliko kutimiza matakwa yetu yote, kwani hekima yetu ni upumbavu. - (Testimonies for the Church 2:148) [Pr 113.1; Maombi Aya ya 70]

Lile Ombi la dhati litokalo moyoni kwa bidii na Imani lina ufanisi, usiochoka, wenye manufaa, na msaada wa hali ya juu. MUNGU hajibu maombi yetu kila mara kama sisi tunavyotarajia, kwani tunaweza tusiombe kile kilicho bora zaidi kwetu; bali kwa upendo na hekima Yake isiyopimika, Yeye atatupatia vile vitu ambavyo ndivyo tunavyovihitaji sana. - (Testimonies for the Church 4:531) [Pr 113.2; Maombi Aya ya 71]

Tunapaswa Kushirikiana na MUNGU Katika Kujibu Maombi Yetu – Katika Neno la MUNGU zimewasilishwa pande mbili zinazoshindana ambazo zinaathiri na kudhibiti mashirika ya kibinadamu katika ulimwengu wetu. Mara kwa mara vyama hivi vinafanya kazi na kila mwanadamu. Wale ambao wako chini ya udhibiti wa MUNGU na ambao wanaongozwa na malaika wa mbinguni, wataweza kutambua hila za nguvu zisizoonekana za giza. Wale ambao wanataka kuwa sawa na wakala wa mbinguni wanapaswa kuwa wenye bidii sana kufanya mapenzi ya MUNGU. Yabidi wasimpe nafasi yoyote Shetani na malaika zake. [Pr 113.3; Maombi Aya ya 72]

Lakini tusipokuwa macho kila wakati, tutatwezwa na adui. Ingawa ufunuo makini wa mapenzi ya MUNGU juu yetu umefunuliwa kwa wote, lakini ujuzi wa mapenzi Yake hauweki kando ulazima wa kutoa maombi ya dhati Kwake kwaajili ya msaada, na kwa bidii kutafuta kushirikiana Naye katika kujibu maombi yaliyotolewa. Yeye hutimiza makusudi Yake kupitia vyombo vya kibinadamu. - (SDA Bible Commentary 6: 1119) [Pr 113.4; Maombi Aya ya 73]

Sala bila kuutoa moyo kikamilifu haitaleta Majibu (maombi ya moyo nusu- nusu)-MUNGU Atakuwa kila kitu kwetu kwa kadiri tunavyomruhusu Awe. Maombi yetu yenye unyonge, yasiyoutoa moyo kikamilifu hayatatuletea majibu kutoka mbinguni. Oh, tunahitaji kuweka usongo/bidii katika kuwasilisha ombi letu! Omba kwa imani, subiri kwa imani, pokea kwa imani, shangilia kwa matumaini, kwani kila mtu atafutaye hupata. Kuwa na bidii na unyofu katika jambo hilo. Mtafute MUNGU kwa moyo wote. Watu huweka moyo wote na bidii katika kila kitu wanachofanya kwenye vitu vya muda mfupi vipitavyo, hadi juhudi zao zitakapofanikiwa. Kwa bidii nzito jifunze stadi na shuguli ya kutafuta baraka nyingi ambazo MUNGU ameahidi, na kwa uvumilivu, kwa juhudi zenye bidii na kuazimia, wewe utakuwa na nuru Yake na Ukweli Wake na neema Yake nyingi. [Pr 114.1; Maombi Aya ya 74]

Kwa unyofu wa moyo, katika njaa ya kiroho, mlilie MUNGU. Pigana mieleka na mawakala wa mbinguni hadi upate ushindi. Weka moyo na utu wako wote mikononi mwa Bwana, nafsi, mwili, na roho, na amua kwa kuvalia njuga kwa kuwa wakala mpendwa aliyejiweka wakfu, akiongozwa na mapenzi Yake, akidhibitiwa na akili Yake, na aliyejazwa na Roho Wake (akichajiwa na Roho Mtakatifu). [Pr 114.2; Maombi Aya ya 75]

Mwambie Yesu matakwa yako kwa unyofu wa roho yako. Hautakiwi kutoa hoja ndefu au mabishano, au kutoa hubiri kwa MUNGU (usimhubiri Mungu), lakini kwa moyo wa huzuni juu ya dhambi zako, wewe sema, "Niokoe, Bwana, la sivyo nitaangamia." Kuna matumaini kwa roho kama hizo. Watatafuta, wataomba, watabisha, na watapata. Wakati Yesu ameondoa mzigo wa dhambi unaosagasaga roho, utapata baraka ya amani ya Kristo. –(Our High Calling, 131) [Pr 114.3; Maombi Aya ya 76]

Ombi la Msamaha Daima Hujibiwa Papo hapo – Katika visa vingine vya uponyaji, Yesu hakutoa baraka iliyotafutwa pale pale. Lakini katika kisa cha ukoma, ombi lilijibiwa punde mara tu baada ya wito wa kusihhi uponyaji ulipotolewa. Tunapomba baraka za kidunia, jibu la maombi yetu linaweza kucheleweshwa, au MUNGU anaweza kutupa kitu kingine zaidi ya kile tunachoomba, lakini si hivyo pale tunapomba ukombozi kutoka dhambini. Ni mapenzi Yake kututakasa dhidi ya dhambi, na

kutufanya watoto Wake, na kutuwezesha kuishi maisha matakatifu. “Kristo alijitoa Mwenyewe kwa ajili ya dhambi zetu ili apate kutuokoa katika ulimwengu huu wenye uovu kwa sasa, kulingana na mapenzi ya MUNGU na Baba yetu. Wagalatia 1: 4. "Tukiomba chochote sawasawa na mapenzi Yake, Atusikia; na kama tukijua kwamba asikia, tuombacho chote, twajua kwamba tunazo zile haja tulizomwomba." 1 Yohana 5:14, 15. "Lakini tukiziungama dhambi zetu, basi MUNGU ni Mwaminifu na wa Kweli, Naye atatusamehe dhambi zetu na kututakasa na uovu wote." 1 Yohana 1: 9— (The Desire of Ages, 266) [Pr 114.4; Maombi Aya ya 77]

Kristo Huwasilisha Maombi Yetu Mbele ya Baba kama Ombi Lake Mwenyewe— Mara tu mtoto wa MUNGU anapokaribia kuingia kwenye Kiti cha Rehema, yeye anakuwa mteja wa Wakili mkuu. Katika kutamka kwake kwa mara ya kwanza toba na kuomba msamaha Kristo, anaikaribisha kesi yake kwa kuikubali na kuifanya iwe Yake Mwenyewe, akiwasilisha ombi mbele ya Baba Yake kama ombi Lake Mwenyewe. - (Testimonies for the Church 6:364) [Pr 115.1; Maombi Aya ya 78]

Omba Kumshukuru na Kumsifu MUNGU kwa ajili ya Maombi Yaliyojibiwa- Katika sura ya pili ya 1 Samweli imeandikwa sala ya mwanamke aliyejitoa bila kuchoka, na ambaye alimtumikia na kumtukiza MUNGU. Aliomba: "Moyo wangu wamshangilia BWANA, Pembe yangu imetukuka katika BWANA, Kinywa changu kimepanuka juu ya adui zangu; Kwa kuwa naufurahia wokovu Wako". Hakuna mtakatifu kama Bwana, kwa kuwa hakuna mwingine isipokuwa Yeye, wala hakuna mwamba kama MUNGU wetu." Sadaka ya Shukrani ya Hana kwa ajili ya jibu la maombi yake ni somo kwa wale ambao leo wanapokea majibu ya maombi yao. Je! Sisi tunapuuzia kurudisha sifa na shukrani kwa MUNGU kwa fadhili Zake za upendo? [Pr 115.2; Maombi Aya ya 79]

Daudi anatangaza, “Nampenda Bwana, kwa sababu amesikia sauti yangu na dua zangu. Kwa sababu amenitegea sikio Lake, kwa hivyo nitamwita maadamu ninaishi.” Wema wa MUNGU katika kusikia na kujibu maombi, hutuweka chini ya jukumu zito la kuonyesha shukrani zetu kwa neema tulizopewa (kwa mdomo na matendo). Tunapaswa kumsifu MUNGU zaidi kuliko tunavyofanya sasa. Baraka zilizopokelewa katika jibu la

maombi zinapaswa kutambuliwa mara moja kwa ushuhuda wa mdomo na katika maisha. Kumbukumbu zake zinapaswa kuwekwa katika shajara yetu, ili tunapokishika kitabu hicho cha kumbukumbu mkononi, tuweze kukumbuka wema wa Bwana, na kulisifu Jina Lake takatifu. - (The Review and Herald, Mei 7, 1908) [Pr 115.3; Maombi Aya ya 80]

SURA YA 12

MAOMBI NA UAMSHO

Uamsho Utakuja Tu Kama Jibu La Maombi – Uamsho wa utauwa wa Kweli miongoni mwetu ndio hitaji kubwa na la dharura kuliko mahitaji yetu yote. Kuutafuta uamsho huu inapaswa kuwa kazi yetu ya kwanza. Lazima ziwepo juhudi za dhati kujitwalia baraka ya Bwana kwetu, sio kwa sababu MUNGU Hayuko tayari kutumwagia baraka Yake, lakini kwa sababu sisi hatujajiandaa kuipokea. Baba yetu wa Mbinguni Yuko tayari kuwapatia Roho Wake Mtakatifu wale wanaomwomba, kuliko ambavyo wazazi wa hapa duniani walivyo tayari kutoa zawadi nzuri kwa watoto wao. Lakini ni kazi yetu, kwa kukiri, kujidhili/kujinyenyekeza, kutubu, na kutoa maombi ya dhati na bidii, kutimiza masharti ambayo kwayo MUNGU ameahidi kutupa baraka Yake. Uamsho unapaswa kutarajiwa tu katika jibu la

maombi.—(Selected Messages 1:121) [Pr 116.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Leo kuna haja ya uamsho wa dini ya Kweli ya moyoni kama ilivyokuwa kwa Israeli ya zamani. Kama wao, tunahitaji kuzaa matunda yanayofaa kwa toba, - kuweka mbali dhambi zetu, kuziondoa kabisa, kusafisha hekalu lililochafuliwa la moyo ili Yesu aweze kutawala ndani. Kuna haja ya maombi - maombi ya dhati, ya bidii, yasiyochoka, na ya kudumu. Mwokozi wetu ameacha ahadi za thamani kwa mwombaji atubuye kweli. Huyo hatautafuta uso Wake bure. Yeye pia kwa mfano Wake Mwenyewe ametufundisha umuhimu wa maombi. Yeye Mwenyewe, Mfalme wa Mbingu, Mara nyingi alitumia usiku kucha katika ushirika na Baba Yake. Ikiwa Mkombozi wa ulimwengu hakujiona kuwa Yeye ni safi sana, Mwenye busara sana, au mtakatifu sana kutafuta msaada kutoka kwa MUNGU, hakika sisi wanadamu dhaifu, wenye makosa tuna kila hitaji la msaada huo wa Bwana. Kwa toba na imani, kila Mkristo wa kweli atakuwa akitaafuta daima “Kiti cha Neema, ili apate rehema, na kupata neema ya kusaidia wakati wa shida” (The Signs of the Times, January 26, 1882) [Pr 116.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Maombi Hutuleta katika ushirika na MUNGU - Ikiwa tunamwendea MUNGU, tukijisikia hoi, wasiojiweza na tegemezi, kama vile tulivyo kihalisia, na kwa imani ya unyenyekevu na tumaini tukiwasilisha matakwa yetu Kwake Yeye ambaye maarifa Yake hayana kikomo, Yule anayeona kila kitu katika uumbaji, na ambaye anatawala na kuongoza kila kitu kwa mapenzi na Neno Lake, Anaweza na atashughulikia kilio chetu, na ataangazia nuru mioyoni mwetu. Kupitia maombi ya dhati tunaletwa katika mwuunganiko wa ile akili ya Yule Asiye na mwisho. Pengine tunaweza tusiwe na ushahidi unaoonekana kwa namna ya ajabu na wazi wakati ule ambao uso wa Mkombozi wetu umeinama juu yetu kwa huruma na upendo, lakini huo ndio ukweli wenyewe. Tunaweza tusihisi mguso Wake kwa kuonekana uso kwa uso, yaani dhahiri lakini mkono Wake u juu yetu kwa upendo na huruma yenye sikitiko.—(Steps to Christ, 97) [Pr 117.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Maombi yetu hupanda mbinguni kama umande wenye unyevunyevu wa damu ya Kristo itakasayo—Huduma za kidini, kiroho, sala, sifa, kukiri dhambi kwa toba, hupanda juu kutoka kwa waumini wa kweli kama uvumba kwenda

Patakatifu pa mbinguni, lakini kwa kupita katika njia oву na fisadi za ubinadamu, hunajisiwa sana kiasi kwamba visipotakaswa kwa damu, kamwe haviwezi kuwa vya thamani kwa Mungu. Hukwea juu vikiwa na waa na madoa hivyo pasipo Mwombezi, aliye Mkono wa Kuume wa Mungu ili kuwasilisha na kutakasa vyote kwa Haki Yake, hayakubaliki kwa Mungu. Uvumba wote kutoka madhabahu za kidunia, lazima uwe na umande wa matone ya utakaso wa damu ya Kristo. Mbele Zake Baba. Yeye Anashikilia chetezo cha haki na sifa Zake Mwenyewe, ambamo ndani yake hakuna uchafu wa rushwa au uфisadi wa kidunia. Yeye Hukusanya maombi sifa na maungamo ya watu Wake ndani ya chetezo hiki na pamoja nayo huweka Haki Yake isiyo na doa. Ukiwa na harufu ya manukato ya sifa za upatanishi wa Kristo, uvumba huu huja na mbele za Mungu moja kwa moja na kwa ukamilifu tayari kwa kukubalika kabisa. Kisha, majibu yenye Neema hurudishwa. - (Selected Messages 1:344) [Pr 117.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Katika Maombi Twahisi Uwepo wa Yesu – Iwapo tutamweka Bwana mbele yetu daima, tukaruhusu mioyo yetu kwenda kumshukuru na kumsifu, tutafanywa upya katika maisha yetu ya kiroho/kidini. Maombi yetu yachukua mfumo wa mazungumzo na MUNGU kama ambavyo tungezungumza na rafiki. Atazungumza nasi kuhusu mafumbo na siri Zake. Hisia nzuri za shangwe ya uwepo wa Yesu zitatumia mara kwa mara.—(Christ's Object Lessons, 129) [Pr 118.1; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Roho Mtakatifu alikuja wakati wa Pentekoste Kama Jibu La Maombi – Roho alikuja juu ya wanafunzi wanaosubiri, wanaosali kwa utimilifu uliofikia kila moyo. Yule asiye na mwisho alijifunua katika uongozi kwa kanisa Lake. Ilikuwa kana kwamba kwa miaka mingi ushawishi huu ulikuwa umezuiliwa, na sasa mbingu ilifurahi kumwaga juu ya kanisa utajiri wa neema ya Roho. Na, chini ya ushawishi wa Roho, maneno ya toba na kukiri yalichanganywa na nyimbo za kumsifu Mungu kwa ajili ya dhambi zilizosamehewa. Maneno ya shukrani na ya unabii yalisikika. Mbingu zote ziliinama chini kutazama na kuabudu hekima ya Upendo usiolinganishwa, usioelezeka/usioeleweka na binadamu. Wakiwa wamepotelea katika mshangao, wakiwa wametekewa, mitume wakasema, "Hapa pana upendo." Walishika na

kuilewa zawadi waliyopewa. Na nini kilifuata basi? Upanga wa Roho, ukiwa umenolewa na nguvu na kusafishwa na umeme wa mbinguni, nao ulikatakata hali ya kutokuamini. Maelfu wakaongolewa siku ile.—(The Acts of the Apostles, 38) [Pr 118.2; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Tunapaswa kuomba kwa ajili ya Roho Mtakatifu kama walivyofanya Wanafunzi katika Pentekoste — Moyo lazima ukungutwe kila punje ya unajisi na kusafishwa kwa ajili ya kukaa kwa Roho. Ilikuwa kwa kuungama na kuacha dhambi, kwa kuomba kwa dhathi na bidii na kujitoa wakfu kikamilifu wenyewe kwa MUNGU, ndivyo wanafunzi wa awali walivyojiandaa kwa ajili ya kumwagiwa kwa Roho Mtakatifu Siku ya Pentekoste. Kazi hiyo hiyo, lakini kwa kiwango kikubwa zaidi, lazima ifanyike sasa.... [Pr 118.3; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Pasipo kusonga mbele katika kielelezo cha fadhila za Kikristo kila siku, hatutaweza kutambua udhihirisho wa Roho Mtakatifu katika mvua ya masika. Inaweza kuwa ikianguka kwenye mioyo ya wengine kila mahali kutuzunguka, lakini sisi hatutatambua au kupokea.... [Pr 119.1; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Neema ya Mungu inahitajika mwanzoni, neema ya Bwana inahitajika katika kila hatua ya mafanikio, na neema ya Mungu pekee ndiyo inaweza kumaliza kazi hiyo. Hakuna nafasi kwetu sisi kubweteka na mielekeo ya kizembezembe. Kamwe tuisahau maonyo ya Kristo, "Kesha katika maombi," "daima.....kesha na uombe" Kuungana na wakala wa kimbingu kila nukta ni muhimu kwa maendeleo yetu. Yawezekana tuliwahi kupata kipimo fulani cha Roho wa MUNGU huko nyuma, lakini kwa maombi na imani tunapaswa kuendelea kuomba ili tuwe na Roho zaidi. — (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 507, 508) [Pr 119.2; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Tunapaswa kuomba kwa bidii kwa ajili ya kushuka kwa Roho Mtakatifu kama wanafunzi walivyoomba siku ya Pentekoste. Ikiwa walimhitaji Roho wakati huo, basi sisi tunamhitaji zaidi leo. [Pr 119.3; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Bila Roho na nguvu ya MUNGU, kujitahidi kwetu kuwasilisha Ukweli itakuwa ni kazi bure tu.—((Australasian) Union Conference Record, April 1, 1898) [Pr 119.4; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Dai Ahadi ya Roho kwa Imani – Ni kwa wale tu ambao humngojea MUNGU kwa unyenyekevu, wale ambao hutazama Uongozi na neema Yake, ndio hupewa huyo Roho. Nguvu ya MUNGU inasubiri takwa lao na mapokezi. Baraka hii ya Roho Mtakatifu iliyoahidiwa, na kudaiwa kwa imani, huleta baraka zingine zote kwenye mlolongo wa mabehewa yake, kama ilivyo treni inaposafiri. Inatolewa kulingana na utajiri wa rehema za Kristo, na Yeye Yuko tayari kuipatia kila nafsi kulingana na uwezo wa kupokea kwake mtu. –(The Desire of Ages, 672) [Pr 119.5; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Ombea Mvua ya masika-Lazima tuombe ili MUNGU afungue chemchemi ya maji ya uzima. Na lazima sisi wenyewe tupokee maji ya uzima. Hebu sisi, kwa mioyo mikunjufu na uliopondeka, tuombe kwa dhati na bidii ili sasa, wakati wa mvua ya masika, mvua za neema ziweze kutuangukia. Katika kila mkutano tunaohudhuria, sala zetu zinapaswa kupanda juu, ili wakati kama huu MUNGU atoe joto na unyevunyevu kwenye roho zetu. Tunapomtafuta MUNGU kwa ajili ya Roho Mtakatifu, atafanya kazi ndani yetu kuwa wapole, unyenyekevu wa nia n aakili, kumtegemea MUNGU kwa ajili ya kupata mvua ya masika. Ikiwa tunaomba baraka kwa imani, tutapokea kama vile MUNGU alivyoahidi. –(Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 508) [Pr 119.6; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Uwe na ari katika Maombi na katika Uwezo wa Roho Mtakatifu – Tunachohitaji ni ushawishi wa Roho Mtakatifu wa MUNGU uhuishao. "Si kwa nguvu, wala si kwa uwezo, bali kwa Roho Wangu, asema Bwana wa majeshi." Omba bila kukoma, na kesha ukifanya kazi kulingana na maombi yako. Unapomba, amini, mtumaini MUNGU. Ni wakati wa mvua ya masika, wakati ambao Bwana atatoa kwa kiasi kikubwa Roho Wake. Dumu katika maombi kwa shauku kubwa, na kesha katika Roho- (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 512) [Pr 120.1; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Shetani Huogopa watu wa MUNGU wanaomba kwa ajili ya Roho Mtakatifu- Hakuna kitu ambacho humogofya Shetani kama habari kuwa watu wa MUNGU watafungua njia kwa kuondoa kila kikwazo, ili Bwana aweze kumwaga Roho Wake juu ya kanisa lenye uchovu na kutaniko ambalo halijafanya toba. Ikiwa Shetani angelikuwa na njia yake, hakungekuwa na uamsho mwingine, mkubwa au mdogo,

hadi mwisho wa wakati. Lakini sisi si wajinga katika kutambua hila zake. Inawezekana kuzipinga nguvu zake. Pale njia ipoandaliwa kwa ajili ya Roho wa MUNGU, baraka itakuja. Shetani hawezi kuzuia mvua ya baraka zisishuke juu ya watu wa MUNGU kama vile asivyoweza kufunga madirisha ya mbinguni ili mvua isiweze kufikia watu duniani. Watu waovu na mapepo/mashetani hawawezi kuzuia kazi ya MUNGU, au kufungia uwepo Wake kwenye mikusanyiko ya Watu Wake, Ikiwa kwa mioyo iliyotiishwa, yenye toba na kupondeka, watakiri na kuachana na dhambi zao, na kudai ahadi Zake kwa Imani. —(Selected Messages 1:124) [Pr 120.2; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Roho Huandamana na Kila Ombi la Dhati — Dini inayotoka kwa MUNGU ndiyo dini pekee itakayoongoza kumuelekea MUNGU. Ili kumtumikia Yeye sawasawa, lazima tuzaliwe na Roho Mtakatifu. Hii itasafisha moyo na kufanya upya akili, ikitupatia uwezo mpya wa kumjua na kumpenda MUNGU. Itatupa utii wa hiari kwa matakwa Yake yote. Hii ndio ibada ya Kweli. Ni tunda la utendaji wa Roho Mtakatifu. Kwa Roho kila sala ya dhati inaandikwa na kupewa ukubali Wake, na sala kama hiyo inakubalika kwa MUNGU. Mahali popote ambapo roho inamfuata MUNGU, hapo utendaji wa Roho unadhihirika, na MUNGU atajifunua kwa nafsi hiyo. Kwa maana Yeye Bwana anawatafuta wale wamwabuduo namna hii. Yeye anangojea kuwapokea, na kuwafanya wana na binti Zake. —(The Desire of Ages, 189) [Pr 120.3; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Maombi bila Shughuli iliyo dhati na ya Bidii kwa ajili ya watu Wengine husababisha kutumbukia katika mapokeo ya urasmi— MUNGU hamaainishi kwamba yeyote miongoni mwetu lazima awe mtawa aliyejitenga na watu au anayetoroka watu na kukaa mbali kusiko na watu kabisa (monk or hermit) na kwamba sasa tuukimbie ulimwengu na kujitoa masaa yote kwa vitendo vya ibada tu. Maisha lazima yawe kama maisha ya Kristo, katikati ya mlima na umati (akisali mlimani peke yake na akihudumu kwenye umati). Yule ambaye hafanyi chochote isipokuwa kuomba tu, ataacha kuomba hivi karibuni, au sala zake zitakuwa ni taratibu za mapokeo ya kila siku, kufuata ratiba kavukavu tu, bila moyo kuhusika, na destruri ngumu (rigid rules). Wakati watu wanapojiondoa katika maisha yao na jamii, mbali na uwanja wao wa wajibu wa Kikristo, pamoja na kubeba msalaba; wanapoacha kufanya kazi kwa unyofu na

bidii kwa Bwana, ambaye alifanya kazi kwa dhati na bidii kwa ajili yao, wanapoteza mwelekeo na msingi wa maombi, na wanakosa motisha wa kujitoa wakfu kwaajili ya ibada. Maombi yao huwa yanahusu wao wenyewe na hivyo ya ubinafsi. Hawawezi kuomba kwa kuzingatia matakwa ya wanadamu au kuhusiana na kujengwa kwa ufalme wa Kristo, wakiugua kwaajili ya kupewa nguvu ya kufanya kazi.—(Steps to Christ, 101) [Pr 121.1; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Maendeleo ya Kiroho Hutegemea Maombi — Lazima tudumu katika maombi ikiwa tunahitaji kupiga hatua katika maisha ya Kiungu/mbingu. Wakati ujumbe wa ile Kweli ulipotangazwa kwa mara ya kwanza, ni kwa kiasi gani tuliomba. Ni mara ngapi sauti ya maombezi ilisikika chumbani, ghalani, kwenye shamba la matunda, au vijisitu. Mara kwa mara tulitumia masaa kwa maombi ya dhati, wawili au watatu pamoja wakadai ahadi; mara nyingi sauti ya kulia ilisikika na kisha sauti ya shukrani na wimbo wa sifa. Sasa siku ile ya MUNGU iko karibu kuliko wakati tulipoanza kuamini, na tunapaswa kuwa na unyofu, shauku, ari, na bidii ya kudumu zaidi kuliko siku zile za mwanzo. Hatari tulizo nazo sasa ni kubwa kuliko hapo awali.— (Testimonies for the Church 5:161, 162) [Pr 121.2; Maombi Aya ya 18]

SURA YA 13

WANAUME NA WANAWAKE WA MAOMBI

Henoko

Maombi yalikuwa Pumzi ya Nafsi Yake – kwa kuwasiliana na MUNGU, Henoka alizidi kuakisi sura ya Mungu. Uso wake ulikuwa uking'aa na nuru takatifu, hata ile nuru inayoangaza usoni mwa Yesu. Alipokuwa akitoka kwenye mawasiliano/mazungumzo haya na Bwana, hata wale wasiompanda Mungu (makafiri) walitazama kwa mshangao mkubwa mvuto (muhuri) wa mbinguni juu ya uso wake. [Pr 122.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Imani yake ilizidi kuimarika, upendo wake ukawa wenye shauku kali zaidi (enthusiasm), ukidumu kwa karne nyingi. Kwake maombi yalikuwa kama pumzi ya roho. Aliishi katika angahewa la mbinguni. - (Gospel Workers, 52) [Pr 122.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Akifadhaishwa na uovu uliokithiri wa wale wasiomcha MUNGU, na akiogopa kwamba kukosa uadilifu kwao kungeweza kupunguza kicho chake kwa MUNGU, Henoka aliepuka kushirikiana nao mara kwa mara, na alitumia muda mwingi akiwa amejitenga peke yake, akajitoa wakfu kwa tafakari na sala. Hivyo ndivyo alivyojihudhurisha mbele za Bwana, akitafuta maarifa wazi ya mapenzi Yake, kwa makusudi ya kuyatimiza. Kwake maombi yalikuwa kama pumzi ya roho; aliishi katika angahewa ya mbinguni. - (Patriarchs and Prophets, 85) [Pr 122.3; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Henoka Alitembea Na MUNGU Kupitia Maombi – Natamani ningeweza kumhimiza/kumhamasisha kila mtendakazi katika kazi ya MUNGU, hitaji kuu la sala ya kudumu na ya bidii. Hawawezi kupiga magoti daima, lakini wanaweza kuendelea kuinua mioyo yao kwa MUNGU. Hii ndio njia ambayo Henoka alitembea na MUNGU. - (The Review and Herald, Novemba 10, 1885) [Pr 123.1; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Wakati tunafanya kazi zetu za kila siku, tunapaswa kuinua mioyo yetu mbinguni kwa ajili ya maombi. Maombi haya ya kimyakimya, hupanda kama uvumba mbele ya kiti cha neema; na adui hupatwa na mshtuko wa fadhaa. Mkristo ambaye moyo wake umekaa kwa MUNGU hawezi kutindikiwa. Hakuna sanaa za uovu au giza ambazo zinaweza kuharibu amani yake. Ahadi zote za Neno la MUNGU, nguvu zote za neema ya Bwana, rasilimali zote za Yehova, zimeahidiwa kama uhakikisho wa ukombozi Wake. Ilikuwa kwa jinsi hiyo ndiyo Henoka alivyotembea na

MUNGU. Na MUNGU alikuwa pamoja naye, msaada ulio tele wakati wa mateso au mahitaji. - (Messages to Young People, 249) [Pr 123.2; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Watu Walimtafuta Henoka kwa ajili ya Maombi – Henoka alikua mhubiri wa haki, akiwajulisha watu kile ambacho MUNGU alikuwa amemfunulia. Wale waliomcha Bwana walimtafuta mtu huyu mtakatifu, ili ashiriki nao maagizo yake na sala zake. - (Patriarchs and Prophets, 86) [Pr 123.3; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Kadiri kazi ya Henoka ilivyozidi kuwa kubwa, ndivyo Maombi yake yalivyokuwaya dhati na bidii zaidi – Katika maisha ya kazi ya bidii, Henoka alidumisha uhusiano wake na MUNGU. Kadiri kazi yake ilivyokuwa kubwa na kupata msukumo zaidi, ndivyo maombi yake yalikuwa ya kudumu na ya dhati, usadikisho na bidii zaidi. Aliendelea kujitenga mwenyewe, katika vipindi fulani, mbali na jamii yote. Baada ya kukaa kwa muda kati ya watu, akitenda kazi ili kuwanufaisha kwa kuwafundisha na kutoa mfano, alijitenga, kutumia msimu katika upweke, akiwa na njaa na kiu ya maarifa ya Bwana ambayo MUNGU peke yake Ndiye anayeweza kuyatoa. - (Patriarchs and Prophets, 86, 87) [Pr 123.4; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Abrahamu

Maombi ya kila siku yanapaswa kupaa kwa MUNGU kama ubani unaonukia— Maisha ya Ibrahimu, rafiki wa MUNGU, yalikuwa maisha ya maombi. Kila mahali alipopiga hema lake, karibu naye ilijengwa madhabahu, ambayo juu yake ilitolewa dhabihu ya asubuhi na ya jioni. Wakati hema lake lilipoondolewa, madhabahu ilibaki. Na Mkanaani aliyekuwa akirandaranda au akihamahama huko na kule, alipofika kwenye madhabahu hiyo, alijua ni nani aliyekuwepo hapo. Naye huyu mkanani alipopiga hema lake aliikarabati ile madhabahu na kumwabudu MUNGU Aliye hai. [Pr 123.5; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Hivyo ndivyo nyumba za Wakristo zinapaswa kuwa taa ulimwenguni leo. Kutoka humo, asubuhi na jioni, sala inapaswa kupanda juu kwa MUNGU kama uvumba unaonukia. Na kama umande wa asubuhi, rehema Zake na

baraka zitashuka juu ya waombaji. [Pr 124.1; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Akina baba na akina mama, kila asubuhi na jioni wakusanye watoto wako karibu na wewe, na kwa dua ya unyenyekevu inua moyo kwa MUNGU kwa ajili ya msaada. Wapendwa wako wanaanikwa kwenye majaribu. Kero za kila siku zinasonga njia ya vijana na wazee. Wale ambao wataishi maisha ya uvumilivu, ya upendo, na uchangamfu lazima waombe. Ni kwa kupokea msaada wa kila wakati kutoka kwa MUNGU ndipo tunaweza kupata ushindi juu ya nafsi yetu. [Pr 124.2; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Kila asubuhi jiwekeni wakfu kwa MUNGU na watoto wenu kwa ajili ya siku hiyo. Msifanye mahesabu ya miezi au miaka; hiyo sio yenu. Wewe umepewa siku moja fupi, kama vile ndio siku yako ya mwisho duniani, fanya kazi kwa Bwana katika masaa hayo. Weka mipango yako yote mbele za MUNGU, ili itekelezwe au ihahirishwe, kama vile maagizo Yake Mungu yatakavyoelekeza. Kubali mipango Yake badala mipango yako mwenyewe, hata kama kuikubali mipango Yake, kutakuhitaji wewe kuiacha miradi unayoipenda. Ndipo maisha yako yatatengenezwa/yatafinyangwa zaidi na zaidi katika mfano wa Kiungu/mbingu; "Na amani ya MUNGU, ipitayo akili zote, italinda mioyo yenu na akili zenu kupitia Kristo Yesu." Wafilipi 4: 7 .— Testimonies for the Church (7:44) [Pr 124.3; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Ibrahimu aliomba kwa Imani licha ya mazingira yenye changamoto – Ibrahimu hakuweza kuelezea mwongozo au majaliwa ya Mungu; alikuwa hajajua matokeo yatakuwaje; lakini alishikilia ile ahadi, “nitakubariki, na kulitukuza Jina Lako; nawe utakuwa baraka.” Kwa maombi ya dhati alifikiria jinsi ya kuhifadhi maisha ya watu wake na mifugo yake, lakini hakuruhusu mazingira yale yatikise imani yake katika Neno la MUNGU. - (Conflict and Courage, 45) [Pr 124.4; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Ibrahimu alimwomba MUNGU kwa Ujasiri wa Mtoto, Akamsihi Baba Yake -Wajumbe wawili wa mbinguni waliondoka, wakimwacha Ibrahimu peke yake na Yeye ambaye sasa alijua kuwa ni Mwana wa MUNGU. Na yule mtu wa imani alisihi, yaani alifanya maombezi kwa wakaaji wa Sodom. Siku za awali alikuwa amewaokoa kwa upanga

wake, na sasa alijitahidi kuwaokoa kwa sala. Lutu na nyumba yake walikuwa bado wakazi huko; na upendo usio na ubinafsi ndio uliomsukuma Ibrahimu kuwaokoa kutoka kwa Waelamu, sasa ulitafuta kuwaokoa kutoka kwenye dhoruba ya hukumu ya Bwana, ikiwa ni kwa mapenzi ya MUNGU (Mwanzo 14). [Pr 124.5; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Kwa heshima kubwa na unyenyekevu alitoa ombi lake: "Nimejitolea kusema na Bwana, mimi ambaye ni mavumbi na majivu tu." Hakukuwa na kujiamini mwenyewe, wala kujisifu kwa haki yake mwenyewe. Yeye hakudai upendeleo kwa sababu ya utii wake, au dhabihu alizotoa kwa kufanya mapenzi ya MUNGU. Mzee huyu, ambaye mwenyewe akiwa mwenye dhambi, aliomba rehema kwa niaba ya mdhambi. Roho kama hiyo tunapaswa kumiliki wote tunaomkaribia MUNGU. Walakini Ibrahimu alionyesha ujasiri wa mtoto anayemwomba baba yake mpendwa. Alimkaribia Mjumbe wa mbinguni, na akahimiza ombi lake kwa bidii.... Pr 125.1; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Upendo kwa roho zinazoangamia ulimsukuma/ulimbidisha Ibrahimu kusihhi. Wakati alikuwa anachukia dhambi za mji huo wenye ufiadini, matamano yake yalikuwa kwamba wenye dhambi waweze kukolewa. Kuijali kwake Sodoma kwa kina kunaonyesha tashwishwi ambayo tunapaswa kuhisi kwa wale wasiotubia dhambi zao. Tunapaswa kuichukia dhambi mioyoni mwetu, lakini kumwonea huruma na kumpenda mwenye dhambi. - (Patriarchs and Prophets, 139, 140) [Pr 125.2; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Yakobo

Uzoefu wa Yakobo Unafundisha Umuhimu wa ombi linaloshinda, lisilochoka. lenye bidii na linaloleta ushawishi kwa wengine (prevailing prayer) – Yakobo alishinda kwa sababu alikuwa mvumilivu na mwenye kuazimia. Uzoefu wake unathibitisha nguvu ya sala ya ustahimilivu, na ya dharura, yenye kusihhi kwa imani bila kuchoka, mpaka majibu yapatikane (importunate prayer). Wakati huu ndio wa kujifunza somo hili la ombi linaloshinda, lenye bidii, lisilochoka, na lisilokata tamaa mpaka majibu yapatikane. Ushindi mkubwa kwa kanisa la Kristo au kwa Mkristo mmoja mmoja sio ule unaopatikana kwa talanta au elimu, kwa

utajiri au upendeleo wa watu. Bali ni ushindi ambao hupatikana katika chumba cha hadhira na MUNGU, wakati imani yenye dhati na yenye bidii, yenye uchungu inashikilia mkono wa Yule aliye mkuu na Mwenye nguvu zote. [Pr 125.3; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Wale ambao hawataki kutelekeza au kutupilia mbali kila dhambi na kutafuta kwa bidii baraka za MUNGU, basi hawatazipata. Lakini wote watakaoshika ahadi za MUNGU kama alivyofanya Yakobo, na kuwa na bidii na uvumilivu kama yeye, watafaulu kama yeye alivyofaulu. - (Patriarchs and Prophets, 203) [Pr 125.4; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Musa

Fuata Mfano wa Musa katika kuomba— Ongea kidogo (fanya magumzo kwa uchache sana); wakati wa thamani unapotea katika mazungumzo ambayo hayana nuru. Hebu ndugu waungane katika kufunga na kuombea hekima ambayo MUNGU ameahidi kuitoa kwa kila mtu na kwa ukarimu. Mjulishe MUNGU shida zako. Mwambie, kama alivyofanya Musa, "Siwezi kuwaongoza watu hawa mpaka uwepo Wako utakapoenda nami." Na kisha omba zaidi; omba na Musa, "Nionyeshe utukufu Wako." [Kutoka 33:18.] Utukufu huu ni nini? —Ni Tabia na sifa ya MUNGU. Hivi ndivyo alimtangazia Musa. - (Gospel Workers, 417) [Pr 126.1; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Musa alifanya maombezi yenye Mafanikio kwa ajili ya Israeli - Agano la MUNGU na watu Wake lilikuwa limefutwa, na alimwambia Musa, "Niache, ili hasira Yangu iwake juu yao, na niwaangamize; Nami nitakufanya wewe uwe taifa kubwa." Watu wa Israeli, haswa umati uliokuwa mseto (uliochangamana waisraeli na wamisri), walikuwa wana mwelekeo wa kumuasi MUNGU daima. Pia walilalamika dhidi ya kiongozi wao, na walimuhuzunisha kwa kutokuamini na ukaidi wao, na hivyo ingekuwa kazi ya kutoa jasho na ya kujaribu roho, kuwaongoza mpaka Nchi ya Ahadi. Dhambi zao tayari zilikuwa zimepoteza neema ya MUNGU, na haki ilidai waangamizwe. Kwa hiyo Bwana alipendekeza kuwaangamiza, na kumfanya Musa kuwa taifa lenye nguvu. [Pr 126.2; Maombi Aya ya ; Maombi Aya ya 19]

"Niachie Mimi,... ili niwaangamize," yalikuwa Maneno ya MUNGU kwa Musa. Ikiwa MUNGU alikuwa amekusudia kuangamiza Israeli, ni nani angetaka kufanya maombezi kwa niaba yao? Ni wangapi kama si wachache tu ambao wangewaachia wenye dhambi kuikabili hatima yao! Ni wangapi kama si wachache wangepurahi kubadilishana na taabu nyingi na mzigo mzito na kujitoa kafara, kulipwa kwa 'shukurani ya punda mateke' na manung'uniko, kupewa nafasi ya raha na heshima, wakati ni MUNGU Mwenyewe Ndiye aliyekuwa anatoa afueni kwa Musa (Mungu alimruhusu Musa awe huru na uzao wake uendelee! Naye akakataa na kuwaombea watu wake Israeli). [Pr 126.3; Maombi Aya ya ; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Lakini Musa alitambua msingi wa tumaini pale ambapo palionekana panavunja moyo na ghadhabu tu. Maneno ya MUNGU, "Niache Mimi," aliyaelewa kama kutomaanisha kumkataza yeye (Musa) bali kumhamasisha afanye maombezi, Akimaanisha kuwa hakuna chochote isipokuwa maombi ya Musa yangeweza kuokoa Israeli, yaani yabidi aombe kwa niaba yao na kwa kufanya hilo, MUNGU angewasamehe watu Wake [Pr 126.4; Maombi Aya ya ; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Kadiri Musa alivyofanya maombezi kwa ajili ya Israeli, unyonge na woga wake ulipotokomea katika shauku yake ya kina na upendo kwa wale ambao aliwaweka mikononi mwa MUNGU, ambaye Ndiye njia ya kufanya mengi. Bwana alisikiza maombi yake, na akajibu maombi yake yasiyo ya ubinafsi. MUNGU alikuwa amemthibitisha mtumishi Wake; Alikuwa amejaribu uaminifu wake na upendo wake kwa watu hao wakosaji, wasio na moyo wa shukurani, na kwa ubora na busara, Musa alivumilia jaribu. Masilahi yake kwa Israeli hayakutokana na nia ya ubinafsi. Ustawi wa watu waliochaguliwa/walioteuliwa na MUNGU ulikuwa wa kupendeza kwake kuliko heshima ya binafsi, wenye kupendeza kuliko fursa ya yeye kuwa baba wa taifa lenye nguvu. MUNGU alifurahishwa na uaminifu wake, unyenyekevu wa moyo, usahili wa moyo, na uadilifu wake, na akamkabidhi yeye, kama mchungaji mwaminifu, jukumu kubwa la kuongoza Israeli kwenda Nchi ya Ahadi. - (Patriarchs and Prophets, 318, 319) [Pr 127.1; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Musa Aliendelea kuwasilisha Maombi yake kwa MUNGU—Musa alijua upotovu na upofu wa wale ambao waliwekwa chini ya uangalizi wake; alijua shida na changamoto anazopaswa kushindana nazo. Lakini alikuwa amejifunza kwamba ili kufanikiwa kuongoza watu hao, lazima awe na msaada kutoka kwa MUNGU. Aliomba ufunuo wazi wa mapenzi ya MUNGU na uhakikisho wa uwepo Wake: “Tazama, unaniambia, Walete watu hawa: na hukunijulisha ni nani utakayemtuma pamoja nami. Lakini umesema, nakujua kwa Jina Lako, nawe umepata neema mbele Zangu. Basi sasa, nakuomba, ikiwa nimepata neema machoni pako, nionyeshe njia Yako, ili nipate kukujua, ili nipate kibali machoni Pako; na zingatia kuwa taifa hili ni watu Wako.” [Pr 127.2; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Jibu lilikuwa, "Uwepo Wangu utaenda nawe, Nami nitakupa raha." Lakini Musa alikuwa bado hajaridhika. kulikuwa na shinikizo la kuogofya juu ya nafsi yake juu ya hisia ya matokeo mabaya ikiwa MUNGU angewaacha Israeli wakutane na maisha magumu na kutojutia dhambi zao. Hakuweza kuvumilia kwamba masilahi yake yatenganishwe na yale ya ndugu zake, na aliomba kwamba neema ya MUNGU irejeshwe kwa watu Wake, na kwamba ishara ya uwepo Wake iendeleo kuongoza safari zao: " Uwepo Wako usipoenda nami, usituchukue kutoka hapa. Kwa maana itajulikanaje hapa kuwa mimi na watu Wako tumepata neema mbele Zako? Je! Si kwa sababu Wewe unaenda pamoja nasi? Basi tutatenganishwa, mimi na watu Wako, dhidi ya watu wote walio juu ya uso wa dunia." [Pr 127.3; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Bwana akasema, "Nitafanya jambo hili pia ulilolinena; kwa kuwa umepata neema mbele Zangu, na nakujua kwa jina." Bado nabii hakuacha kuomba/kusihi. Kila sala ilikuwa imejibiwa, lakini alikuwa na kiu ya ishara kubwa za upendeleo wa MUNGU. Sasa alifanya ombi ambalo hakuna mwanadamu aliyewahi kufanya hapo awali: "Ninakuomba, nionyeshe utukufu Wako." [Pr 128.1; Maombi Aya ya 25]

MUNGU hakulikemea ombi lake kama la kujiamini kwa kupitiliza, au ujasiri potofu na imani bandia isiyofuata mapenzi ya Mungu (au kuonyesha ukaidi au kiburi); lakini maneno ya neema yalisemwa, "Nitapitisha wema Wangu wote mbele yako." Utukufu uliofunuliwa wa MUNGU, hakuna mtu katika hali hii ya kufa anayeweza kutazama na

kuishi; lakini Musa alihakikishiwa kwamba angeliangalia utukufu wa Mungu kwa kadiri atakavyoweza kuvumilia. Kisha akaitwa tena kwenye kilele cha mlima; halafu Mkono ule ulioumba ulimwengu, ule Mkono "unaoondoa milima, nao watu hawajui" (Ayubu 9: 5), ukambeba kiumbe huyu aliyeumbwa kwa mavumbi tu, mtu huyu hodari wa imani, na kumweka katika pango la mwamba, wakati utukufu wa MUNGU na wema Wake wote ukapita mbele yake. [Pr 128.2; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Uzoefu huu - Zaidi ya yote, ahadi ya kwamba Uwepo wa MUNGU ungemhudumia - kwake Musa ulikuwa ni uhakikisho wa kufanikiwa katika kazi iliyokuwa mbele yake; na aliihesabu hili kuwa lenye thamani isiyopimika kuliko elimu yote ya Misri au mafanikio yake yote kama kiongozi wa serikali au kiongozi wa jeshi. Hakuna nguvu ya kidunia au ujuzi au ujifunzaji unaoweza kuwa mbadala wa uwepo wa MUNGU unaodumu (alikuwa amesoma shahada tano mbalimbali). - (Patriarchs and Prophets, 327, 328) [Pr 128.3; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Chini ya Msongo, Maombi ya Musa yakafanana kama Malalamiko kwa kiasi fulani-Moyo wa Musa ukazama. Alikuwa ameomba kwamba Israeli wasiangamizwe, hata kama kizazi chake kingeweza kuwa taifa kubwa wakati huo. Katika upendo wake kwao alikuwa ameomba kwamba jina lake lifutwe kutoka kitabu cha uzima kuliko waisraeli waachwe na kuangamia. Alikuwa amehatarisha yote kwa ajili yao Wana Israeli, na haya ndiyo yalikuwa majibu yao. Shida zao zote, na hata mateso yao ya kufikirika, watu hao wa Israeli walimtuhumu yeye; na manung'uniko yao mabaya ukawa mzigo uliomlelea mara mbili kwa utunzaji, masumbufu na uwajibikaji ambao aliubeba. Katika dhiki yake alijaribiwa hata kutomwamini MUNGU. Maombi yake yalikuwa kama malalamiko. "Kwa nini umemtesa mtumishi Wako? Kwa nini sikupata kibali machoni Pako, hata ukaniwekea mzigo wa watu hawa wote juu yangu? ni wapi nitapata nyama kuwapa watu hawa wote? maana wanaililia wakisema, Tupe nyama, tule. Siwezi kubeba watu hawa wote peke yangu, kwa sababu ni mzigo mzito kwangu. [Pr 128.4; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Bwana alisikiza sala yake, na akamwongoza aite wanaume sabini miongoni mwa wazee wa Israeli-wanaume sio tu walio na umri mkubwa, lakini waliokuwa na hadhi,

maamuzi mazuri, hekima na uzoefu. "Na uwalete kwenye hema ya kukutania," alisema, "ili wasimame hapo pamoja nawe. Nami nitashuka na kuzungumza nawe huko; Nami nitachukua baadhi ya roho iliyo juu yako, na kuiweka juu yao; nao watabeba mzigo wa watu pamoja nawe, ili usibebe wewe peke yako." (Patriarchs and Prophets, 379, 380) [Pr 129.1; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Musa aliomba Rehema kwa ajili ya Israeli – Musa sasa akainuka na kuingia katika madhabahu ya kukutania. Bwana akamtangazia hivi, "Nitawapiga kwa tauni, na kuwazuia, na nitakufanya wewe kuwa taifa kubwa zaidi." Lakini tena Musa alisihi kwa maombezi kwa ajili ya watu wake. Hangekubali waangamizwe, na yeye mwenyewe afanywe kuwa taifa lenye nguvu. Akiomba huruma ya MUNGU, alisema: "Ninakuomba, nguvu za Bwana wangu ziwe kubwa kama ulivyozungumza, ukisema, Bwana ni mvumilivu, na mwingi wa rehema wasamehe, ninakuomba Wewe, uovu wa watu hawa kulingana na ukuu wa rehema Zako, na jinsi ulivyowasamehe watu hawa, kutoka Misri hata sasa." [Pr 129.2; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Bwana aliahidi kuwaepusha Israeli na uangamivu/uharibifu wa papo hapo; lakini kwa sababu ya kutokuamini kwao na woga hakuweza kudhihirisha nguvu Zake katika kuwashinda adui zao. Kwa hiyo kwa rehema Yake aliwaamuru, kama njia pekee salama, warudi nyuma kuelekea Bahari ya Shamu. - (Patriarchs and Prophets, 390, 391) [Pr 129.3; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Maombi ya Musa yaliwaokoa Waisraeli dhidi ya Hukumu za MUNGU— watu walipomwangalia mzee huyu mwenye umri mkubwa, aliyekuwa anakaribia kuchukuliwa kutoka kwao, walikumbuka, kwa shukrani mpya na ya kina, huruma yake ya 'mzazi', mashauri yake ya busara, na kazi yake isiyochoka. Ni mara ngapi, ambapo dhambi zao zilikuwa zimealika hukumu za haki za MUNGU, na sala za Musa zikaendelea bila kuchoka na kushinda pamoja Naye Mungu na kisha Yeye hawakuwaangamiza! Huzuni yao iliongezeka kwa majuto. Walikumbuka kwa uchungu kwamba upotovu wao wenyewe ulikuwa umempelekea Musa kwenye dhambi ambayo kwayo anapaswa kufa.- (Patriarchs and Prophets, 470) [Pr 129.4; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Ombi la Mwisho la Musa lililotimizwa katika Mlima wa kugeuka sura kwa Yesu kwa mng'ao usoni— hakuna muda hapo awali, mpaka ilipodhihirika katika mfano wa dhabihu ya Kristo, ambapo haki na upendo wa MUNGU vilionyeshwa kwa kushangaza zaidi kuliko wakati wowote, katika kushugulika Kwake na Musa. MUNGU alimfungia Musa nje ya Kanaani, ili kufundisha somo ambalo halipaswi kusahaulika kamwe— kwamba Anahitaji utii kamili, na kwamba watu wanapaswa kuwa waangalifu dhidi ya kujichukulia utukufu ambao ni wa Muumba wao tu. Bwana hakuweza kulitimiza ombi la Musa kwamba apate kushiriki urithi wa Israeli, hata hivyo hakumsahau au kumwacha mtumishi Wake. MUNGU wa mbinguni alielewa mateso ambayo Musa alikuwa amevumilia; Alikuwa ameona kila tendo la huduma ya uaminifu kwa miaka hiyo mingi ya mizozo na majaribio/mitihani. Juu ya Pisga, MUNGU alimwita Musa kwenye urithi mtukufu zaidi kuliko Kanaani ya kidunia. [Pr 130.1; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Juu ya mlima wa mng'ao wa uso wa Yesu (transfiguration), Musa alikuwepo na Eliya, ambaye alikuwa ametwaliwa kwenda mbinguni. Walitumwa kama wabebaji wa nuru na utukufu kutoka kwa Baba kwenda kwa Mwanawe. Na hivyo ombi la Musa, alilolitoa karne nyingi zilizopita, mwishowe lilitimizwa. Alisimama juu ya "mlima mzuri", ndani ya nchi ya urithi wa watu wake Israeli, akishuhudia kwake Yeye Yule ambaye ahadi zote kwa Israeli zimejikita Kwake. Hili ndilo lilikuwa tukio la mwisho alilofunuliwa Musa katika maono wakati bado akiwa na mwili unaokufa, katika historia ya mtu huyo aliyeheshimiwa sana na Mbingu. - (Patriarchs and Prophets, 479) [Pr 130.2; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Hana

Mfano wa Hana unamtia moyo Kila Mama — Kutoka Shilo, Hana alirudi kimya nyumbani kwake huko Rama, akimwacha mtoto Samweli afundishwe utumishi katika nyumba ya MUNGU, chini ya maagizo ya kuhani mkuu. Kuanzia mafunzo ya awali ya akili yake alikuwa amemfundisha mtoto wake kumpenda na kumcha MUNGU na kujiona kama yeye ni wa Bwana. Kwa kila kilichomzunguka alichokifahamu, alikuwa anatarajia kuwa atapeleka mawazo yake kwa Muumba. Walipotengana na

mtoto wake, upweke wa mama mwaminifu haukukoma. Kila siku Samweli alikuwa mlengwa wa maombi yake. Kila mwaka alimtenezea kwa mikono yake mwenyewe, joho la utumishi wake; na alipokwenda pamoja na mumewe kuabudu huko Shilo, alimpa mtoto ukumbusho huu wa upendo wake. Kila nyuzi ya vazi dogo ilikuwa imesokotwa na maombi ili awe safi, adhimu, bora na mkweli. Hakuomba ukuu wa ulimwengu kwa mtoto wake, lakini aliomba kwa bidii ili apate ukuu ambao Mbingu inathamini ili amheshimu/amche MUNGU na kubariki wanadamu wenzake. [Pr 130.3; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Hana alikuwa na thawabu kubwa iliyoje! Naye ni mfano wa faraja ya kutia moyo kwa namna bora kiasi gani, juu ya uaminifu wake! Kuna fursa za thamani isiyo na kifani, masilahi yenye thamani kubwa, yaliyowekwa kwa kila mama. Duru za unyenyekevu ambazo wanawake wameziona kama kazi ya kuchosha zinapaswa kuangaliwa kama kazi kuu na bora. Ni fursa ya mama kuubariki ulimwengu kwa ushawishi wake, na kwa kufanya hivyo ataleta furaha moyoni mwake. Anaweza kutengeneza njia zilizonyooka kwa ajili ya miguu ya watoto wake kupitia katika mwangaza wa jua na kivuli, hadi utukufu wa juu kabisa. Lakini ni wakati tu anapotafuta katika maisha yake mwenyewe kufuata mafundisho ya Kristo, ndipo ambapo mama anaweza kutumaini kuunda tabia ya watoto wake kulingana na mfano wa Mungu/mbingu. Ulimwengu unafurika na ushawishi mbaya. Mitindo na desturi zina nguvu kubwa juu ya vijana. Ikiwa mama atashindwa katika jukumu lake la kufundisha, kuongoza, na kuzuia, watoto wake, kwa asilia/kawaida watakubali uovu, na kuachana na wema. Hebu kila mama aende mara kwa mara kwa Mwokozi wake na sala, "Tufundishe, tutamwamuru vipi mtoto, na tufanye nini kwake?" Hebu azingatie mafundisho ambayo MUNGU ametoa katika Neno Lake, naye atapewa hekima kadiri atakavyohitaji. - (Patriarchs and Prophets, 572, 573) [Pr 131.1; Maombi Aya ya 36]

Hana alikuwa Mwanamke wa Maombi — Hana hakutoa lawama kwa mumewe kuhusiana na ndoa yake isiyo na busara. Huzuni ambayo hakuweza kushiriki na rafiki wa kidunia, aliipeleka kwa Baba yake wa Mbinguni, na kutafuta faraja kutoka kwa Yeye peke yake ambaye alisema, "Niite siku ya shida, Nami nitakuokoa." Kuna nguvu

kubwa katika maombi. Adui yetu mkuu anatafuta kila mara kuweka roho iliyofadhaika mbali na MUNGU. Ombi kuelekea Mbinguni la mtakatifu mnyenyekevu zaidi, hutazamwa kwa 'kuwaka moto tumbo' na Shetani kuliko sheria za mabaraza ya nchi au maagizo ya wafalme. [Pr 131.2; Maombi Aya ya 37]

Sala ya Hana haikusikiwa na sikio la mwandamu anayekufa, lakini iliingia kwenye sikio la Bwana wa majeshi. Aliomba kwa dhati na bidii kwamba MUNGU aiondoe aibu yake, na ampe kibali cha kuthaminiwa zaidi na wanawake wa umri huo, - baraka ya kuwa mama. Alipokuwa akishindana mieleka katika maombi, sauti yake haikutoa mlio (haikusikika), lakini midomo yake ilisogea na uso wake ulitoa ushahidi wa hisia za ndani za kina. Na sasa mtihani mwingine ulimngojea mwombaji huyu mnyenyekevu. Jicho la Eli kuhani mkuu lilipotua kwake, aliamua kwa haraka kwamba alikuwa amelewa. Sherehe za karamu zisizo na adabu zilizohusisha ulevi na uzinzi zilikuwa zimeukanyaga utauwa wa kweli miongoni mwa watu wa Israeli. Matukio ya kukosekana kwa adabu na kutotawala nafsi kwa vileo, hata kati ya wanawake, yalitokea mara kwa mara, na sasa Eli aliazimia kusimamia kile alichokiona kuwa kinastahili kukemewa. "Utalewa mpaka lini? Ondoa divai yako." [Pr 132.1; Maombi Aya ya 38]

Hana alikuwa akiongea na MUNGU. Aliamini kwamba sala yake imesikilizwa, na amani ya Kristo iliujaza moyo wake. Haiba yake ilikuwa ya woga, upole, unyenyekevu na nyeti, na bado hakutumbukia katika sikitiko wala hasira kwa kutuhimiwa pasipo haki na kwa hasira kwamba amelewa katika nyumba ya MUNGU. Akiwa na heshima kubwa kwa watiwa-mafuta wa Bwana, alituliza mashtaka hayo kwa utulivu na kusema sababu ya hisia zake. "Hapana Bwana wangu, mimi ni mwanamke mwenye roho ya huzuni. Sikunywa divai wala kileo, lakini nimemwaga roho yangu mbele za Bwana. Usimhesabie mjakazi wako kuwa binti wa Beliali, kwa kuwa kwa sasa niliongea kwa malalamiko yangu na huzuni yangu." Akishawishika kwamba maonyo yake hayakuwa ya haki, Eli alijibu, "Nenda kwa amani, na MUNGU wa Israeli akutunukie ombi lako ulilomwomba." [Pr 132.2; Maombi Aya ya 39]

Katika sala yake, Hana alikuwa ameweka nadhiri kwamba ikiwa ombi lake litakubaliwa, atamtoa mtoto wake kwa ajili ya huduma kwa MUNGU. Kiapo hiki alimjulisha mumewe, na alithibitisha katika hafla adhimu ya ibada, kabla ya kuondoka Shilo. [Pr 132.3; Maombi Aya ya 40]

Sala ya Hana ilijibiwa, na akapokea zawadi ambayo alikuwa ameiomba kwa unyofu na bidii. Alipotazama ahadi ya upendeleo wa Bwana alimwita mtoto Samweli – Nilimwombwa kwa MUNGU. - (The Signs of the Times, Oktoba 27, 1881) [Pr 133.1; Maombi Aya ya 41]

Eliya

Eliya aliomba kwa ajili ya kutubu kwa Israeli – Kati ya milima ya Gileadi, mashariki mwa Yordani, katika siku za Ahabu kulikuwa na mtu wa imani na maombi ambaye huduma yake isiyo na woga ilikusudiwa kusitisha kuenea kwa uasi haraka katika Israeli. Akiwa mbali sana na mji wowote mashuhuri, na bila ya kuwa na nafasi ya juu maishani, hata hivyo Eliya mtishibi aliingia katika utume wake akiwa na ujasiri katika kusudi la MUNGU la kuandaa njia mbele yake na kumpa mafanikio tele. Neno la imani na nguvu lilikuwa juu ya midomo yake, na maisha yake yote yalikuwa ya kujitolea kwa kazi ya matengenezo. Sauti yake ilikuwa ya mtu anayelia nyikani kukemea dhambi na kuzuia wimbi la uovu lirudi nyuma. Na wakati alipoenda kwa watu kama mkemeaji wa dhambi, ujumbe wake ulitoa zeri ya Gileadi kwa roho za wagonjwa na wadhambi wote ambao walitaka kuponywa. [Pr 133.2; Maombi Aya ya 42]

Kadiri Eliya alivyoona Israeli inazidi kudumbukia chini zaidi katika ibada ya sanamu, ndivyo roho yake ilifadhaika na hasira yake ikaamka. MUNGU alikuwa amefanya mambo makubwa kwa watu Wake. Alikuwa amewaokoa kutoka utumwani na kuwapa "nchi za mataifa (pagani),.... ili wazishike amri Zake, na kuzishika sheria Zake." Zaburi 105: 44, 45. Lakini mipango ya neema ya Yehova ilikuwa imesahaulika. Kutoamini kulikuwa kunalitenganisha haraka taifa lililochaguliwa kutoka kwenye Chanzo cha nguvu zake. Akiuona uasi huu kutoka katika mfungo/kujitenga kwake mlimani, Eliya aligubikwa na huzuni. Kwa uchungu wa roho alimsihi MUNGU awakamate watu waliowahi kupendelewa katika mwenendo wao mbaya, awatembelee

na hukumu, ikiwa ni lazima, ili waongozwe kuona katika nuru ya kweli na kuchepuka kwao kutoka kwenye mpango wa mbingu. Alitamani kuwaona wakitubu kabla hawajazama katika maovu kiasi cha kumfanya Bwana awaangamize kabisa. [Pr 133.3; Maombi Aya ya 43]

Ombi la Eliya lilijibiwa. Wito uliorudiwa mara kwa mara, majibizano, na maonyo vilishindwa kuileta Israeli kwenye toba. Wakati ulikuwa umefika ambapo lazima MUNGU azungumze nao kwa njia ya hukumu. Japokuwa waabudu Baali walidai kwamba hazina za mbinguni, umande na mvua, havikutoka kwa Yehova, bali kutoka kwenye nguvu asilia za maumbile, na kwamba ilikuwa kupitia nishati ya uumbaji wa jua kwamba dunia ilitajirika na kufanywa kuleta mazao kwa wingi, laana ya MUNGU ilikuwa inaenda kukaa juu ya ardhi iliyonajisiwa. Makabila ya waasi wa Israeli yalipaswa kuonyeshwa upumbavu wa kuamini nguvu ya Baali kwa kutoa mibaraka ya muda (kama mvua). Mpaka watakapomgeukia MUNGU wakiwa na toba, na kumkubali kuwa Ndiye chanzo cha baraka zote, mvua wala umande havitaanguka juu ya nchi. - (Prophets and Kings, 119, 120) [Pr 134.1; Maombi Aya ya 44]

Hofu ya MUNGU ilikuwa ikipungua kila siku katika Israeli. Ishara za kukufuru za upofu wao wa kuabudu sanamu zao zilikuwa zikionekana kati ya Israeli wa MUNGU. Hakukuwa na mtu aliyethubutu kufichua maisha yao kwa kusimama waziwazi kinyume na ibada ya sanamu yenye kukufuru iliyokuwepo. Madhabahu za Baali, na makuhani wa Baali ambao walitoa dhabihu kwa jua, mwezi, na nyota, zilikuwa maarufu kila mahali. Walikuwa wameweka wakfu mahekalu na miti, ambapo ndani yake kuliwekwa kazi ya mikono ya watu kwa ajili ya kuabudu. Manufaa ambayo MUNGU aliwapa watu hawa hayakuleta shukrani kwa Mpaji. Kwa neema zote za Mbingu, vijito vya maji, na mikondo ya maji yaliyo hai, umande mwororo, na manyunyu ya mvua ili kuiburudisha dunia, na kusababisha mashamba yao yatoe mazao kwa wingi, walidai ni neema ya miungu yao. [Pr 134.2; Maombi Aya ya 45]

Nafsi ya uaminifu ya Eliya ilihuzunika. Hasira yake iliwashwa, na alikuwa na wivu kwa utukufu wa MUNGU. Aliona kwamba Israeli ilikuwa imetumbukia katika uasi wa imani unaotisha. Alitindikiwa na mshangao na huzuni kwa

uasi wa watu, wakati alipokumbuka mambo makubwa ambayo MUNGU alikuwa amewafanyia. Lakini hii yote ilisahaulika na watu wengi. Alikwenda mbele za MUNGU, na roho yake ikiwa imebanwa kwa uchungu, akamsihi Yeye awaokoe watu Wake ikiwa ni lazima awahukumu. Akamsihi MUNGU azuie umande, hazina za mbinguni na mvua kwa watu Wake wasio na shukrani, ili waasi wa Israeli waweze kutazama na kuona kwamba sanamu zao ni kazi bure, sanamu zao za dhahabu, mbaao, na jiwe, jua, mwezi, na nyota, miungu yao, haziwezi kumwagilia ardhi na kuipatia utajiri, na kuifanya itoe mazao kwa wingi sana. MUNGU alimwambia Eliya alikuwa amesikia maombi yake. Naye angewazuilia watu Wake umande na mvua, mpaka wamgeukie Yeye kwa toba. - (The Review and Herald, September 16, 1873) [Pr 134.3; Maombi Aya ya 46]

Katika miaka mingi ya ukame na njaa, Eliya aliomba kwa bidii ili mioyo ya Israeli igeuzwe kutokakwenye ibada ya sanamu na kuwa watiifu kwa MUNGU. Kwa subira nabii huyo akangojea, wakati mkono wa Bwana ulikaa kwa uzito wa adhabu katika nchi iliyopigwa na ukame. Alipoona dalili za mateso na umasikini unazidi kila upande, moyo wake ulikuwa umefunikwa na huzuni, na alitamani nguvu ya kuleta matengenezo haraka. Lakini MUNGU Mwenyewe alikuwa akiweka mkakati Wake, na yote ambayo mtumishi Wake angefanya ni kusali kwa imani na kungojea wakati wa kuchukua hatua bainishi. - (Prophets and Kings, 133) [Pr 135.1; Maombi Aya ya 47]

Eliya Mfano wa Mtu Ambaye Alishinda Kupitia Maombi ya Dhati – Tunapaswa kuwa katika maombi ya siri daima. Kristo Ndiye mzabibu, ninyi ni matawi. Ili tuweze kushamiri, lazima tuendeleo kupata maji na lishe ya utomvu kutoka kwenye Mzabibu ulio Hai; kwa kuwa tukitengwa kutoka kwa Mzabibu tutakuwa hatuna nguvu (Xylem hupitisha maji, Phloem hupitisha chakula kwenye shina la mmea). [Pr 135.2; Maombi Aya ya 48]

Nilimuuliza malaika kwanini hakukuwa na imani na nguvu tena katika Israeli. Alisema, “Ninyi mnaachilia mkono wa Bwana mapema sana. Wasilisha maombi yako kwenye kiti cha enzi kwa ari/usongo, na ushikilie kwa imani thabiti. Ahadi ni za Kweli. Amini kwamba mnapokea mnayoomba, nanyi mtayapata.” Kisha nikaelekezwa kwa Eliya. Alikuwa na haiba ya wanadamu kama sisi, na aliomba

kwa dhati na bidii. Imani yake ilivumilia jaribu. Aliomba mara saba mbele za Bwana, na mwishowe wingu likaonekana. Niliona kwamba tulikuwa tumetilia mashaka ahadi za hakika, na tukamjeruhi Mwokozi kwa ukosefu wetu wa imani. Malaika alisema, “Jifunge silaha, na juu ya yote chukua ngao ya imani; kwa kuwa hiyo italinda moyo, na uzima, na mishale ya moto ya waovu.” Ikiwa adui anaweza kusababisha wale waliokata tamaa kuondoa macho yao kutoka kwa Yesu, na kujitazama wenyewe, na kukita kwenye kutostahili kwao, badala ya kukaa juu ya sifa na stahiki za Yesu, upendo Wake, sifa Zake, na rehema Zake kuu, adui ataondoa ngao yao ya imani na kupata lengo lake; watakuwa katika hatari ya vishawishi vyake vya moto mkali. Kwa hiyo wanyonge wanapaswa kumtazama Yesu, na kumwamini; hivyo huonyesha na kuizoesha imani yao. - (Early Writing, 73) [Pr 135.3; Maombi Aya ya 49]

Wajumbe wa MUNGU wasifanye haraka kuondoka mbele za Mungu bali wakae Naye kwa muda mrefu (wachelewe miguuni pake), ikiwa wangetaka kufanikiwa katika kazi yao. Kisa hiki kimesimuliwa ya mwanamke mzee wa Lancashire ambaye alikuwa akisikiliza sababu ambazo majirani zake walitoa kwa kufanikiwa kwa mchungaji wao. Walizungumza juu ya vipawa vyake, namna anavyojieleza, mtindo wake wa mahubiri, juu ya adabu zake au hulka. “La,” alisema kikongwe, “nitakuambia ni nini. Mtu wako amejazwa sana na Mwenyezi.” [Pr 136.1; Maombi Aya ya 50]

Watu watakapojitoa wakfu kama Eliya na watakapokuwa na imani aliyokuwa nayo, MUNGU atajifunua kama alivyofanya wakati ule. Wakati watu watakapomsihi Bwana kama vile Yakobo, matokeo ambayo yalionekana wakati huo yataonekana tena. Nguvu zitatoka kwa MUNGU katika kujibu maombi ya imani. - (Gospel Workers, 255) [Pr 136.2; Maombi Aya ya 51]

Maombi ya Eliya juu ya Mlima Karmeli Yalijibiwa kwa mshindo na ajabu – Akiwakumbusha watu juu ya uasi ulioendelea ambao umeamsha ghadhabu ya Yehova, Eliya aliwatolea wito wanyenyekeze mioyo yao na kumrudia MUNGU wa baba zao, Ili laana juu ya nchi ya Israeli iweze kuondolewa. Halafu, akiinama na kusujudu kwa heshima mbele ya MUNGU asiyeonekana, akainua mikono yake kuelekea mbinguni na kutoa sala rahisi. Makuhani wa Baali

walikuwa wamepiga kelele, wametoa povu mdomoni, na wamepata jazba na kuruka-ruka, kutoka asubuhi hadi jioni; lakini Eliya anapoomba, hakuna kelele za kugumia na mayowe yenye sauti ya juu, yasiyo na maana yanayosikika kwenye kilele huko Karmeli. Anaomba kana kwamba anajua kuwa Yehova Yuko hapo, shahidi wa tukio hilo, msikilizaji wa ombi lake. Manabii wa Baali wameomba vikali kwa kuchanganyikiwa na mihemko mingi (wildly), wakiwa wamekanganyikiwa hivyo hawakuweza kueleweka kwamba wanazungumza nini. Eliya anasali kwa urahisi na kwa bidii, akimwomba MUNGU aonyeshe ukuu Wake juu ya Baali, ili Israeli iongozwe kumrudia Yeye. [Pr 136.3; Maombi Aya ya 52]

"Bwana MUNGU wa Ibrahimu, Isaka, na Israeli," nabii anaomba, "na ijulikane leo kuwa Wewe Ndiwe MUNGU katika Israeli, na kwamba mimi ni mtumishi Wako, na kwamba nimefanya haya yote kwa Neno Lako. Nisikilize, Bwana, unisikilize, ili watu hawa wapate kujua ya kuwa Wewe Ndiwe Bwana MUNGU, na ya kuwa umeirudisha mioyo yao tena. [Pr 136.4; Maombi Aya ya 53]

Ukimya, mzito unaotesa katika ukuu wake unakaa juu ya wote. Makuhani wa Baali wanatetemeka kwa hofu. Kwa ufahamu wa hatia yao, wanatafuta kisasi cha haraka. [Pr 137.1; Maombi Aya ya 54]

Mara tu maombi ya Eliya yalipotamkwa, kukashuka miali ya moto kama umeme angavu wa radi kutoka mbinguni juu ya madhabahu iliyo inuliwa, ukiteketeza dhabihu, ukilamba maji ya mtaro, na kuteketeza hata mawe ya madhabahu. Mwangaza wa moto unaangaza mlima na kuangaza macho ya umati. Katika mabonde chini, ambapo wengi wanaangalia katika hali ya kutojua la kufanya kwa mashaka kuhusu harakati za wale walio juu, kushuka kwa moto kunaonekana wazi, na wote wanashangaa kuona. Unafanana na nguzo ya moto ambayo kwenye Bahari ya Shamu ilitenganisha watoto wa Israeli na jeshi la Wamisri. - (Prophets and Kings, 152, 153) [Pr 137.2; Maombi Aya ya 55]

Maombi ya Eliya Yalitoka kwa Imani katika Kudai Ahadi za MUNGU— Pamoja na kuuawa kwa manabii wa Baali, njia ilifunguliwa ya kuendelea na matengenezo makubwa ya kiroho kati ya makabila kumi ya ufalme wa kaskazini. Eliya

alikuwa amewaonyesha watu uasi wao; alikuwa amewataka wanyenyekeze mioyo yao na kumrudia Bwana. Hukumu za Mbinguni zilikuwa zimetetelezwa; watu walikiri dhambi zao, na walimkubali MUNGU wa baba zao kama MUNGU aliye hai; na sasa laana ya Mbingu ilikuwa inaenda kuondolewa, na baraka za muda za maisha zikafanywa upya. Ardhi ilipaswa kuburudishwa na mvua. “Ondoka, ule, unywe,” Eliya akamwambia Ahabu; “Kwa maana kuna sauti ya mvua nyingi.” Kisha nabii akaenda juu ya mlima ili kuomba. [Pr 137.3; Maombi Aya ya 56]

Haikuwa kwaajili ya uthibitisho wowote wa nje kwamba mvua ilikuwa karibu kunyesha, ndiyo kwamba Eliya aliweza kumwambia Ahabu kwa uhakika kwamba ajitayarisha kwa ajili ya mvua inayokuja. Nabii hakuona mawingu mbinguni; hakisikia ngurumo. Alizungumza tu Neno ambalo Roho wa Bwana alikuwa amemsukuma kunena katika kuitikia imani yake yenye nguvu. Siku nzima alikuwa ametenda mapenzi ya MUNGU bila kuyumbayumba na alikuwa amedhirisha imani yake kamili katika unabii wa Neno la MUNGU; na sasa, akiwa amefanya yote ambayo yalikuwa katika uwezo wake kufanya, alijua kwamba Mbingu ingetoa kwa uhuru na ukarimu baraka zilizotabiriwa. MUNGU Yule Yule ambaye aliyekuwa ametuma ukame alikuwa ameahidi mvua tele kama thawabu ya kutenda sahihi; na sasa Eliya alisubiri kumwagwa kwa ahadi. Katika mtazamo wa unyenyekevu, “uso wake katikati ya magoti yake,” alifanya maombezi kwa MUNGU kwa ajili ya Israeli iliyotubu. [Pr 137.4; Maombi Aya ya 57]

Tena na tena, Eliya alimtuma mtumishi wake aende kwenye eneo lililo karibu ambalo angeweza kutazama bahari ya Mediterania, ili ajue ikiwa kulikuwa na ishara yoyote inayoonekana kuonyesha kwamba MUNGU alikuwa amesikia sala yake. Kila wakati mtumishi alirudi na neno, “Hakuna kitu.” Nabii hakukosa subira au kupoteza imani, lakini aliendelea kuomba kwa dhati na bidii. Mara sita mtumishi alirudi na neno kwamba hakuna dalili ya mvua katika mawingu ya mbingu yaliyokuwa na rangi ya kahawia. Bila woga, Eliya akamtuma mara moja tena; na wakati huu mtumishi akarudi na neno, “Tazama, wingu dogo linatoka katika bahari ukubwa wa kiganja cha mkono wa mwanadamu.” [Pr 138.1; Maombi Aya ya 58]

Hii ilitosha. Eliya hakungojea mbingu ziweze kukusanya weusi zaidi. Katika wingu hilo dogo aliona kwa imani mvua tele; naye akatenda kupatana na imani yake, akimtuma mtumishi wake haraka kwa Ahabu na ujumbe huu, "Tengeneza gari lako, ukashuke, ili mvua isikuzuie." [Pr 138.2; Maombi Aya ya 59]

Ilikuwa ni kwa sababu Eliya alikuwa mtu wa imani kubwa kwamba MUNGU angeweza kumtumia katika dharura na mgogoro huu mbaya katika historia ya Israeli. Alipokuwa akiomba, imani yake ilifikia na kuzishikilia kwa nguvu ahadi za Mbingu, na alidumu katika maombi hadi maombi yake yakajibiwa. Hakungoja uthibitisho kamili kwamba MUNGU alikuwa amemsikia, bali alikuwa tayari kujitosa kwa ishara hata ndogo, ya upendeleo wa Bwana. Ila, kile alichowezesha kukifanya chini ya uwezo wa Mungu, wote tunaweza kukifanya katika nyanja yetu ya utendaji katika huduma/utumishi kwa MUNGU; Kwa maana imeandikwa hivi kuhusu nabii kutoka milima ya Gileadi: "Eliya alikuwa mtu wa tabia kama sisi, akaomba kwa bidii mvua isinyeshe; na mvua haikunyesha juu ya nchi muda wa miaka mitatu, miezi sita." Yakobo 1: 5, 17, [Pr 138.3; Maombi Aya ya 60]

Imani ya namna hii inahitajika ulimwenguni leo-imani ambayo itazishika ahadi za Neno la MUNGU na kukataa kuziacha hadi Mbingu itakaposikia. Imani kama hii hutuunganisha kwa karibu na Mbingu, na hutuletea uwezo wa kukabiliana na nguvu za giza. Kwa imani watoto wa MUNGU "wamezitiisha falme, wametenda haki; walipata ahadi, walifunga vinywa vya simba, walizima udhalimu wa moto, waliokoka katika makali ya upanga, kutoka katika udhaifu walifanywa kuwa hodari, wakawa hodari katika vita, wakafukuza majeshi ya wageni. Waebrania 11:33, 34. Na kwa njia ya imani sisi leo tunapaswa kufikia kilele cha kusudi la MUNGU kwetu. "Ukiweza kuamini, mambo yote yanawezekana kwake yeye aaminiye." Marko 9:23. [Pr 138.4; Maombi Aya ya 61]

Imani ni jambo muhimu katika maombi yanayoshinda na yasiyochoka. "Yeye amwendeaye MUNGU lazima aamini kwamba Yeye Yuko, na kwamba Yeye huwapa thawabu wale wamtafutao." "Tukiomba chochote sawasawa na mapenzi Yake, Yeye hutusikia; na ikiwa tunajua kwamba Yeye hutusikia, lolote tuombalo, tunajua kwamba tuna maombi ambayo tulimwomba." Waebrania 11: 6; 1 Yohana

5:14, 15. Tukiwa na imani ya kudumu ya Yakobo, na uvumilivu wa Eliya, tunaweza kuwasilisha maombi yetu kwa Baba, tukidai yote ambayo Yeye ameahidi. Heshima ya kiti Chake cha enzi imo hatarini kwa utimilifu wa Neno Lake. (heshima ya Ukuu Wake imo hatarini endapo Neno Lake halitatimizwa kama vile ALIVYONENA YEYE) - (Prophets and Kings, 157, 158) [Pr 139.1; Maombi Aya ya 62]

Eliya Alidumu kwa uvumilivu Katika Maombi Hadi Jibu lilipokuja— Masomo muhimu huwasilishwa kwetu katika uzoefu wa Eliya. Akiwa juu ya mlima Karmeli aliomba maombi kwaajili ya mvua, imani yake ilijaribiwa, lakini aliendelea kwa subira kumjulisha ombi lake MUNGU. Aliomba kwa bidii mara sita kwa dhati na bidii, na bado hakukuwa na ishara kwamba ombi lake lingejibiwa, lakini kwa imani thabiti alihimiza ombi lake katika kiti cha neema. Kama angekata tamaa ile mara ya sita, maombi yake yasingejibiwa, lakini alivumilia hadi jibu lilipokuja. Tunaye MUNGU ambaye sikio Lake halijazibwa/hajaliziba kwaajili ya kupokea maombi yetu; na ikiwa tutalithibitisha Neno Lake (tutalipima na kuliona ndiyo kama anavyosema), Yeye ataheshimu imani yetu. Yeye anataka matamano yetu yote yafumwe pamoja na matamano yake, ndipo anaweza kutubariki sana; kwani hatutajivunia wakati baraka zinapokuwa zetu, lakini tutampa/tumtarudishia MUNGU sifa zote. MUNGU huwa hajibu maombi yetu mara ya kwanza tunapomuomba; kwani akifanya hivi, tunaweza kuichukulia hiyo kirahisi kwamba sisi tuna haki ya baraka na neema zote alizotupatia. Badala ya kujitazama mioyo yetu kuona ikiwa kuna uovu wowote tunaouendekeza, au dhambi yoyote iliyoendekezwa, tunakuwa wazembe, na tunashindwa kutambua utegemezi wetu Kwake, na hitaji letu la msaada Wake. [Pr 139.2; Maombi Aya ya 63]

Eliya alijinyenyekeza mpaka alipokuwa katika hali ambayo asingejichukulia utukufu mwenyewe. Hili ndilo sharti ambalo kwalo Bwana husikia maombi, kwa kuwa tutampa sifa Yeye. Desturi ya kuwapa sifa wanadamu ndiyo inayosababisha uovu mkubwa. Mtu humsifu mwingine, na kwa hivyo mtu huyo huongozwa kuhisi kuwa utukufu na heshima ni mali yao, kwamba wao ndiyo wamiliki. Unapomwinua mwanadamu, unamwekea mtego katika nafsi yake, na kufanya kama Shetani anavyotaka ufanye.

Unapaswa kumsifu MUNGU kwa moyo wako wote, roho, uwezo, akili na nguvu zote; kwa maana MUNGU peke yake Ndiye anayestahili kutukuzwa. - (SDA Bible Commentary 2: 1034, 1035) [Pr 140.1; Maombi Aya ya 64]

Mtumishi alitazama wakati Eliya akiomba. Alirudi mara sita kutoka kwenye lindo, akisema, Hakuna kitu, hakuna wingu, wala ishara ya mvua. Lakini nabii huyo hakukata tamaa kwa kuvunjwa moyo. Aliendelea kupitia maisha yake, kuona ni wapi alikuwa ameshindwa kumheshimu MUNGU, kisha alikiri dhambi zake, na hivyo akaendelea kuitesa nafsi yake mbele za MUNGU, wakati akitafuta ishara kuona kwamba sala yake imeshajibiwa. Alipoendelea kuchunguza moyo wake, alionekana kuwa mdogo na amepungua, kwa makadirio yake mwenyewe na pia mbele ya MUNGU. Ilionekana kwake kuwa yeye si kitu, na kwamba MUNGU Ndiye kila kitu; na alipofikia hatua ya kujikana nafsi yake mwenyewe, huku akimshikilia kwa nguvu Mwokozi kama nguvu na haki yake pekee, basi jibu lilikuja. - (The Review and Herald, Mei 26, 1891) Herald, Mei 26, 1891) [Pr 140.2; Maombi Aya ya 65]

Daudi

Anguko la Daudi ni Onyo kwetu la Kutopuuza Maombi - MUNGU alikusudia historia ya anguko la Daudi iwe kama onyo kwamba hata wale ambao Yeye Amewabariki sana na kuwapendelea hawapaswi kujisikia salama na kupuuza kukesha na maombi. Na hivyo ndivyo imedhihiriswa kwa wale ambao kwa unyenyekevu wametafuta kujifunza somo ambalo MUNGU amekusudia kufundisha. Kutoka kizazi hadi kizazi maelfu wameongozwa hivyo kutambua hatari yao wenyewe dhidi ya nguvu ya mshawishi. Kuanguka kwa Daudi, aliyeheshimiwa sana na Bwana hapo mwanzo, kumeamsha kwao, kutokujiamini. Wamehisi kwamba MUNGU pekee, Ndiye awezaye kuwatunza wao kwa uwezo Wake kupitia imani. Wakajua kwamba ndani Yake kulikuwa na nguvu na usalama wao, wamekuwa na hofu ya kukanyaga mguu wao kwenye ile hatua ya kwanza kuelekea uwanja wa Shetani.—(Patriarchs and Prophets, 724) [Pr 140.3; Maombi Aya ya 66]

MUNGU alijibu Maombi ya Daudi ya Msamaha - Moja ya maombi ya dhati kabisa yaliyoandikwa katika Neno la MUNGU ni lile la Daudi wakati alipoomba, "Uniumbie au

unda ndani yangu moyo safi, Ee MUNGU." Jibu la MUNGU kwa maombi kama haya ni, nitakupa moyo mpya. Hii ni kazi ambayo hakuna mwanadamu mwenye kufa anayeweza kuifanya. Wanaume na wanawake wanapaswa kuanza toka mwanzoni, kumtafuta MUNGU kwa bidii zaidi kwa uzoefu wa kweli wa Kikristo. Wanapaswa kuhisi uwezo wa uumbaji wa Roho Mtakatifu. Wanapaswa kupokea moyo mpya, ambao huwekwa laini na huruma na mkunjufu kwa neema ya mbinguni. Nafsi yenye ubinafsi inapaswa kusafishwa kutokea kwenye roho. Tunapaswa kufanya kazi kwa dhati, bidii na kwa unyenyekevu wa moyo, kila mmoja akimwangalia Yesu kwa ajili ya mwongozo na kutiwa moyo. Kisha jengo hilo, ambalo limeundwa/limejengwa kwa pamoja, litakuwa hekalu takatifu katika Bwana. ((SDA Bible Commentary 4: 1165) [Pr 141.1; Maombi Aya ya 67]

Sulemani

Tunahitaji Kujifunza Somo Katika Maombi ya Unyenyekevu ya Sulemani – Mwanzoni mwa utawala wake, Sulemani aliomba: "Ee Bwana MUNGU wangu, Umemfanya mtumwa Wako awe mfalme badala ya Daudi baba yangu: nami ni mtoto mdogo. Nami sijui namna ya kutoka au kuingia." 1 Wafalme 3: 7. [Pr 141.2; Maombi Aya ya 68]

Sulemani alikuwa amemrithi baba yake Daudi katika kiti cha enzi cha Israeli. MUNGU alimheshimu sana, na, kama tunavyojua, alikuja kuwa mfalme mkuu, tajiri, na mwenye hekima aliyewahi kukalia kiti cha enzi duniani, katika miaka ya baadaye. Mwanzoni mwa utawala wake Sulemani alivutiwa/alipendezwa na Roho Mtakatifu na uzito wa majukumu yake, na, ingawa alikuwa na talanta nyingi na uwezo, aligundua kuwa bila msaada wa Bwana alikuwa mnyonge kama mtoto mdogo kutenda lolote. Sulemani hakuwahi kuwa tajiri sana au mwenye busara sana au mkuu sana kama ule wakati alipomkiri Bwana kwa kusema: "Mimi ni mtoto mdogo: sijui kutoka au kuingia..... [Pr 141.3; Maombi Aya ya 69]

Na tamko hili lilimpendeza Bwana, ya kwamba Sulemani alikuwa ameomba hili jambo. MUNGU akamwambia, Kwa kuwa umeomba neno hili, wala hukujitakia maisha marefu; wala hujaomba utajiri kwa ajili yako mwenyewe, wala hukutaka uhai wa adui zako; bali umejitakia ufahamu wa kupambanua hukumu; tazama, nimetenda sawasawa na

maneno yako; tazama, nimekupa moyo wa hekima na wa akili; hata kabla yako hapakuwa na mtu kama wewe, wala baada yako hatainuka mtu kama wewe. Na pia nimekupa yale ambayo haujaomba, utajiri na heshima: hivi kwamba hakutakuwa na yeyote kati ya wafalme kama wewe siku zako zote.” Sasa masharti yalikuwa haya: "Na ikiwa utakwenda katika njia Zangu, ukazishika sheria Zangu na amri Zangu, kama vile baba yako Daudi alivyotembea, ndipo nitakurefushia siku zako." [Pr 141.4; Maombi Aya ya 70]

Wote wanaoshika nafasi za uwajibikaji, wanahitaji kujifunza somo ambalo linafundishwa katika sala ya unyenyekevu ya Sulemani. Wanapaswa kukumbuka daima kwamba cheo hakitabadilisha tabia kamwe au kumzuia/kumwezesha mtu asitende dhambi tena kamwe. Kadiri mtu anavyochukua nafasi ya juu, ndivyo jukumu analobeba linavyozidi kuwa kubwa zaidi, na ndivyo ushawishi anaoshinikiza unavyokuwa mpana zaidi na ndivyo hitaji lake la kuhisi utegemezi wake juu ya hekima na nguvu za MUNGU na kustawisha tabia bora na takatifu zaidi huongezeka.— (Testimonies for the Church 9:281, 282). [Pr 142.1; Maombi Aya ya 71]

Mfano wa Sulemani - funzo La kukesha katika Maombi
— ilikuwaje-kuwaje, katika kisa chake Sulemani mpaka akawa mtu dhaifu, mwenye tabia ya kusuasua— Jinsi mtu aliye jasiri kwa kawaida, thabiti, na mwenye kuazimia — alivyotikiswa kama mwanzi katika upepo chini ya nguvu ya mshawishi! Je! ilikuwaje Mwerezi wa Lebanoni mzee na uliokunjwa, mwaloni imara wa Bashani, ukainama mbele ya mlipuko wa majaribu! Ni somo lililoje kwa wote wanaotaka kuokoa roho zao wakeshe katika maombi daima. Ni onyo lililoje la kuweka neema ya Kristo mioyoni mwao, kupigana na ufisadi na uharibifu wa ndani ya moyo na majaribu ya nje.— (Manuscript Relees 21:383) [Pr 142.2; Maombi Aya ya 72]

Mfalme Hezekia

Hezekia aliwaombea masalia wa Israeli- "Siku hii ni siku ya taabu, na ya kukemea, na ya kukufuru," ndilo neno mfalme alilotuma. Huenda Bwana, MUNGU wako, atayasikia maneno yote ya amiri, ambaye mfalme wa Ashuru, bwana wake, amemtuma ili amtukane MUNGU

aliye hai; naye atayakemea maneno aliyoyasikia Bwana, MUNGU wako; kwa hivyo inua maombi yako kwa masalia waliobaki." Mstari wa 3, 4. [Pr 142.3; Maombi Aya ya 73]

"Kwa sababu hii, mfalme Hezekia, na nabii Isaya mwana wa Amози, waliomba, wakalia Mbinguni." 2 Mambo ya Nyakati 32:20. [Pr 143.1; Maombi Aya ya 74]

MUNGU alijibu maombi ya waja Wake. Isaya alipewa ujumbe huu kwa ajili ya Hezekia: "BWANA asema hivi, Usiogope maneno uliyoyasikia, ambayo watumishi wa mfalme wa Ashuru wamenitukana Mimi. Tazama, nitapeleka mlipuko juu yake, naye atasikia fununu, na kuirudia nchi yake mwenyewe; na Nitamwangusha kwa upanga katika nchi yake mwenyewe." 2 Wafalme 19: 6, 7— (Prophets and Kings, 354) [Pr 143.2; Maombi Aya ya 75]

Ombi la Hezekia Lilipatana na mapenzi ya MUNGU- Wakati mfalme wa Yuda alipopokea barua ya kumtukana, kumdhihaki, na kumtishia na kumchokoza, aliipeleka hekaluni na "kuifungua mbele za Bwana" na kuomba kwa imani thabiti msaada kutoka mbinguni, ili mataifa ya dunia yapate kujua kwamba MUNGU wa Waebrania bado Yuko hai na anatawala. Mstari wa 14. Heshima ya Yehova ilikuwa hatarini; Yeye peke yake Ndiye angeweza kuleta ukombozi. [Pr 143.3; Maombi Aya ya 76]

"Ee Bwana, MUNGU wa Israeli, ukaaye kati ya makerubi," Hezekia aliomba, "Wewe Ndiwe MUNGU, Wewe peke Yako, wa falme zote za dunia; Wewe Ndiwe uliyefanya mbingu na nchi. Bwana, inamisha sikio Lako, usikie; fungua, Bwana, macho Yako, uone; na usikie maneno ya Senakeribu, aliyomtuma kumtukana MUNGU aliye hai. Kwa kweli, Bwana, wafalme wa Ashuru wameharibu mataifa na nchi zao, na wametupa miungu yao motoni; kwa kuwa hawakuwa miungu, bali kazi ya mikono ya wanadamu, miti na mawe; kwa hivyo wameiangamiza. Basi sasa, Ee Bwana, MUNGU wetu, nakuomba utuokoe na mkono wake, ili falme zote za dunia zijue ya kuwa Wewe Ndiwe Bwana MUNGU, Wewe peke yako. " 2 Wafalme 19: 15-19 [Pr 143.4; Maombi Aya ya 77]

Maombi ya Hezekia ya kusihi kwa niaba ya Yuda na heshima ya Mtawala wao Mkuu yalikuwa katika umoja/upatanifu na mapenzi ya MUNGU. Sulemani, katika baraka zake wakati wa kuwekwa wakfu kwa hekalu,

alikuwa amemwomba Bwana asimamie "hoja ya watu Wake Israeli wakati wote, kama itakavyohitajika: ili watu wote wa dunia wapate kujua kwamba Bwana Ndiye MUNGU, na kwamba hakuna mwingine." 1 Wafalme 8:59, 60. Bwana alikusudia kuonyesha upendeleo haswa wakati wa vita au ukandamizaji wa kijeshi, wakuu wa Israeli walipaswa kuingia katika nyumba ya sala na kuomba ukombozi. Mstari wa 33, 34. [Pr 143.5; Maombi Aya ya 78]

Hezekia hakuachwa bila tumaini. Isaya akatumwa kwake, akisema, "Bwana, MUNGU wa Israeli, asema hivi, Hilo uliloliomba dhidi ya Senakeribu mfalme wa Ashuru nimelisikia."—(Prophets and Kings, 355, 356, 359) [Pr 144.1; Maombi Aya ya 79]

Hezekia Aliponywa katika Jibu la Maombi — Tangu siku za Daudi, hakukuwa na mfalme aliyetawala ambaye alifanya kazi kubwa sana kwa ajili ya ujenzi wa ufalme wa MUNGU wakati wa kipindi cha uasi na kukata tamaa kama alivyofanya Hezekia. Mtawala aliyekaribia kufa alikuwa amemtumikia MUNGU wake kwa uaminifu, na alikuwa amefanya mengi kuimarisha imani ya watu kwa Yehova kama Mtawala wao Mkuu. Na, kama Daudi, sasa aliweza kusihi: "Maombi yangu na yaje mbele Zako; tega sikio Lako usikie kilio changu; kwa maana nafsi yangu imejaa taabu, na maisha yangu yanakaribia kaburi." "Wewe Ndiye tumaini langu, Ee Bwana MUNGU: Ndiwe tegemeo langu tangu ujana wangu. Nimeshikiliwa na Wewe.... Usiniache nguvu zangu zipungukapo. Ee MUNGU, usiwe mbali nami: Ee MUNGU wangu, ufanye haraka kunisaidia. Ee MUNGU, usiniache; hata nitakaponyesha nguvu Yako kwa kizazi hiki, na uweza Wako kwa kila mtu atakayekuja." Zaburi 88: 2, 3; Zaburi 71: 5-18. [Pr 144.2; Maombi Aya ya 80]

Yeye ambaye "huruma Zake hazikomi" (Maombolezo 3:22) alisikia maombi ya mtumishi Wake. "Ikawa, kabla Isaya hajaenda katika ua wa katikati, Neno la Bwana likamjia, kusema, Rudi, ukamwambie Hezekia, mkuu wa watu Wangu, Hivi ndivyo asemavyo Bwana, Mungu wa baba yako Daudi nimesikia ombi lako na nimeona machozi yako. Nitakuponya na baada ya siku tatu utakwenda katika nyumba ya Bwana. Nami nitakuongezea siku zako miaka kumi na tano; Nami nitakuokoa wewe na mji huu kutoka mkononi mwa mfalme wa Ashuru; Nami nitaulinda mji huu

kwa ajili Yangu Mwenyewe, na kwa ajili ya mtumishi Wangu Daudi. 2 Wafalme 20: 4-6.— (The Review and Herald, Mei 6, 1915) [Pr 144.3; Maombi Aya ya 81]

Danieli

Sala ya Danieli Yenye Ufanisi, matokeo na unyofu na Nguvu—Danieli alimwomba MUNGU, hakujiinua mwenyewe au kudai wema wowote: “Ee Bwana, sikia; Ee Bwana, samehe; Ee Bwana, sikiliza na utende; usichelewe, kwa mapenzi Yako, Ee MUNGU wangu.” Hivi ndivyo Yakobo anavyoliita ombi la bidii, lenye ufanisi, linalofaa, la dhati. Kuhusu Kristo imeandikwa: “Na akiwa katika uchungu aliomba kwa bidii zaidi.” Kwa kulinganisha na maombezi haya ya Mkuu wa mbinguni ni maombi dhaifu, yasiyo na moyo ambayo hutolewa kwa MUNGU. Wengi wanaridhika na huduma ya midomo, na ni wachache walio na shauku ya dhati, ya bidii, na ya upendo kwa MUNGU. -(Testimonies for the Church 4:534) [Pr 145.1; Maombi Aya ya 82]

Danieli Alidumu kuwa mwaminifu Katika Maombi Licha ya Mateso — Je! Danieli aliacha kuomba kwa sababu agizo hilo lingeanza kutekelezwa! —Hapana, huo ndio wakati hasa aliohitaji kuomba. “Danieli alipojua ya kuwa maandishi yamesainiwa, aliingia nyumbani kwake; na, kwa kuwa dirisha lake lilikuwa wazi katika chumba chake kuelekea Yerusalemu, alipiga magoti mara tatu kwa siku, akasali, akashukuru mbele za MUNGU wake, kama vile alivyofanya zamani. ” Danieli hakutafuta kuficha uaminifu wake kwa MUNGU. Yeye hakuomba kimya moyoni mwake, lakini kwa sauti yake, ya juu, dirisha lake likiwa wazi kuelekea Yerusalemu, alituma ombi lake mbinguni. Ndipo maadui zake wakalalamika kwa mfalme, na Danieli akatupwa ndani ya shimo la simba. Lakini Mwana wa MUNGU alikuwepo. Malaika wa Bwana alipiga kambi karibu na mtumishi wa Bwana, na mfalme alipokuja asubuhi, na kuita, “Ee Danieli, mtumishi wa MUNGU aliye hai, ni MUNGU wako, ambaye unamtumikia daima, ameweza kukuokoa simba? Ndipo Danieli akamwambia mfalme, Ee mfalme, uishi milele. MUNGU wangu amemtuma malaika Wake, na kuziba vinywa vya simba, wasinidhuru.” Hakuna madhara yaliyompata, na alimtukuza Bwana MUNGU wa

mbinguni. - (The Review and Herald, Mei 3, 1892) [Pr 145.2; Maombi Aya ya 83]

Sala ya Danieli yenye Bidii na Shauku—Wakati ulipokaribia mwisho wa miaka sabini ya utumwa wao (walikuwa mateka miaka 70), Akili ya Danieli ilifikiria na kuchunguza sana unabii wa Yeremia (Yer 25). Aliona kwamba wakati ulikuwa umefika ambapo Mungu angewapa watu Wake wateule jaribu lingine; na kwa kufunga, kujifedhehesha, na sala, alimsihi Mungu wa mbinguni kwa ajili ya Israeli, kwa maneno haya: “Ee Bwana, Wewe ni Mungu mkuu na wa kuogofya. Wewe ni Mwaminifu kwa agano lako na unawafadhili wakupendao na kuzitii amri Zako. Sisi Tumetenda dhambi, tumekosa, tumetenda maovu na kukuasi. Tumezikiuka amri Zako na kanuni Zako. Hatukuwasikiliza watumishi Wako manabii, ambao kwa Jina Lako waliongea na wafalme wetu, wakuu wetu, wazee wetu na taifa letu lote.” (Danieli 9:4-6)[Pr 145.3; Maombi Aya ya 84]

Danieli hatangazi uadilifu wake mwenyewe mbele za Bwana. Badala ya kudai kuwa safi na mtakatifu, nabii huyu aliyeheshimiwa anajitambulisha kwa unyenyekevu na yule mwenye dhambi tele wa Israeli. Hekima ambayo MUNGU alikuwa amempa ilikuwa bora zaidi kuliko hekima ya watu wakuu wa ulimwengu, kama vile nuru ya jua inayoangaza mbinguni wakati wa aduhuri inavyong'aa kuliko nyota dhaifu zaidi. Walakini tafakari ya maombi kutoka kwenye midomo ya mtu huyu aliyependelewa sana na Mbingu. Kwa unyonge na unyenyekevu/kujidhili kukubwa, kwa machozi na kupondeka kwa moyo, anasihi kwaajili yake mwenyewe na kwa ajili ya watu wake. Anaiweka nafsi yake wazi mbele za MUNGU, akikiri kutostahili kwake na kukiri ukuu, utukufu na utawala wa Bwana. [Pr 146.1; Maombi Aya ya 85]

Ni unyoofu na ari iliyoje vilivyotawala dua zake! Mkono wa imani unainuliwa juu ili kushika ahadi zisizoshindwa kamwe za Yule Aliye Juu Zaidi. Nafsi yake inapigana mweleka kwa uchungu. Na ana ushahidi kuwa maombi yake yamesikika. Anajua kuwa ushindi ni wake. Ikiwa sisi kama watu tungeomba kama Danieli alivyoomba, na kupambana mieleka kama alivyopambana, tukizinyenyekeza nafsi zetu mbele za MUNGU, tunapaswa kutambua majibu ya maombi yetu kama yalivyotolewa kwa Danieli. Sikia jinsi

anavyosisitiza kesi yake katika nyua za mbinguni: [Pr 146.2; Maombi Aya ya 86]

“Ee MUNGU wangu, tega sikio Lako, usikie; fungua macho Yako, utazame ukiwa wetu, na mji ulioitwa kwa Jina Lako; kwa maana hatutoi maombi yetu mbele Zako kwa ajili ya haki yetu, bali kwa ajili ya rehema Zako nyingi. Ee Bwana, usikie; Ee Bwana, samehe; Ee Bwana, usikie ukafanye; usicheleweshe; kwa ajili Yako, Ee MUNGU wangu, kwa maana mji Wako na watu Wako wanaitwa kwa Jina Lako” (mistari 18, 19). [Pr 146.3; Maombi Aya ya 87]

Mtu wa MUNGU alikuwa akiomba baraka za Mbinguni juu ya watu Wake na ujuzi ulio wazi zaidi wa mapenzi ya MUNGU. Mzigo wa moyo wake ulikuwa kwa ajili ya Israeli, ambao hawakuishika sheria ya MUNGU kwa uthabiti kabisa. Alikubali kuwa misiba yao yote imewajia kama matokeo ya ukiukaji wao wa sheria hiyo takatifu. Anasema, “Tumetenda dhambi, tumetenda maovu Kwa sababu kwa ajili ya dhambi zetu, na maovu ya baba zetu, Yerusalemu na watu wako wamekuwa aibu kwa wote wanaotuzunguka” (mistari 15, 16). Wayahudi walikuwa wamepoteza tabia yao ya kipekee, takatifu kama watu waliochaguliwa na MUNGU. “Basi sasa, Ee MUNGU wetu, uyasikie maombi ya mtumishi wako, na dua zake, ukaangazie uso wako juu ya Patakatifu Pako palipojitenga” (mistari 17). Moyo wa Danieli unageukia kwa shauku kuu kuelekea Patakatifu pa Mungu palipojitenga, yaani kwenye upwek na mahame. Anajua kwamba usitawi wake unaweza kurejeshwa pale tu Israeli watakapotubu makosa yao ya kuasi sheria ya MUNGU, na kuwa wanyenyekevu, waaminifu na watiifu. [Pr 147.1; Maombi Aya ya 88]

Wakati maombi ya Danieli yanaendelea, malaika Gabrieli anakuja akishuka kutoka nyua za mbinguni kumwambia kwamba maombi yake yamesikilizwa na kujibiwa. Malaika huyu mwenye nguvu ameagizwa kumpa ujuzi na ufahamu—kufungua mbele yake siri na mafumbo ya enzi zijazo (vizazi vijavyo). Kwa hiyo, huku akitafuta kwa bidii kujua na kuelewa Ukweli, Danieli aliletwa katika ushirika na mjumbe aliyetumwa wa Mbinguni. [Pr 147.2; Maombi Aya ya 89]

Katika kujibu ombi lake, Danieli alipokea si tu nuru na Ukweli ambao yeye na watu wake walihitaji zaidi, bali mtazamo wa matukio makuu ya wakati ujao, hata ule ujio wa Mkombozi wa ulimwengu. Wale wanaodai kuwa wametakaswa, wakati hawana matamano/hamu ya kuchunguza Maandiko au kupigana mieleka na Mungu katika maombi ili kupata uelewa wa wazi wa ile Kweli ya Biblia, hawajui utakaso wa Kweli ni nini. (The Sanctified Life, 46-49) [Pr 147.3; Maombi Aya ya 90]

Nehemia

Ombi la Nehemia Ni Mfano kwa Watu wa MUNGU Leo—Mioyo ya wale wanaotetea jambo hili lazima ijazwe na Roho wa Yesu. Tabibu Mkuu peke yake Ndiye anayeweza kupaka zeri ya Gileadi (tiba/dawa). Hebu watu hawa wasome kitabu cha Nehemia kwa mioyo minyenyekevu iliyoguswa na Roho Mtakatifu, na mawazo yao ya uongo yatarekebishwa, na kanuni sahihi zitaonekana, na utaratibu uliopo sasa wa mambo utabadilishwa. Nehemia alimwomba MUNGU amsaidie, na MUNGU akasikia maombi yake. Bwana alifanya kazi kwenye mioyo ya wafalme wa mataifa wasiomjua Mungu wa mbinguni, waje kumsaidia. Wakati maadui zake walipofanya kazi kwa bidii dhidi yake, Bwana alifanya kazi kupitia wafalme kutekeleza kusudi Lake, na kujibu maombi mengi ambayo yalikuwa yakipanda kwenda Kwake kwa ajili ya msaada ambao waliuhitaji sana. - (The Review and Herald, Machi 23, 1911) [Pr 147.4; Maombi Aya ya 91]

Maombi yaliimarisha Imani na Ujasiri wa Nehemia—Kupitia wajumbe kutoka Yuda, yule mzalendo Mwebrania alijua kwamba siku za majaribu zilikuwa zimefika Yerusalemu, jiji lililochaguliwa. Mateka waliorudi walikuwa wakipitia mateso na aibu. Hekalu na sehemu za mji zilikuwa zimejengwa upya; lakini kazi ya kurejesha hali ya mji na ukarabati ilikuwa inazuiliwa, huduma za hekalu zilivurugwa, na watu wakaendelea kupata mshtuko wa kuogofya kwa sababu kuta za jiji bado zilikuwa magofu kwa sehemu kubwa. [Pr 148.1; Maombi Aya ya 92]

Akiwa amelemewa na huzuni, Nehemia hakuweza kula wala kunywa; "alilia, na kuomboleza siku kadha wa kadha, na kufunga." Katika huzuni yake alimgeukia Msaidizi wake ambaye alikuwa Mungu Mwenyewe. "Niliomba," alisema,

"mbele za MUNGU wa mbinguni." Kwa uaminifu aliungama dhambi zake na dhambi za watu wake. Alisihi kwamba Mungu asimamie mambo ya Israeli, awarudishie ujasiri na nguvu, na awasaidie kujenga maeneo yaliyoharibiwa ya Yuda. [Pr 148.2; Maombi Aya ya 93]

Kadiri Nehemia alivyoomba, imani yake na ujasiri viliimarika. Kinywa chake kilijaa hoja takatifu. Alisonda kidole zile fedheha ambazo zingetupwa kwa Mungu, ikiwa watu Wake, ambao sasa wamerudi Kwake, wangeachwa katika udhaifu na mateso; naye akamsihi Bwana kutimiza ahadi Yake: "Mkinigeukia Mimi, na kuzishika Amri Zangu, na kuzifanya; ijapokuwa baadhi yenu walitupwa hata mwisho wa mbingu, lakini nitawakusanya kutoka huko, na kuwaleta mpaka mahali pale nilipochagua kuliweka Jina Langu huko." Tazama Kumbukumbu la Torati 4:29-31. Ahadi hii ilikuwa imetolewa kwa Israeli kupitia Musa kabla hawajaingia Kanaani, na kwa karne nyingi ilikuwa imesisima/imesalia hivyo bila kubadilika. Watu wa MUNGU sasa walikuwa wamemrudia Yeye kwa toba na imani, na ahadi Yake haikushindwa. Mara nyingi Nehemia alikuwa amemwaga roho yake kwa niaba ya watu wake. Lakini sasa alipokuwa akiomba kusudi takatifu lilijengwa akilini mwake. Aliazimia kwamba ikiwa angeweza kupata kibali cha mfalme, na usaidizi unaohitajika katika kupata zana na nyenzo, yeye mwenyewe angefanya kazi ya kujenga upya kuta za Yerusalemu na kurejesha nguvu za taifa la Israeli. Naye akamwomba Bwana amjalie kibali machoni pa mfalme, ili mpango huu utimie. "kufanikiwa, nakuomba, mtumishi wako leo," akasihi, "na umpe rehema machoni pa mtu huyu." [Pr 149.1; Maombi Aya ya 94]

Kwa miezi minne Nehemia alingoja nafasi nzuri ya kuwasilisha ombi lake kwa mfalme. Wakati huo, ingawa moyo wake ulikuwa mzito na wenye huzuni, alijitahidi kujistahi kwa uchangamfu mbele ya mfalme. Katika kumbi hizo za anasa (luxury) na fahari, lazima wote waonekane wenye moyo mwepesi na wenye furaha. Mifadhaiko isiweke kivuli chake juu ya uso wa mtumishi yeyote wa kifalme. Lakini katika nyakati za Nehemia za kupumzika kutoka kibaruni, wakati ambapo alikuwa haonekani machoni pa wanadamu, sala nyingi, maungamo, machozi, yalisikiwa na kushuhudiwa na MUNGU na malaika.— (Prophets and Kings, 628- 630) [Pr 149.2; Maombi Aya ya 95]

Nehemia Alikubali Dhambi Yake Binafsi Katika Maombi Yake— Sio tu kwamba Nehemia alisema kwamba Israeli walikuwa wametenda dhambi. Ila pia alikubali kwa toba kwamba yeye na nyumba ya baba yake walikuwa wamefanya dhambi. “Tumetenda kwa ufisadi dhidi Yako,” alisema, akijiweka mwenyewe miongoni mwa wale ambao walikuwa wamemvunjia MUNGU heshima kwa kutosimama kwa imara kwa ajili ya ile Kweli.... [Pr 149.3; Maombi Aya ya 96]

Nehemia alijinyenyekeza mbele za MUNGU, akimpa Yeye utukufu unaostahili Jina Lake. Ndivyo pia alivyofanya Danieli huko Babeli. Hebu tujifunze maombi ya watu hawa. Yanatufundisha kwamba tunapaswa kujinyenyekeza, lakini kwamba hatupaswi kamwe kufuta mpaka au mstari kati ya watu wa MUNGU wanaoshika amri na wale ambao hawaheshimu sheria Yake.—(SDA Bible Commentary 3:1136) [Pr 149.4; Maombi Aya ya 97]

Nehemia Aliomba, Akiwa na Uhakika Kwamba MUNGU Angetimiza Ahadi Zake—Imani yake ikishikilia sana ahadi za Bwana, Nehemia aliwasilisha kwenye Kiti cha Rehema cha mbinguni ombi lake kwamba MUNGU angedumisha kazi ya watu Wake wenye kutubu, na kurejesha nguvu zao; na kujenga mahali pao palipokuwa mahame. MUNGU alikuwa mwaminifu kwa vitisho Vyake wakati watu Wake walipojitenga Naye; Alikuwa amewatapanya kote kati ya mataifa, kulingana na Neno Lake. Naye Nehemia alipata katika Ukweli huu uhakikisho kwamba Bwana Angekuwa Mwaminifu vile vile katika kutimiza ahadi Zake (kuwarudisha).—(SDA Bible Commentary 3:1136) [Pr 150.1; Maombi Aya ya 98]

Nehemia Alifanya Sala Zake Kuendana na Mahitaji ya Wakati Huo—kumbukumbu ya hali ya Yerusalemu iliamsha huruma ya mfalme bila kuamsha chuki zake. Swali lingine lilitoa fursa ambayo Nehemia alikuwa ameingoja kwa muda mrefu: “Unataka nini? Lakini mtu wa MUNGU hakuthubutu kujibu mpaka alipotaka mwongozo kutoka kwa Yule Aliye juu kuliko Artashasta. Alikuwa na muamala/dhamana takatifu ya kutimiza, ambao ulihitaji msaada kutoka kwa mfalme; na alitambua kwamba mengi yalitegemea juu ya kuwasilisha kwake jambo hilo kwa njia ya kupata kibali chake mfalme na kuomba msaada wake. “Nikaomba,” alisema, “kwa MUNGU wa mbinguni.” Katika sala hiyo fupi

Nehemia alisisitiza katika uwepo wa Mfalme wa wafalme na kushinda nguvu inayoweza kugeuza mioyo kama mito ya maji inavyogeuzwa. [Pr 150.2; Maombi Aya ya 99]

Maombi ya Nehemia yaliimarishwa na Kusudi Imara—Kuna hitaji la kuwa na akina Nehemia katika kanisa leo,—sio watu wanaoweza kuomba na kuhubiri tu, bali watu ambao maombi na mahubiri yao yameimarishwa kwa kusudi thabiti na yenye maazimio yenye shauku.—(The Signs of the Times, Desemba 6, 1883) [Pr 150.3; Maombi Aya ya 100]

Kama Nehemia, sisi tunaweza kuomba Wakati Wowote au Mahali Popote—Kuomba kama Nehemia alivyoomba katika saa yake ya hitaji ni nyenzo ya kumuongoza Mkristo katika mazingira ambapo aina nyingine za maombi zitashindikana. Watenda kazi wanaohenyekakwa bidii katika safari ya maisha, waliokuwa katika msongamano na kutindikiwa na wasiwasi au fedheha, wanaweza kutuma ombi kwa MUNGU kwa ajili ya mwongozo Wake wa Kiungu/mbingu. Wasafiri baharini na nchi kavu, wanapotishiwa na hatari kubwa, wanaweza kujikabidhi katika ulinzi wa Mbingu. Wakati wa shida ya ghafla au hatari, moyo unaweza kutuma kilio chake cha kuomba msaada kwa Yule ambaye ameahidi kuwasaidia waaminifu Wake, wale wanaoamini, kila wanapomwita. Katika kila jambo, chini ya kila hali, nafsi iliyolemewa na huzuni na masumbufu ya maisha haya, au kushambuliwa vikali na jaribu, inaweza kupata uthibitisho, msaada, na sapoti/utegemezi katika upendo usiokoma na nguvu ya MUNGU anayeshika agano. [Pr 151.1; Maombi Aya ya 101]

Katika wakati huo mfupi wa maombi kwa Mfalme wa wafalme, Nehemia alikusanya ujasiri kumwambia Artashasta kuhusu matamano yake ya kupewa muda kutoka katika majukumu yake katika nyua za kifalme, naye akaomba mamlaka ya kujenga mahali palipokuwa ukiwa Yerusalemu na kupafanya tena kuwa jiji lenye nguvu na ulinzi. Matokeo muhimu kwa taifa la Kiyahudi yalikita kwenye ombi hili. “Na,” Nehemia atangaza, “mfalme alinipa kibali, kulingana na mkono mwema wa MUNGU wangu ulio juu yangu.” (Prophets and Kings, 631-633) [Pr 151.2; Maombi Aya ya 102]

MUNGU katika majaliwa Yake haturuhusu kuujuu mwisho tangu mwanzo; bali anatupa nuru ya Neno Lake ili kutuongoza tunapopita, na anatuagiza kuweka mawazo yetu kukita kwa Yesu. Popote tulipo, haijalishi kazi tuliyo nayo, mioyo yetu inapaswa kuinuliwa kwa MUNGU katika maombi. Hii ni kuwa na utayari kuomba wakati wowote. Hatuhitaji kusubiri hadi tuweze kupiga magoti kabla ya kuomba. Wakati fulani, Nehemia alipofika mbele ya mfalme, mfalme aliuliza ni kwanini alionekana mwenye huzuni, na ni ombi gani aliazimia kumwambia mfalme. Lakini Nehemia hakuthubutu kujibu papo hapo. Masilahi muhimu yalikuwa hatarini. Hatima ya taifa ilining'inia juu ya mtazamo ambao unapaswa kutengenezwa juu ya akili ya mkuu wa himaya; naye Nehemia akatuma maombi kwa MUNGU wa Mbinguni, kabla hajathubutu kumjibu mfalme. Matokeo yake ni kwamba alipata yote aliyoomba au hata yale aliyotamani. - (The Signs of the Times, October 20, 1887) [Pr 151.3; Maombi Aya ya 103]

Hakuna wakati au mahali ambapo hapafai kutuma ombi kwa MUNGU. Hakuna kitu kinachoweza kutuzuia kuinua mioyo yetu katika moyo wa maombi ya dhati na bidii. Katika umati wa watu mitaani, katikati ya biashara au shuguli, tunaweza kutuma ombi kwa MUNGU na kuomba mwongozo wa MUNGU, kama alivyofanya Nehemia alipotoa ombi lake mbele ya Mfalme Artashasta. Ushirika wa karibu unaweza kupatikana popote tulipo. Tunapaswa kufungua mlango wa moyo kila wakati na mwaliko wetu kwa Yesu kwenda juu ili aje kukaa kama mgeni wa mbinguni katika nafsi zetu (mioyo yetu). [Pr 151.4; Maombi Aya ya 104]

Ingawa kunaweza kuwa na mazingira yenye uchafuzi, ufisadi, na uharibifu karibu nasi, hatuhitaji kuvuta pumzi ya harufu ya uvundo wake, lakini tunaweza kuishi katika hewa safi ya mbinguni. Tunaweza kufunga kila mlango kwa mawazo yasiyofaa na mawazo yasiyo matakatifu kwa kuinua roho mbele ya MUNGU kupitia maombi ya dhati. Wale ambao mioyo yao iko wazi kupokea msaada na baraka za MUNGU watatembea katika angahewa takatifu kuliko ile ya dunia na watakuwa na ushirika wa mara kwa mara na mbingu. —(Steps to Christ, 99). [Pr 152.2; Maombi Aya ya 105]

Nehemia Aliomba kwa Bidii Usiku Wote—Kwa siri na kimya, Nehemia alikamilisha mzunguko wake wa zile kuta.

Anatupa habari kuwa “Watawala hawakujua nilikokwenda, wala nilichokofanya; wala nilikuwa sijawaambia Wayahudi, wala makuhani, wala wakuu, wala viongozi, wala wengine waliofanya kazi hiyo.” Katika uchunguzi huu mchungu hakutaka kuvutia umakini wa marafiki au maadui, taharuki isije ikazuka, na ripoti kuletwa na kusambaa, jambo ambalo Ingeweza kufanya misheni kufeli au hata kuzuia, kazi yake. Nehemia alitumia muda uliosalia wa usiku kwa maombi; asubuhi lazima kuwe na jitihada ya bidii ya kuwaamsha na kuwaunganisha watu wa nchi yake waliokata tamaa na waliogawanyika.— (Christian Service, 174) [Pr 152.3; Maombi Aya ya 106]

Mafanikio ya Nehemia Yanaonyesha Nguvu ya Maombi— Katika kazi yao, Ezra na Nehemia walijinyenyekeza mbele ya MUNGU, wakiungama dhambi zao na dhambi za watu wao, na kuomba msamaha kana kwamba wao wenyewe ndio wakosaji. Kwa subira walijitaabisha kufanya kazi, wakisali na kuteseka. Jambo ambalo lilifanya kazi yao kuwa ngumu zaidi lilikuwa sio uadui wa wazi wa watu wa mataifa (wapagani), bali upinzani wa siri wa marafiki wa kujifanya, ambao, kwa kutoa ushawishi wao kwa ajili ya huduma za uovu, waliongeza mzigo mara kumi zaidi, kwa watumishi wa MUNGU. Wasaliti hawa waliwapa adui za Bwana nyenzo za kutumia katika vita vyao juu ya watu Wake. Tamaa zao mbaya na nia yao ya uasi vilikuwa vikipigana vita daima na matakwa ya MUNGU yaliyo wazi. [Pr 152.4; Maombi Aya ya 107]

Mafanikio yanayoambatana na jitihada za Nehemia yanaonyesha kile ambacho sala, imani, hekima na utendaji wenye msukumo wa bidii unavyoweza kutimiza. Nehemia hakuwa kuhani; hakuwa nabii; hakuajifanya kuwa na cheo cha juu. Mtu huyu alikuwa mwanamatengenezo aliyeinuliwa kwa wakati muhimu. Lilikuwa lengo lake kuwaweka watu wake kuwa waadilifu kwa MUNGU (waweke mambo yao sawa na Mungu). Akisukumwa na kusudi kuu, alipinda/aliweka kila nguvu ya uhai wake ili kutimiza lengo hilo. Uadilifu wa hali ya juu, usiobadilika uliashiria juhudi zake. Alipokutana na uovu na upinzani katika kutenda kile kilicho haki, alichukua msimamo mkali sana kiasi kwamba watu waliamshwa kufanya kazi kwa bidii na ujasiri mpya. Hawakuwa na jinsi isipokuwa kutambua uaminifu wake, uzalendo wake, na upendo wake wa kina kwa MUNGU; na,

walipoona hivyo, walikuwa tayari kufuata alikowaongoza.—
(Prophets and Kings, 675, 676) [Pr 153.1; Maombi Aya ya
108]

Yohana Mbatizaji

Yohana Alitumia Muda Katika Kutafakari na Kuomba Kujua mapenzi ya MUNGU kwa ajili ya maisha yake—Maisha ya Yohana hayakutumika katika uvivu, uzembe, utawa, au kujitenga kwa ubinafsi. Mara kwa mara alienda kuchangamana na watu; na alikuwa mtazamaji makini mwenye nia ya kujua kile kilichokuwa kinaendelea duniani. Akiwa kwenye pumziko lake tulivu nyikani alitazama matukio yalivyokuwa. Akiwa na maono yaliyoangaziwa na Roho wa MUNGU alisoma tabia za wanadamu, ili apate kuelewa jinsi ya kuifikia mioyo yao kwa ujumbe wa mbinguni. Mzigo wa utume wake ulikuwa juu yake. Akiwa peke yake, kwa kutafakari na kusali, alitafuta kujifunga mshipi wa uimara kwenye nafsi yake kwa ajili ya kazi ya maisha iliyokuwa mbele yake.—(The Desire of Ages, 102) [Pr 153.2; Maombi Aya ya 109]

Maombi Yalimwezesha Yohana Kuwakabili Wafalme wa Dunia—Yohana Mbatizaji katika maisha yake ya jangwani alifundishwa na MUNGU. Alisoma mafunuo ya MUNGU katika asili/uumbaji. Chini ya uongozi wa Roho Mtakatifu, alisoma hati-kunjo za manabii. Mchana na usiku, Kristo alikuwa somo lake, na tafakari yake, mpaka akili na moyo na roho vilijaa maono yenye utukufu. [Pr 153.3; Maombi Aya ya 110]

Alimtazama Mfalme katika uzuri Wake, na nafsi yake ikapotea (ubinafsi wake ukaisha). Aliona ukuu wa utakatifu na akajua kwamba anapokuwa peke yake, basi, hana ufanisi na stahiki. Ulikuwa ni ujumbe wa MUNGU ambao alipaswa kuutangaza. Ilikuwa katika uwezo wa MUNGU na haki Yake kwamba alipaswa kusimama. Alikuwa tayari kwenda kama mjumbe wa Mbinguni, bila kukatishwa tamaa na mwanadamu, kwa maana alikuwa amemtazama MUNGU. Angeweza kusimama bila woga mbele ya wafalme wa kidunia kwa sababu kwa kutetemeka alikuwa ameinama na kusujudu mbele ya Mfalme wa wafalme.— (Testimonies for the Church 8:331, 332) [Pr 154.1; Maombi Aya ya 111]

Petro

MUNGU Alijibu Sala ya Petro ya Kumfufua Dorkasi—Moyo wa mtume huyo uliguswa na huruma alipoona huzuni yao. Kisha, akielekeza kwamba marafiki waliokuwa wakilia watolewe chumbani, alipiga magoti na kusali kwa dhati na bidii kwa MUNGU ili amrudishie Dorkasi uhai na afya. Akiugeukia ule mwili, akasema, Tabitha, inuka. Naye akafumbua macho yake, na alipomwona Petro, akaketi.” Dorkasi alikuwa amefanya utumishi mkubwa kwa kanisa, na MUNGU aliona inafaa kumrudisha kutoka nchi ya adui, ili ustadi wake na nguvu zake zipate kuwa baraka kwa wengine, na pia kwamba kwa udhihirisho huu wa uweza Wake kusudi la Kristo lipate kuimarishwa.— (Matendo ya Mitume, 132) [Pr 154.2; Maombi Aya ya 112]

SURA YA 14

SALA YA KILA SIKU

Sala ni Muhimu Kama Chakula Chetu cha Kila Siku—Ikiwa tutakuza tabia ambayo MUNGU anaweza kukubali (kuipa kibali), ni lazima tutengeneze mazoea sahihi katika maisha yetu ya kidini. Maombi ya kila siku ni muhimu kwa ukuaji wa neema, na hata kwa maisha ya kiroho yenyewe, kama vile chakula cha muda kwa ustawi wa kimwili na kiakili. Tunapaswa kujizoesha kuinua mawazo kwa MUNGU katika sala. Akili ikimangamanga, lazima tuirudishe; kwa bidii ya kudumu, na isiyochoka, mazoea haya hatimaye yatafanya iwe rahisi. Hatuwezi kujitenga mbali na Kristo hata wakati mmoja tukawa salama. Tunaweza kuwa na uwepo Wake pamoja nasi katika kila hatua, lakini kwa kuzingatia tu masharti ambayo Yeye Mwenyewe ameweka. —(Messages to Young People, 115.114, 115) [Pr 155.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Hitaji letu la sala ya kila siku- Wote wanaokuja kwa Kristo leo wanapaswa kukumbuka kuwa haki na sifa Yake ni uvumba unaochanganywa na maombi ya wale wanaotubu

dhambi zao na kupokea msamaha na rehema na neema. Hitaji letu la maombezi ya Kristo ni la daima, endelevu. Siku baada ya siku, asubuhi na jioni, moyo mnyenyekevu unahitaji kutoa maombi ambayo yatarudishiwa majibu ya neema na amani na furaha. “Basi kupitia Yeye na tutoe dhabihu ya sifa kwa MUNGU mara kwa mara, yaani, tunda la midomo yetu itoe shukrani kwa Jina Lake. Lakini msisahau kutenda mema na kuwasiliana; kwa maana dhabihu za namna hii MUNGU hupendezwa nazo” (SDA Bible Commentary 6:1078) [Pr 155.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Anza Siku Yako Kwa Maombi—Ni upendeleo kwetu kufungua mioyo yetu, na kuruhusu mwanga wa jua wa uwepo wa Kristo uingie. Kaka yangu, dada yangu, hebu uso wako uitazame nuru (ikabili nuru). Njoo katika mawasiliano halisi ya na ya binafsi na Kristo, ili uweze kuwa na ushawishi wa kuinua na kuleta uamsho. Acha imani yako iwe imara na safi na thabiti. Hebu shukrani kwa MUNGU ijaze mioyo yenu. Unapoamka asubuhi, piga magoti kando ya kitanda chako, na kisha umwombe MUNGU akupe nguvu ya kutimiza majukumu ya siku, na kukabiliana na majaribu yake. Mwambie Yeye akusaidie kuleta katika kazi yako utamu na uzuri wa tabia ya Kristo. Muombe akusaidie wewe kusema maneno ambayo yatawapatia wale wanaokuzunguka tumaini na ujasiri, na kukusogeza karibu na Mwokozi. (Sons and Daughters of God, 199)- [Pr156.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Kila asubuhi chukua muda kuanza kazi zako kwa ombi. Usifikirie kuwa huku ni kupoteza muda, au muda uliopotea tu; kwani ni muda ambao utaishi kwa nyakati za milele. Kwa njia hii mafanikio na ushindi wa kiroho utaletwa. Mwili wako utajibu mguso wa mkono wa Mwalimu Mkuu (maschine ya mwili itajibu Mguso wa Bwana). Hakika kuomba baraka ya MUNGU kunastahili wakati wetu, na kazi haiwezi kufanywa kwa usahihi isipokuwa ina mwanzo sahihi.— (Testimonies for the Church 7:194) [Pr 156.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Ndugu na dada zangu, wazee na vijana, mnapokuwa na saa moja ya kupumzika na burudani (mnapokuwa hamna la kufanya), fungueni Biblia na mhifadhi akilini mwenu na Kweli zake wa thamani. Unapojishughulisha na kazi, linda akili, uwe thabiti katika kuiachilia akili iendeleo kukaa kwa

MUNGU, ongea kidogo, na tafakari zaidi. Kumbuka: "Kila neno lisilofaa ambalo watu watazungumza, watatoa hesabu yake siku ya hukumu." Chunga maneno yako kwa kuyachagua kwa uangalifu kabla ya kuyatamka; hii itafunga mlango dhidi ya adui wa roho. Hebu uingie katika siku yako mpya kwa kuanza na maombi; fanya kazi kama upo machoni pa MUNGU. Malaika Wake huwa karibu nawe kila wakati, wakirekodi maneno yako, hulka na mwenendo wako, na namna ya utendaji kazi wako. Unapoacha ushauri mzuri na kuchagua kushirikiana na wale ambao una sababu ya kuwashuku kwamba hawana mwelekeo wa mambo ya kidini/kiroho, ingawa wanadai kuwa Wakristo, hivi karibuni utakuwa kama wao. Unajiweka mwenyewe katika barabara ya majaribu, kwenye uwanja wa vita wa Shetani, na, pasipo ulinzi endelevu, wewe utashindwa na hila zake mwovu.—(Testimonies for the Church 4:588, 589) [Pr 156.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Mwendee Bwana kila siku kwa ajili ya mafundisho na mwongozo; Mtegemee MUNGU kwa nuru na maarifa. Omba kwa ajili ya mafundisho haya na mwanga huu, hadi upate. Haitakufaa wewe kuomba, kisha ukasahau jambo uliloliombea. Weka akili yako juu ya maombi yako. Unaweza kufanya hivyo wakati unafanya kazi kwa mikono yako. Unaweza kusema, Bwana, naamini; kwa moyo wangu wote naamini Acha nguvu za Roho Mtakatifu zije juu yangu. — (Fundamentals of Christian Education, 531) [Pr 157.1; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Katika kumfuata Kristo, ukimtazama Yeye ambaye Ndiye Mwanzilishi na Mkamilishaji wa imani yako, utahisi kuwa unafanya kazi chini ya jicho Lake, kwamba unashawishiwa na uwepo Wake, na kwamba Yeye Anajua nia zako. Katika kila hatua utauliza kwa unyenyekevu: Je! Hii itampendeza Yesu? Je! Itamtukuza MUNGU? Asubuhi na jioni sala zako za dhati zinapaswa kupaa kwa MUNGU kwa ajili ya baraka na mwongozo Wake. Maombi ya Kweli hujitegemeza kwa Mweza na hutupatia ushindi. Akiwa amepiga magoti yake Mkristo hupata nguvu za kushinda vishawishi.— Yoh. (Testimonies for the Church 4:615) [Pr 157.2; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Tenga muda kila siku kwa ajili ya maombi — Wale ambao watavaa silaha zote za MUNGU na kutenga muda kila siku kwa ajili ya kutafakari na kufanya maombi na kusoma

Maandiko, wataunganishwa na mbingu na watakuwa na mvuto uokoao, na unaobadilisha kwa wale wanaowazunguka. Mawazo makuu, matamano bora, ufahamu dhahiri kuhusu ile Kweli na wajibu kwa MUNGU, haya yote yatakuwa yao. Watakuwa wana matamano ya kuwa na usafi wa moyo, utakaso wa moyo, kuwa na nuru, kuwa na upendo, na kuwa na neema zote zitokazo mbinguni. Maombi yao ya dhati na bidii kabisa yatapenya ndani ya pazia (Waebrania 8 na 9 na Walawi 16). Kundi hili litakuwa na ujasiri mtakatifu mbele ya Yule Asiye na kikomo. Watahisi kuwa nuru na utukufu wa mbinguni upo kwa ajili yao, na watasafishwa, watatakaswa, watainuliwa, wataboreshana kuadilishwa na uhusiano huu wa karibu na MUNGU. Huo ndio upendeleo walionao Wakristo wa kweli. [Pr 157.3; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Kutafakari nadharia tu bila vitendo halisi haitoshi (abstract meditation); shughuli au utendaji mwingi pia hautoshi; vyote viwili ni muhimu kwa uundaji wa tabia ya Kikristo. Nguvu inayopatikana katika maombi ya dhati, na ya siri, hututayarisha kustahimili vivutio/vishawishi vibaya kwenye jumuiya. Na bado hatupaswi kujitenga na ulimwengu, kwani uzoefu wetu wa Kikristo unapaswa kuwa nuru ya ulimwengu. Jamii ya wasioamini haitatudhuru ikiwa tutachangamana nao kwa kusudi la kuwaunganisha na Mungu na kuwa na nguvu za kutosha kiroho kuhimili ushawishi wao. - (Testimonies for the Church 5:112, 113) [Pr 158.1; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Matokeo ya Maombi ya kila siku -Roho inayomgeukia MUNGU kwa ajili ya kupata nguvu, msaada, uwezo, kwa maombi ya dhati na bidii kila siku, itakuwa na matamano bora, uelewa dhahiri wa ile Kweli na wajibu, malengo yaliyo ya juu katika utendaji wa kazi, na taendelea daima kuwa na njaa na kiu ya haki.—(God's Amazing Grace 317) [Pr 25.4; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Kwa kudumisha uhusiano na MUNGU, na kisha kupitia ushirika wetu na watu wengine, tutawezeshwa kusambaza kwa wanadamu wenzetu nuru, amani, utulivu, unaotawala mioyoni mwetu. Nguvu inayopatikana katika sala kwa MUNGU, ikiunganishwa na jitihada ya kudumu katika kuzoeza akili katika kufikiria, umakini na kutenda, hutayarisha mtu kwa ajili ya majukumu ya kila siku na

kuiweka roho katika amani chini ya hali zote. [Pr 158.2; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Tukimkaribia Mungu, Yeye ataweka neno kinywani mwetu kuzungumza kwa niaba Yake, hata sifa kwa Jina Lake. Yeye Atatufundisha mkazo kutoka katika wimbo wa malaika, hata shukrani kwa Baba yetu wa mbinguni. Katika kila tendo la maisha, nuru na upendo wa Mwokozi anayeishi ndani vitafunuliwa mbele za watu. Shida za nje haziwezi kuyafikia maisha ya mtu ambaye anaishi kwa imani katika Mwana wa MUNGU.—(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 85) [Pr 158.3; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Maombi yanahitajika Kila Siku Ili Kumpinga (kumsukuma) Shetani – Utakaso sio kazi ya wakati mmoja, nukta moja, saa moja, siku moja au wakati mmoja. Ni ukuaji endelevu katika neema. Hatujui hata siku moja changamoto au mzozo wetu vitakuwa na nguvu kiasi gani siku inayofuata. Shetani anaishi, na anafanya kazi kwa bidii, na kila siku tunahitaji kumlilia MUNGU kwa dhati ili kupata msaada na nguvu za kumpinga. Maadamu Shetani anatawala (na hajaongoka) tutapaswa kutiisha ubinafsi daima, tutakuwa na usumbufu na mashambulizi ya kukabili, na hakuna mahali ambapo tutasimama (na kujishangilia tumefika), hakuna hatua ambayo tunaweza kuichukua na kusema tumeiwezea kikamilifu. – (Testimonies for the Church 1:340) [Pr 158.4; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Maombi ya Kila Siku yajumuishe Mahitaji ya Kimwili na Kiroho— Maombi ya mkate wa kila siku yanajumuisha sio tu chakula cha kutegemeza mwili, lakini mkate wa kiroho ambao utarutubisha na kulisha roho hata kwenye uzima wa milele. Yesu anatuagiza, “Msikifanyie kazi chakula chenye kuharibika, bali kile kidumucho hata uzima wa milele.” Yohana 6:27. Anasema, "Mimi Ndimi mkate hai uliyoshuka kutoka mbinguni. Mtu yeyote akila mkate Huu, ataishi milele." Mstari wa 51. Mwokozi wetu ni mkate wa uzima, na ni kwa kutazama upendo Wake, kwa kuupokea rohoni, ndio tunakula mkate ulioshuka kutoka mbinguni. [Pr 159.1; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Tunampokea Kristo kupitia Neno Lake, na Roho Mtakatifu anatolewa ili kulifungua Neno la MUNGU katika ufahamu wetu, na kuleta Kweli Zake mioyoni mwetu. Tunapaswa kuomba siku baada ya siku kwamba tunaposoma

Neno lake, ili MUNGU atume Roho Wake ili kutufunulia Ukweli ambao utaimarisha roho zetu kwa hitaji la siku. [Pr 159.2; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Katika kutufundisha kuomba kila siku kile tunachohitaji – baraka za kimwili na za kiroho—MUNGU ana kusudi la kutimiza kwa manufaa yetu. Yeye angependa tutambue utegemezi wetu juu ya utunzaji Wake wa daima/endelevu, kwa kuwa anatafuta kutuvuta katika ushirika na Yeye Mwenyewe. Katika mawasiliano na ushirika huu na Kristo, kwa njia ya maombi na kujifunza zile Kweli kuu na za thamani za Neno Lake, kama roho zenye njaa tutalishwa; kama wale walio na kiu, tutaburudishwa kwenye chemchemi ya uzima.—(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 112, 113) [Pr 159.3; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Kama Wakristo wa awali, Tunahitaji Kuomba Kila Siku kwa Ajili ya Roho Mtakatifu—Wale ambao katika Pentekoste walivishwa nguvu kutoka juu, hawakuwekwa huru dhidi ya mitihani na majaribu siku za mbeleni. Waliposhuhudia Ukweli na haki, walishambuliwa mara kwa mara na adui wa Kweli zote, ambaye alitaka kuwaibia uzoefu wao wa Kikristo. Walilazimika kujitahidi kwa nguvu zao zote walizopewa na MUNGU kufikia kiwango cha mfano wa wanaume na wanawake walio katika Kristo Yesu. Kila siku waliomba msaada mpya wa neema, ili waweze kufikia juu na juu zaidi kuelekea ukamilifu. Chini ya utendaji kazi wa Roho Mtakatifu hata wale walio dhaifu, kwa kuizoeza imani yao kwa MUNGU, walijifunza kuboresha nguvu walizokabidhiwa na kutakaswa, kusafishwa, na kuboreshwa. Kwa unyenyekevu walijitiisha chini ya ushawishi wa Roho Mtakatifu, wakapokea utimilifu wa Uungu, nao wakaandaliwa kuwa mfano wa MUNGU. - (The Acts of the Apostles, 49, 50) [Pr 159.4; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Kupita kwa wakati hakujaleta mabadiliko katika ahadi ya Kristo alipokuwa akiondoka ya kumtuma Roho Mtakatifu kama mwakilishi Wake. Si kwa sababu ya kizuizi chochote kwa upande wa MUNGU kwamba utajiri wa neema Yake hautiririki duniani kwa wanadamu. Ikiwa utimilifu wa ahadi hauonekani jinsi unavyoweza kuonekana, ni kwa sababu ahadi haithaminiwi kama inavyopaswa kuthaminiwa. Kama wote wangekubali, wote wangejazwa na Roho Mtakatifu. Popote pale ambapo hitaji la Roho Mtakatifu ni jambo linalofikiriwa kwa udogo sana, panaonekana kuwa na

ukame wa kiroho, giza la kiroho, mporomoko wa kiroho na kifo. Wakati mambo madogo yanachukua umakini, na nguvu ya Kiungu/Bwana ambayo ni muhimu kwa ukuaji na ustawi wa kanisa, na ambayo italeta baraka zingine zote kwenye mlolongo wake, kama mabehewa ya treni, inakosekana, ingawa hutolewa kwa wingi Wake usio na kipimo. [Pr 160.1; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Kwa kuwa hii ndiyo njia ambayo kwayo tunapaswa kupokea nguvu, Je, kwa nini hatuna njaa na kiu ya karama ya Roho? Kwa nini hatuizungumzii, hatuiombei, na kuhubiri kuhusu hiyo? Bwana Yupo tayari sana kumtoa Roho Mtakatifu kwa wale wanaomtumikia zaidi ya wazazi wanavyokuwa na shauku ya kutoa zawadi bora kwa watoto wao. Kila mfanyakazi anapaswa kutoa ombi lake kwa MUNGU kwa ubatizo wa kila siku wa Roho. Vikundi vya watendakazi Wakristo vinapaswa kukusanyika ili kuomba msaada wa kipekee, kwa ajili ya hekima ya mbinguni, ili wajue jinsi ya kupanga na kutekeleza mikakati kwa hekima. Hasa, wanapaswa kuomba ili MUNGU awabatize mabalozi Wake waliochaguliwa kufanya kazi kwenye maeneo ya misheni, kwa kipimo kikubwa cha Roho Wake. Uwepo wa Roho pamoja na watenda kazi wa MUNGU utatoa nguvu juu ya utangazaji wa Ukweli ambao hakuna heshima au utukufu wote wa ulimwengu ungeweza kutoa.—(The Acts of the Apostles , 49-51) [Pr 160.2; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Ombea Neema kwa Mahitaji ya Kila Siku—Ukweli wa MUNGU uliopokelewa moyoni unaweza kukufanya uwe na hekima hata kufikia wokovu. Kwa kuiamini na kuitii ile Kweli, utapokea neema ya kutosha kwa ajili ya majukumu, mitihani na majaribu ya leo. Hautitaji Neema ya kesho. Unapaswa kuhisi kuwa unahusika na leo tu (siyo changamoto za kesho). Kushinda kwa leo; kujikana kwa leo; kuomba na kukesha kwa leo; kupata ushindi katika MUNGU leo. Hali zetu na mazingira yetu, mabadiliko ya kila siku yanayotuzunguka, na Neno lililoandikwa na MUNGU ambalo hutambua na kuthibitisha mambo yote hayo, hivi vinatosha kutufundisha wajibu wetu na kile ambacho tunapaswa kufanya, siku baada ya siku. Badala ya kuitesa akili yako kukimbia katika njia ya mawazo ambayo hutapata faida yoyote nayo, wewe unapaswa kuwa unachunguza Maandiko kila siku na kufanya kazi zile za maisha ya kila siku ambazo sasa zinaweza kuonekana ni

usumbufu tupu, lakini ni zile ambazo lazima zifanywe na mtu fulani.—(Testimonies for the Church 3:333) [Pr 160.3; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Omba kila siku kwa ajili ya Uelewa wa Biblia – Wale wanaodai kumwamini Yesu, daima wanapaswa kusonga mbele kwenye nuru kwa bidii. Wanapaswa kuomba kila siku, ili nuru ya Roho Mtakatifu iangaze kwenye kurasa za Kitabu Kitakatifu (Biblia), ili waweze kuwezesha kuelewa mambo ya Roho wa MUNGU. - (Fundamentals of Christian Education, 188, 189) [Pr 161.1; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Omba Kila Siku kwa ajili ya Baraka Inayoletwa na Sabato – Wote wanaoichukulia Sabato kama ishara kati yao na MUNGU, wakionyesha kwamba Yeye Ndiye MUNGU anayewatakasa, watawakilisha kanuni za serikali Yake. Wataleta katika utendaji wao wa kila siku sheria za ufalme Wake. Itakuwa ombi lao la kila siku kwamba utakaso wa Sabato uwe juu yao. Kila siku watakuwa na ushirika wa Kristo na wataonyesha ukamilifu wa tabia Yake. Kila siku nuru yao itawaangazia wengine kupitia matendo mema.— (Testimonies for the Church 6:353) [Pr 161.2; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Ombi la kila siku la Mzazi—Fanya kazi yako iwe ya kupendeza kwa nyimbo za sifa. Ikiwa ungependa kuwa na rekodi safi katika vitabu vya mbinguni, usiudhike, usikerwe, wala kukemea. Acha sala yako ya kila siku iwe, "Bwana, nifundishe kutenda vyema. Nifundishe jinsi ya kufanya kazi bora. Nipe nguvu na uchangamfu." Mlete Kristo katika yote unayoyafanya. Ndipo maisha yenu yatajazwa na mwangaza na shukrani. Hebu na tujitahidi, tukiendelea kusonga mbele kwa uchangamfu katika utumishi wa Bwana, mioyo yetu ikiwa imesheheni furaha Yake.—(Child Guidance, 148) [Pr 161.3; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Vijana waombe Kila Siku kwa ajili ya Hekima na Neema – Majaribu na ufukara ambao vijana wengi wanalalamikia, Kristo alivumilia bila kunung'unika. Na nidhamu hii ndiyo ule uzoefu ambao vijana wanauhitaji, na ambao utawapa uthabiti katika tabia zao, na kuwafanya wawe kama Kristo, wenye nguvu katika roho ya kupinga majaribu. Hawataweza kushindwa na hila za Shetani, ikiwa watajitenga na ushawishi wa wale ambao watawapotosha na kuharibu maadili yao. Kupitia maombi ya kila siku kwa

MUNGU, watakuwa na hekima na neema kutoka Kwake, ya kubeba migogoro na uhalisia mkali wa maisha, na kuwa washindi. Uadilifu na utulivu wa akili unaweza kutunzwa tu kwa kukesha na kuomba. Maisha ya Kristo yalikuwa kielelezo cha nguvu ya kudumu, ambacho hakikuruhusiwa kudhoofishwa na lawama, dhihaka, ufukara au shida. [Pr 162.1; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Ndivyo inavyopaswa kuwa kwa vijana. Ikiwa Majaribu yataongezeka juu yao, wanaweza kujua kwamba MUNGU anajaribu na kudhihirisha uaminifu wao. Na ni katika kiwango hicho tu ambacho wanadumisha uadilifu wao wa tabia katika mazingira ya kukatishwa tamaa, ndipo uimara, ujasiri, uthabiti, na uwezo wao wa kustahimili utakapongezeka, nao watakuwa na nguvu katika roho.— (Messages to Young People, 80) [Pr 162.2; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Haja ya Mwalimu Kusali Kila Siku—Kila mwalimu anapaswa kupokea kila siku mafundisho kutoka kwa Kristo, na anapaswa kufanya kazi daima chini ya uongozi Wake. Haiwezekani kwake kuelewa vizuri au kufanya kazi yake ipasavyo isipokuwa anakuwa na Mungu katika maombi mengi. Ni kwa msaada wa Bwana tu, pamoja na unyofu wa moyo, na juhudi katika kujikana, ndipo anaweza kutumaini kufanya kazi yake kwa busara na vizuri zaidi. [Pr 162.3; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Pasipo Mwalimu kutambua hitaji la maombi na kuunyenyekeza moyo wake mbele za MUNGU, atapoteza moyo/kiini hasa cha elimu. Anapaswa kujua jinsi ya kuomba na ni lugha gani aitumie katika maombi. “Mimi ni Mzabibu,” Yesu alisema, “ninyi ni matawi; yule akaaye ndani Yangu Nami ndani yake, huyo atazaa matunda mengi; maana pasipo Mimi ninyi hamwezi kufanya neno lolote.” Yohana 15: 5 Mwalimu anapaswa kuacha matunda ya imani yaonekane katika maombi yake. Anapaswa kujifunza jinsi ya kuja mbele za Bwana na kumsihi Yeye kwa sala mpaka apate uhakikisho kwamba maombi yake yamesikiwa.—(Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 231) [Pr 162.4; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Katika Nyakati za Agano la Kale, Waisraeli Waliomba Kila Siku— Pale makuhani walipoingia asubuhi na jioni katika Patakatifu wakati wa uvumba, dhabihu ya kila siku

ilikuwa tayari kutolewa juu ya madhabahu katika ua wa nje. Huu ulikuwa wakati wa kupendeza sana kwa washiriki waliokusanyika mahali pa kuabudia. Kabla ya kuingia katika uwepo wa MUNGU kupitia huduma ya kuhani, walipaswa kuichunguza mioyo yao kwa dhati na kukiri dhambi zao. Waliungana katika sala ya kimya, na nyuso zao zikielekea mahali Patakatifu. Hivyo maombi yao yalipanda juu pamoja na wingu la uvumba, imani yao ikiwa imeshikilia sifa/stahiki za Mwokozi aliyeahidiwa ambaye aliwakilishwa na dhabihu ya upatanisho. Saa zilizowekwa kwa ajili ya dhabihu ya asubuhi na ya jioni zilizingatiwa kuwa takatifu, na zikaadhimishwa kama muda wa ibada katika taifa lote la Kiyahudi. Na katika nyakati za baadaye Wayahudi walipotawanywa kama mateka katika nchi za mbali, bado katika saa hiyo iliyoamriwa walielekeza nyuso zao kuelekea Yerusalemu na kutoa maombi yao kwa MUNGU wa Israeli. Katika desturi hii Wakristo wana mfano kwa ajili ya sala ya asubuhi na jioni. Ingawa MUNGU hushutumu mzunguko tu wa mapokeo ya sherehe au kaida kavukavu, bila roho ya ibada, Yeye huwatazama kwa kupendezwa/furaha sana wale wanaompenda, wakisujudu asubuhi na jioni ili kuomba msamaha wa dhambi zilizotendwa na kuwasilisha maombi yao kwa baraka zinazohitajiwa.—(Patriarchs and Prophets, 353, 354) [Pr 163.1; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Maombi ya Kila Siku Hustawisha na kuboresha Uzoefu Wetu wa Kidini/kiroho—Dini lazima ianze kwa kusafisha na kutakasa moyo, na lazima ipewe lishe kwa maombi ya kila siku.— (Testimonies for the Church 4:535) [Pr 163.2; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Maisha ya Maombi ya Kila Siku Yanahitaji Jitihada dhati — Maisha ya sala na sifa kila siku, maisha ambayo yataangazia njia ya wengine, hayawezi kudumishwa bila juhudi za dhati. Lakini bidii kama hiyo itazaa matunda ya thamani, yatakayobariki sio tu mpokeaji, bali mtoaji pia. Roho ya kufanya kazi bila ubinafsi kwa ajili ya wengine inatoa kina, uthabiti, na uzuri wa tabia kama wa Kristo kwa mhusika na huleta amani na furaha kwa yule aliye nayo. Matarajio yanakuwa yameinuliwa. Hakuna nafasi ya ugoigoi au ubinafsi. Wale walioonyesha neema za Kikristo watakuwa na mishipa na misuli ya kiroho, na watakuwa na nguvu ya kufanya kazi kwa MUNGU. Watakuwa na mitazamo wazi ya kiroho, imani thabiti inayoongezeka, na

nguvu za kudumu na zinazoshinda katika maombi. Wale ambao wanakesha kwaajili ya kuzilinda roho, ambao hujitolea kikamilifu kwa wokovu wa wakosaji, hakika wanafanya kazi ya wokovu wao wenyewe pia. – (Testimonies for the Church 5:607) Pr 163.3; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Malaika Hurekodi Sala ya Asubuhi–Nyinyi nyote mna ushawishi kwa wema au uovu katika akili na tabia za wengine. Na ushawishi unaoutoa au kushinikiza umeandikwa katika kitabu cha kumbukumbu mbinguni. Malaika anakutembelea na anachukua rekodi ya maneno na matendo yako. Unapoamka asubuhi, Je! Unahisi kutojiwezea kwako na hitaji lako la nguvu kutoka kwa MUNGU? na Je, kwa unyenyekevu, na kwa moyo wako wote unamjulisha Baba yako wa mbinguni matakwa yako? Ikiwa ndivyo, malaika hunakili maombi yako, na ikiwa maombi haya hayajatoka nje ya midomo ya uwongo au hila, basi wakati uko katika hatari ya kufanya makosa bila kujua na kutoa ushawishi ambao utasababisha wengine kutenda uovu, malaika wako mlezi atakuwa kando yako, kukufundisha kile kilicho bora, kukuchagulia maneno ili uyatumie, na kuathiri matendo yako. [Pr 164.1; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Ikiwa huhisi kwamba uko katika hatari yoyote, na ikiwa hautoi sala yoyote ya kuomba msaada wa nguvu za kupinga majaribu, utakuwa na uhakika wa kupotoka; Kupuuzia kwako wajibu kutarekodiwa katika kitabu cha MUNGU mbinguni, nawe utaonekana kuwa umepungua katika siku ile ya hukumu.–(Testimonies for the Church 3:363, 364) [Pr 164.2; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Mazoea ya Maombi ya Kila Siku hayapaswi Kufuatwa Kiholela (bila mpangilio au kanuni) - Ibada ya Familia haipaswi kuongozwa na matukio au hali ya hewa. Haupaswi kuomba hapa na pale, au kwa nadra, kulingana na matukio fulani, au kwa kushtukiza na kisha unapojikuta, una kazi kubwa ya kufanya siku hiyo, unaacha kuomba kabisa. Kwa kufanya hivi unawaongoza watoto wako kuona kama maombi hayana matokeo yoyote maalum. Maombi yana maana kubwa sana kwa watoto wa MUNGU, na utoaji wa shukrani unapaswa kuja mbele za MUNGU asubuhi na jioni. Mwandishi wa kitabu cha Zaburi anasema "Njoni,

tumwimbie Bwana, tumfanyie shangwe mwamba wa wokovu wetu. Hebu na tuje mbele Zake kwa shukrani, na tumfanyie shangwe kwa Zaburi. [Pr 164.3; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Akina baba na akina mama, haijalishi kama unabanwa na shuguli zako kwa kiasi gani, usishindwe kukusanya familia yako karibu na madhabahu ya MUNGU. Omba ulinzi wa malaika watakatifu nyumbani mwako. Kumbuka kwamba wapendwa wako wanakabiliwa na vishawishi. [Pr 165.1; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Katika jitihada zetu za kuwafariji na kuwafurahisha wageni, hebu tusipuuze wajibu wetu kwa MUNGU. Saa ya maombi haipaswi kupuuzwa kwa kuzingatia jambo au mtu yeyote. Msizungumze na kujifurahisha wenyewe hadi mjichoshe na kuwa hoi kabisa kiasi cha kutofurahia msimu wa ibada. Kufanya hivi ni kumtolea MUNGU sadaka iliyo kilema. Katika Saa ya mapema ya jioni, tunapoweza kusali bila haraka na kwa uwazi wa kuelewa mambo ubongoni mwetu vyema, tunapaswa kutoa dua zetu na kupaza sauti zetu kwa furaha na sifa ya shukrani. [Pr 165.2; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Hebu wale wote wanaowatembelea Wakristo waone kwamba saa ya maombi ni ya thamani zaidi, takatifu zaidi, na ya furaha zaidi ya siku. Misimu hii ya ibada huongeza ushawishi ulio bora, safi, na wenye kuyaelekeza mawazo juu mbinguni kwa wale wote wanaoshiriki. Huleta amani na pumziko la shukrani kwa roho pia .— (Child Guidance, 520, 521) [Pr 165.3; Maombi Aya ya 36]

Maombi ya Kila Siku hupaa juu kwa MUNGU kama Uvumba Mtamu—Maisha ya Abrahamu, rafiki ya MUNGU, yalikuwa maisha ya maombi. Kila mahali alipopiga hema lake, karibu nalo ilijengwa madhabahu, ambayo juu yake ilitolewa sadaka ya asubuhi na ya jioni. Wakati hema lake lilipoondolewa, madhabahu ilibaki. Na Mkanaani aliyekuwa anarandaranda huko, alipofika kwenye madhabahu hiyo, alijua ni nani aliyekuwepo hapo. Naye huyu Mkaanani alipopiga hema lake, alitengeneza madhabahu na kumwabudu MUNGU aliye hai. [Pr 165.4; Maombi Aya ya 37]

Kwa hivyo nyumba za Wakristo zinapaswa kuwa taa/nuru ulimwenguni. Kutoka kwazo, asubuhi na jioni,

sala inapaswa kupaa kwa MUNGU kama uvumba mtamu. Na kama umande wa asubuhi, rehema Zake na baraka zitashuka juu ya waombaji. [Pr 165.5; Maombi Aya ya 38]

Enyi akina baba na akina mama, kila asubuhi na jioni wakusanyeni watoto wenu karibu nanyi, na kwa dua ya unyenyekevu inueni moyo kwa MUNGU kwa ajili ya msaada. Wapendwa wenu wanakabiliwa na majaribu. Kero na masumbufu ya kila siku hushambulia, hutishia na kuleta matatizo katika njia za vijana na wazee. Wale ambao wanahitaji kuishi maisha ya uvumilivu, ya upendo, na uchangamfu lazima waombe. Ni kwa kupokea msaada wa kila wakati kutoka kwa MUNGU, ndiyo tunaweza kupata ushindi juu ya nafsi yetu (kushinda ubinafsi). [Pr 166.1; Maombi Aya ya 39]

Kila asubuhi jiweke wakfu kwa MUNGU na watoto wako kwa siku hiyo. Usifanye hesabu kwa miezi au miaka; hiyo sio yako. Umepewa siku moja fupi. Kana kwamba ndiyo mwisho wa maisha yako duniani, fanya kazi kwa Mwalimu wakati wa saa zake. Weka mipango yako yote mbele za MUNGU, itekelezwe au iharishwe, kama vile uelekezaji/uongozi Wake Bwana utakavyoonyesha. Kubaliana na mipango Yake badala ya mipango yako mwenyewe, ingawa kuafikiana na jambo hili, kunatulazimisha kuacha miradi iliyo vipenzi kwetu. Hivyo maisha yatafinyangwa zaidi na zaidi na kushabihiana na mfano wa Bwana/Kiungu; "Na amani ya MUNGU, ipitayo akili zote, itahifadhi mioyo yenu na nia zenu katika Kristo Yesu." Wafilipi 4:7 .—(Testimonies for the Church 7:44) [Pr 166.2; Maombi Aya ya 40]

Mambo ya Kuombea Kila Siku—Tunapaswa kulitazama kila jukumu kuwa takatifu, hata liwe la unyenyekevu wa kiasi gani, kwasababu ni sehemu ya utumishi wa Mungu. Ombi letu la kila siku linapaswa kuwa , “Bwana, nisaidie kufanya vizuri kwa uwezo wangu wote. Nifundishe jinsi ya kufanya kazi bora. Nipe nguvu na uchangamfu. Nisaidie kuleta katika huduma yangu huduma ya upendo ya Mwokozi.” (The Ministry of Healing, 474) [Pr 166.3; Maombi Aya ya 41]

Jiweke wakfu kwa MUNGU asubuhi; fanya hii iwe kazi yako ya kwanza kabisa. Ombi lako liwe, “Nitwae, Ee Bwana, niwe Wako kabisa. Ninaweka mipango yangu yote

miguuni Pako. Nitumie leo katika huduma Yako. Kaa nami, na kazi yangu yote ifanyike ndani Yako.” Hii ni mada/suala la kila siku. Kila asubuhi jiweke wakfu kwa Mungu kwa ajili ya siku hiyo. Mkabidhi Yeye mipango yako yote, ili itekelezwe au isitelekezwe kulingana na atakavyoongoza. Kwa hivyo siku baada ya siku unakuwa unayakabidhi maisha yako mikononi Mwake Mungu, na ndivyo maisha yako yataundwa/yatafinyangwa zaidi na zaidi kufanana na maisha ya Kristo.—(Steps to Christ, 70) [Pr 166.4; Maombi Aya ya 42]

SURA YA 15

MFANO WA YESU KATIKA MAOMBI

Fuata Kielelezo cha Yesu kwa Kuanza Siku kwa Sala— Ilikuwa katika saa za sala ya peke Yake ndipo Yesu katika maisha Yake duniani alipata hekima na nguvu. Hebu vijana wafuate mfano Wake katika kutafuta alfajiri na jua lizamapo magharibi, muda wa utulivu kwaajili ya ushirika na Baba yao aliye mbinguni. Na pia wainue mioyo yao kwa MUNGU siku nzima. Katika kila hatua ya njia zetu, Yeye anasema, 'Kwa maana Mimi, Bwana, MUNGU wako, nitakushika mkono wako wa kuume, Usiogope; nitakusaidia.” Isaya 41:13. Laiti watoto wetu wangeweza kujifunza masomo haya katika miaka yao ya awali, wakati jua la maisha yao linaanza kupambazuka, Je, ni upya na nguvu, furaha na utamu wa jinsi gani, ambao ungeletwa maishani mwao!—(Education, 258, 259) [Pr 167.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Maombi ya dhati na yenye bidii ya Yesu yanatofautiana na maombi yetu dhaifu—Kuhusu Kristo inasemwa: “Na akiwa katika uchungu mkubwa aliomba kwa bidii zaidi.” Je ni tofauti iliyoje tukilinganisha maombezi

haya ya Mkuu wa mbinguni na maombi yetu dhaifu, yanayozimia, yasiyojumuisha moyo, ambayo hutolewa kwa MUNGU. Wengi wanaridhika na huduma ya mdomo tu, na ni wachache walio na shauku ya dhati, ya bidii, na yenye mapenzi kwa MUNGU. -(Testimonies for the Church 4:534) [Pr 167.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Ikiwa Yesu Alihitaji Kuomba Akiwa Duniani, sisi tunapaswa kusali zaidi kwa kiasi gani basi—Wakati Yesu alipokuwa hapa duniani, Aliwafundisha wanafunzi Wake jinsi ya kuomba. Aliwaelekeza kuwasilisha mahitaji yao ya kila siku mbele za MUNGU, na kumtupia/kuitwika mizigo yao yote Kwake. Na uhakikisho aliowapa kwamba maombi yao yatasikilizwa, ni uhakikisho kwetu pia. [Pr 168.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Yesu Mwenyewe, alipokuwa akiishi miongoni mwa wanadamu, mara nyingi alikuwa katika maombi. Mwokozi wetu alijitambua kuwa na mahitaji na udhaifu wetu, na katika hilo alikuwa muhitaji, mwombaji, akitaka kutoka kwa Baba Yake nguvu mpya, ili aweze kuja kuimarishwa kwa ajili ya jukumu na jaribio. Yeye ni mfano wetu katika mambo yote. Yeye ni ndugu katika udhaifu wetu, “akijaribiwa sawasawa na sisi katika mambo yote; lakini kama mtu asiye na dhambi asili yake ilijiepusha na uovu; Alivumilia mapambano na mateso ya nafsi katika ulimwengu wa dhambi. Ubinadamu wake ulifanya maombi kuwa jambo la lazima, la muhimu. Alipata faraja na furaha katika ushirika na Baba Yake. Na ikiwa Mwokozi wa wanadamu, Mwana wa MUNGU, alihisi hitaji la maombi, ni kiasi gani watu dhaifu, wenye dhambi wanapaswa kuhisi ulazima wa sala ya bidii na ya kudumu.—(Steps to Christ, 93, 94) [Pr 168.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Kristo alipambana mieleka kwa maombi ya dhati; Alitoa dua Zake kwa Baba Yake kwa kilio kikali/kizito na machozi kwa ajili ya wale ambao kwa ajili ya wokovu wao aliondoka mbinguni na kuja hapa duniani. Je, sasa ni sahihi kiasi gani basi, ndio, ni muhimu namna gani kwamba watu wanapaswa kuomba na sio kuzimia (kuzirai)!— (The Review and Herald, Aprili 1, 1890) [Pr 168.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Yesu Aliomba Nguvu za kustahimili Majaribu—Wachache watafuata mfano wa Mwokozi wetu kwa maombi ya bidii na ya mara kwa mara kwa MUNGU ili kupata nguvu

za kustahimili majaribu, na kuweza kutekeleza majukumu ya kila siku, ya maisha haya. Kristo Ndiye Kapteni wa wokovu wetu, na kwa mateso na dhabihu Yake Mwenyewe, Yeye ametoa mfano kwa wafuasi Wake wote, kwamba kukesha kwa maombi na bidii ya kudumu ni vitu muhimu kwa upande wao ikiwa watawakilisha kwa usahihi upendo uliokaa katika kifua Chake kwa ajili ya jamii ya ubinadamu iliyoanguka.—(The Review and Herald, Februari 23, 1886) [Pr 168.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Nguvu ya Yesu Ilitoka katika Maombi—Nguvu ya Kristo ilikuwa katika maombi. Alikuwa ameutwaa ubinadamu, na akachukua udhaifu wetu na akawa dhambi kwa ajili yetu. Kristo alitoka kwenda kwenye vijisitu/vichaka au milimani huku akijitenga na ulimwengu na mambo mengine yote (alijifungia kutoka kwenye mambo hayo yote ili apate nafasi ya kuomba). Alikuwa peke Yake na Baba Yake. Kwa dhati na bidii kubwa, Alimimina maombi yake, na kuelekeza nguvu zote za roho Yake katika kushikilia mkono wa Yeye Asiye na mwisho/kikomo. Majaribu mapya na makuu yalipokuwa mbele Yake, Yeye alijiondoa taratibu bila ya watu kujua na kuelekea mahali patulivu, kisha akawa peke Yake milimani, na kutumia usiku mzima kwa ajili ya maombi kwa Baba Yake wa Mbinguni. [Pr 169.1; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Kwa kuwa Kristo ni kielelezo chetu katika mambo yote, ikiwa tutaiga mfano Wake kwa kutochoka na kuwa na ari katika sala, tukiwasilisha maombi kwa MUNGU ili tuweze kuwa na nguvu katika Jina Lake Yeye Ambaye hakuangukia kwenye majaribu ya hila za adui mjanja Shetani, hata sisi hatutashindwa naye mwovu (tutashinda).— (The Youth's Instructor, April 1, 1873.) Katika maisha yaliyoweka wakfu kikamilifu kwa ajili ya kuwatendea wema wengine, Mwokozi aliona ni umuhimu wa kuchepuka kutoka katika njia alipokuwa safarini na kujiondoa kwenye umati uliomfuata Yeye siku baada ya siku. Ilikuwa ni lazima aachane na maisha ya pilikapilika zisizokoma kwa muda, aache kushugulika na mahitaji ya mwanadamu, na kisha atafute pumziko na pia ushirika usiovunjika na Baba Yake. Kama Mmoja pamoja nasi, mshiriki wa mahitaji na udhaifu wetu, alikuwa akimtegemea MUNGU kabisa, na katika pahali pa siri pa maombi alitafuta nguvu za Bwaba, ili aende akiwa amejipanga na kuimarishwa kwa ajili ya

wajibu na majaribu. Katika ulimwengu wa dhambi Yesu alivumilia mapambano na mateso ya nafsi. Kwa ushirika na MUNGU angeweza kutua mzigo wa huzuni zilizokuwa zikimpondaponda. Hapa Alipata faraja na furaha. [Pr 169.2; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Katika Kristo kilio cha wanadamu kilimfikia Baba wa huruma isiyo na kikomo. Kama mwanadamu alisihi kiti cha enzi cha MUNGU kwa dua, hadi ubinadamu Wake ulichajiwa (ulipewa nguvu) na umeme wa mbinguni ambao ulifanya mwunganiko wa ubinadamu na Uuungu. Kupitia ushirika wa daima alipokea uzima kutoka kwa MUNGU, ili aweze kuupa ulimwengu uzima. Uzoefu Wake unapaswa kuwa wetu pia. [Pr 169.3; Maombi Aya ya 9]

“Jitengeni ninyi wenyewe,” Bwana anaturalika. Ikiwa tutatii Neno Lake, tunapaswa kuwa na nguvu na wenye faida/manufaa zaidi (wenye kunufaisha zaidi). Wanafunzi wakamtafuta Yesu, wakamwambia yote; Naye Akawatia moyo na kuwafundisha. Ikiwa leo tutatenga muda kumwendea Yesu na kumwambia mahitaji yetu, nasi hatutakatishwa tamaa kamwe (au hatutadondoshwa).—(The Desire of Ages, 362, 363) [Pr 169.4; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Mtu wa Huzuni anamimina dua Zake kwa kilio kizito na machozi. Anaomba ili apate nguvu za kuvumilia jaribu hilo kwa niaba ya wanadamu. Ni lazima Yeye Mwenyewe apate kumshikilia vizuri Mweza wa yote, kwa kuwa ni kwa jinsi hiyo tu Anaweza kutafakari yajayo. Naye anamimina matamano ya moyo Wake kwa wanafunzi Wake, ili katika saa ya nguvu za giza, imani yao isianguke, isishindwe au kutindikiwa. Umande mzito ulioganda barafu juu, upo juu ya umbo Lake anaposujudu, lakini Yeye hafikirii kuhusu hili. Vivuli vya usiku vinakusanyika kumzunguka Yeye, lakini Yeye haangalii utusitisi wake (hali ya kizakiza au mawingumawingu).—(The Desire of Ages, 419, 420) [Pr 170.1; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Pale Yesu alipoingia nyikani alifungiwa ndani na utukufu wa Baba. Usikivu Wake wote ukiwa umefyonzwa katika ushirika na MUNGU, aliinuliwa juu ya udhaifu wa kibinadamu. Lakini utukufu uliondoka, na akaachwa apambane na majaribu. Majaribu yalikuwa yakimsonga, na kumbana kila dakika. Asili Yake ya kibinadamu ilisinyaa

(ilitaka kuepuka) kutoka katika pambano lililomngoja. Kwa siku arobaini alifunga na kuomba. Akiwa dhaifu na kukonda kutokana na njaa, akiwa amechoka, na kuchakaa na kudhoofika kwa maumivu ya akili, “uso Wake ulikuwa umeharibika kuliko wanadamu wote, na umbo Lake zaidi ya wanadamu” (Isaya 52:14). Sasa Shetani aliona amepata mwanya. Sasa Ibilisi akafikiri kwamba angeweza kumshinda Kristo.— (Selected Messages 1:227, 228) [Pr 170.2; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Kwa mtenda kazi aliyejiweka wakfu kuna faraja ya ajabu katika kujua kwamba hata Kristo wakati wa maisha Yake duniani alimtafuta Baba Yake kila siku kwa ajili ya ugavi mpya wa neema iliyohitajika; na kutokana na ushirika huu na MUNGU alienda kuwaimarisha na kuwabariki wengine. [Pr 170.3; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Mtazame Mwana wa MUNGU akiinama katika maombi kwa Baba Yake! (Kwa macho ya kiroho). Ingawa Yeye ni Mwana wa MUNGU, bado Yeye aliimarisha imani Yake kwa maombi, na kwa ushirika na Mbingu alijikusanyia nguvu za kupinga uovu na kuhudumia mahitaji ya wanadamu. Akiwa ni Kaka/Ndugu mkubwa wa jamii yetu ya ubinadamu, Yeye anajua mahitaji ya wale ambao wamezingirwa na udhaifu na wanaoishi katika ulimwengu wa dhambi na majaribu, ila bado wana matamania ya kumtumikia. Anajua ya kwamba Mitume ambao ndio wajumbe kwa sasa, wanafaa kutumwa kwenda duniani japo ni watu wadhaifu na wenye kutenda makosa na dhambi. Lakini kwa wote wanaojitoa kikamilifu kwa ajili ya utumishi Wake, Yeye anaahidi msaada wa Kiungu. Mfano Wake Mwenyewe ni uhakikisho kwamba dua ya dhati, yenye kudumu kwa MUNGU katika imani—imani inayoongoza kwenye kumtegemea MUNGU kabisa, na kujiweka wakfu bila kujibakiza kwa ajili ya kazi Yake—itafaa kuwaletea wanadamu msaada wa Roho Mtakatifu katika vita dhidi ya dhambi. [Pr 170.4; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Kila mfanyakazi anayefuata mfano wa Kristo, atakuwa tayari kupokea na kutumia nguvu ambazo MUNGU ameahidi kwa kanisa Lake kwa ajili ya kukomaa kwa mavuno ya dunia. Asubuhi baada ya asubuhi, watangazaji wa injili wanapopiga magoti mbele za Bwana na kufanya upya viapo

vyao vya kujiweka wakfu Kwake, Yeye atawapa uwepo wa Roho Wake, pamoja na nguvu Zake za kuhuisha, na za kutakasa. Wanapoendelea na kazi za siku hiyo, wana uhakika kwamba wakala asiyeonekana wa Roho Mtakatifu huwawezesha kuwa “wafanya kazi pamoja na MUNGU.” 1Wakorintho 3:9.]—(Gospel Workers, 510, 511) [Pr 171.1; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Maombi Yalimtia Nguvu Yesu kwa Ajili ya Kutahiniwa na Majaribu—Kristo Mwokozi wetu alijaribiwa katika mambo yote kama sisi, lakini hakuwa na dhambi. Yeye Alichukua asili ya mwanadamu, tena, alipoonekana ana umbo kama mwanadamu, na mahitaji Yake yalikuwa mahitaji ya mwanadamu. Alikuwa ana mahitaji ya kimwili yaliyohitaji kutimizwa, uchovu wa mwili uliopaswa kuondolewa. Ilikuwa ni kwa maombi kwa Baba Yake ndipo alipoandaliwa na kuimarishwa kwa ajili ya wajibu na kwa majaribio. Siku baada ya siku Alifuata mzunguko Wake wa wajibu, akitafuta kuokoa roho.... Naye akakesha usiku kucha akiomba kwa ajili ya wale waliojaribiwa [Pr 171.2; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Majira ya usiku ya maombi ambayo Mwokozi alitumia mlimani au jangwani yalikuwa muhimu kumtayarisha Yeye kwa ajili ya mitihani ambayo ilikuwa lazima akutane nayo katika siku zijazo. Alihisi hitaji la kuburudishwa na kutiwa nguvu rohoni na mwilini, ili aweze kukabiliana na majaribu ya Shetani; na wale wanaojitahidi kuishi maisha Yake watahisi hitaji hilo hilo.— (Maranatha, 85) [Pr 171.3; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Wakati Yerusalemu ikiwa imenyamaza kimya/tuli, na wanafunzi wakiwa wamerudi nyumbani kwao ili kupata burudisho katika usingizi na kuweza kufanywa upya asubuhi, Yesu hakulala. Maombi Yake ya Kiungu/kimbingu yalikuwa yakipanda juu kwa Baba Yake kwa ajili ya wanafunzi Wake, ili waweze kuepukana na ushawishi mbaya ambao wangekutana nao kila siku katika dunia, na ili nafsi Yake Mwenyewe iweze kuimarishwa na kutayarishwa kwa ajili ya kazi na majaribu ya siku inayokuja.—(The Review and Herald, August 17, 1886) [Pr 171.4; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Maombi Yalimpa nguvu mpya Yesu na kumhuisha—Siku Zake zilipita kwenye huduma kwa umati uliomsonga, na

katika kufunua hila za marabi za usaliti, na kazi hii isiyokoma mara nyingi ilimwacha akiwa amechoka hoi (nyang'anyang'a) hata mama Yake, ndugu Zake, na pia wanafunzi Wake, waliogopa kwamba maisha Yake yangetolewa kafara. Lakini aliporudi kutoka katika saa za maombi zilizohitimisha siku Yake yenye taabu, mwonekano wa amani juu ya uso Wake uliweka alama usoni Mwake, hisia ya kuburudishwa, kufanywa upya, ambazo zilionekana kutawala uwepo Wake. Ilikuwa ni kutoka katika saa alizotumia na MUNGU asubuhi baada ya asubuhi, ndiyo Yeye alivyoweza kuleta nuru ya mbinguni kwa wanadamu. –(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 102) [Pr 172.1; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Maombi Yalidumisha Maisha ya Kiroho ya Yesu— Haikuwa msalabani tu ndipo ambapo Kristo alijitoa mhanga Mwenyewe kwa ajili ya wanadamu. Alipokuwa “akizunguka huku na huko akitenda mema” (Matendo 10:38), uzoefu wa maisha Yake ya kila siku ulikuwa mmiminiko/kumiminwa kwa maisha Yake. Ni kwa njia moja tu maisha kama hayo yangeweza kudumishwa. Yesu aliishi kwa kumtegemea na kumtumaini MUNGU na kuwa na ushirika Naye. Mahali hapa pa siri, Pake Yeye Aliye juu, chini ya uvuli Wake Mwenyezi, watu huenda huko, hapa na pale (mara zingine-now and then) na kutulia huko kwa msimu, kwa muda, na matokeo yake yanadhihirika kwa matendo bora na mema miashani mwao, kisha imani yao inashindwa/inatindikiwa, ushirika unakatizwa, na kazi ya maisha kuharibiwa. Lakini maisha ya Yesu yalikuwa ni maisha ya imani endelevu daima, yaliyodumishwa kwa ushirika wa daima; na huduma Yake kwa mbingu na nchi/dunia ilifanyika bila kushindwa au kuyumba (haikufeli wala kutetereka). [Pr 172.2; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Kama mwanadamu alisihi kwa dua kiti cha enzi cha MUNGU hadi ubinadamu Wake ulipoongezewa nguvu (ulichajiwa) na mkondo wa umeme wa mbinguni ambao ulikuwa unauunganisha ubinadamu na Uungu. Na kwa kupokea uzima kutoka kwa MUNGU, Yeye Aliwapa wanadamu uzima/uhai.— (Education, 80, 81) [Pr 172.3; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Maisha ya Maombi ya Yesu Yanafichua Siri ya Nguvu za Kiroho—Maisha ya Mwokozi duniani yalikuwa maisha ya

ushirika na asilia (uumbaji) na MUNGU. Katika ushirika huu alitufunulia siri ya maisha ya nguvu za kiroho.- (Counsels on Health, 162) [Pr 173.1; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Yesu Aliomba Katika Kujitayarisha kwa ajili ya Kazi maalum— Yesu, alipokuwa akijitayarisha kwa ajili ya jaribu kubwa au kazi fulani muhimu, aliondoka na kujitenga katika milima yenye utulivu na kulala usiku kucha katika sala kwa Baba Yake. Usiku wa maombi ulitangulia kuwekwa mikono/wakfu kwa mitume na Mahubiri ya Mlimani, kugeuka sura kwa mng'ao, uchungu wa jumba la hukumu (praetorium au ikulu), msalaba, na utukufu wa ufufuo. [Pr 173.2; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Sisi pia lazima tutenge nyakati kwa ajili ya kutafakari na kusali na kupokea burudisho la kiroho. Sisi hatuthamini nguvu na ufanisi wa maombi jinsi tunavyopaswa.—(The Ministry of Healing, 509) [Pr 173.3; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Ubinadamu wa Yesu Ulifanya Sala Kuwa Lazima— kutokana na hali ya kuwa na ubinadamu, Yeye Alihisi hitaji Lake la nguvu kutoka kwa Baba Yake. Alikuwa na mahali pa pekee pa kuomba. Alipenda kufanya ushirika na Baba Yake kwenye upweke wa milima. Katika zoezi hili nafsi Yake takatifu, ya ubinadamu iliimarishwa kwa ajili ya kazi na majaribu ya siku hiyo. Mwokozi wetu anajitambulisha Mwenyewe na mahitaji na udhaifu wetu, katika hilo alifanyika mwombaji/mwombezi wa usiku, akitafuta kutoka kwa Baba Yake nguvu mpya, ili atoke akiwa ametiwa nguvu na kuburudishwa, akiwa amejiweka imara na thabiti kwa ajili ya wajibu na majaribio. Yeye ni Mfano wetu katika mambo yote. Yeye ni ndugu katika udhaifu wetu, lakini si katika kuwa na matamano mabaya ya mwili. Akiwa Yule asiye na dhambi, asili Yake ilijiepusha na uovu. Alivumilia mapambano na mateso ya nafsi katika ulimwengu wa dhambi. Ubinadamu Wake ulifanya maombi kuwa jambo la lazima na muhimu. Alihitaji msaada/usaidizi wote wa Kiungu Wenye nguvu zaidi na faraja ambayo Baba Yake alikuwa tayari kumpa Yeye, Yeye ambaye kwa faida ya mwanadamu, aliacha furaha ya mbinguni na kuchagua makao Yake katika ulimwengu wenye ubaridi na usio na shukrani. Kristo alipata faraja na furaha katika ushirika na Baba Yake. Hapa aliweza kuutua mzigo wa moyo Wake wenye huzuni zilizokuwa

zikimsagasaga/zikimpondaponda. Alikuwa mtu wa huzuni na ajuaye sikitiko. [Pr 173.4; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Alitumia siku Yake kufanya kazi kwa bidii na unyofu, kuwatendea wengine wema, kuwaokoa watu kutoka kwenye uharibifu. Aliponya wagonjwa, aliwafariji walioomboleza, na kuleta uchangamfu na tumaini kwa waliokata tamaa. Aliwafufua wafu. Baada ya kazi Yake kukamilika kwa siku hiyo, Aliondoka, jioni baada ya jioni, mbali na mkanganyiko wa jiji, na mwili Wake ukainamishwa kwa kusujudu katika dua kwa Baba Yake, katika kichaka kilichokuwa kwenye upweke. Wakati fulani miale angavu ya mwezi ilianguza juu ya mwili/umbo Lake lililokuwa katika ibada akisujudu. Na kisha tena mawingu na giza vilifunga nuru yote. Umande na barafu ya usiku vilikaa juu ya kichwa Chake na ndevu Zake wakati akiwa katika hali ya Mwombaji/Mwombezi. Mara kwa mara aliendelea na maombi Yake usiku kucha. Yeye ni mfano wetu. Ikiwa tungeweza kukumbuka hili, na kumwiga Yeye, tungekuwa na nguvu zaidi katika MUNGU. [Pr 174.1; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Ikiwa Mwokozi wa wanadamu, pamoja na nguvu Zake za Kiungu, alihisi hitaji la maombi, ni zaidi kiasi gani basi kwa wanadamu wanyonge, wenye dhambi wanaokufa wanapaswa kuhisi ulazima wa maombi—Sala ya bidii na ya daima! Wakati Kristo alipozingirwa na majaribu makali zaidi, Hakula chochote. Alijikabidhi kwa MUNGU na, kupitia maombi ya dhati na utii mkamilifu kwa mapenzi ya Baba Yake, aliibuka mshindi. Wale wanaoshuhudia ile Kweli katika siku hizi za mwisho, juu ya kila tabaka jingine la wale wanaodai kuwa Wakristo, wanapaswa kumwiga Yule ambaye ni Kielelezo Kikuu katika maombi. [Pr 174.2; Maombi Aya ya 27]

"Inatosha mwanafunzi kuwa kama mwalimu wake, na mtumwa kuwa kama bwana wake." Meza zetu hutapakaa/huchafuliwa mara kwa mara na anasa (luxury) zisizo za afya wala za lazima, kwa sababu tunapenda vitu hivi kuliko tunavyopenda kujinyima nafsi, kutokuwa na magonjwa, na utimamu wa akili. Yesu alitafuta kwa dhati na bidii nguvu kutoka kwa Baba Yake. Mwana Huyu wa MUNGU Mwenyewe, alionekana kuona hilo ni la thamani zaidi Kwake Mwenyewe, kuliko kuketi kwenye meza ya kifahari zaidi (luxury table). Yeye Ametupa ushahidi

kwamba maombi ni muhimu ili kupokea nguvu za kushindana na nguvu za giza, na kufanya sehemu ya kazi tuliyopewa kutimiza. Nguvu zetu wenyewe ni udhaifu tu, lakini kile ambacho MUNGU hutoa ni chenye nguvu na uhodari mkuu na kitamfanya kila mtu anayepokea kuwa zaidi ya mshindi.—(Testimonies for the Church 2:201-203) [Pr 174.3; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Yesu Alitenga Muda kwa ajili ya Maombi na Haikujalisha kwamba alikuwa na Shughuli Gani au uchovu kiasi gani—Kristo hakutoa huduma yoyote yenye ubahili au isiyo na ukarimu. Hakupima utendaji kazi Wake kwa masaa. Wakati Wake, moyo Wake, nafsi Yake na nguvu, vilitolewa kufanya kazi kwa manufaa ya wanadamu. Katika siku za uchovu alijitaabisha kwa shuguli nzito, na kwa usiku mrefu alsujudu/aliinama katika maombi kwa ajili ya neema na uvumilivu ili aweze kufanya kazi kubwa zaidi. Kwa kilio kikali na machozi, Yeye Alituma maombi Yake mbinguni, ili asili Yake ya ubinadamu ipate kuimarishwa, ili Aweze kuzingirwa na kulindwa, apate kukabiliana na adui mjanja katika kazi zake zote ya udanganyifu, na kuimarishwa kutimiza utume Wake wa kumnyanyua mwanadamu juu. Kwa watenda kazi Wake anasema, “Nimewapa kielelezo, ili nanyi mfanye kama Mimi nilivyofanya.” Yohana 13:15.—(Ministry of Healing, 500) [Pr 174.4; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Yesu Aliomba Mapema Asubuhi—Asubuhi na mapema mara nyingi ilimkuta katika sehemu fulani ya faragha, akitafakari, akichunguza Maandiko, au katika sala. Kwa sauti ya uimbaji alikaribisha mwanga wa asubuhi. Kwa nyimbo za shukrani alizishangilia saa Zake na kuleta shangwe ya mbinguni kwa watu waliochoka na kazi zao za kila siku na wale waliovunjika moyo.—(Counsels on Health, 162) [Pr 175.1; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Yesu Alikuwa na Mahali Mahsus pa kufanyia Sala—Wewe uwe na mahali pa sala ya siri. Yesu alikuwa na maeneo teule ya ushirika na MUNGU, na sisi pia tunapaswa kuwa napo/nayo. Tunahitaji mara kwa mara kujitenga hadi mahali fulani, hata kama ni panyenyekevu kwa kiasi gani, mahali ambapo tunaweza kuwa peke yetu tu na MUNGU. — (Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 84) [Pr 175.2; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Yesu Aliomba kwa Ajili Yetu—Mara nyingi Yesu alikuwa amechoka kutokana na taabu isiyokoma na kujikana nafsi (kujinyima), kujitoa mhanga, ili kubariki wale wanaoteseka na wahitaji. Alitumia usiku mzima katika maombi juu ya milima pweke, si kwa sababu ya udhaifu Wake na mahitaji Yake, bali kwa sababu Aliona, Alihisi, udhaifu wa asili zetu katika kupinga majaribu ya adui katika vipengele vile vile ambavyo vinatushinda sasa. Alijua kwamba tusingejali kuhusu hatari zetu na tusingehisi hitaji letu la maombi. Ilikuwa ni kwa ajili yetu ndiyo sababu Alimimina maombi Yake kwa Baba Yake kwa vilio vizito na machozi.— (Testimonies for the Church 3:379) [Pr 175.3; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Wanafunzi wa Yesu Walivutiwa na Mazoea Yake ya Kuomba— “Mwana wa Adamu hakuja kutumikiwa, bali kuhudumu.” Si kwa ajili Yake Mwenyewe, bali kwa ajili ya wengine, aliishi na kutafakari na kuomba. Kutoka katika saa alizotumia pamoja na MUNGU, alitoka asubuhi baada ya asubuhi kuleta nuru ya mbinguni kwa wanadamu. Kila siku alipokea ubatizo mpya wa Roho Mtakatifu. Katika saa za mapema za siku mpya, Bwana alimwamsha kutoka katika usingizi Wake, na nafsi Yake na midomo yake ilipakwa mafuta ya neema, ili aweze kuwagawia wengine. Alipokea Maneno Yake mapya kutoka katika makao mbinguni, Maneno ambayo angeweza kusema kwa majira yake kwa waliochoka na kuonewa. “Bwana MUNGU amenipa,” alisema, “ulimi wa hao waliofundishwa nipate kujua jinsi ya kumwambia Neno kwa wakati yeye aliyechoka: ananiamsha asubuhi kwa asubuhi, anaamsha sikio Langu kusikia kama waliofundishwa” [Pr 176.1; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Wanafunzi wa Kristo walivutiwa sana na maombi Yake na tabia Yake ya ushirika na MUNGU. Siku moja baada ya kutokuwepo kwa Mola wao kwa muda mfupi, walimkuta akiwa amezama katika maombi. Akionekana kutojua uwepo wao, Aliendelea kuomba kwa sauti. Mioyo ya wanafunzi iliguswa sana. Alipomaliza kuomba, wakasema, “Bwana, tufundishe kuomba.” The Review and Herald, Agosti 11, 1910) [Pr 176.2; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Sala ya Bwana inaonyesha Uzuri wa mambo kuwa rahisi/sahili— Yesu aliwafundisha wanafunzi Wake kwamba ni sala ile tu inayotoka katika midomo isiyo na unafiki/feki, ikichochea na mahitaji halisi ya nafsi, ndiyo ya dhati, na

italeta baraka za mbinguni kwa mwombaji. Alitoa sala fupi na ya kina, yaani iliyojumuisha kila jambo kwa wanafunzi Wake. Sala hii, kwa usahili wake mzuri, haina ufanani. Ni sala kamilifu kwa ajili ya maisha ya hadhara na faragha; ni ya hadhi/heshima ya hali ya juu na iliyoinuliwa, ila ni rahisi sana kiasi kwamba mtoto aliye kwenye goti la mama yake anaweza kuelewa. Watoto wa MUNGU wamerudia sala hii kwa karne nyingi, na bado mng'ao wake haujafifia. Kama vito cha thamani kubwa, imeendelea kupendwa na kuthaminiwa. Maombi haya ni uzalishaji wa ajabu. Hakuna watakaomba bure ikiwa ndani ya maombi yao, hizi kanuni zimejumuishwa ndani yake. Maombi yetu ya hadharani yanapaswa kuwa mafupi, na yaeleze tu mahitaji halisi ya roho, tukiomba kwa usahili na imani rahisi ya kuamini kwa ajili ya vile vitu tunavyohitaji. Maombi kutoka kwenye moyo mnyenyekevu, uliopondeka ni pumzi muhimu ya roho yenye kiu ya haki. - (The Signs of the Times, Desemba 3, 1896) [Pr 176.3; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Yesu Alipiga Magoti Alipoomba—Katika ibada ya hadhara na faraghani, ni fursa yetu kupiga magoti mbele ya Bwana tunapotoa maombi yetu Kwake. Yesu, mfano wetu, "alipiga magoti na kuomba." Juu ya wanafunzi Wake imerekodiwa kwamba wao pia, "walipiga magoti na kuomba." Paulo alitangaza, "Ninampigia Baba wa Bwana wetu Yesu Kristo magoti." Katika kuungama mbele za MUNGU dhambi za Israeli, Ezra alipiga magoti. Danieli "alipiga magoti mara tatu kwa siku, akaomba, akashukuru mbele za MUNGU wake." Messages to Young People, 251) [Pr 177.1; Maombi Aya ya 36]

Fikiria kwa Makini Masomo ya Yesu Kuhusu maombi—masomo ya Kristo kuhusu maombi yanapaswa kuangaliwa na kuzingatiwa kwa umakini. Kuna sayansi ya Kiungu/mbingu katika maombi, na kielelezo chake kinaleta kutazama kanuni ambazo kila mwanadamu anapaswa kuzielewa. Yeye Anaonyesha kile ambacho ni roho ya Kweli ya maombi, Anafundisha hitaji la kudumu katika kuwasilisha maombi yetu kwa MUNGU, na hutuhakikishia utayari Wake wa kusikia na kujibu maombi.—(Christ's Object Lessons, 142) [Pr 177.2; Maombi Aya ya 37]

SURA YA 16

MAOMBI YA FARAGHA

Ombi la Faragha Ni Muhimu—Haiwezekani kabisa kwa Nafsi kusitawi ilhali maombi sio mazoezi maalum ya akili. Maombi ya familia au ya halaiki peke yake hayatoshi. Maombi ya siri ni muhimu sana; katika faragha nafsi inafunuliwa wazi mbele ya jicho la MUNGU lichunguzalo, na kila nia inachunguzwa na kupembuliwa kwa umakini. Maombi ya siri, yana thamani kubwa iliyoje! Nafsi inazungumza na MUNGU! Maombi ya siri yanapaswa kusikilizwa tu na MUNGU anayesikia maombi. Hakuna sikio lenye udadisi linalopaswa kupokea mzigo wa maombi hayo. Katika maombi ya siri roho haiathiriwi na ushawishi unaozunguka, ipo huru kutokana na hisia au mihemko yenye mikanganyiko. Kwa utulivu, lakini kwa bidii, yamfikia MUNGU. Maombi ya siri mara nyingi hupotoshwa, na miundo yake mizuri hupotea, kwa maombi ya sauti kubwa. Badala ya tumaini shwari, tulivu na imani katika MUNGU, nafsi ikiwa imetolewa katika sauti ya chini, na ya unyenyekevu, sauti inapandishwa na kuwa juu, na msisimko unatiwa moyo (unashawishiwa), na sala ya siri inapoteza ushawishi wake mtakatifu na laini. Kuna dhoruba ya hisia, dhoruba ya maneno, ambayo inapelekea kukosa uwezekano wa kutambua sauti ndogo, na tulivu inayozungumza na nafsi wakati inashiriki katika ibada yake ya siri, ya kweli, ya moyo wote. Ombi la siri, likitolewa ipasavyo, huleta manufaa makubwa, Lakini ombi linalowekwa hadharani kwa familia nzima na majirani sio ombi la siri, ingawa inadhaniwa kuwa hivyo, na nguvu za Bwana hazipokelewi kutoka katika ombi hilo. Ushawishi mzuri na wa kudumu utakuwa unatoka kwa Yeye anayeona kwa siri, ambaye sikio Lake liko wazi kusikia sala inayotokana na moyo. Kwa imani tulivu, iliyo sahili, nafsi hushikilia ushirika na MUNGU na kujikusanyia yenyewe miale ya Mungu ya nuru ili kuitia nguvu na kuitegemeza kustahimili mapambano ya Shetani. Mungu Ndiye nguzo/mnara wetu wa nguvu.—(Testimonies for the Church 2:189, 190) [Pr 178.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Maombi ya faragha, maombi ya Familia, maombi katika mikusanyiko ya hadhara kwa ajili ya kumuabudu MUNGU, yote ni ya muhimu. Na tunapaswa kuyaishi maombi yetu.

Tunapaswa kushirikiana na Kristo katika kazi Yake. (Testimonies for the Church 7:239) [Pr 179.1; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Wote tunahitaji Kukesha na Kuomba Daima—Mwanzo kabisa wa uovu ulikuwa ni kupuuza kukesha na maombi ya siri, kisha kukaja kupuuza majukumu mengine ya kidini/kiroho, na hivyo barabara ikafunguliwa kwa dhambi zote zilizofuata. Kila Mkristo anaweza kushambuliwa na vivutio vya ulimwengu, usumbufu wa asili ya tamaa za kimwili, na majaribu ya moja kwa moja ya Shetani. Hakuna aliye salama. Haijalishi uzoefu wetu umekuwaje, haijalishi kituo chetu kiko juu kiasi gani, tunahitaji kukesha na kuomba daima. Ni lazima tutawaliwe, na kudhibitiwa kila siku na Roho wa MUNGU la sivyo tutatawaliwa na Shetani.— (Testimonies for the Church 5:102) [Pr 179.2; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Sali Nyakati Zote—Jenga mazoea ya kuzungumza na Mwokozi unapokuwa peke yako, wakati unapotembea, na unaposhughulika na kazi zako za kila siku. Acha moyo uinuliwe kila wakati katika ombi la kimya la msaada, kwa ajili ya nuru, nguvu, na maarifa. Hebu kila pumzi unayovuta iwe sala.—(Temperance, 135) [Pr 179.3; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Njia ya kwenda kwenye kiti cha enzi cha MUNGU iko wazi kila wakati. Hauwezi kupiga magoti kila wakati kwa ajili ya kusali, lakini maombi yako ya kimya-kimya yanaweza kupaa kwa MUNGU kila wakati kwa ajili ya nguvu na mwongozo. Utakapojaribiwa, kama ambavyo huwa kwa kila mwanadamu, unaweza kukimbilia mahali pa siri pa Aliye Juu. Mikono Yake ya milele itakuwa chini yako.— (Counsels on Health, 362) [Pr 179.4; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Maombi ya faragha Yanafaa Pahali Popote, Wakati Wowote—Sali chumbani mwako, na unapoendelea na kazi yako ya kila siku acha moyo wako uinuliwe kwa MUNGU mara kwa mara. [Pr 180.1; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Ilikuwa kwa njia hiyo Henoka alitembea na MUNGU. Maombi haya ya kimya huinuka kama uvumba wa thamani mbele ya kiti cha neema. Shetani hawezi kumshinda yule ambaye moyo wake umejitegemeza kwa MUNGU. [Pr 180.2; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Hakuna wakati au mahali ambapo hapafai kutoa ombi kwa MUNGU. Hakuna kitu kinachoweza kutuzuia kuinua mioyo yetu katika roho ya maombi ya bidii na unyofu. Katika umati wa watu waliosongamana mitaani, katikati shuguli za biashara, sisi tunaweza kutuma ombi kwa MUNGU na kuomba mwongozo wa MUNGU, kama vile Nehemia alipofanya ombi lake mbele ya Mfalme Artashasta. Ushirika wa karibu unaweza kupatikana popote tulipo. Tunapaswa kuacha mlango wa moyo wazi daima na mwaliko wetu ukiendelea kupanda juu ili Yesu aje na kukaa kama mgeni wa mbinguni katika nafsi.—(Steps to Christ, 98, 99). [Pr 180.3; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Maombi hutuleta Katika Uwepo wa MUNGU Mwenyewe – Maombi, iwe yanatolewa katika mkusanyiko wa watu wote, kwenye madhabahu ya familia, au kwa siri, humweka mwanadamu moja kwa moja mbele za MUNGU. Kwa maombi ya kudumu vijana wanaweza kupata kanuni zilizo imara sana kiasi kwamba majaribu yenye nguvu zaidi hayatawavuta kutoka katika uaminifu wao kwa MUNGU.—(My Life Today, 18) [Pr 180.4; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Maombi hutufanya tuunganishwe na Kristo – Tunapaswa kuwa katika maombi ya siri/faragha. Kristo Ndiye mzabibu, sisi ni matawi. Na kama tunataka kukua na kusitawi, lazima tuendeleo kuchota/kuteka utomvu (sap/xylem) na lishe kutoka kwenye Mzabibu Hai; maana kwa kutengwa na Mzabibu hatuna nguvu. [Pr 180.5; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Nilimwuliza malaika kwanini hakukuwa na imani na nguvu tena katika Israeli. Alisema, “wanaachilia mkono wa Bwana mapema sana. Peleka maombi yako kwenye kiti cha enzi kwa ari/usongo, na ungoje hapo kwa imani thabiti. Ahadi za Mungu ni za Kweli. Early Writings, 73) [Pr 180.6; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Maombi ya faragha Hutegemeza Roho - Kuishi kwa kutegemea Neno la MUNGU inamaanisha kuyasalimisha Kwake maisha yetu yote. Kutakuwa na hisia zinazoendelea za hitaji letu la kumtegemea Yeye daima, moyo utavutwa kumfuata MUNGU. Maombi ni jambo la lazima; kwani ni uhai wa roho. Maombi ya familia, maombi ya hadhara, yana nafasi yake; lakini ni ushirika wa siri na MUNGU ndio unaodumisha maisha ya roho. [Pr 180.7; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Maombi ya Faragha yanahitajika Ili mtu mmoja mmoja, tumjue MUNGU wenyewe—Loo! Je, tunamjua MUNGU jinsi tunavyopaswa? Ni faraja iliyoje, furaha iliyoje, tunapaswa kuwa nayo ikiwa tungejifunza kila siku masomo ambayo Yeye anataka tujifunze! Lazima tumjue Yeye kwa uzoefu na ujuzi wa vitendo. Itakuwa faida kwetu kutumia muda mwingi katika maombi ya siri, katika kumjua binafsi Baba yetu wa mbinguni. - (Medical Ministry, 102) [Pr 181.1; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Watu wa MUNGU Hupuuzia Maombi ya faragha—Nimeona mara kwa mara kwamba watoto wa Bwana hupuuzia maombi, hasa maombi ya siri, kwa ujumla hupuuziwa kupita kiasi; kwamba wengi hawaizoeshi imani hiyo ambayo ni upendeleo/fursa na wajibu wao kuitumia, mara nyingi wakingojea ile hisia ambayo ni imani pekee inayoweza kuleta. Hisia sio imani; mambo haya mawili ni vitu tofauti.—(Early Writings, 72) [Pr 181.2; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Muumba wetu hudai kujitoa kwetu kwa hali ya juu, utii wetu wa kwanza. Chochote ambacho huelekea kutishia upendo wetu kwa MUNGU, au kuingilia kati huduma inayostahili Kwake, kinakuwa sanamu Imungul. Kwa baadhi ya watu ni ardhi zao, nyumba zao, mali zao, bidhaa zao, ndizo sanamu zao. Biashara na miradi vinatendeka kwa ari, jitihada na nguvu, wakati huduma ya MUNGU inafanywa kuwa ya pili kwa kipaumbele. Ibada ya familia imepuuzwa, maombi ya siri yamesahaulika.— (SDA Bible Commentary 2: 1011, 1012) [Pr 181.3; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Kupuuzia Maombi Ni Mchakato Endelevu—Jihadhari na jinsi unavyopuuzia maombi ya siri na kusoma Neno la MUNGU. Hizi ndizo silaha zako dhidi ya yule ambaye anaweka jitihada ili kuzuia maendeleo yako ya kuelekea mbinguni. Upuuziaji maombi na kusoma Biblia kwa mara ya kwanza, hufanya iwe rahisi kufanya hivyo mara ya pili tena. Upinzani wa kwanza dhidi ya kusihhi kwa Roho huandaa njia ya upinzani wa pili. Hivyo moyo unakuwa mgumu, na dhamiri inaunguzwa moto na kuacha chapa (inajeruhiwa).—(Messages to Young People, 96) Pr 181.4; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Sala Za Misimu Fulani Tu Unapopenda Zitakufanya Upoteze Utegemezi Wako Kwa MUNGU—Maombi ni pumzi

ya roho. Ndiyo siri ya nguvu ya kiroho. Hakuna njia nyingine ya neema inayoweza kuwa mbadala na bado kukawa na afya ya roho na kisha mambo yakawa salama. Maombi huupatia moyo mguso wa haraka kwenye Chemchemi ya uzima, na kuimarisha mishipa na misuli ya uzoefu wa kidini/kiroho. Puuza zoezi la sala, au jihusishe na maombi kiholela, kwa kushtukiza hapa na pale kama utakavyo, na mara zingine usiombe kutokana na unavyoona inafaa kwako wewe binafsi, nawe utapoteza ushirika/utegemezi wako kwa MUNGU. Vitivo vya kiroho hupoteza nguvu, uzoefu wa kidini/kiroho huondokewa afya, nguvu na ushupavu. - (Messages to Young People, 249, 250) [Pr 182.1; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Maombi ya faragha yanapaswa kuwa ya faragha – Katika maombi ya faragha, wote wana nafasi ya kuomba maadamu wana matamaniao ya kufanya hivyo na kujieleza kinagaubaga kwa Mungu kama watakavyo. Wanaweza kuwaombea ndugu na marafiki zao wote. Chumbani mwako, pale mahali pa faragha, ndipo mahali pa kusema shida zako zote binafsi, na mitihani, na majaribu. Mkutano wa pamoja wa kumwabudu Mungu si mahali pa kufungua mambo yetu binafsi ya moyoni.— (Testimonies for the Church 2:578) [Pr 182.2; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Katika ibada ya faragha maombi yetu hayatakiwi kufikia masikio ya yeyote ila MUNGU asikiaye maombi. Hakuna sikio lenye udadisi linalopaswa kupokea mzigo wa maombi hayo. [Pr 182.3;

Maombi. Uwe na mahali pa maombi ya siri. Yesu alikuwa na maeneo teule ya ushirika na MUNGU, na sisi pia tunapaswa kuwa nayo. Tunahitaji mara kwa mara kujitenga hadi mahali fulani, ijapokuwa ni panyenyekevu, na penye umasikini ila pawe ni pahali pale ambapo tunaweza kuwa peke yetu na MUNGU. [Pr 182.4; Maombi Aya ya 20]

"Omba kwa Baba yako aliye sirini." Kwa Jina la Yesu tunaweza njoo mbele za MUNGU na ujasiri wa mtoto. Hakuna mwanadamu anayehitajika kufanya kazi kama mpatanishi. Kupitia Yesu tunaweza kufungua mioyo yetu kwa MUNGU kama Yule anayetujua na anayetupenda. [Pr 182.5; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Katika mahali faraghani pa sala, ambapo hakuna jicho lolote linalokuona, isipokuwa lile la MUNGU linaloweza kuona yote, hakuna sikio lisikialo Ila Lake Yeye anayeweza kusikia, tunaweza kumimina matamano yetu yaliyojificha zaidi na shauku zetu kwa Baba wa huruma isiyo na kikomo, na katika utulivu na ukimya wa roho sauti hiyo ambayo kamwe haijawahi kushindwa kujibu kilio cha hitaji la mwanadamu itazungumza na mioyo yetu. [Pr 182.6; Maombi Aya ya 22]

“Bwana ni Mwenye huruma, na ni mwingi wa rehema.” Yakobo 5:11. Yeye Anasubiri kwa upendo usiochoka kusikia maungamo ya wale waliyoiacha njia na kukubali toba yao. Yeye Anatazamia tumrudishie shukrani, kama wakati ule mama anavyolitazamia tabasamu la utambuzi kutoka kwa mtoto wake mpendwa. Yeye Angetutaka tuelewe jinsi moyo Wake mwororo na ulio na matamano kwetu unavyotupenda kwa dhati. Yeye Anatalika tupeleke majaribu na mitihani yetu kwenye huruma Yake, huzuni zetu kwenye upendo Wake, majeraha yetu kwenye uponyaji Wake, udhaifu wetu kwenye nguvu Zake, utupu wetu kwenye utimilifu Wake. Kamwe hakuna hata mtu mmoja aliyekatishwa tamaa aliyemjia Yeye. “Walimtazama, wakaangazwa; na nyuso zao hazikuaibika.” Zaburi 34: 5. [Pr 183.1; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Wale wamtafuta MUNGU faraghani wakimwambia Bwana mahitaji yao na kuomba msaada, hawataomba bure. “Baba yako aonaye sirini, Yeye Mwenyewe atawapa thawabu.” Kadiri Tunavyomfanya Kristo kuwa Mwenzi wetu wa kila siku, tutahisi kuwa nguvu za ulimwengu usioonekana zikituzunguka; na kwa kumtazama Yesu tutafanana na sura Yake. Kwa kumtazama au kufanya ushirika Naye tunabadilishwa. Tabia hulainishwa, husafishwa, hutakaswa na kuboreshwa/kuheshimishwa kwa ajili ya ufalme wa mbinguni. Matokeo ya dhahiri ya tendo letu la ushirika na Bwana wetu yatakuwa ni ongezeko la ucha MUNGU, usafi wa moyo, na bidii. Kutakuwepo na ukuaji wa akili katika sala zetu. Tutapokea elimu ya Bwana/Kimbingu, na hili hudhirishwa katika maisha ya uadilifu na shauku. [Pr 183.2; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Roho inayomgeukia MUNGU kwa ajili ya kupata nguvu, sapoti, msaada, na uwezo, kwa maombi ya dhati ya kila

siku, itakuwa na matamano bora, uelewa dhahiri wa ile Kweli na wajibu, magoli ya kina katika utendaji kazi, na njaa na kiu ya haki ya daima. Kwa kudumisha muunganiko na MUNGU, tutawezeshwa kusambaza kwa wengine, kupitia ushirika wetu na wao, nuru, amani, utulivu, unaotawala mioyoni mwetu. Nguvu inayopatikana katika maombi kwa MUNGU, imeunganishwa na bidii ya kudumu katika kufundisha akili kwa makini kwa kujali na kusaidia, nayo huandaa mtu kwa ajili ya majukumu ya kila siku na huweka roho katika amani katika mazingira yote - (Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing,84, 85) [Pr 183.3; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Kuna wengine ambao nina hofu, hawapeleki shida zao kwa MUNGU katika maombi ya faragha, bali wanazirundika kwa ajili ya mkutano wa maombi, na huko wakifika hufanya maombi yao kwa siku kadhaa. Watu hao wanaweza kuitwa wauaji wa mikutano na maombi. Hawatoi nuru; hawamjengi mtu. Maombi yao marefu, yenye ubaridi ulioganda, hutupia wengine baridi ya kutetemesha mwili na giza pia, na kisha shuhuda zao ndefu za kurudi nyuma kwao huwatia watu kivuli tu. Watu wote hushusha pumzi kwa furaha wanapomaliza, na inakaribia kutowezekana kabisa kuondoa ubaridi unaotetemesha na giza ambalo maombi na mashauri yao huleta kwenye mkutano. Kutoka kwa nuru ambayo nimeipokea, mikutano yetu inapaswa kuwa ya kiroho na ya kijamii, yaani yenye uchangamfu na kirafiki (social), na sio mirefu sana. Kutoonyesha hisia zetu, au kujibakiza kwa kutokuwa kutozungumza, kutochangamka na kukosa moyo wa kirafiki (reserved), kiburi, ubatili, na hofu ya mwanadamu vinapaswa kuachwa huko-huko nyumbani. Tofauti ndogo na chuki tulizo nazo hatupaswi kwenda nazo kwenye mikutano hii. Kama ilivyo katika familia yenye umoja, unyenyekevu, upole, ujasiri, kujiamini, na upendo vinapaswa kuwepo mioyoni mwa akina kaka na dada ambao wanakutana ili kuhuishwa na kuongezewa nguvu kwa kuleta nuru zao pamoja. - (Testimonies for the Church 2: 578, 579) [Pr 184.1; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Maombi ya Faragha Hutoa Taswira au picha ya Wazi ya nafsi— Hakuna kitakachotoa maoni yaliyo wazi kama hayo kuhusu nafsi yako kama maombi ya siri. Yeye aonaye sirini na anayejua kila kitu, Naye atakuangazia ufahamu wako na

kuyajibu maombi yako. Majukumu ya wazi, na mepesi ambayo hayapaswi kupuuzwa yatafunguliwa mbele yako.— (Testimonies for the Church 5:163) [Pr 184.2; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Maombi ya Faragha Husitawisha Tabia tukufu—Katikati ya hatari za siku hizi za mwisho, usalama pekee wa vijana uko katika kukesha na maombi yanayoongezeka kila mara. Kijana anayepata furaha yake katika kusoma Neno la MUNGU, na katika saa ya maombi, atahuishwa mara kwa mara na rasimu kutoka kwenye chemchemi ya uzima (atafanywa upya mara kwa mara). Atafikia kilele cha ubora wa maadili na upana wa mawazo ambayo wengine hawawezi hata kuuwazia. Ushirika na MUNGU hutia moyo mawazo mazuri, matamanio bora, mitazamo iliyo wazi ya ile Kweli, na makusudio makuu ya utendaji. Wale wanaojiunganisha na MUNGU wanatambuliwa Naye kama wana na binti Zake. Daima wanaendelea kufikia juu na juu zaidi, wakipata mitazamo iliyo wazi zaidi juu ya MUNGU na ya umilele, hadi Bwana anawafanya kuwa mifereji ya nuru na hekima kwa ulimwengu. [Pr 184.3; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Lakini maombi hayaeleweki kama yanavyopaswa kueleweka. Maombi yetu hayapaswi kumpa taarifa ya habari MUNGU juu ya mambo ambayo Yeye hayajui. Bwana anajua siri za kila roho. Maombi yetu hayapaswi kuwa marefu na yenye sauti kubwa. MUNGU husoma wazo lililofichwa. Tunaweza kuomba kwa siri, na Yeye anayeona sirini atasikia, na atatujazia thawabu waziwazi. [Pr 185.1; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Maombi ambayo hutolewa kwa MUNGU na kumweleza juu ya dhambi na unyonge wetu wote pamoja na sikitiko letu, wakati hatujisikii wanyonge hata kidogo, ni maombi ya unafiki. Ni maombi ya toba ambayo Bwana anayaangalia. “Kwa Maana Yeye aliye juu, aliyetukuka, akaaye milele; ambaye Jina Lake ni Mtakatifu; Ninakaa mahali pa juu na Patakatifu, pamoja na yeye ambaye pia ni mwenye roho iliyopondeka na mnyenyekevu, ili kufufua roho ya wanyenyekevu, na kufufua moyo wa wale waliopondeka.” The Youth’s Instructor, August 18, 1898) [Pr 185.2; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Nguvu ya kiroho huja kupitia maombi ya Faragha—Wale ambao watavaa silaha zote za MUNGU na kutenga

muda kila siku kwa ajili ya kutafakari na kufanya maombi na kusoma Maandiko wataunganishwa na mbingu na watakuwa na mvuto uokoao, na unaobadilisha kwa wale wanaowazunguka. Mawazo mazuri, matamania bora, ufahamu dhahiri kuhusu Ukweli na wajibu kwa MUNGU, haya yote yatakuwa yao. Watakuwa na matamania ya usafi wa moyo, kuwa na nuru, kuwa na upendo, na kuwa na neema zote zinazozaliwa na mbingu. Maombi yao ya bidii kabisa yatapenya ndani ya **pazia (Waebrania 10:20)**. Kundi la watu hawa litakuwa na ujasiri mtakatifu mbele ya Yeye Asiye na Mwisho/kikomo. Watahisi kuwa nuru na utukufu wa mbinguni ni kwaajili yao, na watasafishwa, watainuliwa, wataboreshwa na kuadilishwa na uhusiano huu wa karibu sana na MUNGU. Huo ndio upendeleo walio nao Wakristo wa kweli. [Pr 185.3; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Kutafakari kwa nadharia tu bila vitendo halisi hakutoshi; shughuli au utendaji mwingi hautoshi; vyote viwili ni muhimu kwa uundaji wa tabia ya Kikristo. Nguvu inayopatikana katika maombi ya dhati, na ya siri, hututayarisha kustahimili vishawishi vya jamii. Na bado hatupaswi kujitenga na ulimwengu, kwani uzoefu wetu wa Kikristo unapaswa kuwa nuru ya ulimwengu. Jamii ya wasioamini haitatudhuru ikiwa tutachangamana nao kwa kusudi la kuwaunganisha na Mungu na kuwa na nguvu za kutosha kiroho kuhimili ushawishi wao hasi. - (Testimonies for the Church 5:112, 113) [Pr 185.4; Maombi Aya ya 32]

MUNGU Hukubali Maombi ya Kimyakimya—Bwana atakubali hata ombi la kimya la moyo uliolemewa. - (The SDA Bible Commentary 2: 1014) [Pr 186.1; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Kushuhudia Kunapaswa Kutanguliwa na Maombi—Jitihada binafsi kwa wengine zinapaswa kutanguliwa na maombi mengi ya siri; kwani inahitajika hekima kubwa kuelewa sayansi ya kuokoa roho. Kabla ya kuwasiliana na wanadamu, wasiliana na Kristo, kwenye kiti cha enzi cha neema ya mbinguni pata maandalizi ya kuhudumia watu. - (Christ Object Lessons, 149) [Pr 186.2; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Ni sharti tupokee nuru na baraka, ili tuwe na kitu cha kutoa. Ni fursa ya kila mtendakazi kuzungumza na MUNGU kwanza katika mahali pa siri pa maombi na kisha kuzungumza na watu kama kinywa cha MUNGU. Wanaume

na wanawake wanaowasiliana na MUNGU, walio na Kristo adumuye, huifanya angahewa kuwa takatifu, kwa sababu wanashirikiana na malaika watakatifu. Ushuhuda wa namna hiyo unahitajika kwa wakati huu. –(Testimonies for the Church 6:52) [Pr 186.3; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Kazi na maombi Sharti Vifungamanishwe- Lazima tuishi maisha ya pande mbili, maisha ya kufikiri na kutenda, maisha ya maombi ya kimya na kufanya kazi kwa dhati na bidii....Roho inayomgeukia MUNGU kwa ajili ya kupata nguvu, msaada (sapoti), na uwezo kwa maombi ya bidii ya kila siku, itakuwa na matamano bora, uelewa dhahiri wa Ukweli na wajibu, malengo ya hali ya juu katika utendaji wa kazi, na njaa na kiu ya haki ya kudumu.–(Testimonies for the Church 4:459, 460) [Pr 186.4; Maombi Aya ya 36]

Ikiwa tutaruhusu **kwenda kwa kasi au kuharakia kwenda** kwenye majukumu na kutuondoa kwenye kusudi letu la kumtafuta Bwana kila siku, tutatenda makosa makubwa zaidi; na kujipatia hasara, kwa kuwa Bwana hatakuwa pamoja nasi. Tumefunga mlango ili asipate nafasi kufikia roho zetu. Lakini ikiwa tunaomba, hata wakati mikono yetu inatenda kazi, sikio la Mwokozi liko wazi kusikia maombi yetu....MUNGU anakutunza mahali ambapo ni wajibu wako kuwepo hapo. Lakini hakikisha, mara nyingi, kwa kadiri iwezekanavyo kwenda mahali ambapo sala inazoeleka kufanywa (mahali pa maombi).– (Medical Ministry, 216) [Pr 186.5; Maombi Aya ya 37]

Tumia Lugha Rahisi katika Maombi-Lugha yenye misamiati migumu au mingi, yenye madoido mengi, yenye sauti ya juu ya kujifanya (bandia/feki) na yenye maelezo mengi haifai katika maombi, iwe ombi hilo linatolewa kwenye mimbari, kwenye mzunguko wa familia, au kwa siri. Hasa yule anayetoa ombi la hadharani anapaswa kutumia lugha rahisi, ili wengine waelewe yanayosemwa na kuungana na ombi hilo. [Pr 187.1; Maombi Aya ya 38]

Ni sala inayotoka moyoni kwa imani, ndiyo ambayo husikika mbinguni na kujibiwa duniani.–(Gospel Workers, 177) [Pr 187.2; Maombi Aya ya 39]

Ni Fursa yetu Kupiga Magoti Tusalipo- tunapokuwa kwenye umma na katika ibada binafsi ni fursa yetu kusujudu kwa kupiga magoti mbele za MUNGU tunapotoa

maombi yetu Kwake. Yesu, Mfano wetu, "alipiga magoti na kuomba." Luka 22:41. Juu ya wanafunzi Wake imeandikwa kwamba wao pia, "walipiga magoti na kuomba." Matendo 9:40. Paulo alitangaza, "Ninampigia Baba wa Bwana wetu Yesu Kristo magoti." Waefeso 3:14. Katika kuungama mbele za MUNGU dhambi za Israeli, Ezra alipiga magoti. Tazama Ezra 9: 5. Danieli "alipiga magoti mara tatu kwa siku, akasali, akashukuru mbele za MUNGU wake." Danieli 6:10.— (Prophets and Kings, 48) [Pr 187.3; Maombi Aya ya 40]

Usijihusishe na matumbuizo/maburudisho yanayokufanya Usifae kufanya Maombi ya Faragha au yanayokutataza usifanye maombi yako binafsi—Starehe yoyote ambayo unaweza kujihusisha nayo na bado ukaomba baraka za MUNGU kupitia hiyo kwa imani, haitakuwa yenye hatari. Lakini starehe yoyote ile inayokufanya usiweze kufanya maombi ya siri, au usifanye ibada kwenye madhabahu ya maombi, au kushiriki katika mkutano wa maombi, hiyo hakika siyo salama, bali ni hatari.—(Messages to Young People, 386) [Pr 187.4; Maombi Aya ya 41]

MUNGU Hutuona Katika Mahali Petu pa Maombi ya Faragha— Kama Nathanaeli, tunahitaji kujifunza Neno la MUNGU sisi wenyewe, na kuomba kwa ajili ya kuangaziwa na Roho Mtakatifu. Yeye aliyemwona Nathanaeli chini ya mtini atatuona mahali pa siri pa maombi. Malaika kutoka katika ulimwengu wa nuru wako karibu na wale ambao kwa unyenyekevu wanatafuta mwongozo wa Bwana/mbingu.— (The Desire of Ages, 141) [Pr 187.5; Maombi Aya ya 42]

Maombi Yetu Hayawezi Kupotea—Ni jambo la ajabu kiasi gani kwamba sisi tunaweza kuomba kwa ufasaha na ufanisi; kwamba, sisi wanadamu tusiostahili, tunaokufa, na wakosefu, tunao uwezo wa kutoa maombi yetu kwa MUNGU. Je! Ni nguvu gani ya juu zaidi ambayo mwanadamu anaweza kuitamani kuliko hii basi,- kuwa na ushirika na MUNGU asiye na kikomo? Mtu dhaifu, duni na mwenye dhambi ana nafasi na upendeleo wa kuzungumza na Muumba wake. Tunaweza kutamka maneno ambayo yanakifikia kiti cha enzi cha Mfalme wa himaya ya malimwengu yote (sayari zote-Universe). Tunaweza kuongea na Yesu tunapotembea njiani, Naye anasema, Mimi Niko mkono wako wa kuume. [Tazama Zaburi 16: 8.] [Pr 187.6; Maombi Aya ya 43]

Twaweza kuzungumza/kuwasiliana na MUNGU mioyoni mwetu; tunaweza kutembea katika ushirika na Kristo. Tunapofanya kazi yetu ya kila siku, tunaweza kupumua matamano ya mioyo yetu, yasiyoweza kusikiwa na sikio la mwanadamu; lakini neno au ombi hilo haliwezi kufa kimya, wala haliwezi kupotea. Hakuna kitu kinachoweza kuzamisha shauku ya roho. Matamano ya moyo huinuka juu ya sauti za mitaani, juu ya kelele za mashine au viwandani. Ni MUNGU Ndiye ambaye tunazungumza Naye, na maombi yetu husikilizwa. [Pr 188.1; Maombi Aya ya 44]

Omba, kisha; omba, nawe utapokea. Omba unyenyekevu, hekima, ujasiri, na ongezeko la imani. Kwa kila ombi la dhati jibu litakuja. Linaweza lisije vile-vile unavyotamani, au kwa wakati unaolitafuta; lakini litakuja kwa njia na kwa wakati ambao utakidhi mahitaji yako kwa ubora zaidi. Maombi unayotoa katika upweke, katika uchovu, katika majaribio, MUNGU hujibu, sio kila wakati kulingana na matarajio yako, lakini daima kwa faida yako- (kukunufaisha wewe). - (Gospel Workers, 258) [Pr 188.2; Maombi Aya ya 45]

We pour out our heart's desire in our closets, we breathe a prayer as we walk by the way, and our words reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. They may be inaudible to any human ear, but they cannot die away into silence, nor can they be lost through the activities of business that are going on. Nothing can drown the soul's desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the confusion of the multitude, to the heavenly courts. It is God to

Hebu wote wanaoteswa au kutumiwa isivyo haki, wamlilie MUNGU. Jiepushe na wale ambao mioyo yao ni migumu kama chuma, na umjulishe Muumba wako maombi yako. Kila aliyemwendea Yeye kwa moyo uliopondeka, hakuna kati yao aliyewahi kupigwa teke, au aliyefukuzwa au kuchukiwa Naye. Hakuna ombi hata moja la dhati linalopotea. Katikati ya nyimbo zinazoinua moyo za kwaya

ya mbinguni, MUNGU husikia kilio cha mwanadamu dhaifu zaidi. Tunamwaga matamano ya moyo wetu katika vyumba vyetu, tunapumua maombi tunapotembea njiani, na maneno yetu yanafika kwenye kiti cha enzi cha Mfalme wa ulimwengu. Yanaweza yasikike kwenye sikio lolote la mwanadamu, lakini hayawezi kufa kimya, wala hayawezi kupotea kupitia mchakato wa shuguli zinazoendelea. Hakuna kitu kinachoweza kuzamisha shauku ya roho. Matamano huiuka juu ya makelele ya sauti za juu, yanayoendelea huko mitaani, juu ya machafuko ya umati, hadi nyua za mbinguni. Ni MUNGU Ndiye ambaye tunazungumza Naye, na sala yetu husikilizwa. - (Christ Object Lessons, 174) [Pr 188.3; Maombi Aya ya 46]

SURA YA 17

MAOMBI KATIKA MZUNGUKO WA NYUMBANI

Familia zapaswa kuomba Pamoja Kila Asubuhi na Jioni
–lbada ya Familia haipaswi kuongozwa na mazingira ya

namna fulani (mfano shida imeingia). Haupaswi kuomba kulingana na matukio fulani au wakati fulani, na kisha wakati una kazi kubwa ya kufanya siku hiyo, unaacha. Kwa kufanya hivi unawaongoza watoto wako kuona maombi kama hayana matokeo yoyote maalum. Maombi yana maana kubwa sana kwa watoto wa MUNGU, na utoaji wa shukrani unapaswa kuja mbele za MUNGU asubuhi na jioni. Mwandishi wa Zaburi anasema "Njoni, tumwimbie Bwana, tumfanyie shangwe mwamba wa wokovu wetu. Tuje mbele Zake kwa shukrani, na tumfanyie shangwe kwa Zaburi." [Pr 189.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Akina baba na akina mama, haijalishi shuguli zako ziwe za kushinikiza kwa kiasi gani, usishindwe/usifeli kukusanya familia yako karibu na madhabahu ya MUNGU. Omba ulinzi wa malaika watakatifu nyumbani kwako. Kumbuka kwamba wapendwa wako wanakabiliwa na vishawishi. [Pr 189.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Katika jitihada zetu za kuwafariji, kuwahudumia na kuwafurahisha wageni, hebu tusipuuze wajibu wetu kwa MUNGU. Saa ya maombi haipaswi kupuuzwa kwa kuzingatia jambo au mtu yeyote. Msizungumze na kujifurahisha wenyewe hadi mchoshwe kabisa kufurahia msimu wa ibada. Kufanya hivi ni kumtolea MUNGU sadaka iliyo kilema. Saa za mapema za jioni, wakati ambapo tunapoweza kuomba bila kuharakisha-harakisha na tukiwa katika ufahamu wetu (akili inafanya kazi vyema), tunapaswa kuwasilisha dua zetu na kupaza sauti zetu kwa furaha, tukimsifu Mungu na kumpa shukrani zetu. [Pr 189.3; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Hebu wote wanaowatembelea Wakristo waone kwamba saa ya maombi ni ya thamani zaidi, takatifu zaidi, na saa ya furaha zaidi ya siku. Misimu hii ya ibada huwa na uboreshaji, usafishaji, utakasaji, ushawishi unaoiua juu ya wote wanaoshiriki. Huleta amani na pumziko la shukrani kwa roho .—(Child Guidance, 520, 521) [Pr 190.1; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Bwana ana shauku na maslahi maalum katika familia za watoto Wake hapa chini. Malaika hutoa moshi wa ubani wenye harufu nzuri kwa watakatifu wanaoomba. Basi katika kila familia, hebu maombi yapande juu mbinguni asubuhi na wakati joto siyo kali, lituapo jua, kwa niaba

yetu tukiwasilisha mbele za MUNGU sifa na haki ya Mwokozi. Asubuhi na jioni ulimwengu wa mbinguni huandika katika kitabu cha kumbukumbu kila kaya inayoomba. - (My Life Today, 29) [Pr 190.2; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Asubuhi na jioni ulimwengu wa mbinguni unaitazama kila kaya inayoomba, na malaika aliye na ubani, akiwakilisha damu ya upatanisho, hutafuta njia ya kumfikia MUNGU. - (SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, 971) [Pr 190.3; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Asubuhi mawazo ya kwanza ya Mkristo yanapaswa kuwa juu ya MUNGU. Kazi ya kidunia na masilahi ya kibinafsi vinapaswa kuwa sehemu ya pili. Watoto wanapaswa kufundishwa kuheshimu na kuwa na kicho kwa saa ya maombi. Ni wajibu wa wazazi Wakristo, asubuhi na jioni, kwa sala ya dhati na imani yenye kudumu, na ustahimilivu, kuwajengea wigo/ua watoto wao. Wazazi wanapaswa kuwafundisha watoto kwa subira— kwa fadhili na bila kuchoka jinsi ya kuishi ili kumpendeza MUNGU.— (Child Guidance, 519) [Pr 190.4; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Katika kila nyumba ya Kikristo Mungu anapaswa kuheshimiwa kwa dhabihu za asubuhi na jioni za maombi na sifa. Watoto wanapaswa kufundishwa kuheshimu na kuhusudu saa ya maombi. Ni wajibu wa wazazi Wakristo, asubuhi na kisha jioni, kwa maombi ya dhati na imani yenye kudumu, kuwajengea wigo watoto wao. [Pr 190.5; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Kanisani, na nyumbani watoto wanapaswa kujifunza kuomba na kumtegemea MUNGU. Wafundishe kurudia sheria ya MUNGU. Waisraeli waliagizwa hivi kuhusu amri: “Uwafundishe watoto wako kwa bidii, na kuyanena uketipo katika nyumba yako, na utembeapo njiani, na ulalapo, na uondokapo;” Kumbukumbu la Torati 6:7. Njoo kwa unyenyekevu, na moyo mwororo, na kwa hisia za majaribu na hatari mbele yako na watoto wako; kwa imani uwafunge madhabahuni, na kuwaandaa kwa ajili ya huduma ya Bwana. Wafunze watoto kutoa maneno yao sahili/rahisi ya maombi. Waambie kwamba MUNGU anafurahi wamwite Yeye, Naye anawaalika kuzungumza na Yeye.— (Counsels

to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 110) [Pr 191.1; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Kabla ya kuondoka nyumbani kwa ajili ya kazi, familia yote inapaswa kuitwa pamoja; na baba, au mama wakati baba hayupo, wanapaswa kumsihi MUNGU kwa bidii ili awahifadhi kwa siku nzima. Njoo kwa unyenyekevu, na moyo mwororo, uliosheheni wema, upendo na upole, na kwa hisia moyoni za majaribu na hatari zilizo mbele yako na watoto wako; kwa imani uwafunge madhabahuni, na kuomba kwa bidii na moyo wote kwa ajili ya utunzaji wa Bwana. Malaika wanaohudumu watawalinda watoto ambao wamewekwa wakfu kwa MUNGU kwa namna hiyo.—(Child Guidance, 519) [Pr 191.2; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Familia Zinapaswa Kuwa na Nyakati za Maombi Maalum Zilizowekwa Asubuhi na Jioni—Katika kila familia kunapaswa kuwe na wakati uliowekwa wa ibada ya asubuhi na jioni. Ni jambo la jema na la kufaa kwa kiasi gani kwa wazazi, kukusanya watoto wao pamoja nao kabla ya kifungua kinywa, kumshukuru Baba wa mbinguni kwa ulinzi Wake wakati wa usiku, na kumwomba msaada Wake na mwongozo, pamoja uangalizi Wake wakati wa mchana! Ni jambo linalofaa na zuri kwa kiasi gani, wakati wa jioni unapofika pia, wazazi na watoto wakusanyike tena mbele Zake Bwana na kumshukuru kwa baraka za siku iliyopita!—(Child Guidance, 520) [Pr 191.3; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Maombi ya Familia ni ya muhimu - Maombi ya faragha, maombi ya familia, maombi katika mikusanyiko ya hadhara/umma kwa ajili ya ibada ya MUNGU— yote ni muhimu. Nasi pia tunapaswa kuyaishi maombi yetu. Tunapaswa kushirikiana na Kristo katika Kazi Yake (Tujiulize, Kazi ya Kristo ni ipi leo? Maombezi kwaajili yetu ni mojawapo, na zingine ziorodheshe pia!).—(Testimonies for the Church 7:239) [Pr 192.1; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Hakuna kitu Cha Kusikitisha Kama Nyumba isiyo na Maombi — Sijui chochote kinachonisababishia huzuni kubwa kama nyumba isiyo na maombi. Sijisikii salama katika nyumba kama hiyo hata kwa usiku mmoja; na isingekuwa kwa tumaini lenye tumaini la kuwasaidia wazazi kutambua hitaji lao na upuuziaji wao unaohuzunisha, wala nisingebakia ndani ya nyumba hiyo.

Watoto wanaonyesha matokeo ya upuuziaji huko, kwa maana hofu ya MUNGU haiko mbele yao.—(Child Guidance,518) [Pr 192.2; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Kila Nyumba iwe Nyumba ya Maombi—Kama kumewahi kuwa na wakati ambapo kila nyumba inapaswa kuwa nyumba ya maombi ni sasa. (Testimonies for the Church 7:42) [Pr 192.3; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Maombi ya Familia Hutuweka Katika Uwepo wa MUNGU wa Moja kwa Moja—Sala, iwe inatolewa katika kusanyiko la hadhara, yaani kwa watu wote, liwe kwenye madhabahu ya familia, au kwa siri, humweka mwanadamu moja kwa moja mbele za MUNGU. Kwa maombi yasiyokoma vijana wanaweza kupata kanuni zilizo imara sana kiasi kwamba majaribu yenye nguvu zaidi hayatawavuta kutoka katika uaminifu wao kwa MUNGU.— (My Life Today, 18) [Pr 192.4; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Maombi ya Familia huleta Nguvu na Baraka — Tunapaswa kuomba kwa MUNGU zaidi kuliko tunavyofanya. Kuna nguvu kubwa na baraka katika kuomba pamoja katika familia zetu, kuomba pamoja na kwa ajili ya watoto wetu. Wakati watoto wangu wamefanya makosa, na nimezungumza nao kwa upole na kisha nikaomba nao, sijawahi kuona kuwa ni lazima baada ya hapo kuwaadhibu. Mioyo yao iliyeyuka kwa upole, na wema mbele ya Roho Mtakatifu aliyekuja kujibu maombi. - (Child Guidance, 525) [Pr 192.5; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Lugha Rahisi Ndiyo Inafaa Zaidi kwa Maombi— Lugha yenye misamiati migumu au mingi, yenye madoido mengi, yenye sauti ya juu ya kujifanya na maigizo tu, na yenye maelezo mengi haifai katika maombi (fake or high-flown); Haijalishi ombi hilo linatolewa kwenye mimbari, katika mzunguko wa familia, au kwa siri. Yule mhusika hasa, anayetoa ombi hilo la hadharani, anapaswa kutumia lugha rahisi, ili wengine waweze kuelewa yale yanayosemwa na kuungana na ombi hilo. [Pr 192.6; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Ombi la imani linalotoka moyoni ndilo ambalo husikika mbinguni na kujibiwa duniani.—(Gospel Workers, 177) [Pr 193.1; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Wafundishe Watoto Wako kuheshimu Wakati wa Maombi — Watoto wako wanapaswa kuelimishwa kuwa wenye fadhili, wema wenye kufikiria wengine, wapole,

waungwana, rahisi kusihiwa (kuombwa kufanya kitu), na, zaidi ya yote, kuheshimu mambo ya kidini/kiroho na kuhisi umuhimu wa madai ya MUNGU. Wanapaswa kufundishwa kuheshimu saa ya maombi; wanatakiwa kuamka asubuhi ili waweze kuwa kwenye ibada ya familia. - (Child Guidance, 521) [Pr 193.2; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Maombi kwa Ajili ya Familia Yetu Ni vyema yanapofanywa/yanapoombewa Nyumbani – Hatupaswi kwenda kwenye nyumba ya MUNGU kuombea familia zetu isipokuwa hisia za ndani zitatuongoza, wakati Roho wa MUNGU anashawishi. Kwa ujumla, mahali sahihi pa kuombea familia zetu ni kwenye madhabahu ya familia. Wakati mada za maombi yetu ziko mbali (watu tunaowaombea nk wapo mbali na pale kanisani), mahali pa siri ni mahali pazuri pa kumsihi kwa bidii MUNGU kwa ajili ya mada hizo. Tunapokuwa katika nyumba ya MUNGU, tunapaswa kuomba baraka ya hapo tulipo na tunapaswa kutarajia MUNGU kusikia na kujibu maombi yetu. Mikutano kama hiyo itakuwa hai, yenye uchangamfu, kupendeza na ya kuvutia.–(Testimonies for the Church 1:145, 146) [Pr 193.3; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Bwana Hakubali Ibada ya Familia Ambayo Imekuwa ni mazoea au kaida fulani tu (ni mfano tu, mapokeo au desturi) –Katika nyumba nyingi ibada ya asubuhi na jioni ni desturi au mazoea tu, kwani ni duni (zinaboesha), inachosha kwa semi za kujirudiarudia, ambamo roho ya shukrani au hisia ya uhitaji wao wa Mungu hazidhiriki. Bwana hakubali huduma kama hiyo. Lakini maombi ya moyo mnyenyekevu na roho iliyopondeka Yeye hatayadharau/hatayapuuza. Kufungua mioyo yetu kwa Baba yetu wa mbinguni, kutambua na kukiri utegemezi wetu Kwake kuhusiana na kila kitu, kuelezea mahitaji yetu, ibada ya upendo wenye shukrani– ndiyo ombi la Kweli/dhati.– (Child Guidance, 518) [Pr 193.4; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Wazazi Wanahitaji Kuombea Hekima Ili kuwafunza/kuwalea Watoto Wao Kwa hekima–Kila familia inapaswa kuinua madhabahu yake ya maombi, ikitambua kwamba kumcha Bwana ndiyo chanzo cha hekima. Ikiwa kuna watu duniani wanahitaji nguvu na faraja ambayo dini hutoa, basi ni wale ambao wanawajibika kwa malezi na mafunzo ya watoto. Hawawezi kufanya kazi yao kwa njia

inayokubalika kwa MUNGU huku kielelezo chao cha kila siku kinawafundisha wale wanaotazamia kupata mwongozo kutoka kwao kwamba ‘wanaweza kuishi bila MUNGU’. Ikiwa wanawafundisha watoto wao kuishi kwa ajili ya maisha haya tu, hawatafanya maandalizi yoyote kwa ajili ya umilele. Watakufa kama walivyoishi bila MUNGU, na wazazi wao watawajibika kwa ajili ya kupoteza roho zao. Akina baba, akina mama, mnahitaji kumtafuta MUNGU asubuhi na jioni kwenye madhabahu ya familia, ili mpate kujifunza jinsi ya kuwafundisha watoto wenu kwa hekima, kwa upole, kwa wema na kwa upendo.— (Child Guidance, NW;517) [Pr 194.1; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Mmewaleta watoto katika ulimwengu ambao hawakuwa na sauti au maamuzi kuhusiana na uwepo wao. Mmejifanya wenyewe kuwajibika kwa kiwango kikubwa kuhusu furaha yao ya baadaye, na ustawi wao wa milele. Jukumu liko juu yenu, iwe mnalihisi hili au la, naam, wajibu wa kuwafundisha na kuwalea watoto hawa kwa MUNGU, kuwatunza kwa uangalifu wenye wivu mara tu adui mjanja anapotokezea na kuweka hatua yake ya kwanza, hebu ninyi muwe tayari kuinua kiwango dhidi yake. Jenga ngome ya maombi na imani juu ya watoto wako, na ufanye bidii kukesha humo. Wewe hauko salama hata nukta moja dhidi ya mashambulio ya Shetani. —(Testimonies for the Church 2:397, 398) [Pr 194.2; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Hebu wazazi wamtafute MUNGU kwa ajili ya mwongozo katika kazi zao. Wakiwa wamepiga magoti mbele Yake watapata ufahamu wa kweli wa wajibu wao mkuu na hapo wanaweza kuwakabidhi watoto wao kwa Yule ambaye hakosei kamwe katika ushauri na mafundisho.—(The Adventist Home, 321) [Pr 194.3; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Kwa maombi ya dhati na ya bidii wazazi wanapaswa kuwawekea ulinzi kwa watoto wao-kuwazunguka na ugo. Wanapaswa kuomba kwa imani kamili kwamba MUNGU atakaa pamoja nao, na kwamba malaika watakatifu watawalinda wao na watoto wao dhidi ya nguvu katili za Shetani.— (Testimonies for the Church 7:42, 43) [Pr 194.4; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Kwa subira, kwa upendo, kama mawakili waaminifu wa neema anuwai ya Kristo (neema za aina mbalimbali, tofauti-tofauti), wazazi wanapaswa kufanya kazi yao

waliyoagizwa. Wanatarajiwa kukutwa waaminifu. Kila kitu kifanyike kwa imani. Ni lazima waombe daima bila kuchoka ili MUNGU awapatie neema yake watoto wao. Kamwe hawapaswi kuchoka, kukosa subira, kufadhaika-fadhaika au kuudhika katika kazi zao. Lazima washikamane kwa karibu na watoto wao na MUNGU. Wazazi wakifanya kazi kwa subira na upendo, wakijitahidi kwa dhati na bidii kuwasaidia watoto wao kufikia kiwango cha juu zaidi cha usafi wa moyo, adabu, kujistahi na kiasi, nao watafaulu.— (The Adventist Home, 208) [Pr 195.1; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Bila juhudi za kibinadamu jitihada za Bwana/mbingu ni bure. MUNGU atafanya kazi kwa nguvu wakati wazazi wanamtegemea na kumtumainia Yeye, wakati ule ambapo wazazi watakapoamka kwa ajili ya jukumu lao takatifu lililo juu yao, na kutafuta kuwafunza, kuwazoeza na kuwalea watoto wao ipasavyo. Yeye Atashirikiana na wazazi ambao huwaelimisha watoto wao kwa uangalifu na kwa maombi, wakifanyia kazi wokovu wao na wa watoto wao. Yeye Atafanya kazi ndani yao, kunia na kutenda mapenzi Yake mema.—(The Adventist Home, 206, 207) [Pr 195.2; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Wazazi, Je! Wewe unafanya kazi kwa bidii isiyochoka na uvumilivu kwa niaba ya watoto wako? MUNGU wa mbinguni anaona kujali kwako, uzingatiaji wako wa makini, kazi yako ya dhati na bidii, kukesha katika ulinzi kwako kwa kila wakati. Yeye Anasikia maombi yako. Kwa uvumilivu na upole, wafunze watoto wako kwa ajili ya Bwana. Mbingu yote inapendezwa na kazi yako. Malaika wa nuru wataungana nawe unapojitahidi kuwaongoza watoto wako kwenda mbinguni. MUNGU ataungana nawe, akiwekea taji juhudi zako kwa mafanikio. Kristo anafurahi kuiheshimu familia ya Kikristo; kwa kuwa familia kama hiyo ni nembo/alama ya familia iliyo mbinguni. - (The Review and Herald, Januari 29, 1901) [Pr 195.3; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Umuhimu Mkuu wa Maombi ya Mama—Wale wanaoshika sheria ya MUNGU huwatazama watoto wao kwa hisia zisizoelezeka— za matumaini na hofu, wakijiuliza kama watawajibika kwa upande gani katika pambano kuu lililo mbele yao. Mama mwenye wasiwasi anauliza, "Je, nitachukua msimamo gani? Je! Ninaweza kufanya nini kuwaandaa kutenda vizuri sehemu yao, ili wawe wapokeaji wa utukufu wa milele? Wajibu mkubwa umelala juu yenu,

akina mama. Ingawa huwezi kusimama katika mabaraza ya kitaifa,wewe unaweza kufanya kazi kubwa kwa ajili ya MUNGU na nchi yako. Unaweza kuwaelimisha watoto wako. Unaweza kuwasaidia kukuza tabia ambazo hazitayumbishwa/hazitapindishwa au kushawishiwa kufanya uovu, lakini utashawishi na kushawishi wengine kutenda haki. Kwa maombi yako ya bidii na ya imani unaweza kuusogeza ule Mkono unaoongoza na kuusogeza ulimwengu.—(The Adventist Home, 264) [Pr 195.4; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Ushawishi wa mama anayeomba, na kumcha MUNGU utadumu milele. Mama huyu anaweza kufa, lakini kazi yake itadumu. —(Testimonies for the Church 4:500) [Pr 196.1; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Laiti wakina mama wangetambua umuhimu wa utume wao, wangeshinda kwenye maombi ya siri, wakiwaleta watoto wao kwa Yesu, wakiomba baraka Zake juu yao, na kuomba hekima ya kutekeleza ipasavyo majukumu yao matakatifu. Hebu mama aboreshe kila fursa ya kuunda na kutengeneza tabia, mazoea na haiba/hulka za watoto wake. Hebu na atazame kwa uangalifu ukuaji wa tabia, akizuia na kuikandamiza kabisa mienendo inayojitokeza kwa ukubwa (inatuna-tuna ila haipaswi kuwepo kwenye mwenendo), akiwatia moyo wale walio na upungufu. Hebu afanye maisha yake mwenyewe kuwa mfano safi na mzuri kwa uongozi wake wa thamani. [Pr 196.2; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Mama anapaswa kuanza kazi yake kwa ujasiri na nishati/nguvu, akitegemea mara kwa mara msaada wa Bwana katika juhudi zake zote. Hapaswi kamwe kupumzika kwa kuridhika hadi aone katika watoto wake mwinuko wa tabia ya kwenda juu unaoeleweka, hadi wawe na lengo la juu zaidi maishani kuliko kujitafutia starehe au raha zao wenyewe. [Pr 196.3; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Haiwezekani kabisa kukadiria nguvu ya ushawishi wa mama anayesali. Anamkiri MUNGU katika njia zake zote. Anawachukua watoto wake mbele ya kiti cha neema na kuwakabidhi kwa Yesu, akiomba baraka Zake juu yao. Ushawishi wa maombi hayo ni "chemchemi ya uzima" kwa watoto hao. Maombi haya, yanayotolewa kwa imani, ni msaada na nguvu ya mama Mkristo. Kupuuza wajibu wa

kuomba pamoja na watoto wetu ni kupoteza mojawapo ya baraka kuu zaidi zilizo karibu nasi, mojawapo ya silaha kuu katikati ya mashaka, masumbufu ya maisha, wasiwasi, na mizigo ya kazi yetu ya maisha. [Pr 196.4; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Nguvu ya maombi ya wakina mama haiwezi kukadiriwa kwa juu sana kama ilivyo. Yule anayepiga magoti kando ya mtoto wake wa kiume na wa kike kupitia mabadiliko na misukosuko ya utotoni, kupitia hatari za ujana, hatajua mpaka siku ya hukumu ifikapo, ushawishi wa maombi yake juu ya maisha ya watoto wake. Ikiwa ameunganishwa kwa imani na Mwana wa MUNGU, mkono mwororo wa mama waweza kumzuia mwanawe wa kiume na wa kike dhidi ya nguvu za majaribu, unaweza kumzuia binti yake asiendekeze dhambi. Wakati tamaa za mwili zinapigania ustadi na kutawala, nguvu za upendo, zenye kuzuia, zilizo dhati na zenye bidii za ushawishi wa mama ulioazimiwa, unaweza kuiegemeza roho upande wa haki-kuisawazisha upande wa haki (kuibalansi). - (The Adventist Home, 265, 266) [Pr 197.1; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Maombi ya akina mama Wakristo hayapuuzwi na Baba wa wote, Yeye aliyemtuma Mwanawe duniani ili akomboe watu kwa ajili Yake. Yeye Hatayakataa maombi yako na kukuacha wewe na ukiwa kwenye misukosuko ya makombora au vipigo vya Shetani katika siku ile kuu ya pambano la mwisho. Ni juu yako kufanya kazi kwa usahili na uaminifu, Naye MUNGU ataimarisha kazi ya mikono yako.—(Child Guidance, 526) [Pr 197.2; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Maombi ya Familia Ni Muhimu, Lakini Aina Nyingine za Maombi zinahitajika Vilevile—Maombi ya Familia au ya hadhara pekee hayatoshi. Maombi ya siri ni muhimu sana; katika upweke nafsi inafunuliwa na kuanikwa wazi mbele ya jicho la MUNGU lichunguzalo, na kila nia inapekuliwa kwa karibu na kikamilifu. Maombi ya siri! Haya ni ya thamani kubwa sana! Nafsi inazungumza/inawasiliana na MUNGU! Maombi ya siri yanapaswa kusikilizwa na MUNGU tu anayesikia maombi. Hakuna sikio la udadisi linalopaswa kupokea mzigo wa maombi kama hayo.—Testimonies for the Church 2:189, 190. [Pr 197.3; Maombi Aya ya 36]

SURA YA 18

MAOMBI NA IBADA

Maombi na Ibada ni Muhimu kwa ajili ya Ukuaji wa Kiroho— Tafuta kila fursa ya kwenda mahali ambapo maombi yamezoeleka kufanywa (wana ratiba ya kufanya maombi). Wale ambao kweli wanatafuta ushirika na MUNGU wataonekana katika mkutano wa maombi, watakuwa waaminifu katika kufanya wajibu wao na kwa bidii na shauku kuvuna faida zote wanazoweza kuzipata. Wataboresha kila fursa ya kujiweka mahali ambapo wataweza kupokea miale ya nuru kutoka mbinguni. - (Steps to Christ, 98) [Pr 198.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Maombi ya faragha, maombi ya Familia, maombi katika mikusanyiko ya hadhara kwa ajili ya kumuabudu MUNGU, haya yote ni ya muhimu. Na tunapaswa kuyaishi maombi yetu. Tunapaswa kushirikiana na Kristo katika kazi Yake.- (Testimonies for the Church 7:239) [Pr 198.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Katika mikutano yetu ya ibada au kujitoa wakfu kwa Mungu, sauti zetu zapaswa zidhihirishe kwa maombi na kumsifu Mungu kwa ibada yetu kwa Baba wa mbinguni, ili wote wajue kwamba tunamwabudu Mungu kwa urahisi/usahili na Kweli, na kwa uzuri wa utakatifu Wake Bwana.— (Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 245) [Pr 198.3; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Makundi madogo na yajikusanye jioni, mchana au asubuhi na mapema ili kujifunza Biblia. Hebu wawe na msimu wa maombi, ili waweze kuimarishwa, kuangaziwa, na kutakaswa na Roho Mtakatifu. Kazi hii Kristo anataka kuifanya moyoni mwa kila mtendakazi. Ikiwa ninyi wenyewe mtafungua mlango wa kuipokea, baraka kubwa itakuja kwenu. Malaika wa MUNGU watakuwa katika kusanyiko lenu. Mtakula majani ya mti wa uzima. Ni ushuhuda gani unaoweza kubeba juu ya mguso wa upendo uliofanywa na watendakazi wenzako katika misimu hii ya thamani wakati wa kutafuta baraka ya MUNGU. Hebu kila mmoja aeleze uzoefu wake kwa maneno rahisi. Hii italeti faraja na furaha zaidi katika nafsi kuliko vyombo vyote vya

kupendeza vya ala za muziki vinavyoweza kuletwa makanisani. Kristo atakuja mioyoni mwenu. Ni kwa njia hii pekee ndipo unaweza kudumisha uadilifu wako.— (Testimonies for the Church 7:195) [Pr 198.4; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Jitayarishe kwa maisha ya mbinguni kwa ari na bidii ambayo bado hujawahi kuionyesha maishani mwako mwote. Ielimishe akili yako kupenda Biblia, kupenda mkutano wa maombi, kupenda saa ya kutafakari, na zaidi ya yote, saa ambayo nafsi inawasiliana na MUNGU. Kuwa na mawazo ya kimbingu endapo siku moja utaungana na kwaya ya mbinguni katika majumba ya juu. —(Testimonies for the Church 2:267) [Pr 199.1; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Pale Roho wa MUNGU atakapofanya kazi juu ya moyo, akilisafisha hekalu la nafsi na unajisi/uchafu wake wa mambo ya kidunia na kupenda anasa, wote wataonekana katika mkutano wa maombi, wakiwa waaminifu kufanya wajibu wao na kwa dhati, ari, jitihada na matamanio ya kuvuna faida zote wanazoweza kupata. Mfanyakazi mwaminifu kwa Bwana ataboresha kila upendeleo/fursa ya kujiweka moja kwa moja chini ya miale ya nuru kutoka katika kiti cha enzi cha MUNGU, na nuru hii itaakisiwa juu ya wengine.—(Testimonies for the Church 4:461) [Pr 199.2; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Uwepo wa MUNGU Hufanya Nyakati za Maombi na Ibada ya Hadhara Kuwa jambo takatifu—Uchaji Mungu wa kweli huchochewa na hisia ya ukuu Wake usio na kikomo na utambuzi wa uwepo Wake. Kwa hisia hii ya Yule Asiyeonekana, moyo wa kila mtoto unapaswa kuvutiwa na kupendezwa kwa kina. Saa na mahali pa maombi na huduma za ibada ya hadhara, hizi mtoto anapaswa kufundishwa kuviona kuwa ni vitakatifu kwa sababu MUNGU Yuko pale. Na kadiri kicho kinavyoonyeshwa katika mtazamo na mwenendo, hisia inayochochea (ibada) itaongezeka kwa kina. —(Education, 242, 243) [Pr 199.3; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Maombi ya hadhara Hutuleta Katika Uwepo wa MUNGU Mwenyewe.- Haijalishi ikiwa Maombi yanatolewa katika mkutano wa hadhara, kwenye madhabahu ya familia, au kwa siri, daima humweka mtu moja kwa moja mbele za MUNGU. Kwa maombi ya kudumu vijana wanaweza kupata

kanuni zilizo thabiti/imara sana kiasi kwamba majaribu yenye nguvu zaidi hayatawavuta kutoka katika uaminifu wao kwa MUNGU.— (My Life Today, 18) [Pr 200.1; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Maombi ya Hadhara Hayapaswi Kuwa Marefu na makavu—Kama watoto wa Mfalme wa mbinguni, mnapaswa kujielimisha wenyewe kutoa ushuhuda kwa sauti iliyo wazi, inayotambulika, maneno yakitamkwa vizuri na kueleweka, na kwa namna ambayo mtu yeyote asiweze kuwa na hisia kwamba mnasitasita au hamtaki, kuzungumza juu ya rehema za Bwana. Katika mkutano wa kijamii, sala inapaswa kutolewa ili wote waweze kujengwa, na wale wanaoshiriki katika zoezi hili wanapaswa kufuata mfano tuliopewa katika sala nzuri ya Bwana kwa ulimwengu. Sala ya Yesu ni rahisi/sahili, wazi, ya kina kwani inajumuisha kila kitu, lakini sio ndefu kiasi cha kukosa joto la kiroho (spiritless) kama yalivyo maombi makavukavu ambayo mara nyingi hutolewa hadharani. Maombi haya yasiyo na roho na ari ndani yake, bora yasitamkwe; kwani yanashindwa kubariki au kujenga, na ni mfumo tu bila nguvu muhimu, yaani hufuata kutimiza wajibu, na ratiba. - (Christian Education, 129) [Pr 200.2; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Maombi yanayotolewa hadharani yanapaswa kuwa mafupi na kwenda kwenye vipengele vinavyohusika. MUNGU hatuhitaji tufanye msimu wa ibada kuwa wa kuchosha kwa maombi marefu.....Dakika chache zinatoshwa kwa sala yoyote ya kawaida kwenye halaiki ya watu. - (Evangelism, 146) [Pr 200.3; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Maombi yetu na mikutano ya kijamii vinapaswa kuwa nyakati za msaada maalum na kutia moyo watu. Kila mmoja ana kazi ya kufanya ili mikusanyiko hii iwe ya kupendeza na yenye faida iwezekanavyo. Hii inaweza kufanywa vizuri kwa kuwa na uzoefu mpya kila siku katika mambo ya MUNGU, na kwa kutosita kusema juu ya upendo Wake katika makusanyiko ya watu Wake. Msiporuhusu giza au ukafiri kuingia mioyoni mwenu, havitadhihirika au kuonekana katika mikutano yenu. [Pr 200.4; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Mikutano yetu inapaswa ifanywe kuwa ya kuvutia sana. Inapaswa kuwa na angahewa la manukato ya mbinguni. Wala kusiwe na hotuba ndefu, kavukavu na maombi ya

mazoea, kwa sababu tu ya kujaza/kutimiza muda au kuendana na ratiba. - (Christian Service, 211) [Pr 201.1; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Katika ibada ya familia hebu waachie watoto washiriki sehemu. Acha wote walete Bibilia zao na kila mmoja asome mstari mmoja au miwili. Kisha wimbo au tenzi fulani inayojulikana iimbwe, ikifuatiwa na maombi. Kwa hili, Kristo ametoa mfano. Sala ya Bwana haikukusudiwa kurudiwa-rudiwa tu kama mfumo au desturi fulani, lakini ni kielelezo cha jinsi maombi yetu yanavyopaswa kuwasahili/rahisi, ya dhati, ya bidii, yenye usadikisho, na ya kina. Katika ombi rahisi mwambie Bwana mahitaji yako na onyesha shukrani kwa rehema Zake. Kwa kufanya hivyo, unamwalika Yesu kama mgeni aliyekaribishwa ndani ya nyumba na moyo wako. Katika familia maombi marefu kuhusu vitu vya mbali hayapaswi kuwepo (fafanua vitu vya mbali kwenye familia yako, ambavyo unaweza kupunguza na kufanya maombi kuwa ya kupendeza na kuongeza matamano ya watu kuomba). Vinafanya saa ya maombi kuwa ya kuchosha, wakati inapaswa kuzingatiwa kama fursa na baraka. Fanya msimu huu uwe wa kupendeza na wa kufurahisha. –(Child Guidance, 524) [Pr 201.2; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Mazungumzo ya muda mrefu na maombi marefu hayafai mahali popote, na haswa katika mkutano wa kijamii. Yanawachosha malaika, na vile vile watu wanaoyasikiliza. Maombi yetu yanapaswa kuwa mafupi, na ya moja kwa moja kwenye mada/pointi. Hebu Roho wa MUNGU ikae mioyoni mwa waabudio, Naye atafutilia mbali desturi za urasmi, na kaida zote na mambo duni (yasiyofaa, yasiyo ya kuboresha watu, yanayoboresha nk).—Review and Herald, October 10, 1882) [Pr 201.3; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Dakika moja au mbili ni ndefu za kutosha kwa maombi yoyote ya kawaida. (Testimonies for the Church 2:581) [Pr 201.4; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Maombi marefu hufanya ibada ichoshe – Katika kila familia, kuwe na wakati uliowekwa wa ibada ya asubuhi na jioni. Inafaa na ni jambo zuri kama nini kwa wazazi kukusanya watoto wao pamoja nao kabla ya chakula cha asubuhi, kumshukuru Baba wa mbinguni kwa ulinzi Wake wakati wa usiku, na kumwomba msaada Wake na

mwongozo na utunzaji Wake wakati jua limetokezea kwa siku nzima! Inafaa na ni jambo jema kiasi gani, pia, jioni inapofika, kwa wazazi na watoto kukusanyika tena mbele Zake Bwana na kumshukuru Yeye kwa baraka za siku iliyopita! [Pr 201.5; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Baba, au, akiwa hayupo, mama, anapaswa kuongoza ibada, akichagua sehemu ya Maandiko yenye kupendeza na kueleweka kwa urahisi. Huduma inapaswa kuwa fupi. Wakati sura ndefu inasomwa na maombi ya muda mrefu yakatolewa, huduma hufanywa kuwa ya kuchosha (kuboeshwa), na katika kumalizika kwake hisia ya unafuu/afueni husikika (watu wanashusha pumzi). MUNGU huaibishwa na kukosewa heshima wakati saa ya ibada inapofanywa kuwa kavukavu na ya kuwakasirisha (kuwasumbua moyoni) wana familia, inapokuwa kama shuguli nzito sana, ikapungukiwa na shauku, kiasi kwamba hata watoto wanaiogopa kwa kuifikiria kabla hata hawajaitwa kuja kushiriki. [Pr 202.1; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Akina baba na akina mama, fanyeni saa ya ibada/kuabudu iwe ya kupendeza sana. Hakuna sababu kwa nini saa hii isiwe ya kupendeza na kufurahisha zaidi ya siku hiyo. Kutafakari kwa kiasi kunakofanywa katika maandalizi yake kutakuwezesha kuifanya iwe kamilifu, ya kuvutia na ya kunufaisha familia. Mara kwa mara huduma iwe na utofauti (mambo anuwai). Maswali yanaweza kuulizwa kwenye sehemu ya Maandiko yaliyosomwa, na kisha hoja au mjadala na ufafanuzi mfupi, wa dhati ambao ni muafaka kutokana na wakati mliopo, unaweza kutolewa. Wimbo wa sifa unaweza kuimbwa. Ombi linalotolewa linapaswa kuwa fupi na la moja kwa moja (lisipindepinde au kumangamanga huku na kule). Katika maneno rahisi, na yaliyo dhati, basi yule anayeongoza katika maombi amsifu MUNGU kwa wema Wake na amwombe msaada. Kadiri hali inavyoruhusu, hebu watoto wajiunge katika usomaji na sala. [Pr 202.2; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Ulimwengu ujao wa milele peke yake, yaani mbinguni ndipo patakaofunua wema ambao majira hayo ya ibada yamejazwa na huo. —(Testimonies for the Church 7:43, 44) [Pr 202.3; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Maombi yetu hadharani yanapaswa kuwa mafupi, na yaeleze tu matakwa halisi ya roho, tukiomba kwa usahili na

kwa imani rahisi ya kuamini kwa ajili ya vitu tunavyohitaji. Maombi kutoka kwenye moyo mnyenyekevu, uliopondeka ni pumzi muhimu ya roho iliyo na kiu ya haki. - (The Signs of the Times, Desemba 3, 1896) [Pr 202.4; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Kutokana na nuru niliyonayo juu ya suala hili, nimefikia maamuzi kuwa MUNGU katika ibada Yake tunapokusanyika, hahitaji ziwe nyakati ndefu, zisizopendeza (zinazoboeshwa), za kuchosha watu na kisha wabakie wameinama kwa muda mrefu wakisikiliza maombi kadhaa marefu. Wale wenye afya dhaifu hawawezi kuvumilia usumbufu wa namna hii bila kuchoka sana na hata kuishiwa nguvu. Mwili huchoka kwa kuendelea kuinama kwa muda mrefu; na mbaya zaidi ni kwamba, akili huchoshwa na zoezi hilo la maombi endelevu yasiyotoa burudisho la kiroho na mkutano wa namna hiyo ni mbaya kuliko mtu aliyepata hasara (bora wasingeenda maana mkutano wa maombi umekuwa kama hasara sasa-worse than lost). Watu huchoka kiakili na kimwili na wanakuwa hawajapata nguvu zozote za kiroho. [Pr 202.5; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Mikutano ya makongamano na maombi isifanywe kuwa ya kuchosha. Kwa kadri inavyowezekana, hii mikutano yote inapaswa kuzingatia saa iliyowekwa; na ikiwa kuna watu wanaopenda kujichelewesha-chelewesha na kupoteza muda, basi wale ambao huchelewa kwa nusu saa au hata dakika kumi na tano nyuma ya wakati, hawapaswi kusubiriwa. Ikiwa wako hata watu wawili tu, hawa wanaweza kuanza mkutano kwa kudai ahadi (Wawili au watatu watakapokutanika Bwana Yupo katikati yao). [Pr 203.1; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Mkutano unapaswa kufunguliwa kwenye saa iliyopangwa kwa kadri inavyowezekana, iwe wamehudhuria wengi au wachache. Desturi au mapokeo ya urasmi na ubaridi uliokakamaa vinapaswa kuwekwa kando, na wote wanapaswa kuwajibika katika jukumu. Katika matukio ya kawaida kusiwe na maombi yanayondelea zaidi ya dakika kumi. Baada ya kubadilisha mkao (position), yaani kusimama, kukaa, zoezi la uimbaji, kusoma Neno la Mungu au kupiga magoti ili kuwapa watu

afueni kwa kutokaa mkao mmoja kwa muda mrefu au kufanya kitu kimoja kwa muda mrefu, hapa ndiyo mnaweza kurudi tena kusali, ikiwa kama kuna yeyote anayehisi mzigo wa kutoa sala, basi na aendelee kuomba ili watu wasikae katika nafasi na mkao ule ule (position moja huchosha) [Pr 203.2; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Wote wanapaswa kuhisi kuwa ni jukumu la Mkristo kuomba kwa kifupi. Mwambie Bwana kile unachotaka, bila kurandaranda/kumangamanga ulimwenguni kote. Katika maombi ya faragha wote wana nafasi ya kuomba kadiri ya matamaniao yao na kuwa wazi kama watakavyo. Wanaweza kuwaombea ndugu zao na marafiki. Chumbani au mahali pa faragha, ndiyo mahali pa kusemea shida zao zote za binafsi, na mitihani/magumu, na majaribu. Mkutano wa pamoja wa kumwabudu MUNGU si mahali pa kufungua mambo ya kibinafsi ya moyoni. [Pr 203.3; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Lengo la kukusanyika pamoja ni nini? Je! Ni kumjulisha MUNGU, kumfundisha kwa kumwambia yote tunayojua katika maombi? Tunakutana pamoja ili kujengana sisi kwa sisi kwa kubadilishana mawazo na hisia, kukusanya nguvu, na mwanga, na ujasiri kwa kufahamiana sisi kwa sisi kuhusu matumaini na matarajio ya kila mmoja wetu; na kwa sala zetu za dhati, za bidii, na za kutoka moyoni zinazotolewa kwa imani, tunapata burudisho na nguvu kutoka kwenye Chanzo cha nguvu zetu. Mikutano hii inapaswa kuwa misimu ya thamani zaidi na inapaswa kufanywa iwe ya kuvutia kwa wote ambao wana shauku yoyote ya mambo ya kidini. [Pr 203.4; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Kuna wengine, nina hofu kwamba hawapeleki shida zao kwa MUNGU katika maombi ya faragha, lakini wanayahifadhi na kuyalimbikiza kwa ajili ya mkutano wa maombi, na hapo hufanya maombi yao kwa siku kadhaa. Watu hao wanaweza kuitwa wauaji wa mikutano na maombi (prayer and conference killers). Hawatoi nuru; wala hawamjengi mtu. Maombi yao ya baridi na marefu, yaliyoganda barafu na shuhuda zao ndefu, za kurudi nyuma kwao zinawekea watu kivuli. Wote wanafurahi

wanapomaliza, na ni vigumu kuutupilia mbali ubaridi na giza ambalo maombi, hotuba na mawasiliano yao huleta kwenye mkutano. Kutoka katika nuru ambayo nimeipokea, mikutano yetu inapaswa kuwa ya kiroho na ya kijamii (kirafiki na mahusiano-social), na sio mirefu sana. Kukosa roho ya urafiki, kutochangamka au kujibakiza kwa namna fulani, kunawaweka watu mbali nawe (reserved), kisha kiburi, ubatili, na hofu kwa mwanadamu vinapaswa kuachwa nyumbani. Tofauti ndogo na chuki haipaswi kwenda nasi kwenye mikutano hii. Kama ilivyo katika familia yenye umoja, usahili, unyenyekevu, upole, ujasiri, na upendo vinapaswa kuwepo mioyoni mwa akina kaka na dada ambao wanakutana ili kuburudishwa na kuongezewa nguvu kwa kuleta mianga yao pamoja. - (Testimonies for the Church 2: 578, 579) [Pr 203.5; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Maombi ya Hadhara yanapaswa kutamkwa kwa upekee na Kwa Uwazi— Hebu wale wanaoomba na wale wanaozungumza wayatamke maneno yao kwa udhahiri, ili kuyatofautisha na kusema kwa uwazi, kwa upekee, bila kuchanganya maneno, na kwa sauti yenye toni nzuri. Ombi, Likitolewa ipasavyo, ni nguvu ya mema. Ni njia mojawapo inayotumiwa na Bwana kuwasilisha kwa watu hazina muhimu za Ukweli. Lakini Ombi haliwi kama linavyopaswa kuwa, kwa sababu ya sauti zenye kasoro za wale wanaolitamka. Shetani hushangilia wakati maombi yanayotolewa kwa MUNGU yanatolewa kwa sauti ya chini, na hivyo maneno kutoeleweka au kutosikika ipasavyo. Hebu watu wa MUNGU wajifunze jinsi ya kuongea na kuomba kwa njia ambayo itawakilisha ipasavyo zile Kweli kuu walizonazo. Hebu shuhuda zilizobebwa na maombi yaliyotolewa viwe wazi na neno kwa neno litofautianishwe. Na kisha MUNGU atatukuzwa. —(Testimonies for the Church 6:382) [Pr 204.1; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Tumia Lugha Rahisi Unapoomba Hadharani—Lugha ya madoido mengi, misamiati mipya mingi, mashairi, sauti ya juu yenye kujieleza sana na ya kutia chumvi haifai katika sala, kujionyesha kama mtu ana akili mahiri (highflown), iwe ombi hilo linatolewa mimbarani, katika mzunguko wa familia, au kwa siri. Hasa kwa yule anayetoa ombi la hadharani anapaswa kutumia lugha rahisi, ili wengine waelewe yanayosemwa na kuungana katika ombi hilo. [Pr 204.2; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Ni ombi la imani linalotoka moyoni ambalo husikika mbinguni na kujibiwa duniani.—(Gospel Workers, 177) [Pr 204.3; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Maombi yetu yanapaswa kuwa na utaratibu - Nimeona kwamba machafuko hayampendezi Bwana, na kwamba kuwe na utaratibu katika kuomba na pia katika kuimba. Hatupaswi kwenda nyumbani kwa MUNGU kuziombea familia zetu isipokuwa hisia za ndani zitatuongoza wakati Roho wa MUNGU anawasadikisha wale wanaoombewa kule waliko. Kwa ujumla, mahali sahihi pa kuombea familia zetu ni kwenye madhabahu ya familia. Wakati mada za maombi yetu ziko mbali, mahali pa siri ni mahali pazuri pa kumuomba MUNGU kwa ajili ya mada hizo. Tunapokuwa katika nyumba ya MUNGU, tunapaswa kuomba baraka iliyopo na tunapaswa kutarajia MUNGU kusikia na kujibu maombi yetu. Mikutano kama hiyo itakuwa ya uchangamfu, yenye kupendeza na ya kuvutia watu.— (Testimonies for the Church 1:145, 146) [Pr 204.4; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Mungu Anapaswa kukaribiwa kwa kicho Katika Sala— Wengine hufikiri kuwa ni alama ya unyenyekevu kusali kwa MUNGU kwa njia ya mazoea au ya njia ya kawaida (common), kama vile wanavyozungumza na mwanadamu wenzao. Wanalichafua Jina Lake kwa kulichanganya pamoja bila ulazima na bila kicho sala zao kwa maneno, “MUNGU Mwenyezi,” Maneno matakatifu ya kutisha, ambayo hayapaswi kamwe kutoka midomoni mwao isipokuwa kwa sauti iliyotiishwa na kwa hisia ya kicho, inayohisi utukufu na utakatifu wa Mungu.— (Gospel Workers, 176) [Pr 205.1; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Ni Fursa Yetu Kupiga Magoti Tunapoomba Hadharani— Katika ibada ya hadhara na faraghani ni wajibu wetu kupiga magoti mbele za MUNGU tunapotoa maombi yetu Kwake. Tendo hili linaonyesha utegemezi wetu kwa MUNGU.—(Selected Messages 2:312) [Pr 205.2; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Kulingana na nuru ambayo imeletwa kwangu, ingempendeza MUNGU kwa wahudumu kupiga magoti mara tu wanapoingia kwenye mimbari, na kwa kicho waombe msaada kutoka kwa MUNGU. Je, hilo lingeleta hisia kubwa ya ibada moyoni kwa kiasi gani? Kungekuwa kicho na angahewa yenye utakatifu na mshangao juu ya watu.

Mhudumu wao anazungumza na MUNGU; anajitoa wakfu kwa MUNGU kabla hajathubutu kusimama mbele ya watu. Kicho kipo juu ya watu, na malaika wa MUNGU wanaletwa karibu sana. Wahudumu wanapaswa kumtazama MUNGU kwanza wanapoenda kwenye kibweta, na hivyo kuwaambia wote: MUNGU Ndiye chanzo cha nguvu zangu. – (Testimonies for the Church 2:612) [Pr 205.3; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Pale mhudumu anaingia, yapaswa kuwe na heshima, na kicho katika mwenendo na mwonekano. Anapaswa kuinama katika sala ya kimya mara tu atakapoingia kwenye mimbari, na kuomba kwa dhati na bidii msaada wa MUNGU. Ni hisia ya kicho cha kiasi gani italetwa na jambo hili! Kutakuwa na taadhima na utukufu kwenye angahewa la watu. Mhudumu wao anazungumza na MUNGU; anajitoa wakfu kwa Mwenyezi Mungu kabla hajathubutu kusimama mbele ya watu. Kicho kinatawala juu ya watu, na malaika wa Mwenyezi MUNGU wanaletwa karibu sana. Kila mmoja katika kusanyiko, pia, anayemcha Mwenyezi MUNGU anapaswa kuungana Naye kwa kuinamisha kichwa chake katika sala ya kimya ili Mwenyezi MUNGU atoe neema Yake kwa kutano hilo kwa uwepo Wake na kuupa nguvu Ukweli Wake unaotangazwa/unaohubiriwa kutoka katika midomo ya wanadamu. Mkutano unapofunguliwa kwa maombi, kila goti linapaswa kupigwa mbele ya Yule Mtakatifu, na kila moyo unapaswa kupaa kwa Mwenyezi MUNGU katika ibada ya kimya. Maombi ya waumini waaminifu yatasikilizwa, na huduma ya Neno itathibitika kuwa yenye ufanisi. Mtazamo usio na uhai wa waumini katika nyumba ya MUNGU ni sababu moja kuu ya ya huduma kukosa matokeo mazuri zaidi. Sauti ya wimbo, unaomiminwa kutoka katika mioyo mingi katika semi zilizo wazi na za kipekee, ni mojawapo ya nyenzo za Mwenyezi MUNGU katika kazi ya kuokoa roho. Huduma zote zinapaswa kuendeshwa kwa kicho na utii, kana kwamba tu mbele ya Yule Mkuu wa makusanyiko. – (Testimonies for the Church 5:492, 493) [Pr 205.4; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Hadharani na katika ibada binafsi ni fursa yetu kupiga magoti mbele za MUNGU tunapotuma maombi yetu. Yesu, mfano wetu, "alipiga magoti na kuomba." Luka 22:41. Juu ya wanafunzi Wake imeandikwa kwamba wao pia, "walipiga magoti na kuomba." Matendo 9:40. Paulo alitangaza,

"Ninampigia Baba wa Bwana wetu Yesu Kristo magoti." Waefeso 3:14. Katika kuungama mbele za MUNGU dhambi za Israeli, Ezra alipiga magoti. Tazama Ezra 9: 5. Danieli "alipiga magoti mara tatu kwa siku, akasali, na akashukuru mbele za MUNGU wake." Danieli 6:10.—(Prophets and Kings, 48) [Pr 206.1; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Maombi ya halaiki ni muhimu lakini hayajitoshelezi yenyewe- sala ya familia au ya umma tu haitoshi. Maombi ya siri ni muhimu sana; katika upweke nafsi inafunuliwa wazi mbele ya jicho la Mwenyezi MUNGU lichunguzalo, na kila nia inapekuliwa na kuchunguzwa. Maombi ya siri! Yana thamani kubwa iliyoje! Nafsi inazungumza na Mwenyezi MUNGU! Maombi ya siri yanapaswa kusikilizwa tu na Mwenyezi MUNGU anayesikia maombi. Hakuna sikio lenye udadisi linalopaswa kupokea mzigo wa maombi kama hayo (hakuna mmbeya anayepaswa kusikia maombi ya wengine ya faragha!).—Testimonies for the Church 2:189, 190. [Pr 206.2; Maombi Aya ya 36]

SURA YA 19

MTAZAMO KATIKA MAOMBI

Mkao inayofaa kwa ajili ya Maombi ya hadhara— Nimepokea barua zinazoniuliza kuhusiana na mkao mzuri wa kuchukuliwa na mtu anayetoa ombi kwa Mfalme wa malimwengu yote- Sayari zote (universe). Ndugu zetu wamepata wapi wazo kwamba wanapaswa kusimama kwa

miguu yao wakati wa kuomba kwa Mwenyezi Mungu MUNGU? Mtu ambaye amesomea/ameshamesha kwa takribani miaka mitano huko Battle Creek, aliombwa aongoze kutoa ombi kabla Dada White hajazungumza na watu. Lakini nilipomwona amesimama wima kwa miguu yake wakati midomo yake ilikuwa karibu kufunguka katika kutoa maombi kwa Mwenyezi MUNGU, roho yangu ilisumbuliwa sana ndani kumpa karipio la wazi. Basi nikamwita kwa jina, na kumwambia, "Piga magoti." Huu ndio msimamo (mkao) sahihi wa mwili kila wakati [Pr 207.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Kupiga magoti wakati wa kuomba kwa MUNGU ndio mtazamo/tabia/zoea tunalofaa kuwa nalo. Tendo hili la ibada lilitakiwa kufanywa kwa wale mateka watatu wa Kiebrania kule Babeli Lakini tendo kama hilo la ibada, lilipaswa kutolewa kwa MUNGU peke yake— Mtawala Mkuu wa ulimwengu, Mtawala wa ulimwengu wote mzima (mbingu na sayari zote); na hawa Waebrania watatu walikataa kutoa heshima hiyo kwa sanamu yoyote ijapokuwa ilifanyizwa kwa dhahabu safi. Kwa kufanya hivyo, wangukuwa, kwa nia na makusudio yote, wamemsujudia yule mfalme wa Babeli. Kwa kukataa kufanya kama mfalme alivyoamuru, walipata adhabu, na wakatupwa ndani ya tanuru inayowaka moto. Lakini Kristo alikuja Mwenyewe (mbashara) na kutembea pamoja nao kwenye moto, nao hawakupata madhara yoyote. [Pr 207.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Hadharani na katika ibada binafsi, pote hapa ni wajibu wetu kupiga magoti mbele za MUNGU tunapotuma maombi yetu Kwake. Tendo hili linaonyesha utegemezi wetu kwa MUNGU [Pr 208.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

"Ni wapi Ndugu H alipata elimu yake?" Huko Battle Creek. Je, inawezekana kwamba kwa nuru yote ambayo MUNGU amewapa watu Wake juu ya somo la uchaji-Mungu na kicho, kwamba wahudumu, wakuu, na walimu katika shule zetu, kwa kanuni na mifano, wafundishe vijana kusimama wima katika ibada kama walivyofanya Mafarisayo? Je! Tulitazame hili jambo muhimu kwamba linaashiria kujitosheleza kwao wenyewe na kujithamini wenyewe kwamba wao ndiyo bora? Je, tendo au sifa za namna hii zinapaswa kuonekana wazi na kukuzwa zaidi? [Pr 208.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Tunatumaini kwamba ndugu zetu hawataonyesha heshima na kicho kidogo wanapomkaribia MUNGU wa pekee wa Kweli na Aliye Hai kuliko wapagani wanavyoitendea na kujidhihirisha kwa miungu yao ya sanamu, la sivyo watu hawa watakuwa waamuzi wetu katika siku ya hukumu ile ya mwisho. Ningezungumza na wote wanaoshika nafasi ya walimu katika shule zetu. Wanaume na wanawake, msimdharau MUNGU kwa kutomheshimu kwenu kwa kujigamba, huku mkijionyesha ufahari na umuhimu wenu. Usisimame katika Ufarisayo wako na kutoa maombi yako kwa MUNGU. Usiamini nguvu zako mwenyewe. Usizitegemee nguvu zako; lakini mara kwa mara pigeni magoti mbele za MUNGU, na mmwabudu Yeye. [Pr 208.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Na mnapokusanyika kumwabudu Mwenyezi MUNGU, hakikisheni mnapiga magoti. Hebu tendo hili lishuhudie kwamba nafsi yote, mwili, na roho ziko chini ya Roho wa Kweli. Ni akina nani ambao wamechunguza Neno kwa ukaribu na kuona mifano na mwelekeo katika suala hili? Je! Ni akina nani tunaoweza kuwaamini kama waalimu katika shule zetu Marekani na nchi za nje? Baada ya miaka ya mafunzo, wanafunzi watarudi katika nchi yao wenyewe wakiwa na mawazo ya ukengeufu/potofu kuhusiana na adabu, kicho na staha anayopaswa kupewa Mwenyezi MUNGU, na kisha wasijisikie kuwa hawako chini ya wajibu wa kuheshimu wale watu wenye mvi (wazee), watu wenye uzoefu, watumishi waliochaguliwa na Mwenyezi MUNGU ambao wameunganishwa na kazi ya Mwenyezi MUNGU kwa takribani miaka yote ya maisha yao? Ninashauri wote wanaosoma shule za Marekani au mahali pengine popote duniani, wasiidake roho ya kukosa kicho. Hakikisha wewe mwenyewe unaelewa fika ni aina gani ya elimu unayohitaji, ili uweze kuelimisha wengine wapate kufaa kwa tabia ambayo itahimili mtihani ambao utawajia upesi wale wote wanaoishi duniani. Shirikiana na Wakristo wenye hekima na maadili mema kupita wote. Usiwachague wakufunzi au wanafunzi wenye kujifanya (feki), bali wale wanaoonyesha utauwa wa ndani kabisa, wale walio na roho ya akili mahiri yenye ufahamu katika mambo ya Mwenyezi MUNGU. [Pr 208.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Twaishi katika nyakati za hatari. Waadventista wa Sabato wanasemekana ni watu wa MUNGU wanaotunza

amri Zake; lakini wanapoteza roho yao ya ibada (roho ya kujitoa wakfu kwa dhati). Roho hiyo ya kuwa na kicho kwa MUNGU huwafundisha wanadamu jinsi ya kumkaribia Muumba wao—kwa utakatifu na kicho kupitia imani, si ndani yao wenyewe, bali kwa kupitia Mpatanishi. Kwa hivyo mwanadamu huwekwa imara, katika ulinzi makini, chini ya hali yoyote ambayo anakutana nayo. Mwanadamu lazima apige magoti, kama mnufaika wa neema, mwombaji aliye chini ya kiti cha rehema. Na anapoendelea kupokea rehema za kila siku kutoka katika mkono wa MUNGU, daima anapaswa kutunza na kuthamini shukrani moyoni mwake, na kuionyesha au kuidhihirisha kwa maneno ya shukrani na sifa kwa ajili ya neema hizi asizostahili. Malaika wamekuwa wakilinda njia yake katika maisha yake yote, na mitego mingi iliyojificha ambayo yeye ameepushwa dhidi yake hakuwahi kuiona kwa macho yake. Na kwa ajili ya uangalizi huu na ulinzi wa macho ambayo hayasinzii wala hayalali kamwe, mwanadamu anapaswa kutambua katika kila ombi utumishi wa MUNGU kwa ajili yake.—(Selected Messages 2:311-315) [Pr 209.1; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Kupiga Magoti Katika Maombi Hufunza Heshima na Kumcha MUNGU na kustaababia Utukufu Wake— Hebu MUNGU na awafundishe watu Wake jinsi ya kuomba. Hebu walimu katika shule zetu na wahudumu katika makanisa yetu, wajifunze kila siku katika shule ya Kristo. Ndipo wataomba kwa dhati na bidii, na maombi yao yatasikilizwa na kujibiwa. Ndipo Neno litatangazwa kwa nguvu. [Pr 209.2; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Kote hadharani na katika ibada binafsi ni wajibu wetu kupiga magoti mbele za MUNGU tunapoyaleta maombi yetu Kwake. Yesu, mfano wetu, "alipiga magoti na kuomba." Juu ya wanafunzi Wake." Imeandikwa kwamba wao pia, "walipiga magoti na kuomba." Paulo alitangaza, "Ninampigia Baba wa Bwana wetu Yesu Kristo magoti." Katika kuungama mbele za MUNGU dhambi za Israeli, Ezra alipiga magoti. Danieli "alipiga magoti mara tatu kwa siku, akasali, na kushukuru mbele za MUNGU wake." [Pr 209.3; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Kumcha MUNGU katika kweli kunachochea na hisia ya ukuu Wake usio na kipimo na utambuzi wa uwepo Wake. Kwa hisia hii ya Yule Asiyeonekana, kila moyo unapaswa kuvutiwa sana. Saa na mahali pa maombi ni vitakatifu, kwa

sababu MUNGU Yupo hapo; na kadiri heshima na kicho inavyodhihirika katika tabia, mkao, mwonekano wa uso na mwenendo, hisia inayovichochea itazidishwa." Jina Lake ni takatifu na la kuogopwa," mwandishi wa Zaburi anatangaza. Malaika, wanaponena Jina hilo, hufunika nyuso zao. Kwa heshima gani, basi, sisi ambao tumeanguka na ni wenye dhambi, tunapaswa kulichukua kwenye midomo yetu Jina hilo! [Pr 209.4; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Naam Ingekuwa vema kwa wazee na vijana kutafakari Maneno hayo ya Maandiko yanayoonyesha jinsi mahali palipotwiwa alama ya uwepo wa pekee kwa MUNGU panavyopaswa kuzingatiwa. "Vua viatu vyako miguuni mwako," Alimwamuru Musa kwenye kichaka kinachowaka moto, "kwa kuwa mahali hapo uliposimama ni ardhi takatifu." Yakobo, baada ya kuona maono ya malaika, akasema, "Bwana Yuko mahali hapa; nami sikuijua Hapa si mahali pengine bali nyumba ya MUNGU, na hili ndilo lango la mbinguni." Gospel Workers, 178, 179) [Pr 210.1; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Unyenyekevu wa Sulemani wakati alipoanza kubeba mizigo ya serikali, alipokiri mbele za MUNGU, "Mimi ni mtoto mdogo tu" (1 Wafalme 3:7), upendo wake wa ajabu kwa MUNGU, kicho na heshima yake kuu kwa mambo ya Bwana, kutojiamini kwake ndani ya nafsi yake, na kumwinua kwake Muumba wa yote asiye na kikomo—vipengele yote hii ya tabia, zinazostahili kuigwa sana, zilifichuliwa wakati huduma ya ibada zilizounganishwa na ukamilishaji wa ujenzi wa hekalu, wakati wa maombi yake ya kuweka wakfu hekalu alipiga magoti katika mkao/nafasi ya unyenyekevu ya mwombaji. Wafuasi wa Kristo leo wanapaswa kujilinda dhidi ya mwelekeo wa kupoteza roho ya staha, kicho na hofu ya Mwenyezi Mungu. Maandiko huwafundisha wanadamu jinsi wanavyopaswa kumwendea/kumsogelea Muumba wao—kwa unyenyekevu na kicho, kupitia imani katika Mpatanishi wa Kiungu.— — (Prophets and Kings, 47, 48) [Pr 210.2; Maombi Aya ya 12]

"Katikati mwa ua" la hekalu alikuwa ameweka "jukwaa la shaba," au jukwaa, "urefu wa mikono mitano, na upana wa mikono mitano, na urefu wa mikono mitatu." Juu yake Sulemani alisimama na kwa mikono iliyoinuliwa alibariki umati mkubwa mbele yake. "Na mkutano wote wa Israeli

wakasimama." 2 Mambo ya Nyakati 6:13, 3. [Pr 210.3; Maombi Aya ya 13]

"Asifiwe Bwana, Mungu wa Israeli," Sulemani akasema, "ambaye kwa mikono yake ametimiza kile alichosema kwa kinywa chake kwa baba yangu Daudi, akisema, Nimeichagua Yerusalemu, ili Jina Langu liwe hapo." Aya ya 4-6. [Pr 210.4; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Ndipo Sulemani akapiga magoti juu ya jukwaa la shaba, na katika usikivu wa watu wote alitoa ombi la kuweka wakfu hekalu. Akiinua mikono yake mbinguni, huku kutaniko likiwa limeinama kifudifudi (sura zao zikiwa kwenye ardhi), mfalme alisihi: "Bwana, MUNGU wa Israeli, hakuna MUNGU kama Wewe mbinguni, wala duniani; ushikaye maagano, na kuwarehemu watumishi Wako, waendao mbele Zako kwa mioyo yao yote.—(Prophets and Kings, 39, 40) [Pr 211.1; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Mfalme Sulemani alisimama juu ya jukwaa la shaba mbele ya madhabahu na kuwabariki watu. Kisha akapiga magoti na, akiwa ameinua mikono yake juu kuelekea mbinguni, akamimina sala ya dhati na kujitoa wakfu kwa MUNGU huku makutano wakiwa wameinamisha nyuso zao chini kwenye ardhi. Baada ya Sulemani kumaliza sala yake, moto wa miujiza ukatoka mbinguni na kuteketeza dhabihu hiyo.—(The Story of Redemption, 194) [Pr 211.2; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Mmepewa akili ili muweze kuelewa jinsi ya kufanya kazi. Mmepewa macho ili muweze kuwa makini katika kuzitambua fursa mlizopewa na MUNGU. Masikio yenu yasikilize maagizo ya MUNGU. Magoti yenu yanapaswa kupigwa mara tatu kwa siku katika maombi yanayotoka moyoni. Miguu yenu na ikimbie/itembee katika njia ya amri za MUNGU.—(Testimonies for the Church 6:297) [Pr 211.3; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Wahudumu wapige Magoti na kuomba kabla ya Kuhubiri- Kulingana na nuru ambayo nimepewa, ingempendeza MUNGU kwa wahudumu kupiga magoti mara tu wanapoingia kwenye mimbari, na kwa kicho na dhati waombe msaada kutoka kwa MUNGU. Je, hilo lingeleta hisia za ajabu namna gani? Kungekuwa kicho na hofu ya utukufu wa Mungu juu ya watu. Mhudumu wao anawasiliana na MUNGU; anajitoa wakfu kwa MUNGU kabla

hajathubutu kusimama mbele ya watu. Kicho kinahisiwa juu ya watu, na malaika wa MUNGU wanaletwa karibu sana. Wahudumu wanapaswa kumtazama MUNGU, mara tu wanapoingia kwenye kibweta, na hivyo kuwaambia wote: MUNGU Ndiye chanzo cha nguvu zangu.— (Testimonies for the Church 2:612) [Pr 211.4; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Wakati mhudumu anaingia, yapaswa kuwe na kicho, taadhima na hadhi/heshima. Mhubiri anapaswa kuinama na kupiga magoti katika sala ya kimya, mara tu atakapoingia kwenye mimbari, na kuomba msaada kwa MUNGU kwa dhati na bidii (siyo kutimiza ratiba). Je, ni hisia ya namna gani italetwa kwa watu kwa kufanya jambo hili! Kutakuwa na kicho na hofu ya Mungu juu ya watu. Mhudumu wao anazungumza na Mwenyezi MUNGU; anajitoe kwa Mwenyezi MUNGU kabla hajathubutu kusimama mbele ya watu. Kicho kitahisiwa juu ya watu (kicho kinatua juu ya watu), na malaika wa Mwenyezi MUNGU wanaletwa karibu sana. Kila mmoja katika kusanyiko pia, anayemcha Mwenyezi MUNGU anapaswa kuungana naye kwa kuinamisha kichwa chake katika sala ya kimya ili Mwenyezi MUNGU ajaze neema kutano hilo kwa uwepo Wake na kuupa nguvu Ukweli Wake unaotangazwa kutoka katika midomo ya wanadamu. Mkutano unapofunguliwa kwa maombi, kila goti linapaswa kupigwa mbele ya Yule Aliye Mtakatifu, na kila moyo unapaswa kupanda juu kwa Mwenyezi MUNGU katika ibada ya kimya. Maombi ya waumini waaminifu yatasikilizwa, na huduma ya Neno itathibitika kuwa yenye ufanisi. Mtazamo usio na uhai wa waumini katika nyumba ya Mwenyezi MUNGU ni sababu moja kuu ya kwa nini huduma inakosa matunda mazuri zaidi. Sauti ya wimbo, unaomiminwa kutoka katika mioyo mingi katika usemi ulio wazi, unaoleweka maana mtu atamkapo maneno na wa kipekee, ni mojawapo ya vifaa vya Mwenyezi MUNGU katika kazi ya kuokoa roho. Huduma zote zifanyike kwa kicho na hofu ya Mungu, kama ni katika uwepo dhahiri wa Bwana wa makutano.—(Testimonies for the Church 5:492, 493) [Pr 211.5; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Kupiga Magoti si lazima mara zote Wakati wa kuomba
— Hatuwezi daima kuwa magotini katika sala, lakini njia ya kuelekea kiti cha rehema iko wazi siku zote. Tunapoendelea na kazi inayoshugulisha au kuhenyeshwa sana, tunaweza kuomba msaada; na tumeahidiwa na Yule

ambaye hatatudanganya, "Mtapokea." Mkristo anaweza na atapata muda wa kuomba. Danieli alikuwa Kiongozi wa taifa; majukumu mazito yalikuwa juu yake; lakini alimtafuta MUNGU mara tatu kwa siku, na Bwana akampa Roho Mtakatifu. Kwa hiyo hata leo wanadamu wanaweza kukimbilia kwenye hema takatifu la Yeye Aliye Juu Zaidi na kuhisi uhakikisho wa ahadi Yake, "Watu Wangu watakaa katika mkao wa amani, na katika maskani zilizo salama, na mahali pa kupumzika penye utulivu." Isaya 32:18. Wote wanaotamani wanaweza kupata mahali pa ushirika na MUNGU, ambapo hakuna sikio linaloweza kusikia ila Lile lililo wazi kwa ajili ya vilio vya wasiojiweza, wenye huzuni na wahitaji—Yule anayeona hata kuanguka kwa shomoro (ndege wadogo wenye rangi nyeupe, nyeusi, kijivu na kahawia ambao rangi hayo haivutii sana-sparrow). Anasema, "Ninyi ni wa thamani kuliko shomoro wengi." Mathayo 10:31.—(Counsels on Health, 423, 424) [Pr 212.1; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Sababu kwa nini wengi wameachwa peke yao katika maeneo ya majaribu ni kwamba hawakumweka Bwana mbele yao daima. Tunaporuhusu ushirika wetu na MUNGU uvunjwe, ulinzi wetu unatoweka kwetu. Siyo madhumuni yako yote mazuri na nia njema ndiyo vitakuwezesha kuhimili uovu. Lazima muwe wanaume na wanawake wa maombi. Maombi yenu hayapaswi kuzimia, kuwa ya msimu hapa na pale unapoamua, na ya kuzimia na kushtukiza kama kifafa, bali ya bidii, ya kudumu, na ya daima. Si lazima kila wakati kupiga magoti ili kuomba. Kuza tabia ya kuzungumza na Mwokozi unapokuwa peke yako, unapotembea, na unapokuwa na shughuli nyingi zinazohusiana na kazi zako ya kila siku. Acha moyo uinuliwe kila wakati katika ombi la kimya la msaada, kwa ajili ya nuru, nguvu, ufahamu na maarifa. Hebu kila pumzi iwe sala.—(The Ministry of Healing, 510, 511) [Pr 213.1; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Katika kazi ya kutunza mioyo ni lazima tuwe na utayari katika sala, bila kuchoka katika kukiomba kiti cha neema kwa ajili ya msaada. Wale ambao huchukua hubeba jina la "Mkristo" wanapaswa kumjia Mwenyezi MUNGU kwa unyofu na unyenyekevu, wakisihi msaada. Mwokozi ametuambia tuombe bila kukoma. Mkristo hawezi kuwa katika mkao wa kuomba kila wakati, lakini mawazo na matamano yake

yanaweza kupanda kuelekea juu kila wakati. Kujiamini nafsi zetu wenyewe kungetoweka, kama tungeongea kidogo tu na kusalizaidi.—(Sons and Daughters of God, 99) [Pr 213.2; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Njia ya kwenda kwenye kiti cha enzi cha MUNGU iko wazi kila wakati. Wewe hutaweza kupiga magoti kila wakati kwa ajili ya maombi, lakini maombi yako ya kimya yanaweza kupaa juu kwa MUNGU kila wakati kwa ajili ya nguvu na mwongozo. Utakapojaribiwa, kama itakavyokuwa, unaweza kukimbilia mahali pa siri Pake Yeye Aliye Juu. Mikono Yake ya milele itakuwa chini yako. Acha maneno haya yakutie nguvu, “Lakini wako wachache huko Sardi ambao hawakuyachafua mavazi yao; nao watakwenda pamoja Nami wakiwa wamevaa mavazi meupe, kwa maana wamestahili.” Ufunuo 3:4.— (Counsels on Health, 362) [Pr 213.3; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Ikiwa watendakazi wetu wote wangekuwa katika hali ambayo wanaweza kutumia saa chache kila siku katika kazi za nje, na kujisikia huru kufanya hivi, ingekuwa baraka kwao; wangeweza kutekeleza kwa ufanisi zaidi majukumu ya wito wao. Kama hawana muda wa kutosha kupumzika na kutuliza mawazo lrelaxl, wangeweza kuweka mikakati na kuomba waendeleo kufanya kazi kwa mikono yao, na hivyo wangeweza kurudi kwenye kazi yao wakiwa wameburudishwa katika mwili na roho—(Gospel Workers, 240) [Pr 213.4; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Ombi la dhati Halitegemei Wakati au Mahali au Hali/Mazingira— Omba chumbani mwako au mahali pa faragha, na unapoendelea na kibarua chako cha kila siku, acha moyo wako uinuliwe kwa MUNGU mara kwa mara. [Pr 214.1; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Ilikuwa kwa namna hiyo Henoko alipotembea na MUNGU. Maombi haya ya kimya huinuka kama uvumba wa thamani mbele ya kiti cha neema. Shetani hawezi kumtweza/kumshinda yule ambaye moyo wake umejitegemeza kwa MUNGU. [Pr 214.2; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Hakuna wakati au mahali ambapo haifai kutuma ombi kwa MUNGU. Hakuna kitu kinachoweza kutuzuia kuinua moyo yetu katika roho ya maombi ya bidii. Katika msongamano wa watu mitaani, katikati ya biashara au shuguli, tunaweza kutuma ombi kwa MUNGU na kusih

mwongozo wa MUNGU, kama vile Nehemia alipotoa ombi lake mbele ya Mfalme Artashasta. Ushirika wa karibu na faragha unaweza kupatikana popote tulipo. Mara zote tunapaswa kuacha mlango wa moyo ukiwa wazi na kutuma mwaliko wetu kwenda juu ili Yesu aje akae nasi kama mgeni kutoka mbinguni kwenye nafsi zetu -(Steps to Christ, 98, 99) [Pr 214.3; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Popote tuwapo, bila kujali ajira au shughuli zetu, mioyo yetu inapaswa kuinuliwa kwa Mwenyezi MUNGU katika maombi. Hii ni kuwa na utayari katika maombi wakati wowote. Hatuhitaji kusubiri hadi tuweze kupiga magoti kabla ya kuomba. Wakati fulani, Nehemia alipofika mbele ya mfalme, mfalme aliuliza ni kwanini alionekana kuwa mwenye huzuni, na ni ombi gani alikuwa anataka kutoa kwa mfalme. Lakini Nehemia hakuthubutu kujibu hapo hapo. Masilahi muhimu yalikuwa hatarini. Hatima ya taifa ilining'inia juu ya mtazamo ambao unapaswa kutengenezwa juu ya akili ya mfalme; naye Nehemia akatuma maombi kwa MUNGU wa Mbinguni, kabla hajathubutu kumjibu mfalme. Matokeo yakawa kwamba alipata yote aliyoomba au hata yale aliyoyatamani.—(The Signs of the Times, October 20, 1887) [Pr 214.4; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Madhumuni yako yote mema na dhamira njema havitakuwezesha kustahimili mitihani ya majaribu. Lazima muwe watu wa maombi. Maombi yenu hayapaswi kuzimia, kuwa ya msimu yaani kushtukiza hapa na pale bila kanuni, na ya mihemko, bali ya bidii, ya dhati, ya kudumu, na ya mara kwa mara (au daima). Sio lazima uwe peke yako, au upige magoti kuomba; lakini katikati ya shughuli zenu, nafsi zenu zinaweza kuinuliwa mara kwa mara kwa MUNGU, zikishikilia nguvu Zake; ndipo mtakapokuwa watu wa kusudi la juu, bora, takatifu, na waadilifu ambao hawatageuzwa kwa namna yoyote kutoka katika ile Kweli, na njia sahihi, na haki.—(Testimonies for the Church 4:542, 543) [Pr 214.4; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Ni lazima tuombe daima, kwa akili ya unyenyekevu na roho ya upole na unyenyekevu. Hatuhitaji kusubiri nafasi ya kupiga magoti mbele ya MUNGU. Tunaweza kuomba na kuongea na Bwana popote tulipo.— (Selected Messages 3:266) [Pr 214.5; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Maombi ya Hadhara yanapaswa Kuwa mafupi nayo, yaambatane na Sauti ya asili—Baadhi ya Maombi marefu yanayotolewa na wachungaji na wahudumu yamekuwa yasiyo na mafanikio (yamefeli). Kuomba sala refu kama wengine wanavyofanya sio sawa, kwani sio mahali pake. Wanaumiza koo na viungo vya sauti, na kisha wanazungumza juu ya kuvunjika afya kwa kazi yao ngumu. Wanajiumiza wenyewe wakati haipaswi kuwa hivyo. Wengi huhisi kwamba kusali huumiza viungo vyao vya sauti zaidi kuliko kuzungumza. Hili ni tokeo/tunda la kuweka mwili kwa mkao usio wa kawaida, na jinsi ya kichwa kinavyowekwa. Wanaweza kusimama na kuzungumza, na wasijisikie kujeruhiwa. Mkao wa maombi (position) unapaswa kuwa wa asili kabisa. Kuomba kwa muda mrefu kunachosha, na sio kwa mujibu wa injili ya Kristo. Nusu au hata robo ya saa ni ndefu sana. Muda wa dakika chache unatosha kuleta haja zako mbele za Mwenyezi MUNGU na kumwambia kile unachotaka; na unaweza kuwachukua watu pamoja nawe na bado usiwachoshe na kupunguza hamu yao katika ibada na sala. Wanaweza kuburudishwa na kuimarishwa, badala ya kuchoka. [Pr 215.2; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Kosa limefanywa na wengi katika mazoezi yao ya kidini katika kuomba kwa muda mrefu na kuhubiri kwa muda mrefu, kwa kupayuka au kutumia sauti ya juu sana, noti ya juu (high key), kwa sauti ya kulazimisha, kwa mkazo usio wa asili, mkao usio wa asili na sauti isiyo ya asili.—(Testimonies for the Church 2:617) [Pr 215.3; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Zungumza kwa Uwazi na toa sala kwa Uwazi—Kwa kielelezo chako mwenyewe wafundishe watoto wako kusali kwa sauti iliyo wazi na ukitofautisha maneno unapoyatamka. Wafundishe kuinua vichwa vyao kutoka kwenye kiti na kamwe wasifunike nyuso zao kwa mikono yao. Kwa kufanya hivyo wanaweza kutoa maombi yao sahili, wakirudia sala ya Bwana kwa pamoja.—(Child Guidance, 522, 523) [Pr 215.4; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Izoeze na kuinidhamisha akili kuwa makini Wakati wa kuomba—Maombi ya kila siku ni muhimu katika ukuaji wa neema, na hata kwa maisha ya kiroho yenyewe, kama vile chakula cha muda cha hapa duniani, tunachokula kwa ustawi wa kimwili. Tunapaswa kujizoeshwa kuinua mawazo

kwa MUNGU katika sala. Akili ikimangamanga huko na kule, lazima tuirudishe; kwa jitihada za dhati na zenye uvumilivu, mazoea hatimaye yatafanya iwe rahisi.—(The Sanctified Life, 93) [Pr 216.1; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Ombi halihitaji Kuwa refu au kuwa la sauti kubwa— Kusali hakueleweki jinsi inavyopaswa. Maombi yetu hayapaswi kumjulisha MUNGU juu ya kitu ambacho Yeye hajui. Bwana anajua siri za kila roho. Maombi yetu hayapaswi kuwa marefu na yenye sauti kubwa. MUNGU anasoma mawazo yaliyofichika. Tunaweza kuomba kwa siri, na Yeye anayeona katika siri atasikia, na atatupatia thawabu hadharani.—(Messages to Young People, 247) [Pr 216.2; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Hatupaswi Kujaribu Kumwamuru MUNGU Katika Maombi— Maombi yetu hayapaswi kuwa katika namna ya amri, kumwamrisha Mungu, bali yawe ni ya maombezi, Kwake Yeye, ili Ayafanye mambo tunayotamani kupata kutoka Kwake.—(Counsels on Health, 379) [Pr 216.3; Maombi Aya ya 36]

Omba kwa Imani—Omba kwa imani. Hakikisha unayapatanisha maisha yako na maombi yako, ili upate kupokea baraka ambazo unaziombea. Usiache Imani yako idhoofike, kwani baraka zinazopokelewa zinalingana na imani iliyopo, yaani inayozoezwa/inayoonyeshwa. "na iwe kwako kulingana na imani yako". Na mkiwa na imani, chochote mtakachomba katika sala, mtapata."Mathayo 9:29; Mathayo 21:22. Omba, amini, furahi. Mwimbieni MUNGU sifa kwa sababu Yeye amejibu maombi yenu. Muendee Bwana kwa Neno Lake. "Yeye ni Mwaminifu aliyeahidi." Waebrania 10:23. Hakuna ombi hata moja la dhati linalopotea. Njia iko wazi; na mkondo unabubujika. Umebeba miliki ya uponyaji, ukimimina mawimbi ya kurudisha uzima, afya na wokovu. (Testimonies for the Church 7:274) [Pr 216.4; Maombi Aya ya 37]

Hebu uaminifu na imani viwe sifa ya maombi yako. Bwana Yu tayari kutufanyia sisi "mambo ya ajabu mno kuliko yote tuyaombayo au tuyawazayo." Waefeso 3:20. Zungumza hilo; liombee hilo. Usiongee kuhusu kutokuamini. Hatuwezi kumuacha Shetani aone kwamba ana uwezo wa kuzitia nyuso zetu giza na kuhuzunisha

maisha yetu.—(Testimonies for the Church 7:273) [Pr 216.5; Maombi Aya ya 38]

SURA YA 20

KUOMBA KATIKA JINA LA YESU

Jina la Yesu Ndio Kiungo/Kiunganishi Katika Maombi Kati ya Ubinadamu wote na MUNGU—Katika Jina la Kristo maombi yetu yanapanda juu kwa Baba. Yeye hutuombea, na kututetea kwa niaba yetu, na Baba anazianika wazi hazina zote za neema Yake kwa ajili ya kutupatanisha/kutumengea sisi, ili sisi tufurahie na kuwagawia wengine. “Ombeni kwa Jina Langu,” Kristo asema. Sisemi kwamba nitawaombea kwa Baba; kwa maana Baba Mwenyewe anawapenda ninyi. Litumieni Jina Langu ili mpate kunufaika. Hii itayafanya maombi yenu yawe na ufanisi, na Baba atawapa utajiri wa neema Yake. Kwa hiyo ombeni, nanyi mtapata, ili furaha yenu iwe timilifu.” [Pr 217.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Kristo Ndiye kiungo kinachomwunganisha MUNGU na mwanadamu. Yeye Ameahidi maombezi Yake binafsi. Yeye Anaweka wema/fadhila yote ya haki Yake upande wa mwombaji. Kristo amamwombea mwanadamu, na mwanadamu, anayehitaji msaada wa Bwana, anasihi kwaajili yake mwenyewe mbele za MUNGU, akitumia nguvu ya ushawishi wa Yule aliyetoa maisha Yake kwa ulimwengu. Tunapokiri mbele za MUNGU ukubali wetu wa sifa na haki ya Kristo, uvumba wa manukato hutolewa kwa ajili ya maombezi yetu. Tunapomkaribia MUNGU kupitia fadhila ya haki na sifa za Mkombozi, Kristo hutuweka karibu na upande Wake, akituzunguka kwa mkono Wake wa kianadamu, wakati kwa mkono Wake wa Kiungu Yeye

anashika kiti cha enzi cha Yule Asiye na kikomo. Yeye huweka sifa na haki Yake, kama uvumba mtamu wa manukato, ndani ya chetezo mikononi mwetu, ili kutia moyo maombi yetu. Yeye Anaahidi kusikia na kujibu maombi yetu. [Pr 217.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Ndio, Kristo amekuwa njia ya maombi kati ya mwanadamu na MUNGU (kiwambaza cha kati Ebrania 10:20). Pia amekuwa njia ya baraka kati ya MUNGU na mwanadamu. Ameunganisha Uungu na ubinadamu. Watu wanapaswa kushirikiana Naye kwa ajili ya wokovu wa roho zao wenyewe, na kisha kufanya bidii, na jitihada za dhati zenye kudumu ili kuokoa wale ambao wako tayari kufa. - (Testimonies for the Church 8:178) [Pr 218.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Bado wanafunzi walikuwa hawajui rasilimali na nguvu za Mwokozi zisizo na kikomo. Akawaambia, "Mpaka sasa hamkuomba chochote kwa Jina Langu." Yohana 16:24. Alielezea kuwa siri ya mafanikio yao itakuwa katika kuomba nguvu na neema kwa Jina Lake. Kwamba Yeye Atakuwepo mbele za Baba kuwaombea. Maombi ya mwombaji mnyenyekevu huwasilishwa Naye kama matamano Yake Mwenyewe kwa niaba ya roho hiyo. Kila ombi la dhati husikika mbinguni. Linaweza lisiwasilishwe kwa ufasaha/umbuji; lakini ikiwa linatoka moyoni (moyo umo ndani yake), litapanda kwenda mahali Patakatifu ambapo Yesu anahudumu, na Yeye ataliwasilisha kwa Baba bila hata Neno moja lisilopendeza, lenye kuudhi, tata, gumu au lenye kigugumizi, bali kwa Neno zuri na lenye harufu nzuri ya ubani wa ukamilifu Wake Mwenyewe. –(The Desire of Ages, 667) [Pr 218.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Wanafunzi walipaswa kuendeleza kazi yao katika Jina la Kristo. Kila neno na tendo lao lilipaswa kukazia fikira juu ya Jina Lake, kama lililo na nguvu muhimu ambayo kwayo wenye dhambi wanaweza kuokolewa. Imani yao ilikuwa ni kujikita ndani Yake, Yeye ambaye ni Chanzo cha rehema na nguvu. Katika Jina Lake walipaswa kuwasilisha maombi yao kwa Baba, na wangepokea majibu. Walipaswa kubatiza kwa Jina la Baba, la Mwana, na la Roho Mtakatifu. Jina la Kristo lilipaswa kuwa tamko la imani yao, kauli mbiu, kitambulisho cha utofauti wao, beji yao ya upekee, kifungo chao cha muungano, mamlaka ya mwenendo wao, na

chanzo cha mafanikio yao .— (The Acts of the Apostles, 28)
[Pr 218.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Patakatifu pa Patakatifu naliona sanduku; juu na pande zake ilikuwa dhahabu safi. Kila mwisho wa sanduku kulikuwa na kerubi mwenye kupendeza, na mabawa yake yametandazwa juu yake. Nyuso zao zilielekeana, na wakatazama chini. Kati ya malaika hao kulikuwa na chetezo cha dhahabu. Juu ya sanduku, pale waliposimama malaika, palikuwa na utukufu ung'ao sana, ukionekana kama kiti cha enzi alipokaa MUNGU (Shekina). Yesu alisimama kando ya sanduku, na sala za watakatifu zilipomjia, uvumba ndani ya chetezo ukatoka moshi, na Yeye alitoa sala zao pamoja na moshi wa uvumba kwa Baba Yake.—(Early Writings, 32) [Pr 218.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Ina maana gani kuomba Katika Jina la Yesu—Kuomba katika Jina la Kristo kunamaanisha mengi. Inamaanisha kwamba tunapaswa kukubali tabia Yake, kudhihirisha roho Yake, na kufanya kazi Zake. Ahadi ya Mwokozi inatolewa kwa masharti. “Mkinipenda,” Anasema, “mtazishika amri Zangu.” Yeye huwaokoa wanadamu, si katika dhambi, bali kutoka katika dhambi; na wale wanaompenda wataonyesha upendo wao kwa utii.—(The Desire of Ages, 668) [Pr 219.1; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Yesu alisema, "Ninyi mtaomba kwa Jina Langu; na siwaambii, kwamba nitaomba kwa Baba kwa ajili yenu: kwa maana Baba Mwenyewe anawapenda. "Mimi Nimewachagua: ili chochote mtakachomwomba Baba kwa Jina Langu, awapatie." Yohana 16:26, 27; Yohana 15:16. Lakini kuomba katika Jina la Yesu ni jambo zaidi ya kutaja tu Jina hilo mwanzoni na mwisho wa ombi. Ni kuomba katika akili, nia na roho ya Yesu, huku tukiamini ahadi Zake, kutegemea neema Yake, na kufanya kazi Zake. —(Steps to Christ, 100, 101) [Pr 219.2; Maombi Aya ya 8]

MUNGU Anatalika Sisi Kuja Kwake katika Jina la Yesu —Wewe unaalikwa kuja, kuomba, kutafuta, kubisha; na umehakikishiwa kwamba hautatoka mtupu. Yesu anasema, “Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa; tafuteni, nanyi mtapata; bisheni, nanyi mtafunguliwa; kwa maana kila aombaye hupokea; naye atafutaye hupata; na yeye abishaye atafunguliwa.” Mathayo 7:7, 8. [Pr 219.3; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Kristo anaonyesha nia ya MUNGU kubariki kwa utayari wa baba kutimiza ombi la mtoto wake. Yeye Anasema, "Je, kuna yeyote miongoni mwenu ambaye mtoto wake akimwomba mkate, atampa jiwe?" au akimwomba samaki atampa nyoka badala ya samaki? Na kama akimwomba yai, je, atampa ng'e? Ikiwa basi ninyi, mlio waovu, mnajua kuwapa watoto wenu vipawa vyema, si zaidi sana Baba yenu wa mbinguni atawapa Roho Mtakatifu hao wamwombao? Luka 11:11-13. [Pr 219.4; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Tunamwendea MUNGU katika Jina la Yesu kwa mwaliko maalum, Naye anatukaribisha kwenye chumba Chake cha faragha cha kusikiliza maombi. Yeye Anaikabidhi ile nafsi iliyonyenyekea, iliyotubu, ile imani katika Kristo ambayo kwayo anahesabiwa haki. Yesu anafuta uovu wake kama wingu zito, na moyo uliofarijiwa unapaza sauti kwa kushangilia, "Ee Bwana, nitakusifu; ingawa ulinikasirikia, hasira Yako imegeuka, nawe umenifariji. Isaya 12:1.— (Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 242) [Pr 220.1; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Omba katika Jina la Yesu na kwa uvuvio wa Roho Mtakatifu — Wakati mtu anatoa ombi la dhiti na bidii kwa MUNGU (Yesu Kristo Ndilo Jina pekee tulilopewa chini ya mbingu litupasalo kuokolewa), katika ile nguvu na unyofu kuna ahadi kutoka kwa MUNGU kwamba Yeye Yupo karibu kujibu hilo ombi na zaidi, juu ya yote tunayoweza kumuomba au kufikiri (Efeso 3:20). Hatupaswi kuomba tu katika Jina la Yesu, bali kwa uvuvio na uwepo wa moto/joto la Roho Mtakatifu. Hii inaelezea kuwa kuna maana gani kusema, "Roho Mwenyewe hutuombea kwa maumivu/kuugua kwingi kusikoweza kutamkika." Maombi lazima yatolewe kwa imani ya dhiti. Kisha yatakifikia kiti cha rehema. Endelea kuomba bila kusita au kuchoka. MUNGU hasemi, Omba mara moja tu, Nami nitakujibu. Neno Lake ni omba, kuwa mwepesi kuomba yaani uwe na utayari wa kutoa sala wakati wowote, ukiamini kwamba umekwishavipokea vile vitu ambavyo umeviomba, nawe utavipokea; Mimi Nitakujibu. - (Gospel Herald, Mei 28, 1902) [Pr 220.2; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Twaweza Kumkaribia MUNGU kwa Ujasiri Kupitia Jina la Yesu—Unyenyekevu na ucha Mungu vinapaswa kubainisha tabia ya wote wanaokuja katika uwepo wa MUNGU. Kwa Jina la Yesu sisi tunaweza kwenda mbele

Zake kwa ujasiri, lakini hatupaswi kumkaribia Yeye kwa ujasiri wenye udanganyifu, usiofuata mapenzi yake, au kiburi, au vile ambavyo Mungu hajatuelekeza (kwa dhana potofu), kana kwamba Yeye Yupo ngazi moja na sisi. Kuna wale ambao wanazungumza na MUNGU mkuu na Mwenye nguvu zote na mtakatifu, ambaye anakaa katika nuru isiyoweza kufikiwa, kama wanavyoweza kuongea na mtu wanayelingana naye, au hata mtu duni kuliko wao. Kuna wale wanaotenda katika nyumba Yake Mungu kwa namna ambayo hawawezi kufanya katika chumba cha kuonia na mtawala wa kidunia. Hawa wanapaswa kukumbuka kuwa wako machoni Pake Yeye Yule ambaye maserafi humwabudu, mahali ambapo malaika hufunika nyuso zao mbele Yake.- (Patriarchs and Prophets, 252) [Pr 220.3; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Kwa Jina la Yesu tunaweza kwenda mbele za uwepo wa MUNGU na ujasiri wa mtoto. Hakuna mtu anayehitajika kufanya kazi kama mpatanishi. Kupitia Yesu, sisi tunaweza kufungua mioyo yetu kwa MUNGU kama kwa Yule anayetujua na kutupenda sisi.—(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 84) [Pr 221.1; Maombi Aya ya 14]

MUNGU Ataliheshimu Jina la Yesu Katika Maombi yetu
—Kila ahadi katika Neno la MUNGU hutupatia jambo la kuombea, ikiwasilisha Neno la Yehova aliloahidi kama uhakikisho wetu. Haijalishi baraka yoyote ya kiroho tunayoihitaji, sisi tumependelewa kuidai kupitia Yesu. Tunaweza kumwambia Bwana, kwa unyenyekevu na usahili wa mtoto kile tunachohitaji haswa. Tunaweza kumwambia mambo yetu ya muda mfupi, tukamwomba mkate na mavazi na Mkate wa Uzima na joho la haki ya Kristo. Baba yako wa mbinguni anajua kuwa unahitaji vitu hivi vyote, nawe umealikwa kumuomba kuhusiana na hivi vyote. Ni kupitia Jina la Yesu tu, kwamba kila neema inapokelewa. MUNGU ataheshimu Jina Hilo, na atakidhi mahitaji yako kutoka katika utajiri wa ukarimu Wake (anatoa kwa uhuru mkubwa, watu wamehesabu ahadi 8100 kwenye Biblia, jaribu kuihesabu Ahadi 12 za Mungu katika Kutoka 20 leo!). —(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 133) [Pr 221.2; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Hatupaswi kuomba tu katika Jina la Kristo, bali kwa uvuvio wa Roho Mtakatifu. Hii inaelezea kuwa ina maana gani kusema, "Roho Mwenyewe hutuombea kwa kuugua na

maumivu makubwa yasiyoweza kutamkika." Warumi 8:26 MUNGU hufurahia kujibu maombi kama hayo. Tunapotoa ombi katika Jina la Kristo kwa dhati na nguvu, kuna ahadi yenye nguvu kutoka kwa MUNGU kwamba Yu karibu kujibu ombi letu "kwa wingi zaidi ya yote tunayoomba au kufikiri." Waefeso 3:20. [Pr 221.3; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Kristo amesema, "Yoyote myaombayo mkisali, aminini ya kwamba mnayapokea, nayo yatakuwa yenu. Marko 11:24. "Nanyi mkiomba lolote kwa Jina Langu, hilo nitalifanya, ili Baba atukuzwe ndani ya Mwana. Yohana 14:13. Naye Yohana mpendwa, chini ya uvuvio wa Roho Mtakatifu, anena kwa uwazi na uhakikisho ulio mkuu: "Tukiomba chochote sawasawa na mapenzi Yake, Yeye hutusikia; na ikiwa tunajua kwamba Yeye hutusikia, lolote tuombalo, tunajua kwamba tuna maombi ambayo tulimwomba." 1 Yohana 5:14, 15. Basi wasilisha maombi yako kwa ujasiri na msukumo kwa Baba katika Jina la Yesu. MUNGU ataliheshimu Jina hilo.—(Christ's Object Lessons, 147, 148) [Pr 221.4; Maombi Aya ya 17]

SURA YA 21

MWONGOZO WA BWANA KUPITIA MAOMBI

Tunaweza Kujifunza Mapenzi ya MUNGU Kwetu Kupitia Maombi—Bwana hafanyi kazi bila kanuni au kiholela bila mipango. Mtafuteni Bwana kwa dhati na bidii sana katika maombi. Yeye Ataivuvia akili, na atatoa ulimi na usemi. Watu wa MUNGU wanapaswa kuelimishwa kutotegemea mavumbuzi na ubunifu wa mwanadamu na mitihani isiyo na uhakika kama njia ya kujifunza mapenzi ya Mungu kuhusu wao. Shetani na mawakala wake daima wako tayari kuingia katika mpenyo wowote utakaopatikana ambao utawaongoza watu kutoka kwenye kanuni safi za Neno la MUNGU. Watu wanaoongozwa na kufundishwa na MUNGU hawatatoa nafasi kwa ubunifu na mawazo ambayo kwayo hakuna "Bwana asema hivi." (Selected Messages 2:326) [Pr 222.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Omba kwa ajili ya Mwongozo wa MUNGU—Ni lazima uelimishe maamuzi yako ili yasiwe dhaifu, duni, yasio na

ufanisi na yasiyofaa. Ni lazima uombe kwa ajili ya uongozi, na kukabidhi njia zako mbele za Bwana. Ni lazima uufunge moyo wako dhidi ya upumbavu na dhambi zote, na kuufungua kwa kila mvuto wa mbinguni. Ni lazima utumie vyema wakati, na fursa zako zote, ili kukuza tabia linganifu.— (Fundamentals of Christian Education, 302) [Pr 222.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Katika kila familia inapaswa kuwe na wakati uliowekwa wa ibada ya asubuhi na jioni. Ni jambo linalofaa kwa kiasi gani, kwamba wazazi wawakusanye watoto wao pamoja nao kabla ya kula kifungua kinywa kuanza, kumshukuru Baba wa mbinguni kwa ulinzi Wake wakati wa usiku, na kumwomba msaada Wake, mwongozo na utunzaji Wake wakati wa mchana! Ni jambo jema linanofaa kwa kiasi gani pia, jioni ifikapo, kwa wazazi na watoto kukusanyika kwa mara nyingine mbele Zake na kumshukuru kwa baraka za siku ambayo imepita!— (Testimonies for the Church 7:43) [Pr 223.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Jitoe wakfu kwa MUNGU asubuhi; fanya hii iwe kazi yako ya kwanza kabisa. Ombi lako na liwe, “Nichukue, Ee Bwana, niwe Wako kabisa. Ninaweka mipango yangu yote miguuni Pako. Nitumie leo katika huduma yako. Kaa nami, na kazi yangu yote ifanyike ndani Yako.” Hili ni suala la kila siku. Kila asubuhi jitoe wakfu kwa MUNGU kwa ajili ya siku hiyo. Mkabidhi Yeye mipango yako yote, ili itekelezwe au iharishwe au isifanyike kama ulivyopanga, kulingana na jinsi Majaliwa Yake yatakavyoongoza. Kwa namna hiyo unakuwa umeyatoa maisha yako mikononi mwa MUNGU siku kwa siku, na kwa njia hiyo maisha yako yatafanywa kuumbwa zaidi na zaidi kufanana na maisha ya Kristo. - (Steps to Christ, 70) [Pr 223.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Lazima ujifunze kuona kwa akili yako na pia macho yako. Lazima uyaelimishe maamuzi yako ili yasiwe dhaifu, duni na yasiyo na ufanisi au yasiyofaa. Ni lazima uombe kwa ajili ya uongozi, na kuweka njia yako kwa Bwana. Ni lazima uufunge moyo wako dhidi ya upumbavu na dhambi zote, na kuufungua kwa kila mvuto/ushawishi wa mbinguni. Ni lazima utumie vizuri wakati na fursa zako, ili kusitawisha tabia yenye ulinganifu.—(Sons and Daughters of God, 283) [Pr 223.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Ombi kwa Ajili ya Mwongozo wa MUNGU linaweza Kutolewa Wakati Wowote, na mahali Popote—Hakuna wakati au mahali ambapo haifai kutoa ombi kwa MUNGU. Hakuna kitu kinachoweza kutuzuia kuinua mioyo yetu kwa roho ya maombi ya dhati na bidii. Katika umati wa watu mitaani, katikati ya shuguli, pilikapilika au biashara, tunaweza kutuma ombi kwa MUNGU na kuomba mwongozo wa MUNGU, kama vile Nehemia alipotoa ombi lake mbele ya Mfalme Artashasta. Ushirika wa karibu unaweza kupatikana popote tulipo. Tunapaswa kuacha mlango wa moyo wazi daima na mwaliko wetu kwa Masihi ukiendelea kupanda juu ili Yesu aje na kukaa ndani yetu kama Mgeni wa mbinguni katika nafsi.—(Steps to Christ, 98, 99). [Pr 223.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Kuomba kama Nehemia alivyoomba katika saa yake ya uhitaji ni nyenzo ya kumuongoza Mkristo katika mazingira ambapo aina nyingine za maombi zinaweza kushindikana, watu wanaohenyeka katika vibarua vyenye shuguli nyingi maishani, waliojawa na msongo na karibu kuzidiwa au kutindikiwa na fedheha, wanaweza kutuma ombi kwa MUNGU kwa ajili ya kupata mwongozo Wake. Wasafiri baharini na nchi kavu, wanapotishiwa na hatari kubwa, wanaweza kujikabidhi katika ulinzi wa Mbingu. Wakati wa shida ya ghafla au hatari, moyo unaweza kutuma kilio chake cha kuomba msaada kwa Yule ambaye ameahidi Mwenyewe kuwasaidia waaminifu Wake wale waaminio kila wanapomwita. Katika kila jambo au mazingira, chini ya kila hali, nafsi iliyolemewa na huzuni na masumbufu ya maisha haya, au kushambuliwa vikali na jaribu, inaweza kupata uthibitisho, msaada, sapoti, na usaidizi katika ule upendo usiokoma na nguvu ya MUNGU Anayeshika agano.—(Prophets and Kings, 631, 632) [Pr 224.1; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Malaika Wako Karibu sana Kusaidia Tunapoomba Mwongozo wa MUNGU—Kama Nathanaeli, tunahitaji kujifunza Neno la MUNGU kwaajili yetu wenyewe, na kusali kwa ajili ya kuangaziwa na Roho Mtakatifu. Yeye aliyemwona Nathanaeli chini ya mtini atatuona sisi mahali pa sirini pa maombi. Malaika kutoka katika ulimwengu wa nuru wako karibu na wale ambao kwa unyenyekevu wanatafuta mwongozo wa Bwana.—(The Desire of Ages, 141) [Pr 224.2; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Ulimwengu unaoonekana na usioonekana upo katika mawasiliano ya karibu. Ikiwa pazia lingeondolewa, tungeliwaona malaika waovu wakisukuma giza lao kutuzunguka na kufanya kazi kwa uwezo wao wote kudanganya na kuharibu. Watu waovu wamezingirwa, wanashawishiwa, na kusaidiwa na roho waovu. Mtu wa imani na maombi ameitoa nafsi yake kwenye mwongozo wa Bwana, na malaika wa MUNGU huleta Kwake nuru na nguvu kutoka mbinguni.— (Testimonies for the Church 5:199) [Pr 224.3; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Ujuzi wa Ukweli haitegemei sana nguvu ya akili kama ilivyo juu ya usafi wa kusudi la moyo, na usahili wa imani ya dhati inayomtegemea Mungu. Kwa wale wanatafuta mwongozo wa MUNGU, kwa unyenyekevu wa moyo, malaika wa MUNGU huwakaribia (karibu). Roho Mtakatifu ametolewa ili kuwafungulia hazina nyingi za ile Kweli.— (Christ's Object Lessons, 59) [Pr 225.1; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Chochote Tunachohitaji, Twaweza Kudai Katika Ombi—Kila ahadi* katika Neno la MUNGU hutupatia mada kwa ajili ya ombi, ikiwasilisha Neno la Yehova lililoahidiwa kuwa uhakikisho wetu. Haijalishi baraka yoyote ya kiroho tunayohitaji, sisi tumependelewa kuiomba kupitia Yesu. Tunaweza kumwambia Bwana, kwa usahili na unyenyekevu wa mtoto, kile tunachohitaji haswa. Tunaweza kumwambia mambo yetu ya muda mfupi yanayopita, tukimwomba mkate na mavazi na Mkate wa Uzima na joho la haki ya Kristo. Baba yako wa mbinguni anajua kuwa wewe unahitaji vitu hivi vyote, nawe umealikwa kumwomba juu ya vyote. Ni kupitia Jina la Yesu kwamba kila neema inapokelewa. MUNGU ataheshimu Jina hilo, na atakidhi mahitaji yako kutoka katika utajiri wa ukarimu Wake (*kila ahadi hutupa jambo la kuombea, zipo ahadi zaidi ya 8100 kwenye Biblia, hata zile amri kumi za Kutoka 20 zina angalau ahadi 12 za kudai!). —(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 133) [Pr 225.2; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Wazazi waombe Mwongozo wa MUNGU—Wazazi, nyenyekezeni mioyo yenu mbele za MUNGU. Anza kazi kamilifu kwa watoto wako. Msihi Bwana akusamehe kwa kulipuuzia kwako Neno Lake, katika kutojali kuwazoeza watoto wako katika njia wanayopaswa kuiendea. Omba nuru na mwongozo, **dhamiri nyororo,** na maamuzi/utambuzi ulio wazi ili uone makosa na

kufeli/kushindwa kwako. MUNGU atasikia maombi kama hayo kutoka kwenye moyo mnyenyekevu na uliopondeka. - (Child Guidance, 557) [Pr 225.3; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Wale walio tayari Kuongozwa Wanaweza Kujua Mapenzi ya MUNGU— Bwana hufunua mapenzi Yake kwa wale walio na bidii ya dhati na wanaotamani kuongozwa Naye. Sababu ya kukosa kwako ufanisi ni kwamba umeacha wazo la kujua na kuyafanya mapenzi ya MUNGU, na hivyo haujui chochote katika mtazamo chanya. - (Ushuhuda kwa Kanisa 3: 466) [Pr 225.4; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Yachunguze Maandiko kwa Sala kwa ajili ya Uongozi wa Bwana — Wale ambao hawataki kukubali ule Ukweli ulio wazi, ule unaokatakata wa Biblia, na ulio thabiti, kisha daima wakaendelea kutafuta hekaya za kupendeza ambazo zitatuliza au kunyamazisha dhamiri zao, kadiri ya mafundisho yanavyokuwa na upungufu wa mionjo ya kiroho, kujikana nafsi, na kujidhili au kujinyenyekeza, ndivyo yanavyopokelewa kwa upendeleo mkubwa zaidi. Watu hawa wanapunguza nguvu za kiakili katika kutumikia tamaa zao za mwili. Hujiona wenye busara sana katika mawazo yao wenyewe yenye kiburi hata wasitafute Maandiko na kutubu kwa roho na maombi ya moyo uliopondeka na maombi dhati kwa ajili ya mwongozo wa Bwana, hawana ngao dhidi ya udanganyifu. Shetani yuko tayari kutimiza matamaniao ya mioyo yao, naye anaingiza udanganyifu wake alioushika mkoni mwake mahali pa ile Kweli na hivyo kuwatawala kirahisi sana.—(The Great Controversy, 523) [Pr 226.1; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Mtumaini MUNGU Naye Ataongoza Njia Yako — Wengi wanashindwa kupanga mipango bainifu/dhahiri ya siku zijazo. Maisha yao hayajatulia. Wanashindwa kutambua matokeo ya mambo, na hii mara nyingi huwajaza wasiwasi, fadhaa na machafuko (wanakosa utulivu). Hebu na tukumbuke kwamba maisha ya watoto wa MUNGU katika ulimwengu huu ni maisha ya safari ya hija (wasafiri na wapitaji). Sisi hatuna hekima ya kupanga maisha yetu wenyewe. Sio juu yetu kutengeneza au kuyaumba maisha yetu ya baadaye. “Kwa imani Abrahamu alimtii MUNGU alipoitwa aende katika nchi ambayo MUNGU angempa iwe urithi wake. Ingawa hakujua alikokuwa anakwenda, Abrahamu alienda. Waebrania 11: 8. [Pr 226.2; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Kristo katika maisha Yake humu duniani hakujifanyia/hakujipangia mikakati ya maisha Yake Yeye Mwenyewe. Alikubali mipango ya MUNGU Kwake, na siku hadi siku Baba aliifunua mipango Yake. Ndivyo nasi tunavyopaswa kumtegemea MUNGU, ili maisha yetu yaweze kuwa na utekelezaji rahisi yaani mtelemko unaoelekea kwenye mapenzi Yake. Tunapomkabidhi njia zetu, Yeye ataziongoza hatua zetu. [Pr 226.3; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Wengi sana, katika kupanga maisha mazuri ya baadaye, huishia kushindwa kabisa. Mwachie MUNGU akupangie. Kama mtoto mdogo, tumaini mwongozo Wake “Yeye ambaye atashikilia vyema miguu ya watakatifu Wake.” 1 Samweli 2: 9. Mungu kamwe hawaongozi watoto Wake tofauti na vile ambavyo wangechagua kuongozwa, ikiwa wangeweza kuona mwisho tangu mwanzo na kutambua utukufu wa kusudi ambalo wanalitimiza kama watenda kazi pamoja Naye.— (The Ministry of Healing, 478, 479) [Pr 226.4; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Ikiwa umejitoe kwa MUNGU kuifanya kazi Yake, hauna haja ya kuwa na wasiwasi juu ya kesho. Yeye ambaye wewe ni mtumishi Wake, anajua mwisho tangu mwanzo. Matukio ya kesho, ambayo yamefichwa machoni pako, yako wazi machoni Pake Yeye aliye na nguvu zote. [Pr 226.5; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Tunapojichukulia mikononi mwetu usimamizi wa vitu ambavyo tunapaswa kufanya, na kutegemea hekima yetu wenyewe kwa ajili ya mafanikio, tunajitwika mzigo ambao MUNGU hajatupatia, na tunajaribu kuibeba bila msaada Wake. Tunachukua jukumu ambalo ni la MUNGU, na kwa hivyo tunajiweka wenyewe katika nafasi Yake (GOD’s syndrome). Tunaweza kujiletea wasiwasi, fadhaa na kutarajia kukumbana na hatari na hasara, kwani mambo haya yatatupata kwa hakika. Lakini wakati tunaamini kabisa kwamba MUNGU anatupenda Naye ana kusudi la kututendea mema tutakoma kuwa na wasiwasi juu ya siku zijazo. Tutamtumaini MUNGU kama vile mtoto anavyomwamini mzazi wake mwenye upendo. Ndipo taabu

zetu na mateso yatatoweka, kwani mapenzi yetu yamemezwa katika mapenzi ya MUNGU. –(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 100, 101) [Pr 227.1; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Eliezeri Aliomba kwa ajili ya—na Akapokea—Mwongozo wa MUNGU—Akikumbuka maneno ya Abrahamu, kwamba MUNGU atamtuma malaika Wake pamoja naye, alisali kwa dhati na bidii ili kupata mwongozo chanya. Katika familia ya bwana wake alikuwa amezoea tabia ya fadhili/wema, kukaribisha wageni na kuwakarimia/ukarimu, na sasa aliomba kwamba kitendo cha fadhila na ukarimu wa mwenyeji wake kiweze kuonyesha pia msichana ambaye MUNGU alimchagua. [Pr 227.2; Maombi Aya ya 20]

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Punde baada ya kutolewa maombi, jibu likapatikana papo hapo. Miongoni mwa wanawake ambao walikuwa wamekusanyika kwenye kisima, fadhila/kujistahi/adabu ya mmoja wao ikawa imemvutia. Yule msichana alipokuwa anatoka kisimani, yule mgeni alikwenda kumlaki, akiomba maji kwenye mtungi ulio begani mwake. Ombi hilo lilipokelewa kwa jibu zuri, na ofa ya kuteka maji kwa ajili ya ngamia pia ikatamkwa na msichana huyu, huduma ambayo ilikuwa ni desturi kwa wageni hata kwa binti za wakuu kufanya kwa ajili ya mifugo na makundi ya baba zao. Kwa hivyo ishara iliyotarajiwa ilitolewa/ilionyeshwa na (Rebeka). - (Patriarchs and Prophets, 172) [Pr 227.3; Maombi Aya ya 21]

SURA YA 22

MAOMBI KWA AJILI YA WAGONJWA

Maombi yanapaswa Kutolewa kwa ajili ya Wagonjwa kwa Imani tulivu—Nilionyeshwa kwamba katika suala la ugonjwa, pale ambapo njia iko wazi kwa ajili ya kutoa ombi kwa ajili ya wagonjwa, kesi ya mgonjwa inapaswa kukabidhiwa kwa Bwana kwa imani tulivu, sio kwa dhoruba ya msisimko. Yeye peke yake Ndiye anafahamu maisha ya zamani ya mtu huyo na Ndiye anayejua kesho yake itakuwaje. Yeye anayefahamu mioyo ya watu wote anajua ikiwa mtu huyo ataponywa na kisha atoke kitandani mwake, na kulitukuza Jina Lake au atamvunjia heshima Mungu kwa kurudi nyuma na kuasi. Yote tunayotakiwa kufanya ni kumwomba MUNGU awaponye wagonjwa ikiwa ni sawa na mapenzi Yake, tukiamini kuwa Yeye husikia sababu tunazowasilisha na maombi ya bidii yanayotolewa. Ikiwa Bwana ataona itamtukuza zaidi, Yeye atajibu maombi yetu. Lakini kuisitiza au kulazimisha mgonjwa apone bila kujisalimisha kwenye mapenzi Yake sio sawa. - (Testimonies for the Church 2:147, 148) [Pr 228.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Pamoja na matibabu yetu yote tunayowapa wagonjwa, maombi rahisi na ya bidii yanapaswa kutolewa kwa ajili ya baraka za uponyaji. Tunapaswa kuwaelekeza wagonjwa kwa Mwokozi Mwenye huruma, na nguvu Yake ya kusamehe na kuponya. —(Selected Messages 3:296). [Pr 228.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Wale ambao hufanya kazi ya nyumba kwa nyumba watapata fursa za huduma katika namna nyingi (anuwai). Wanapaswa kuwaombea wagonjwa na wanapaswa kufanya yote katika uwezo wao kuwaondoa katika mateso. — (Testimonies for the Church 6:83, 84). [Pr 229.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Mwokozi angetutaka tuwatie matumaini wagonjwa wasio na tumaini, wale walio na shida ya maumivu au mateso,

kushikilia nguvu Zake. Kupitia imani na maombi, chumba cha wagonjwa kinaweza kubadilishwa kuwa Betheli (nyumba ya Mungu kama pale Yakobo alipita). - (The Ministry of Healing, 226) [Pr 229.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Ikiwa tuna udhaifu wa mwili, kwa kweli ni hakika kumtumainia Bwana, tukiomba dua kwa MUNGU wetu katika kesi yetu, na ikiwa tunajisikia kuwaomba wengine ambao kupitia wao tunao ujasiri wa kuungana nao kwa ajili ya maombi kwa Yesu ambaye ni Tabibu hodari, hakika msaada utakuja ikiwa tutaomba kwa imani. - (Medical Ministry, 16) [Pr 229.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Tulituma maombi yetu ya unyenyekevu kwa ajili ya yule aliye mgonjwa na aliyesumbuliwa, ambaye alikuwa njiani kupoteza maisha haya-akichungulia kaburi. Tulipowasilisha jambo hii mbele ya Bwana, tulihisi uhakikisho wa upendo wa MUNGU hata katika kuugua na mateso haya.—(The Review and Herald, October 11, 1887) [Pr 229.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Tulimuweka wakfu mtoto na kuomba juu yake, tukiamini kwamba Bwana atawapa mama na mtoto amani. Ikawa hivyo. Vilio vya mtoto vilikoma, na tukawaacha wakiendelea vizuri. —(Spiritual Gifts 2:110, 111) [Pr 229.5; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Wagonjwa wataongozwa kwa Kristo kwa umakini na utunzaji wa wauguzi ambao wanayawazia mahitaji yao kabla hata hawajauliza msaada wao, na ambao huinama katika ombi na kumwomba Mmishenari Mkuu wa Tiba kumtazama kwa huruma mgonjwa anayeteseka na kuruhusu ushawishi unaotuliza wa neema Yake usikike na urejeshwaji wa nguvu Zake udhihirike. - (Medical Ministry, 191, 192) [Pr 229.6; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Wauguzi wa kimishenari wanapowajali wagonjwa na kupunguza shida za maskini, watapata fursa nyingi za kuomba pamoja nao, kuwasomea Neno la MUNGU, na kuzungumza juu ya Mwokozi..... Wanaweza kuleta mwanga wa tumaini katika maisha ya watu walioshindwa na waliokata tamaa. (Medical Ministry, 246, 247) [Pr 229.7; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Ikiwa maombi zaidi yangetolewa katika vyumba vyetu vya Sanitarium vya wagonjwa wa muda mrefu kwa ajili ya

uponyaji wa wagonjwa, nguvu kuu ya Mponyaji ingeonekana. Wengine wengi pia wangeimarishwa na kubarikiwa, na magonjwa mengi ya dharura (acute) yangeponywa papo hapo. –(Selected Messages 3:295) [Pr 230.1; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Ningeenda mbele za Bwana na ombi hili: “Bwana, hatuwezi kusoma moyo wa mgonjwa huyu, lakini Wewe unajua huenda ni kwa faida ya roho yake na kwa utukufu wa Jina Lako kumuinua kiafya. Kwa wema Wako mkubwa, ulirehemu jambo hili (mhurumie mgonjwa), na ruhusu hatua za kiafya zifanyike katika mfumo wake. Kazi lazima iwe Yako Mwenyewe kabisa.” (Healthful Living, 239). [Pr 230.2; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Hebu sauti ya maombi isikike katika taasisi zetu kwa niaba ya wagonjwa ili waweze kujiweka mahali ambapo wanaweza kushirikiana na Yeye ambaye anaweza kuponya mwili na roho pia. [Pr 230.3; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Hapo awali tulibarikiwa na taasisi ambazo wagonjwa wangeweza kupata msaada dhidi ya mateso, kwa matibabu ya uadilifu na sala za dhati katika imani kwa MUNGU, tulibeba kesi ambazo zilionekana kukosa matumaini ya kufanikiwa. Leo Bwana anawaalika watu wanaoteseka kuwa na imani katika Yeye. Hitaji la mwanadamu ndiyo fursa ya MUNGU kutenda (Man’s necessity is God’s opportunity). – (Selected Messages 3:295, 296). [Pr 230.4; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Yote ambayo yanaweza kufanywa katika kuwaombea wagonjwa ni kumsihi tu MUNGU kwa dhati na bidii, na bila kuchoka kwa niaba yao, na kwa ujasiri kamili kabidhi suala hilo mikononi Mwake. Ikiwa tunazingatia uovu mioyoni mwetu Bwana hatatusikia. Yeye Anaweza kufanya apendavyo na watu Wake Mwenyewe.– (Testimonies for the Church 2:148) [Pr 230.5; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Mara nyingi imekuwa upendeleo wangu kuomba na wagonjwa. Tunapaswa kufanya hivi mara nyingi zaidi kuliko tunavyofanya katika maisha yetu. –(Selected Messages 3:295) [Pr 230.6; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Ni jukumu letu kuwasilisha wagonjwa na wanaoteseka kwa Kristo mikononi mwa imani yetu Tunapaswa kushikilia ahadi Yake, na kuomba kwa ajili ya udhihirisho wa nguvu Zake. Kiini cha injili ni urejesho/kurejeshwa, na

Mwokozi angetutaka sisi tuwaombe wagonjwa, wale wasio na tumaini, na wenye shida kwamba washizishikilie nguvu Zake. - (The Desire of Ages, 824, 825) [Pr 231.1; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Maombi kwa ajili ya Wagonjwa Ni Muhimu Sana hivyo yasishughulikiwe kwa Uzembe—Kuhusu kuombea wagonjwa, ni jambo la maana mno kiasi kwamba hatupaswi kushughulikia pasipo kujali. Ninaamini tunapaswa kupeleka kila kitu kwa Bwana, na kumjulisha MUNGU udhaifu wetu wote na kutaja shida zetu zote anuwai. - (Medical Ministry, 16) [Pr 231.2; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Maombi kwa ajili ya Wagonjwa yanafaa Leo kama katika Nyakati za Biblia—Mponyaji wa Kiungu/Mbinguni Yuko katika chumba cha wagonjwa; Yeye Anasikia kila neno la maombi yanayotolewa Kwake katika usahili wa imani ya kweli. Wanafunzi Wake leo wanapaswa kuwaombea wagonjwa, kama walivyofanya wanafunzi wa kale. Na kutakuwa na uponyaji; kwani "ombi la imani litawaokoa wagonjwa." (Gospel Workers, 215) [Pr 231.3; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Mungu Yuko tayari kurejesha afya ya wagonjwa sasa kama vile Roho Mtakatifu aliposema Maneno haya kupitia mwandishi wa- Zaburi. Na Kristo Ndiye Yule Yule, daktari/tabibu Mwenye huruma sasa kama alivyokuwa wakati wa huduma Yake hapa duniani. Ndani Yake kuna zeri ya uponyaji kwa kila ugonjwa, nguvu ya uponyaji kwa kila udhaifu. Wanafunzi Wake kwa wakati huu wanapaswa kuwaombea wagonjwa kwa hakika kama vile wanafunzi wa zamani walivyoomba. Na uponyaji utafuata; kwani "ombi la imani litawaokoa wagonjwa." Tunayo nguvu ya Roho Mtakatifu, uhakika mtulivu wa imani, ambao tunaweza kudai ahadi za MUNGU. Ahadi ya Bwana, "Wataweka mikono juu ya wagonjwa, nao watapata afya" (Marko 16:18), hili ni la kuaminika sasa kama katika siku zile za mitume. Ahadi hii inaonyesha fursa ya watoto wa MUNGU, na imani yetu inapaswa kushikilia yote ambayo tungeweza kuyashikilia. Watumishi wa Kristo ndio mfereji wa utendaji Wake, na kupitia kwao Bwana anatamani kutumia nguvu Zake za uponyaji. Ni jukumu letu kuwasilisha wagonjwa na wanaoteseka Kwake Mungu, kwenye mikono ya imani yetu. Tunapaswa kuwafundisha kuamini katika Mponyaji Mkuu. - (The Ministry of Healing, 226) [Pr 231.4; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Maombi kwa ajili ya Wagonjwa Yapasa Kuzingatia Mapenzi ya MUNGU— Katika sala kwa ajili ya wagonjwa yapaswa ikumbukwe kwamba “hatujui tunalopaswa kuomba jinsi itupasavyo.” Warumi 8:26 Hatujui kama baraka tunayotaimani itakuwa bora au la. Kwa hivyo maombi yetu yanapaswa kujumuisha wazo hili: 'Bwana, unajua kila siri ya roho. Wewe unawafhamu watu hawa. Yesu, Wewe ni Wakili wao, Nawe ulitoa uhai Wako kwa ajili yao. Upendo Wako kwao ni mkubwa kuliko wetu unavyoweza kuwa. Ikiwa, ni kwa ajili ya utukufu Wako na mema ya wale wanaoteseka, tunaomba, kwa Jina lako Yesu, kwamba waweze kupona. Ikiwa sio mapenzi Yako kwamba waweze kurejeshewa afya zao, tunaomba kwamba neema Yako iwafaraji na uwepo Wako uwaimarisha na kuwasaidia katika mateso yao. [Pr 232.1; Maombi Aya ya 20]

“MUNGU anajua mwisho tangu mwanzo. Yeye Anajua mioyo ya watu wote. Yeye anasoma kila siri ya roho. Yeye Anajua kama wale ambao wanaombewa wangeweza au wasingeweza kustahimili majaribu ambayo yangewajia wanapoendelea kuishi. Yeye Anajua kama maisha yao yatakuwa mbaraka au laana kwao wenyewe na kwa ulimwengu. Hii ni sababu moja kwa nini, wakati tunawasilisha ombi letu kwa bidii, tunapaswa kusema, “Walakini sio mapenzi yangu, bali Yako yatimizwe.” Luka 22:42. (Ministry of Healing, 229, 230) [Pr 232.2; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Katika kuwaombea wagonjwa, tunapaswa kuomba kwamba ikiwa ni mapenzi ya MUNGU basi waponywe, na wawe na afya; lakini ikiwa ni vinginevyo basi Yeye awape neema Yake ya kuwafaraji, na uwepo Wake uwadumisha katika mateso yao. Wengi wanaopaswa kuweka nyumba zao sawa, yaani katika mpangilio, hupuza kufanya hivyo wakati wana tumaini kwamba watainuliwa kiafya katika kujibiwa maombi. Wakichochea na tumaini la uwongo, hawahisi hitaji la kutoa maneno ya mawaidha na ushauri kwa watoto wao, wazazi, au marafiki, na hii ni bahati mbaya sana. Wakikubali uhakikisho wa kwamba wangeponywa wakati wa kuombewa, hawathubutu kutaja jinsi mali zao zitakavyogawiwa, jinsi familia yao inavyopaswa kutunzwa, au kueleza matamano yoyote kuhusu mambo ambayo wangezungumza ikiwa walidhani wangeondolewa na kifo. Kwa njia hii janga huletwa

kwenye familia na marafiki; kwa maana mambo mengi ambayo yanapaswa kueleweka na watakaobakia mgonjwa akifa, yameachwa bila kutajwa au kuzungumziwa, kwa sababu wanaogopa kuwa kujieleza juu ya mambo haya itakuwa ni kuikana imani yao. Wakiamini watainuliwa kiafya kwasababu ya maombi, wanashindwa kutumia njia au kanuni za afya, au usafi ambazo ziko katika uwezo wao, wakihofia kuwa kutenda hilo ni kuikana imani yao. — (General Conference Daily Bulletin, February 26, 1897) [Pr 232.3; Maombi Aya ya 22]

“Tumeungana katika maombi ya dhati karibu na vitanda vya wagonjwa waume, na wake, na watoto, nasi tumehisi kuwa walirudishwa kwetu kutoka katika kifo kama jibu la maombi yetu ya dhati na bidii. Katika maombi haya tulifikiri lazima tuwe na mtazamo chanya, na ikiwa tuna imani, ni lazima tuombe kwaajili ya uhai tu. Hatukuthubutu kusema, “Ikiwa itamtukuza MUNGU,” tukiogopa kuwa ingekuwa sawa na kuwa na shaka. Tumewaangalia kwa wasiwasi wale ambao wamerudishwa kwetu kama wale waliotoka kifoni. Tumeona baadhi ya hawa, haswa vijana, wakirejeshewa afya, nao wakamsahau MUNGU, wakawa wenye tabia mbaya maishani, wakisababisha huzuni na uchungu kwa wazazi na marafiki, na wamekuwa aibu kwa wale ambao waliogopa kuomba mapenzi ya Mungu yatimizwe. Waliishi kwa kutomheshimu na kumtukuza MUNGU, bali kumlaani kwa maisha yao ya uovu. [Pr 233.1; Maombi Aya ya 23]

“Hatutengenezi njia tena wala kutafuta kumleta Bwana katika matamano yetu. Ikiwa maisha ya wagonjwa yanaweza kumtukuza Yeye, basi tunaomba kwamba waishi, hata hivyo, si kama sisi tutakavyo bali kama Yeye atakavyo. Imani yetu inaweza kuwa imara, na ya uhakika kwa kuyakabidhi matamano yetu kwa MUNGU Mwenye hekima yote, na, bila wasiwasi au homa, na kwa ujasiri mkamilifu, tukimwamini Yeye na kumkabidhi yote. Tunayo ahadi. Tunajua kwamba Yeye hutusikia ikiwa tunaomba kulingana na mapenzi Yake.— (Counsels on Health, 378, 379) [Pr 233.2; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Mungu Hujibu Maombi kwa ajili ya Wagonjwa — Hakuna nguvu ya kibinadamu inayoweza kuokoa wagonjwa, lakini, kupitia maombi ya imani, Mponyaji Mkuu ametimiza

ahadi Yake kwa wale ambao wameliitia Jina Lake.—
(Selected Messages 3:295). [Pr 233.3; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Hebu tufanye kama mitume wa Kristo walivyofanya; hebu tufanye maombi kwaajili ya wagonjwa, kwani wapo wengi ambao hawawezi kufaidika na vituo vyetu vya Sanitarium (tiba rahisi). Bwana ataondoa udhaifu katika kujibu maombi. - (Medical Ministry, 242) [Pr 233.4; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Kudumu katika Maombi ni Muhimu Wakati Tunaombea Wagonjwa — Katika kuwaombea wagonjwa, ni muhimu kuwa na imani; kwani kufanya hivyo ni kulingana na Neno la MUNGU. "Maombi ya bidii ya mwenye haki yanafaa sana." Yakobo 5:16. Kwa hivyo hatuwezi kutupilia mbali kuombea wagonjwa, na tunapaswa kusikitika sana ikiwa tungekosa fursa ya kumkaribia MUNGU, kwa kuweka mbele Zake udhaifu wetu wote na ugonjwa wetu, kumweleza Mwokozi Mwenye huruma juu ya mambo haya, tukiamini kwamba Yeye husikia maombi yetu. Wakati mwingine majibu ya maombi yetu huja mara moja; wakati mwingine tunalazimika kungojea kwa uvumilivu na kuendelea kuomba kwa bidii vitu tunavyohitaji, mahitaji yetu yakiwasiliswa na mahitaji ya mwombaji asiyechoka aliyeenda kuomba mkate usiku. "Ni yupi kati yenu ambaye atakuwa na rafiki, na atamwendea usiku wa manane," nk. Somo hili lina maana zaidi ya vile tunaweza kufikiria. Tunapaswa kuendelea kuomba, hata ikiwa hatujaona au kutambua majibu ya haraka ya maombi yetu. "Ninawaambia, ombeni, nanyi mtapewa, tafuteni, nanyi mtapata, bisheni nanyi mtafunguliwa. Maana yeyote aombaye hupewa, atafutaye hupata na abishaye hufunguliwa. Luka 11: 9, 10. [Pr 234.1; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Tunahitaji neema, tunahitaji mwangaza kutoka kwa BWANA, ili kupitia Roho Mtakatifu tuweze kujua jinsi ya kuomba mambo hayo ambayo hakika tunayahitaji. Maombi yetu yakizingatiwa na Bwana yatajibiwa .— (Counsels on Health, 380) [Pr 234.2; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Dhambi Lazima Iwekwe Mbali ikiwa Maombi ya Uponyaji Yapasa Kujibiwa— Kwa wale wanaotamani maombi ya kurejeshewa afya, inapaswa kuwekwa wazi kuwa ukiukaji wa sheria za MUNGU, ziwe za asili au za kiroho, ni dhambi, na ili wao waweze kupokea baraka

Yake, lazima tuikiri dhambi yetu na kuitupilia mbali. [Pr 234.3; Maombi Aya ya 29]

"Maandiko yanatuambia," Ungameni dhambi zenu ninyi kwa ninyi, na kuombeana, mpate kuponywa." Yakobo 5:16. Kwa yule anayefanya maombi, hebu mawazo kama haya yawasilishwe: 'Sisi hatuwezi kusoma moyo wako, au kujua siri za maisha yako. Hizo zinajulikana kwako mwenyewe tu na kwa MUNGU. Ukizikiri dhambi zako, ni wajibu wako kuziungama. 'The Ministry of Healing, 228) [Pr 234.4; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Kujiamini Kupita Kiasi Huonekana Kama Imani katika Kuombea Wagonjwa— Nimeona mambo mengi sana, katika kuwaombea wagonjwa yanayochukuliwa kwa kupitiliza (ushabiki), hadi nikahisi kwamba sehemu hii ya uzoefu wetu inahitaji mawazo thabiti, yaliyotakaswa, tusije kufanya ushabiki fulani kwa kudhania kwamba ni imani, na hata tukaiita ni imani, kumbe si chochote zaidi ya dhana potofu, ambayo inaenda dhidi ya mapenzi ya Mungu, imani bandia au ni kiburi cha aina fulani (presumption). Watu waliochoka na shida ya ugonjwa wanahitaji kushauriwa kwa busara, ili wasonge kwa busara na hivyo kutoharibu mambo au kujiabisha; na wakati wanajiweka mbele za MUNGU kuombewa ili waponywe, hawapaswi kuchukua msimamo kwamba njia za urejeshaji wa afya kulingana na sheria za asili zinapaswa kupuuzwa.

(tiba mbadala zinazofanya kazi, sisi tunapaswa kuwa na busara kuzitumia, ila kwenda hospitali na kuchunguzwa, kuchukua vipimo, maabara au xray ni muhimu kwenye dharura au hali tete, ila tunapaswa kujua jinsi ya kuzitumia tiba rahisi 8 Mungu alizotoa nazo ni zile wazungu wanaita **NEW START** Yaani Nutrition/Lishe, Exercise/Mazoezi, Water/Maji, Sunshine/Jua, Temperance/Kiasi, Air/Sunshine, Rest/Mapumziko, na Trust in Divine Power/Kumtegemea Mungu). [Pr 235.1; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Ikiwa watachukua msimamo kwamba katika kuombea uponyaji lazima wasitumie tiba rahisi zilizotolewa na MUNGU ili kupunguza maumivu na kuisaidia asili katika kazi yake, hebu isije ikaonekana kwamba ni kuikana imani, wanachukua msimamo usio wa busara. Huku siko kuikana imani; Inaendana kabisa na mipango ya MUNGU. Hezekia alipokuwa mgonjwa, nabii wa MUNGU alimletea ujumbe

kwamba lazima afe. Alimlilia Bwana, na Bwana akamsikia mtumishi Wake na kufanya muujiza kwa niaba yake, akampelekea ujumbe kwamba miaka kumi na mitano ingeongezwa kwenye maisha yake. Sasa hapa Mungu angetumia Neno moja tu, na kisha angetibiwa kwa kuguswa mara moja tu kwa kidole cha Bwana, lakini maagizo maalum yalitolewa kuchukua tini na kuiweka kwenye sehemu iliyoathiriwa, na Hezekia akarejeshewa afya, yaani uzima wake ukarudishwa. Katika kila jambo tunahitaji kuenanda na mstari wa mipango na majaliwa ya MUNGU. [Pr 235.2; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Wakala wa kibinadamu unapaswa kuwa na imani na unapaswa kushirikiana na uwezo wa Bwana, mtu akitumia kila namna ya nyenzo, akichukua faida ya kila kitu ambacho kulingana na akili yake ni cha manufaa, akifanya kazi kwa kupatana na sheria za asili; basi kwa kufanya hivyo haikani wala hazuii imani.— (Counsels on Health, 381, 382) [Pr 235.3; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Katika Neno la MUNGU tuna maagizo yanayohusiana na maombi maalumu ya kupona kwa wagonjwa. Lakini utoaji wa ombi kama hilo ni tendo la wakfu kabisa na halipaswi kuchukuliwa bila kuzingatiwa kwa uangalifu. Katika visa vingi vya kuomba uponyaji wa wagonjwa, ile inayoitwa imani si kitu kingine tofauti na dhana potofu inayopingana na mapenzi ya Mungu au hata kiburi (presumption). [Pr 235.4; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Watu wengi hujiletea magonjwa kwa kujifurahisha au kujiendekeza kwao wenyewe. Hawajaishi kulingana na sheria ya asili au kanuni za usafi wa moyo thabiti. Wengine wamepuuza sheria za afya katika tabia zao za kula na kunywa, kuvaa, au kufanya kazi. Mara nyingi aina fulani ya uovu ndiyo sababu ya udhaifu wa akili au mwili. Ikiwa watu hawa wangepata baraka ya afya, wengi wao wangeendelea kufuata njia ile ile ya uasi wa kutozingatia sheria za asili na za kiroho za MUNGU, wakifikiri kwamba ikiwa MUNGU atawaponya katika kujibu maombi yao, basi wao wako huru kuendelea na mazoea yao ya afya yaliyo mabaya na yasiyofaa na kuendeleza kujifurahisha na tamaa za mwili potovu bila kujizua. Ikiwa MUNGU angefanya muujiza kuwarudishia watu hawa afya, angekuwa akiwatia moyo kuitenda dhambi. [Pr 235.5; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Ni kazi iliyopotea kuwafundisha watu kumtazama MUNGU kama mponyaji wa udhaifu wao, pasipo kuwafundisha pia kuacha mazoea yasiyofaa, yale ambayo yanapingana na afya. Ili kupokea baraka Yake katika kujibu maombi, lazima waache kufanya uovu na kujifunza kutenda vyema. Mazingira yao lazima yawe safi, mwenendo wao wa maisha uwe sahihi. Lazima waishi kwa kupatana na sheria ya MUNGU, asili na kiroho. - (The Ministry of Healing, 227, 228) [Pr 236.1; Maombi Aya ya 36]

Maombi ya Uponyaji wa Kimiujiza Yanaweza Kusababisha Ushupavu (au kupitiliza kiasi) - "Kwa nini," mmoja baada ya mwingine hujiuliza, "je, maombi hayatolewi kwa ajili ya uponyaji wa kimwujiza, badala yake hutolewa kwa ajili ya vituo vingi vya afya vya Sanitarium vilivyoanzishwa?" Hili likifanyika, ushupavu mkubwa utazuka katika vituo vyetu. Wale wanaojiamini kupita kiasi wangeanza kufanya mabadiliko.—(Evangelism, 594, 595) [Pr 236.2; Maombi Aya ya 37]

Kuzingatia Maelekezo ya Tabibu Sio Kuikana Imani Katika Maombi ya Uponyaji— Wengi wanaotafuta rehema ya uponyaji wa Bwana wanafikiri kwamba lazima wawe na jibu la moja kwa moja na la haraka kwa maombi yao, la sivyo imani yao ina hitilafu. Kwa sababu hii, wale ambao wamedhoofishwa na magonjwa wanahitaji kushauriwa kwa busara, ili watende kwa hekima. Hawapaswi kupuuza wajibu wao kwa marafiki ambao wanaweza kuendelea kuishi wakati wao wameingia kaburini, au kupuuza kutumia wakala wa asili (au tiba mbadala) kwaajili ya urejeshaji wa afya. [Pr 236.3; Maombi Aya ya 38]

Mara nyingi kuna hatari ya kukosea hapa. Kwa kuamini kwamba wataponywa katika jibu la maombi, wengine wanaogopa kufanya chochote kile ambacho kinaweza kuonekana kwamba kinaashiria ukosefu wa imani kwa upande wao. Lakini hawapaswi kupuuza kuyaweka mambo yao sawa kama wanavyotamani kufanya ikiwa kuna tarajio la wao kuondolewa kwa kifo. Wala hawapaswi kuogopa kusema maneno ya kutia moyo au ushauri ambao wangetamani kuuotoa katika saa ya kuagana kwa wapendwa wao. - (The Ministry of Healing, 231) [Pr 237.1; Maombi Aya ya 39]

Lakini baada ya kuwaombea kwa dhati na bidii wagonjwa nini kifuate basi? Je, ninaacha kufanya yote niwezayo kwa ajili ya kupona kwao?—Hapana, ninafanya kazi kwa bidii zaidi, kwa maombi mengi kwamba Bwana apate kubariki njia ambayo mkono Wake Mwenyewe umetoa; ili aweze kutoa hekima iliyotakaswa kwa ajili ya kushirikiana Naye katika kuwaponya wagonjwa.— (Healthful Living, 240, [1897, 1898]). [Pr 237.1; Maombi Aya ya 40]

Matibabu ya Taasisi za Afya Yanapaswa Kutumiwa Pamoja na Maombi Kwa ajili ya Uponyaji (Maabara, Kumwona Daktari kwa uchunguzi na ushauri, kupasuliwa, kutumia vidonge katika hali ya dharura ukingoja suluhisho sahili linalosaidia afya kwa muda mrefu)—Wale wanaotafuta uponyaji kwa maombi hawapaswi kupuuza kutumia tiba rahisi (au tiba mbadala) ambayo ipo karibu nao, na wanaweza kuipata kwa urahisi, nayo ikawa na matokeo mazuri tu. Kutumia tiba zile ambazo MUNGU amezitoa katika kupunguza maumivu na kusaidia asili/mwili katika kazi yake ya urejeshaji afya sio kuikana imani. Kushirikiana na MUNGU, na kujiweka katika hali rafiki inayoleta uponyaji siyo kukana imani. MUNGU ameweka ndani ya uwezo/uwezekano wa kujipatia ujuzi wa sheria za uhai/uzima. Maarifa haya, Mungu yamewekwa ndani ya maeneo yetu ya karibu luwezo wetul, ili tuweze kuyafikia, kwaajili ya matumizi/kuyatumia. Tunapaswa kutumia kila njia au miundombinu kwaajili ya urejeshaji wa afya, tukitumia kila fursa inayowezekana, kwa kufanya kazi kwa kulingana na sheria za asili. Wakati tumesali ili wagonjwa wapone, tunaweza kufanya kazi kwa nguvu nyingi zaidi, tukimshukuru MUNGU kwamba tunao upendeleo wa kushirikiana Naye, na kuomba baraka Zake juu ya njia ambazo Yeye Mwenyewe ametuandalia/ametujalia.—(The Ministry of Healing, 231, 232) [Pr 237.2; Maombi Aya ya 41]

Mtumaini MUNGU bila kujali Matokeo Ya Maombi Yatakuwaje- Tunapomba kwa ajili ya kupona kwa wagonjwa, haijalishi matokeo ya jambo hilo, hebu tusipoteze imani kwa MUNGU. Ikiwa tutaitwa kukutana na msiba, hebu tukubali kikombe chenye uchungu, tukikumbuka kwamba mkono wa Baba ndiyo unakishikilia kikombe hicho kwenye midomo yetu. Lakini ikiwa afya

itarejeshwa, haipaswi kusahaulika kwamba mpokeaji wa rehema ya uponyaji anawekwa chini ya wajibu uliofanywa upya kwa Muumba. - (The Ministry of Healing, 233) [Pr 237.3; Maombi Aya ya 42]

SURA YA 23

MAOMBI KWA AJILI YA MSAMAHA

Ombi la Msamaha Daima Hujibiwa haraka yaani papo hapo— Tunapoomba baraka za kidunia, jibu la ombi letu linaweza kucheleweshwa, au MUNGU anaweza kutupa kitu kingine tofauti na tunachoomba, lakini si hivyo tunapoomba ukombozi kutoka katika dhambi. Ni mapenzi Yake Yeye, kutusafisha dhambi, kutufanya sisi watoto Wake, na kutuwezesha kuishi maisha matakatifu. Masihi “alijitoa nafsi Yake kwa ajili ya dhambi zetu, ili atukomboe na ulimwengu huu mbovu wa sasa, kama yalivyo mapenzi ya MUNGU Baba yetu.” Wagalatia 1:4. “Na huu ndio ujasiri tulio nao Kwake, ya kuwa, tukiomba kitu chochote sawasawa na mapenzi Yake, Yeye anatusikia; na kama tukijua ya kuwa anatusikia, tuombalo lolote, twajua ya kuwa tunazo haja tulizoziomba Kwake.” 1 Yohana 5:14, 15. “Tukiziungama dhambi zetu, Yeye ni Mwaminifu na wa haki hata atuondolee dhambi zetu, na kutusafisha na udhalimu wote. 1 Yohana 1:9 .— (The Desire of Ages, 266) [Pr 238.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Mara tu mtoto wa MUNGU anapokaribia Kiti cha Rehema, ndipo anakuwa mteja wa Wakili mkuu. Katika tamko lake la kwanza la toba na ombi la msamaha Kristo hutetea kesi yake na kuifanya iwe Yake Mwenyewe, akiwasilisha ombi hilo mbele ya Baba Yake kama ombi Lake Mwenyewe.—(Testimonies for the Church 6:364) [Pr 238.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Mwambie Yesu mahitaji yako kwa unyofu wa nafsi yako. Hautakiwi kushikilia mdahalo au hoja/mabishano marefu, au kumtolea mahubiri Mungu, bali kwa moyo wa huzuni kwa ajili ya dhambi zako, sema, “Niokoe, Bwana, la sivyo nitaangamia.” Kuna tumaini kwa roho kama hizo. Watatafuta, wataomba, watabisha, na watapata. Wakati Yesu anakapokuwa ameuondoa mzungu wa dhambi unayoiponda nafsi, utapata baraka za amani ya Kristo.—(Our High Calling, p. 131) [Pr 239.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Tunapona ubaya wa dhambi, tunaanguka bila msaada mbele ya msalaba, tukiomba msamaha na nguvu, maombi yetu yanasikika na kujibiwa. Wale wanaowasilisha maombi yao kwa MUNGU katika Jina la Kristo hawataachwa kamwe. Bwana asema, “Yeye ajaye Kwangu sitamtupa kamwe.” “Atayatazama maombi ya mtu aliye mkiwa.” Msaada wa Maombi yetu ya Msamaha unatoka kwa Yeye ambaye anashikilia vitu vyote mikononi Mwake. Amani anayotuma ni uhakikisho wa upendo Wake kwetu. [Pr 239.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Hakuna kitu kinachoweza kuwa/kupata msaada na kisichoweza kushindwa kabisa kuliko roho inayohisi kutokuwa na kitu (utupu wake), na hivyo kuzitegemea kabisa sifa za Mwokozi aliyesulubiwa na kufufuka (kujidondosha kabisa kwa Mwokozi). MUNGU atatuma kila malaika mbinguni kumsaidia yule anayeweka tegemeo lake lote kwa Kristo, badala ya kumruhusu kushindwa.—(The Signs of the Times, Oktoba 29, 1902) [Pr 239.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Wale Wanaotafuta Msamaha Lazima Wenyewe Wawe na Tabia ya Kusamehe—Tunapokuja kuomba rehema na baraka kutoka kwa MUNGU tunapaswa kuwa na roho ya upendo na msamaha katika mioyo yetu wenyewe. Tunawezaje kuomba basi, “Utusamehe deni zetu, kama sisi tunavyowasamehe wadeni wetu,” na bado tuendekeze na

roho ya kutosamehe? Mathayo 6:12. Ikiwa tunatazamia sala zetu kusikiwa na Mwenyezi Mungu, basi ni lazima tuwasamehe wengine kwa namna ile ile na kwa kiwango kile kile tunachotamani kusamehewa.—(Steps to Christ, 97) [Pr 239.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Baada ya kumaliza Sala ya Bwana, Yesu aliongeza hivi: “Mkiwasamehe watu makosa yao, na Baba yenu wa mbinguni atawasamehe ninyi; bali msipowasamehe watu makosa yao, wala Baba yenu hatawasamehe ninyi makosa yenu. Mathayo 6:14, 15. Yeye asiyesamehe anafunga kila mfereji ambao kwa huo peke yake anaweza kupokea rehema kutoka kwa MUNGU. Hatupaswi kufikiri kwamba wale waliotuumiza wasipokiri kosa lao, basi sisi tuna haki ya kuwanyima msamaha wetu. Ni sehemu ya wajibu wao, bila shaka, kunyenyekeza mioyo yao kwa toba na maungamo; lakini tunapaswa kuwa na roho ya huruma kwa wale ambao wametukosea, haijalishi kama wameungama makosa yao kwetu au la.—(The Faith I Live By, p. 131) [Pr 239.5; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Katika sala ambayo Kristo aliwafundisha wanafunzi Wake kulikuwa na ombi: Utusamehe makosa yetu kama sisi tunavyowasamehe wale wanaotukosea. Hatuwezi kurudia sala hii kutoka moyoni na kuthubutu kuwa watu tusiosamehe, kwani tunamwomba Bwana atusamehe makosa yetu dhidi Yake kama vile sisi tunavyowasamehe wanaotukosea. Lakini ni wachache wanaotambua umuhimu wa kweli wa sala hii. Ikiwa wale wasiosamehe wangeelewa kina cha maana yake wasingethubutu kuirudia sala hii, na kumwomba MUNGU awashughulikie kama wanavyoshughulika na wanadamu wenzao wafao.—(Testimonies for the Church 3:95). [Pr 240.1; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Tunahitaji kuchunguza mioyo yetu kama matayarisho ya kwenda mbele za MUNGU katika maombi, ili tujue sisi wenyewe tumeshiklia roho ya namna gani. Ikiwa hatutawasamehe wale waliotukosea, maombi yetu ya msamaha hayatasikilizwa. "Utusamehe deni zetu, kama sisi tunavyowasamehe wadeni wetu." Sisi kama wadhambi tunapokaribia Kiti cha Rehema, hatuwezi kueleza hisia ya ombi hili bila kuwa na msamaha moyoni mwetu kwa wale wote ambao wametuumiza. Juu ya ombi hili Yesu anatoa maelezo: “Kwa maana mkiwasamehe watu makosa yao, na

Baba yenu wa mbinguni atawasamehe ninyi; bali msipowasamehe watu makosa yao, wala Baba yenu hatawasamehe ninyi makosa yenu.” (The Signs of the Times, August 21, 1884) [Pr 240.2; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Kuongama Lazima Kuwe Mahususi (taja jambo lile kwa jina lake, bainisha dhambi gani unayoizungumzia)—maungamo ya kweli daima ni ya tabia maalum, na hukiri dhambi fulani. Yanaweza kuwa ya namna ya kuletwa mbele za MUNGU tu na sio kwa binadamu wengi, yanaweza kuwa makosa ambayo yanapaswa kuongama mbele ya watu ambao wameumizwa majereraha kupitia kwazo, au yanaweza kuwa ya aina ya jumla ambayo yanapaswa kujulikana katika kusanyiko la watu. Lakini maungamo yote yanapaswa kuwa mahususi na mtu anapasa kwenda kwenye pointi/kipengele, yakikiri dhambi zote ambazo una hatia nazo.—(Testimonies for the Church 5:639) [Pr 240.3; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Yesu Anasikia Ombi Rahisi la Msamaha—Sio lazima kwamba wote wataweza kubainisha kwa uhakika wakati dhambi zao ziliposamehewa. Somo la kufundishwa kwa watoto ni kwamba dhambi na makosa yao yanapaswa kuletwa kwa Yesu katika maisha yao ya utotoni. Wafundishe watoto kuomba msamaha Wake kila siku kwa kosa lolote walilofanya, na kwamba Yesu anasikia sala rahisi ya moyo uliotubu na wenye huzuni, Naye atasamehe, na kuyapokea, kama vile alivyowapokea watoto walioletwa Kwake alipokuwa duniani.—(Child Guidance, 494, 495) [Pr 241.1; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Kisha, watoto, njooni kwa Yesu. Mpe MUNGU sadaka ya thamani kuliko zote uwezavyo kutoa; mpe moyo wako. Yeye Anazungumza nawe akisema, “Mwanangu, binti yangu, Nipe moyo wako. Dhambi zenu zijapokuwa nyekundu sana, nitazifanya nyeupe kama theluji; kwa maana nitawatakasa kwa damu Yangu Mwenyewe. Nitawafanya ninyi wanachama wa familia Yangu— watoto wa Mfalme wa mbinguni. Pokeeni msamaha Wangu, Amani Yangu ninayowapa ninyi bure. Nitawavika ninyi kwa haki Yangu, vazi la harusi, na kuwafanya mstahili karamu ya harusi ya Mwana- Kondoo. Mnapovikwa haki Yangu, kwa maombi, kwa kukesha, kupitia kujifunza Neno Langu kwa bidii, mtaweza kufikia kiwango cha juu. Mtaelewa Ukweli, na tabia yenu itaundwa/itafinyangwa na ushawishi wa

Bwana; “Ombeni kwa ajili ya Msamaha kwani haya ni mapenzi ya MUNGU, hata kutakaswa kwenu.” (The SDA Bible Commentary 3:1162) [Pr 241.2; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Ni muhimu sana kwamba tunapaswa kuomba ili tupate nguvu kutoka juu ya kuyaona na kuyapinga majaribu ya adui; lakini Shetani hutafuta siku zote kuwazuia watu wasiombe, kwa kuujaza muda wao kwa biashara, pilikapilika au starehe, au kwa kuwaongoza katika uovu wa namna hiyo hata wasiwe na hamu ya kuomba. Bwana Yesu amefanya mbingu ifikike kwa wote wanaoenda Kwake, Naye anawaalika watoto na vijana waje Kwake. Yeye anasema, “Waacheni watoto wadogo waje Kwangu, wala msiwazuie; kwa maana ufalme wa MUNGU ni wao.” Yesu angetaka watoto na vijana waje Kwake wakiwa na ujasiri ule ule wanaoenda nao kwa wazazi wao (wema). Kama vile mtoto anavyomuomba mama yake au baba yake chakula akiwa na njaa, ndivyo Bwana anavyotaka ninyi muombe kile mnachohitaji. Ikiwa dhambi zako ni nzito juu ya moyo wako, unapaswa kwenda kwa MUNGU na kusema, “Kwa ajili ya Masihi, nisamehe dhambi zangu.” Kila sala ya unyofu itasikiwa mbinguni, na kila ombi la dhati na bidii la neema na nguvu litajibiwa.—(The Youth’s Instructor, July 7, 1892) [Pr 241.3; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Ombi la Msamaha Lazima Lionyeshwe Kuwa la Unyofu (litoke moyoni)— “Usinitenge na uso Wako, wala usimwondoe Roho Wako Mtakatifu.” Toba pamoja na msamaha ni zawadi ya MUNGU kupitia Masihi. Ni kupitia ushawishi wa Roho Mtakatifu ndipo tunasadikishwa kuhusu dhambi, na kuhisi hitaji letu la msamaha. Hakuna wanaosamehewa isipokuwa wale walio na moyo uliopondeka; lakini ni neema ya Bwana ifanyayo moyo kutubu. Yeye Anafahamu udhaifu na mapungufu yetu wote, Naye atatusaidia. Yeye Atasikia maombi ya imani; lakini unyofu wa sala unaweza kuthibitishwa tu kwa jitihada zetu za kujileta kwenye mapatano na kile kiwango kikuu cha maadili ambacho kitapima tabia ya kila mtu (Amri Zake Kumi). Tunahitaji kufungua mioyo yetu kwa ajili ya ushawishi wa Roho Mtakatifu, na kupata uzoefu wa nguvu Zake zinazobadilisha.—(The Review and Herald, June 24, 1884) [Pr 242.1; Maombi Aya ya 14]

“Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa; tafuteni nanyi mtapata; bisheni, nanyi mtafunguliwa,” Kwa nini hatumwendei

MUNGU kwa Neno Lake? kuomba na kupokea vimeunganishwa pamoja kwa ukaribu. Ikiwa utaomba kwa imani mambo ambayo MUNGU ameahidi, wewe utapokea. Mwangalie Yesu kwa ajili ya mambo unayohitaji. Mwombe msamaha wa dhambi, na unapoomba kwa imani moyo wako utalainishwa(mwororo), na utawasamehe wale waliokuumiza, na maombi yako yatakwenda kwa MUNGU yakiwa na harufu nzuri ya upendo. Pamoja na kuomba huja kukesha katika maombi, na kila wazo na neno na tendo vitaambatana kwa mapatano na ombi lako la dhati kwa ajili ya matengenezo katika maisha. Maombi ya imani huleta matunda yanayoendana na imani yetu stahiki. Lakini kutamka aina ya maneno tu kwa desturi, bila unyofu na matamano ya dhati kwa msaada, bila kutarajia utapokea, haitakufaa kitu, itakuwa ni kazi bure tu. Mwombaji wa namna hii asidhani ya kuwa atapokea kitu kwa Bwana. Wale wanaokuja kwa MUNGU lazima waamini kwamba Yeye Yuko, na kwamba Yeye ni mtoa thawabu kwa wale wanaomtafuta kwa bidii.—(The Review and Herald, March 28, 1912) [Pr 242.2; Maombi Aya ya 15]

SURA YA 24

MAOMBI YA KUOMBEA WENGINE- MAOMBEZI (intercessory prayer)

Waombeeni Wengine—Hebu na tujitahidi kutembea katika nuru kama Kristo alivyo katika nuru. Bwana aligeuza kifungo/kongwa Ayubu alipoomba, si kwa ajili yake tu, bali kwa ajili ya wale waliokuwa wakimpinga. Wakati Alipohisi kutamani sana kwamba roho zilizomkosea zipate kusaidiwa, yeye mwenyewe alipata msaada. Hebu na tuombe, sio kwa ajili yetu tu, bali kwa wale ambao wametuumiza, na wanaoendelea kutuumiza. Omba, omba, hasa akilini mwako (moyoni). Usimpe Bwana pumziko; kwa maana masikio Yake Yako wazi ili kusikia maombi yenye unyofu, yasichoka na yenye kusihi, wakati nafsi inaponyenyekwa/inapojidhili mbele Zake.— (The SDA Bible Commentary 3:1141) [Pr 244.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Unapaswa kuwa wakala ambaye kupitia Kwake MUNGU atazungumza na Roho. Mambo ya thamani yataletwa kwenye kumbukumbu yako, wewe utakumbushwa, na kwa moyo unaofurika kwa upendo wa Yesu, utazungumza Maneno ya kupendeza, yenye maslahi muhimu. Usahili wako na unyofu wako utakuwa umbuji/ufasaha wa hali ya juu zaidi, na maneno yako yataandikwa katika vitabu vya mbinguni kuwa maneno yanayofaa, ambayo ni kama matunda/tufaha za dhahabu katika picha za fedha. MUNGU atayafanya kuwa mafuriko ya uponyaji ya mvuto wa mbinguni, yakiamsha kusadikishwa na shauku, na Yesu ataongeza maombezi Yake kwenye maombi yako, na kudai kwa ajili ya mwenye dhambi zawadi ya Roho Mtakatifu, na kuimwaga juu ya nafsi yake. Na kutakuwa na shangwe mbele ya malaika wa MUNGU kwa ajili ya mwenye dhambi mmoja anayetubu.— (Sons and Daughters of God, 274) [Pr 244.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Kuna wale wanaokuzunguka ambao wana huzuni, ambao wanahitaji maneno ya huruma, upendo, na nyororo/laini, na maombi yetu ya unyenyekevu, yenye kuonyesha sikitiko. — (Testimonies for the Church 3:530) [Pr 245.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Katika kumwita MUNGU Baba yetu, tunatambua watoto Wake wote kama ndugu zetu. Sisi sote ni sehemu ya mtandao mkuu wa ubinadamu, sote ni washiriki wa familia moja. Katika maombi yetu tunapaswa kujumuisha majirani zetu na sisi wenyewe. Hakuna anayeomba kwa njia ifaayo ambaye anajitafutia baraka yake peke yake tu-kwaajili yake binafsi tu.— (Sons and Daughters of God, 267) [Pr 245.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Tunapotafuta kuwaleta wengine kwa Kristo, tukibeba mzigo wa roho katika maombi yetu, mioyo yetu itapatwa na ushawishi wa kuhuisha wa neema ya MUNGU; mapenzi yetu yatang'aa zaidi kwa jitihada za Bwana; maisha yetu yote ya Kikristo yatakuwa ya kweli na halisi zaidi, yenye bidii zaidi, na ya kusali zaidi. - (Christ Object Lessons, 354). [Pr 245.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Kuna nafsi ambazo zimepoteza ujasiri wao; zungumza nao, uwaombee. Kuna wale wanaohitaji Mkate wa Uzima. Wasomee kutoka katika Neno la MUNGU. Kuna ugonjwa wa roho ambao hakuna zeri inayoweza kuugusa, hakuna dawa

inayoweza kuponya. Waombe hawa, na uwalete kwa Yesu Kristo. Na katika kazi yako yote, Kristo atakuwepo kufanya mguso wenye ushawishi katika mioyo ya wanadamu.— (Welfare Ministry, 71) [Pr 245.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Hebu wale walio wa kiroho wazungumze na nafsi hizi. Omba nao na kwa ajili yao. Hebu muda mwingi utumike katika maombi na kulichunguza Neno kwa karibu. Hebu wote wapate mambo ya halisi na ya kweli ya imani katika nafsi zao wenyewe kwa njia ya imani kwamba Roho Mtakatifu atakamwagwa kwao kwa sababu wana njaa na kiu ya Kweli ya haki.— (Testimonies for the Church 6:65). [Pr 245.5; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Wakati Ubinafsi unapokufa, kutakuwa na uamsho wa hamu kubwa kuhusiana na wokovu wa wengine, - matamania ambayo yatasababisha juhudi za kudumu na zenye uvumilivu katika kutenda mema. Kutakuwa na kupanda kando ya maji yote; na dua ya dhati, zizsiochoka, maombi ya kudumu, yataingia mbinguni kwa ajili ya nafsi zinazoangamia.—(Gospel Workers, 470). [Pr 246.1; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Oh jamani! kama sala ya dhati na a imani zingetokezea kila mahali, “Nipe roho zilizoziwa sasa kwenye uchafu wa makosa, la sivyo nife! Nawe zilete nafsi hizi kwenye ujuzi wa Ukweli kama ulivyo ndani ya Yesu.—(This Day With God, 171). [Pr 246.2; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Anzeni kuombea roho; njooni karibu na Kristo, karibu na ubavu Wake unavuwa damu. Hebu roho ya upole na utulivu iwapambe maisha yenu, Hebu maombi yenu ya dhati na bidii, yaliyopondeka, ya unyenyekevu yapande Kwake kwa ajili ya hekima ili mpate kufanikiwa katika kuokoa sio nafsi zenu tu, bali na nafsi za wengine.— Testimonies for the Church 1 :513) [Pr 246.3; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Kuna wengi ambao matumaini yamewatoka. Warudishie mwanga wa jua hawa. Wengi wamepoteza ujasiri wao. Zungumza nao maneno ya furaha na ya kuwachangamsha. Omba kwa ajili yao.—(Prophets and Kings, 719) [Pr 246.4; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Nafsi zinapaswa kutafutwa, kuombewa, kufanyiwa kazi. Rufaa za kusihi kwa dhati zinapaswa kufanywa. Maombi ya dhati yanapaswa kutolewa. Maombi yetu dhaifu, yasiyo na roho yanapaswa kubadilishwa kuwa maombi ya dhati,

matamano, imani na bidii sana.—(Testimonies for the Church 7:12). [Pr 246.5; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Kazi hii inakuhitaji uzilinde roho kama yule ambaye lazima utazitolea hesabu siku ya hukumu. Upole wa Kristo lazima ujaze moyo wa Mtendakazi kwa Sala ya Maombezi. Ikiwa una upendo kwa roho utaonyesha kujali kwa dhati kwa ajili yao. Utatoa maombi ya unyenyekevu, ya dhati, ya kutoka moyoni kwa wale unaowatembelea. Harufu ya upendo wa Kristo itadhihirishwa katika kazi yako. Yeye ambaye alitoa maisha Yake kwa ajili ya maisha ya ulimwengu atashirikiana na mtenda kazi asiye na uchoyo au ubinafsi kuweka msukumo juu ya mioyo ya wanadamu.— (Testimonies for the Church 6:75, 76) [Pr 246.6; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Hebu na tuufanyie kazi mpango huu, na tuombeane, tukipelekana moja kwa moja katika uwepo wa MUNGU kwa imani iliyo hai.—(The Review and Herald, August 28, 1888) [Pr 247.1; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Omba Upate Baraka Ili Kuwabariki Wengine—Maombi yetu hayapaswi kuwa maombi ya uchoyo au ubinafsi, kwa faida yetu wenyewe tu. Tunapaswa kuomba ili tuweze kutoa. Kanuni ya maisha ya Kristo lazima iwe kanuni ya maisha yetu. “Kwa ajili yao,” Bwana alisema, akizungumza juu ya wanafunzi Wake, “Najiweka wakfu, ili nao watakaswe.” Yohana 17:19. Kujitoka huko huko, kujitolea nafsi kwa namna ile ile, utiifu uleule wa madai ya Neno la MUNGU, ambao uliodhihirika katika Kristo, lazima uonekane kwa watumishi Wake.

Utume au misheni yetu kwa ulimwengu sio kujitumikia wenyewe, au kujifurahisha au kujipendeza wenyewe; tunapaswa kumtukuzwa MUNGU kwa kushirikiana Naye katikakuwaokoa wenye dhambi. Tunapaswa kuomba baraka kutoka kwa MUNGU ili tuweze kuwasilisha kwa wengine. Uwezo wa kupokea huhifadhiwa kwa kutoa tu (tunapokea tu tukitoka). Hatuwezi kuendelea kupokea hazina ya mbinguni bila kuwasilisha na kuwasiliana na wale wanaotuzunguka.— (Christ's Object Lessons, 142, 143) [Pr 247.2; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Tunapomba, “Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku,” tunaomba kwa ajili ya wengine na pia sisi wenyewe. Na tunakubali kwamba kile ambacho MUNGU anatupa si kwa

ajili yetu wenyewe tu. Hakika MUNGU hutukabidhi sisi kama amana, ili tuwalishe wenye njaa.—(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 111, 112) [Pr 247.3; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Waombee Wengine Katika Ombi la faragha—Katika ombi la faragha wote wana fursa ya kuomba kwa kadiri wapendavyo na kuwa wazi wapendavyo. Wanaweza kuomba kwa ajili ya jamaa na marafiki zao wote. Chumbani, yaani mahali popote pa faragha ulipo wewe mwenyewe (closet), ndipo mahali pa kueleza shida zao zote binafsi, na mitihani, na majaribu. Mkutano wa pamoja wa kumwabudu MUNGU si mahali pa kufungua mambo binafsi au siri za moyoni.— (Testimonies for the Church 2:578) [Pr 247.4; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Ombea Wale Wanaohubiri na Kuhudumu—Miongoni mwa watu wa MUNGU kunapaswa kuwa na misimu ya mara kwa mara ya maombi ya dhati na ya bidii. Akili inapaswa kuwa katika mkao/mtazamo wa maombi kwa kiasi kikubwa. Nyumbani na kanisani hebu kuwe na maombi ya dhati na bidii na yatolewe kwa niaba ya wale ambao wamejitoa katika kuhubiri Neno.—(In Heavenly Places, 87) [Pr 247.3; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Wakati vijana wanapoenda kuhubiri Ukweli, mnapaswa kuwa na majira ya maombi kwa ajili yao. Omba kwamba MUNGU awaunganishe na Yeye Mwenyewe na awape hekima, neema, na maarifa. Ombeni ili waweze kulindwa na mitego ya Shetani iliyojificha na kuwekwa safi katika mawazo na utakatifu wa moyo. Ninawasihi ninyi mnaomcha Bwana, msipoteze wakati katika mazungumzo yasiyofaa, yasinufaisha au katika kazi isiyo na maana, ili kujipatia kiburi, au kuridhisha tamaa ya chakula kwa ulafi au ya mwili. Hebu wakati unaopatikana utumike katika kupambana mieleka na MUNGU kwa ajili ya wachungaji/wahudumu wenu. Inueni mikono yao kama Haruni na Huri walivyoifanya mikono ya Musa.— (Testimonies for the Church 5:162) [Pr 248.1; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Omba kwa ajili ya Vijana wa Kanisa — Hebu wale walio wazee katika uzoefu waangalie vijana; na wanapowaona wakijaribiwa, wawachukue kando, na waombe nao na kwa

ajili yao. —(Messages to Young People, 18). [Pr 248.2; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Walimu wa Shule ya Sabato Ombeeni Washiriki wa Darasa Lenu—Kama wafanyakazi wa MUNGU tunahitaji zaidi kuwa kama Yesu na kupunguza ubinafsi-Ndani yetu awe Yesu zaidi na ubinafsi utokomee. Tunapaswa kuwa na mzigo zaidi kwa ajili ya nafsi, na tunapaswa kuomba kila siku kwamba nguvu na hekima ziweze kutolewa kwa ajili ya Sabato. Waalimu, kutaneni na madarasa yenu. Ombeni pamoja nayo, na uwafundishe wanafunzi jinsi ya kuomba. Hebu moyo ulainishwe, na maombi yawe mafupi na sahili, lakini ya dhati, usadikisho na bidii.—(Counsels on Sabbath School Work, 125) [Pr 248.3; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Wanafunzi waombe kwaajili ya Walimu-Wanafunzi wanapaswa kuwa na nyakati zao za maombi, ambapo wanaweza kutoa maombi ya kudumu, marahisi ili MUNGU ambariki Kiongozi wa shule kwa nguvu za mwili, akili timamu, nguvu ya maadili, na utambuzi wa kiroho, na kwamba kila mwalimu awe na stahiki/sifa kwa neema ya MUNGU za kufanya kazi yake. — (Fundamentals of Christian Education, 293) [Pr 248.4; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Omba kwa ajili ya Wakristo Wenzako—Mara nyingi sana tunasahau kwamba watenda kazi wenzetu wanahitaji nguvu, kushangiliwa na kutiwa moyo, furaha na uchangamfu. Katika nyakati za wasiwasi fulani na mzigo, kuweni makini kuwahakikishia wenzenu kujali kwenu na huruma. Wakati mnapojaribu kuwasaidia kwa maombi yenu, wajulishe kwamba mnafanya hivyo. Muambatanishe ujumbe wa MUNGU kwa watendakazi Wake: “Iweni hodari na moyo wa ushujaa.” Yoshua 1:6.—(Testimonies for the Church 7:185) [Pr 249.1; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Wazazi wawaombe Watoto Wao—MUNGU ameahidi kuwapa hekima wale wanaoomba kwa imani, Naye Atafanya kama vile Yeye alivyosema. Yeye Anapendezwa na imani inayomuendea kupitia Neno Lake. Mama Augustine aliomba kwa ajili ya uongofu wa mwanaye. Hakuona ushahidi wowote kwamba Roho wa MUNGU alikuwa akiushawishi moyo wake, lakini hakuvunjika moyo. Aliweka kidole chake kwenye maandiko, akiwasilisha mbele za MUNGU Maneno Yake Mwenyewe, na kusihi kama mama awezavyo kusihi. Kujidhili kwake kwa dhati, kusihi kwake

kwa bidii bila ya kuchoka, imani yake isiyoyumbayumba, ilishinda, na Bwana akampa haja ya moyo wake. Yeye Yuko tayari kusikiliza maombi ya watu Wake, hata hivi leo. “Mkono Wake si mfupi hata usiweze kuokoa wala sikio Lake si zito hata lisiweze kusikia”; na wazazi Wakristo wakimtafuta kwa bidii, Yeye atajaza vinywa vyao hoja, na, kwa ajili ya Jina Lake, atafanya kazi kwa nguvu kwa ajili yao katika wongofu wa/kwa watoto wao.— (Testimonies for the Church 5:322, 323. [Pr 249.2; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Tunapaswa kuomba kwa MUNGU zaidi ya tunavyoomba. Kuna nguvu nyingi na baraka katika kuomba pamoja katika familia zetu, kuomba pamoja na watoto wetu na pia kuwaombea tukiwa wenyewe.—(Child Guidance, 525). [Pr 249.3; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Hebu Kristo akupatie mkono Wake wa msaada ili kutekeleza makusudi Yake. Kwa maombi unaweza kupata uzoefu ambao utafanya huduma yako kwa watoto wako iwe na mafanikio kamili.— (Child Guidance, 69) [Pr 249.4; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Haukuona kuwa ni kazi ngumu au mzigo ikiwa njia ingefunguka ili uweze kuwatunza watoto wako na kuwakinga kutokana na uovu ulioenea katika zama hizi za ulimwengu. Ulikuwa mzigo wa moyo wako kuwaona wao wakimgeukia Bwana. Uliomba mbele za MUNGU kwa ajili ya watoto wako kwa vilio vikali na machozi. Ulitamani sana uongofu wao. Wakati fulani moyo wako ulikata tamaa na kuzimia, na ukaogopa kwamba maombi yako yasingejibiwa; lakini ukawaweka tena wakfu watoto wako kwa MUNGU upya, na moyo wako wenye matamano makali, ukawaweka juu ya madhabahu tena. [Pr 249.4; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Walipoingia jeshini, maombi yako yaliwafuata. Walihifadhiwa kwa ajabu dhidi ya madhara. Wao waliita kuwa ni ‘bahati yao nzuri’; lakini maombi ya mama kutoka kwenye nafsi yenye wasiwasi, fadhaa, yenye kulemewa na mzigo, alipohisi hatari ya watoto wake na hatari ya kukatiliwa mbali katika ujana wao bila tumaini kwa MUNGU yalikuwa na mengi ya kufanya juu ya kuhifadhiwa kwao. Ni maombi mangapi yaliingia mbinguni ili wana hawa wahifadhiwe ili wamtii MUNGU, na kisha wayatoe maisha yao kwa utukufu Wake! Katika mahangaiko yako kwa ajili ya watoto wako ulimsihi MUNGU awarudishe kwako tena,

na ulitafuta kwa bidii zaidi kuwaongoza katika njia ya utakatifu.—(Testimonies for the Church 2:274, 275) [Pr 250.1; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Yeye [MUNGU] hatakataa kusikia maombi ya dhati na bidii ya wazazi, ambayo yanaungwa mkono na bidii ya kudumu, ili watoto wao wapate baraka kutoka Kwake, na kuwa watendakazi waaminifu katika kazi Yake. Wazazi wanapofanya wajibu wao kwa njia iliyowekwa na MUNGU, wanaweza kuwa na uhakika kwamba maombi yao ya msaada Wake katika kazi yao ya nyumbani yatakubaliwa.— (The Signs of the Times, May 4, 1888) [Pr 250.2; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Kesha kila wakati ili kukata mkondo na kurudisha nyuma uzito wa uovu ambao Shetani anausukuma juu ya watoto wako. Watoto hawawezi kufanya hili wenyewe. Wazazi wanaweza kufanya mengi. Kwa ombi la dhati na bidii na imani iliyo hai, ushindi mkubwa utapatikana.—(Spiritual Gifts 4b, 139) [Pr 250.3; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Ili mzazi afanye kazi yake inavyopaswa kufanywa, kunahitajika talanta na ustadi na uvumilivu wenye umakini mkubwa. Inahitaji kutojiamini nafsi na kuomba kwa bidii. Hebu kila mama na ajitahidi kwa bidii katika kutimiza wajibu wake. Hebu awalete watoto wake wadogo kwa Yesu kwa mikono ya imani, akimwambia Yeye hitaji lake kubwa, na kuomba hekima na neema.— (Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 128) [Pr 250.4; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Juhudi zenye bidii na zenye maumivu, maombi na imani, vikiunganishwa na mfano sahihi, havitakosa matunda. Walete watoto wako kwa MUNGU kwa imani, na utafute kushawishi akili zao kupata hisia ya wajibu wao kwa Baba yao wa mbinguni.— (Temperance, 157, 158) [Pr 251.1; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Usitarajie badiliko lifanyike kwa watoto wako pasipo subira, kazi ya dhati, iliyochanganyika na maombi ya bidii. Kusoma na kuelewa tabia zao mbalimbali/anuwai, na siku baada ya siku kuwafinyanga kulingana na Kielelezo cha Bwana, ni kazi inayohitaji bidii kubwa na ustahimilivu, na maombi mengi, pamoja na imani yenye kudumu katika ahadi za MUNGU.— (The Signs of the Times, May. 4, 1888) [Pr 251.2; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Hata mtoto mchanga mikononi mwa mama yake anaweza kukaa chini ya uvuli wa Mwenyezi kwa imani ya mama anayeomba. - (The Desire of Ages, 512) [Pr 251.3; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Akina baba na akina mama, je, hamtashikilia kazi yenu kwa nguvu, uvumilivu, na upendo? Panda mbegu ya thamani kila siku, kwa maombi ya dhati ili MUNGU aimwagilie kwa umande wa neema, na kukupa mavuno mengi sana. Mwana wa MUNGU alikufa ili kukomboa jamii ya ubinadamu yenye dhambi na iliyoasi. Je, basi, sisi tujiepushe na taabu, kujitoa mhanga au dhabihu yoyote ili kuokoa watoto wetu wapendwa?—(The Signs of the Times, November 24, 1881) [Pr 251.4; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Baada ya kufanya wajibu wako kwa uaminifu kwa watoto wako, basi wabebe na uwapeleke kwa MUNGU na umwombe akusaidie. Mwambie kwamba umetimiza sehemu yako ya Sala ya Maombezi, kisha kwa imani umwombe MUNGU afanye sehemu Yake, ambayo wewe hauwezi kuifanya.—(Child Guidance, 256) [Pr 251.5; Maombi Aya ya 36]

SURA YA 25

MALAIKA NA MAOMBI

Malaika Huweka katika kumbukumbu Kila Ombi la Dhati— Tunapaswa kumfahamu MUNGU sasa kwa kuthibitisha ahadi Zake. Malaika huweka katika rekodi, kila ombi ambalo ni la dhati, usadikisho na lenye bidii. Afadhali tutupilie mbali kuuridhisha ubinafsi kuliko kupuuza ushirika na MUNGU. Umaskini mkubwa zaidi, kujikana zaidi pamoja na kibali Chake, ni bora kuliko utajiri, heshima, wadhifa, urahisi wa maisha, na urafiki bila kibali Chake Bwana. Ni lazima tuwe na muda wa kuomba (tutenge muda kuomba). (The Great Controversy, 622) [Pr 252.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Hebu malaika wanaotunza kumbukumbu waandike historia ya mapambano matakatifu na migogoro ya watu wa MUNGU, hebu na waandike maombi yao na machozi; lakini hebu MUNGU asidharauliwe kwa madai kutoka katika midomo ya wanadamu, inayotangaza, “Mimi sina dhambi. Mimi ni mtakatifu.” Midomo iliyotakaswa haitatamka kamwe maneno hayo yenye imani bandia, kiburi na dhana potofu isiyo na kibali cha Mungu (presumptuous prayer).— (The Signs of the Times, May 23, 1895) [Pr 252.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Malaika Wanaweza Kusikia Maombi yetu— kama wanadamu wangeweza kuona kwa maono ya mbinguni, basi wangeona makundi ya malaika walio na nguvu nyingi zaidi wakiwa na wale ambao wameshika Neno la subira ya Kristo. Kwa huruma nyororo, malaika wameshuhudia dhiki yao na wamesikia maombi yao. Pr 252.3; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Malaika Hupeleka Maombi yetu Mbinguni—Familia iliyo na nidhamu nzuri, inayompenda na kumtii MUNGU, itakuwa na furaha na uchangamfu. Baba anaporudi kutoka katika kazi yake ya kila siku, hataleta mashaka, fadhaa, mkanganyiko au misongo yake nyumbani kwake. Atahisi

kuwa nyumba, na mzunguko wa familia, ni vitakatifu sana kiasi kwamba haviwezi kuharibiwa na fadhaa zisizoleta furaha au zinazoleta huzuni. Baba huyu alipoondoka nyumbani kwake, hakumuacha nyuma Mwokozi wake na dini yake. Vyote viwili vilikuwa katika ushirika naye. Ushawishi mzuri wa nyumba yake, baraka ya mke wake, na upendo wa watoto wake, vinafanya mizigo yake kuwa miepesi; na anarudi akiwa na amani moyoni mwake, na maneno ya uchangamfu, yenye kutia moyo kwa mke wake na watoto, ambao wanangoja kwa shangwe kukaribisha ujio wake. Anapoinama pamoja na familia yake kwenye madhabahu ya sala ili kutoa shukrani zake kwa MUNGU kwa ajili ya utunzaji Wake kwake pamoja na wapendwa wake siku nzima, malaika wa MUNGU wanakuwa kwenye chumba hicho wakizunguka-zunguka, na kubeba maombi ya shauku na bidii ya wazazi wanaomcha MUNGU mbinguni, kama uvumba mzuri, ambao hujibiwa kwa baraka zinazorudi.—(Selected Messages 2:439, 440) [Pr 253.1; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Malaika husikia sifa zinazotolewa na ombi la imani, na hupeleka maombi kwa Yeye ambaye huhudumu katika Patakatifu kwa ajili ya watu Wake, na kuombea wema na haki Yake kwa niaba yao. Ombi la Kweli humshikilia Mweza wa yote, na huwapa wanadamu ushindi. kwa kupiga magoti yake, Mkristo hupata nguvu za kukinzana na kupingana na vishawishi.—(The Review and Herald, February 1, 1912) [Pr 253.2; Maombi Aya ya 5]

MUNGU hawaachi watoto Wake wapotovu walio dhaifu katika imani, na wanaofanya makosa mengi. Bwana husikiliza na kusikia maombi yao na ushuhuda wao. Wale wanaomtazama Yesu siku kwa siku na saa kwa saa, wanaokesha kwa maombi, wanavutwa na kumkaribia Yesu. Malaika walio na mbawa zilizochanuliwa hungoja kupeleka sala zao za toba kwa MUNGU, na kuzisajili katika vitabu vya mbinguni.—(The SDA Bible Commentary 4:1184) [Pr 253.3; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Malaika Hungoja Kujibu Maombi Yetu—Mara nyingi katika kujali watu wanaoteseka/wagonjwa, uangalifu mwingi unatolewa juu ya mambo madogomadogo, huku hitaji la wagonjwa la zile Kweli zote kuu za wokovu wa injili, ambazo zitahudumu kwenye roho na mwili, zimesahaulika. Unapopuuza kuwaombea wagonjwa, wewe unawanyima baraka kubwa; kwa maana malaika wa MUNGU

wanangoja kuhudumu kwenye nafsi hizi katika kuitikia maombi yako.—(Medical Ministry, 195) [Pr 253.4; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Kabla ya kuondoka nyumbani kwa ajili ya kazi, familia yote inapaswa kuitwa pamoja; na baba, au mama wakati baba hayupo, anapaswa kumwomba MUNGU kwa ari na bidii ili awahifadhi kwa siku nzima. Njoo kwa unyenyekevu (kwa Bwana), kwa moyo mwororo, na kwa hisia ya majaribu na hatari mbele zinazowazunguka ninyi na watoto wenu; kwa imani uwafunge juu ya madhabahu, na kuwaombea utunzaji wa Bwana. Malaika wanaohudumu watawalinda watoto ambao wamewekwa wakfu kwa namna hiyo na MUNGU.—(Child Guidance, 519) [Pr 254.1; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Malaika Mahsusni Huteuliwa Kujibu Maombi—Viumbe wa Mbinguni wameteuliwa kujibu maombi ya wale wanaofanya kazi bila ubinafsi kwa ajili ya maslahi ya kazi ya MUNGU. Malaika wa juu kabisa katika nyua za mbinguni wameteuliwa kufanyia kazi maombi ambayo hupanda kwa MUNGU kwa ajili ya kuendeleza kazi ya MUNGU. Kila malaika ana kituo cha kazi na wadhifa wake maalum wa kazi, ambapo haruhusiwi kuondoka kwenda mahali pengine popote. Kama angeondoka, nguvu za giza zingepata mpenyo na faida... [Pr 254.2; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Siku baada ya siku, mzozo/vita kati ya wema na uovu unaendelea. Kwa nini wale ambao wamepata fursa nyingi na manufaa hawatambui uzito mkubwa wa kazi hii? Wanapaswa kutumia akili katika suala hili. MUNGU Ndiye Mtawala. Kwa uweza Wake mkuu Yeye huwadhiti na kuwaongoza watawala wa kidunia. Kupitia mawakala Wake, Yeye Anafanya kazi ambayo iliamriwa kabla ya kuwekwa misingi ya ulimwengu. [Pr 254.3; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Kama binadamu hatuelewi jinsi tunavyopaswa kuelewa lile pambano kuu linaloendelea kati ya mashirika yasiyoonekana, pambano kati ya malaika waaminifu na wasio waaminifu. Malaika waovu wanafanya kazi kila mara, wakipanga safu yao ya mashambulizi, wakitawala kama makamanda, wafalme, na viongozi, wa majeshi ya wanadamu wasio waaminifu.....Ninatoa wito kwa wahudumu wa Kristo kushinikiza nyumbani juu ya uelewa wa wote wanaoweza kufikiwa na sauti zao, Ukweli wa

huduma ya malaika. Msijiingize katika dhana za kufikirika zinazopendezesha moyo. Neno lililoandikwa ndio usalama wetu pekee. Ni lazima tuombe kama Danieli, ili tulindwe na akili za mbinguni (wakazi wa mbinguni). Kama roho watumikao, malaika hutumwa kuwahudumia wale watakaorithi wokovu. Ombeni, ndugu zangu, ombeni kuliko mlivyowahi kuomba kabla. Sisi hatuko tayari kwa ajili ya ujio wa Bwana. Tunahitaji kufanya kazi kamilifu, ya kinagaubaga, kwa ajili ya umilele.—(The SDA Bible Commentary 4:1173) [Pr 254.4; Maombi Aya ya 11]

MUNGU ameweka malaika wanaofanya mapenzi yake, kujibu maombi ya wanyenyekevu wa dunia, na kuwaongoza watumishi Wake kwa ushauri na maamuzi. Mawakala wa mbinguni wanatafuta kila mara kutoa neema na nguvu na ushauri kwa watoto waaminifu wa MUNGU, ili waweze kutenda sehemu yao katika kazi ya kuwasilisha nuru kwa ulimwengu.—(Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 484) [Pr 255.1; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Malaika wanaohudumu wanangojea karibu na kiti cha enzi kutii mara moja agizo la Yesu Kristo la kujibu kila ombi linalotolewa kwa imani hai ya dhati na iliyo ya bidii.—(Selected Messages 2:377) [Pr 255.2; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Oh! Laiti sote tungeweza kutambua ukaribu wa mbingu na dunia! Watoto waliozaliwa duniani hawalijui hili, kwamba wana malaika wa nuru kama wenzi na walinzi wao; kwa maana wajumbe wa mbinguni wanatumwa kuwahudumia wale ambao watakuwa warithi wa wokovu. Shahidi wa siri, aliye kimya hulinda kila nafsi inayoishi, akitafuta kushinda na kuivuta kwa Kristo. Malaika hawamwachi kamwe yule anayejaribiwa kuwa mawindo kwa adui ambaye ataangamiza roho za watu ikiwa ataruhusiwa kufanya hivyo. Maadamu kuna tumaini, mpaka watakapompinga Roho Mtakatifu kwa uharibifu wao wa milele, wanadamu wanalindwa na walinzi wa mbinguni. [Pr 255.3; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Oh jamani! Kama wote wangeweza kumwona Mwokozi wetu wa thamani kama alivyo, Mkombozi wetu. Hebu mkono Wake uweke kando pazia ambalo huficha utukufu Wake dhidi ya macho yetu. Ndipo Yeye atakapoonekana katika mahali Pake pa juu na Patakatifu. Je! Sisi tunaona nini? Mwokozi wetu, si katika hali ya ukimya na kutotenda.

Akiwa amezungukwa na viumbe wa mbinguni wenye utashi (malaika), makerubi, na maserafi, elfu kumi mara elfu kumi ya malaika. Viumbe hawa wote wa mbinguni wana kitu kimoja juu ya vingine vyote, ambacho wanapendezwa nacho sana –kanisa Lake katika ulimwengu wa uharibifu. Wanafanya kazi kwa ajili ya Kristo chini ya agizo Lake, ili kuwaokoa kabisa wale wote wamtazamao na kuamini ndani Yake. [Pr 255.4 15]

Malaika wa mbinguni huagizwa kuwatazama kondoo wa malisho ya Kristo. Wakati Shetani akiwa na mitego yake yenye udanganyifu ambayo angewapotosha ikiwezekana hata wale wateule, malaika hawa walianzisha mkakati/operesheni ambayo itaokoa roho zilizojaribiwa ikiwa watalitii Neno la Bwana, watambue hatari yao, na kusema, “La, sitaingia katika mpango huo wa Shetani. Nina Ndugu yangu mkubwa kwenye kiti cha enzi mbinguni, ambaye ameonyesha kwamba ana nia ya upole na wema kwangu, na sitauhuzunisha moyo Wake wa upendo.” [Pr 256.1; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Tukiwa tunaishi katikati ya nguvu hizi zinazopingana (uovu na wema), kupitia kuizoesha imani yetu na maombi, tunaweza kuita msafara wa malaika wa mbinguni kuja upande wetu na kutusindikiza, na hao watatulinda dhidi ya kila ushawishi wenye uovu.— (Our High Calling, 23.) [Pr 256.2; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Malaika Huzingatia na Kuyatia Alama maombi yetu, Kisha Hutoa Msaada—Unapoamka asubuhi, Je! unahisi kutokuwa na uwezo kwako, na uhitaji wako wa nguvu kutoka kwa MUNGU? Na je, wewe humjulisha Baba yako wa mbinguni mambo unayotaka kwa unyenyekevu na wasema haya kutoka moyoni? Ikiwa ni hivyo, Malaika huzingatia maombi yako, na kuyawekea alama, na ikiwa maombi haya hayakutoka katika midomo ya kujifanya/feki, unapokuwa katika hatari ya kufanya makosa bila kujua, na kusukuma ushawishi ambao utawaongoza wengine kufanya maovu, malaika wako mlezi/mlinzi atakuwa upande wako, kukuelekeza kwenye njia bora zaidi, kukuchagulia maneno yako, na kuathiri/kushawishi matendo yako. [Pr 256.3; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Ikiwa hauhisi hatari yoyote, na ikiwa haufanyi maombi ya msaa na nguvu ya kupinga vishawishi, hakika

utapotea; kupuuza kwako wajibu kutaandikwa katika kitabu cha MUNGU mbinguni, na utakutwa umepunguka katika siku ile mbaya ya hukumu. - (Testimonies for the Church 3: 363, 364) [Pr 256.4; Maombi Aya ya 19]

MUNGU Hutuma majeshi ya Malaika wa Kuthibiti na Kutusaidia Katika Kujibu maombi—Ikiwa Shetani anaona kwamba yuko katika hatari ya kupoteza nafsi moja, atajitahidi kadiri ya uwezo wake wote kuishikilia/kuihifadhi hiyo nafsi moja. Na mtu huyo anapoamshwa kwenye hatari yake, na, kwa dhiki na bidii, akamtazama Yesu ili kupata nguvu, Shetani anaogopa kwamba atampoteza mfungwa, naye anaita majeshi ya malaika zake kudhibiti mambo na kuifunga roho hiyo maskini, na kuunda ukuta wa giza kumzunguka, ili nuru ya mbinguni isimfikie. Lakini ikiwa yule aliye hatarini anavumilia, na katika hali ya kutokuwa na uwezo wake akijidondosha na kujisalimisha juu ya wema wa damu ya Kristo, Mwokozi wetu husikiliza ombi la dhati la imani, na kutuma jeshi la ziada la wale malaika wenye uwezo mkubwa ili kumkomboa. Shetani hawezi kuvumilia kuona mpinzani wake Mwenye nguvu anategemewa na kusihiwa wakati wa hii dharura. Majeshi ya malaika waovu kwani anaogopa na kutetemeka mbele ya nguvu na ukuu Wake. Kwa sauti ya ombi la bidii, jeshi zima la Shetani hutetemeka. Anaendelea kuita majeshi ya malaika waovu ili kutimiza lengo lake. Na wakati malaika, wenye uwezo uliosheheni wa nguvu tele, waliovikwa silaha nzito za mbinguni, wanapokuja kusaidia nafsi iliyozimia, inayofuatiliwa kama mawindo, Shetani na jeshi lake wanarudi nyuma, wakijua vema kwamba wameshindwa katika vita yao. Raia walio chini ya Shetani kwa mapenzi yao (mapepo), ni watenda kazi hodari, na wameunganishwa katika kitu kimoja. Na ingawa wanachukiana na kupigana wao kwa wao, bado wanaboresha kila fursa ili kuendeleza misheni yao inayowafanya wawe pamoja. Lakini Kamanda Mkuu wa mbinguni na duniani amewekea mipaka nguvu za Shetani.- (Testimonies for the Church 1:345, 346) [Pr 256.5; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Ulinzi wa jeshi la mbinguni umetolewa kwa wanadamu wote ambao watafanya kazi katika njia za MUNGU na kufuata mipango Yake. Tunaweza katika ombi la dhati, la

toba na moyo uliopondeka, kuwaita wasaidizi wa mbinguni upande wetu. Majeshi yasiyoonekana ya nuru na yenye nguvu yatafanya kazi pamoja na watu wanyenyekevu, wapole, wale wa hali ya chini na wanaojishusha.— (Selected Messages 1:97) [Pr 257.1; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Niliona baadhi, wakiwa na imani yenye nguvu na vilio vya uchungu, wakimsihi MUNGU. Nyuso zao zilikuwa zimedhoofu na zilikuwa na wasiwasi mwingi, zikionyesha mapambano yaliyo ndani yao. Uthabiti na bidii kubwa ilionyeshwa katika nyuso zao; matone makubwa ya jasho yakaanguka kutoka kwenye vipaji vya nyuso zao. Nyuso zao ziling'aa hapa na pale kwa alama za kibali cha MUNGU, na tena ule mwonekano wa umakini mzito wa dhati, na wa wasiwasi ukaja tena juu yao. [Pr 257.2; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Malaika waovu waliwasonga na kuwazunguka, wakitandaza giza juu yao, na kulishinikiza kwa watu, ili kumzinga Yesu asionekane kwa wanadamu, ili macho yao yavutwe kwenye giza lililowazunguka, na hivyo kuongozwa kutomwamini MUNGU na kumnung'unikia. Usalama wao pekee ulikuwa katika kuelekeza macho yao juu. Malaika wa MUNGU walikuwa na mamlaka juu ya watu Wake, na anga lililojawa sumu ya malaika waovu liliposogezwa karibu na hawa wenye wasiwasi, malaika wa mbinguni walikuwa wakipepea mbawa zao juu yao ili kulitawanya giza nene. [Pr 257.3; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Waombaji walipokuwa wakiendelea na kilio chao cha dhati, nyakati fulani mwali wa nuru ya Yesu uliwajia, ili kutia moyo mioyo yao na kuangaza nyuso zao. Baadhi, niliwaona, hawakushiriki katika kazi hii ya kulia kwa uchungu na kusihi. Walionekana kutozingatia na kutojali. Hawakuwa wakipinga giza lililowazunguka, nalo liliwafunga kama wingu zito. Malaika wa MUNGU waliwaacha hawa na kwenda kusaidia wale walio na bidii ya dhati, wanaosali. Niliona malaika wa MUNGU wakiharakisha kuwasaidia wale wote waliokuwa wakihangaika kwa uwezo wao wote, kuwapinga malaika waovu na kujaribu kujisaidia wenyewe kwa kumwita MUNGU kwa ustahimilivu. Lakini malaika Wake waliwaacha wale ambao hawakufanya jitihada yoyote ya kujisaidia, nao wakapotea katika upeo wa macho yangu.—(Early Writings, 269, 270) [Pr 258.1; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Maombi Marefu Huwachosha Malaika—Mazungumzo marefu yenye kujirudia-rudia kama mashairi, yanayochosha watu (yanayoboa), yasiyo na umuhimu na sala ndefu havifai mahali popote, na hasa kwenye mikutano ya halaiki. Huwachosha malaika pamoja na watu wanaowasikiliza. Maombi yetu yanapaswa kuwa mafupi, na yanayogusa dhima moja kwa moja -yanalenga pointi au hoja moja kwa moja, na siyo kuzunguka.—(The Review and Herald, October 10, 1882) [Pr 258.2; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Malaika Watatufundisha Jinsi ya Kuomba—Washiriki wa Kanisa, vijana kwa wazee, wanapaswa kuelimishwa ili kwenda kutangaza ujumbe huu wa mwisho kwa ulimwengu. Wakienda kwa unyenyekevu, malaika wa MUNGU watakwenda pamoja nao, wakiwafundisha jinsi ya kuinua sauti katika sala, jinsi ya kuinua sauti katika nyimbo, na jinsi ya kutangaza ujumbe wa injili kwa ajili ya wakati huu. — (Messages to Young People , 217) [Pr 258.3; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Malaika Hushangaa Kwamba Wanadamu Huomba Kidogo Sana—Je, Malaika wa mbinguni wanaweza kufikiria nini juu ya wanadamu dhaifu wasiojiweza, ambao wako chini ya majaribu, wakati moyo wa MUNGU wa upendo usio na kikomo una matamano nao, tayari kuwapa zaidi ya wawezavyo kuomba au kufikiria, na bado wanaomba kidogo sana, na wana imani ndogo sana? (Efeso 3:20). Malaika hupenda kusujudu mbele za MUNGU; wanapenda kuwa karibu Naye. Wanaona ushirika na MUNGU kuwa furaha yao kuu; na bado watoto wa dunia, ambao wanahitaji sana msaada ambao MUNGU pekee Ndiye anayeweza kutoa, wanaonekana kutosheka kutembea bila nuru ya Roho Wake na ushirika wa uwepo Wake.—(Steps to Christ, 94) [Pr 258.4; Maombi Aya ya 27]

SURA YA 26

MAOMBI BANDIA

Usimkaribie MUNGU kwa Mazoea, Bila Kuweka Umakini, katika Maombi (lightly)—Unyenyekevu na uchaji Mungu, vinapaswa kuujenga mwenendo wa wote wanaoenda mbele za MUNGU. Katika Jina la Yesu tunaweza kwenda mbele Zake kwa ujasiri, lakini hatupaswi kumkaribia kwa ujasiri bandia, kinyume cha mapenzi Yake Yeye, au kwa dhana zetu potofu na kiburi (presumptuous), kana kwamba Yeye Yuko sawa na sisi. Kuna wale wanaozungumza na MUNGU Mkuu na Mwenye uwezo wote, na mtakatifu, ambaye anakaa katika nuru isiyoweza kufikiwa, kama ambavyo wangezungumza na mtu aliye sawa nao, au hata kama wanavyozungumza na yule wanayefikiria ni duni kwao. Kuna wale wanaoenenda au kutenda katika nyumba Yake jinsi wasivyoweza kufanya katika chumba cha kumwona mtawala wa kidunia. Hawa wanapaswa kukumbuka kwamba wako mbele za macho Yake ambapo maserafi wanaabudu, ambapo mbele Yake malaika hufunika nyuso zao.—(Patriarchs and Prophets, 252) [Pr 259.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Maombi ya Unafiki—Maombi yanayotolewa kwa MUNGU ili kumwambia unyonge, uchafu na upotofu wetu wote, wakati hatujisikii kutofaa au unyonge wetu hata kidogo, ni maombi ya unafiki. Ni maombi ya moyo uliopondeka pekee ndiyo ambayo Bwana anajali. “Kwa maana Yeye aliye juu, aliyetukuka, akaaye milele, ambaye Jina Lake ni Mtakatifu, asema hivi; Mimi nakaa mahali palipoinuka, palipo patakatifu, tena pamoja naye aliye na roho iliyotubu na kunyenyekea, ili kuzifufua roho za wanyenyekevu, na kuifufua mioyo yao waliotubu.” [Pr 259.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Maombi hayakusudii kufanya mabadiliko yoyote kwa MUNGU; ila yanatuleta sisi katika mapatano na MUNGU. Maombi hayachukui mahali pa wajibu.—(Messages to Young People, 247, 248) [Pr 260.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Maombi Yanayoleta Kivuli Mwanana— Kuna baadhi, nina wasiwasi, ambao hawapeleki shida zao kwa MUNGU katika maombi ya faragha, bali wanazirundika kwa ajili ya mkutano wa maombi, na kisha huko huyafyatua maombi yao kwa siku kadhaa. Watu hao wanaweza kuitwa wauaji

wa mikutano na wauaji wa maombi. Hawatoi nuru; hawamjengi mtu. Maombi yao baridi, yaliyoganda na shuhuda ndefu, za kurudi nyuma kwao zinatia watu kivuli. Wote hufurahi wanapomaliza, na ni vigumu kukung'uta ubaridi unaotetemesha na giza ambalo maombi na kuamrisha kwao katika dua kunaleta kwenye mkutano. Kutoka katika nuru ambayo nimepokea, mikutano yetu inapaswa kuwa ya kiroho na ya kijamii, na sio mirefu sana. Kujiweka mbali na watu (kutokuwa na moyo wa kirafiki), kiburi, ubatili, na hofu kwa mwanadamu vinapaswa kuachwa nyumbani. Tofauti ndogo na chuki havipaswi kubebwa nasi kwenye mikutano hii. Tunapaswa kuwa kama familia iliyoungana, usahili, utulivu, upole, ujasiri, na upendo vinapaswa kuwepo katika mioyo ya akina kaka na akina dada wanaokutana ili kufanywa upya na kutiwa nguvu kwa kuleta taa/mwangaza wao pamoja.— Testimonies for the Church 2:578, 579) [Pr 260.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Kutarajia Kwamba Maombi Yetu Yatajibiwa Daima Kwa Njia ile Tunayotaka Ni Kujiamini Kupita Kiasi, dhana ambayo Mungu haiungi mkono (Presumption)— Maombi ya Imani hayapotei kamwe; lakini kudai kuwa yatajibiwa kila wakati kwa njia ile ile na kwa jambo fulani maalum ambalo tumetarajia, ni dhana ambayo haina kibali cha Mungu, yaani imani bandia, ni kudhania kwamba Mungu atakuunga mkono katika lile unalotaka tu (wengine wameifafanua kama kiburi au imani bandia).(Testimonies for the Church 1:231) [Pr 260.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Maombi yetu yanapoonekana kutojibiwa, tunapaswa kung'angania ahadi; kwani wakati wa kujiliwa hakika utakuja, na tutapokea baraka tunazohitaji zaidi. Lakini kudai kwamba maombi daima yatajibiwa kwa njia ile ile na kwa jambo fulani maalumu tunalolitamani, ni dhana ambayo haina kibali cha Mungu, (au kiburi na imani bandia). MUNGU ni Mwenye hekima sana hata asiweze kukosea, na ni mwema sana hata asiweze kuwanyima kitu chochote kizuri wale waendao kwa unyofu. Basi msiogope kumwamini, ijapokuwa hamuoni jawabu la haraka la maombi yenu. Tegemea ahadi Yake ya hakika, “Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa.” (Steps to Christ, 96) [Pr 260.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Maombi ndani Yake pekee, Hayana thawabu ya kuosha Dhambi—Wapagani waliona maombi yao kama

ndani yake yenyewe yana kustahili na kuwa yana sifa na haki ya upatanisho wa dhambi ndani yao. Kwa hiyo kadiri maombi yanavyozidi kuwa marefu ndivyo ubora na haki yao inavyokuwa kubwa zaidi. Ikiwa wangepoteza kuwa watakatifu kwa juhudi zao wenyewe wangepoteza na kitu ndani yao cha kufurahia, naam, sababu fulani ya kujigamba. Wazo hili kwamba sala ni utimilifu wa kanuni ya utakaso lipo kwenye msingi wa mifumo yote ya dini za uwongo. Mafarisayo walikuwa wameiga wazo hili la kipagani la sala, na halijapotea hata kidogo katika siku zetu, hata miongoni mwa wale wanaodai kuwa Wakristo. Kurudiwa kwa seti za misemo iliyozeleka kama destruri au mapokeo, wakati moyo hauhisi hitaji/haja ya MUNGU, ni tabia sawa na ile ya "kupayuka maneno mengi bure na kuyarudia rudia" kama wapagani (Mathayo 6:7). [Pr 261.1; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Maombi si utakaso wa dhambi; hayana haki wala sifa ndani yake yenyewe. Maneno yote ya madoido tunayoweza kuyatoa yaliyo ndani ya amri yetu hayapatani na haja takatifu. Maombi yenye ufasaha zaidi ikiwa hayaonyeshi hisia za kweli za moyo ni kazi bure tu. Lakini maombi yatokayo katika moyo wa dhati na bidii, pale mahitaji ya nafsi yanapowasilishwa, kama vile ambavyo tungemwomba rafiki wa kidunia atupe msaada wake, tukitarajia kuupokea—haya ndiyo maombi ya imani. MUNGU hataki kumsifia kwetu kwa sherehe au kaida za maonyesho, ila Yeye anataka kilio kisichotamkwa cha moyo uliovunjika na kutiishwa na hisia ya dhambi ya huo na udhaifu mkubwa hupata njia Yake kwa Baba wa rehema zote.—(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 86, 87) [Pr 261.2; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Maombi Sio Ushahidi wa Kuongoka Ikiwa Maisha Hayajabadilishwa—Shetani huwaongoza watu kufikiri kwamba kwa sababu wamehisi unyakuo wa hisia, basi wao wameongoka. Lakini uzoefu wao haujabadilika. Matendo yao ni sawa na hapo awali. Maisha yao hayaonyeshi matunda mazuri. Wanaomba mara kwa mara na kwa muda mrefu, na daima wanarejelea hisia walizokuwa nazo nyakati fulani-fulani. Lakini hawaishi maisha mapya. Hawa wamedanganyika. Uzoefu wao hauzami ndani zaidi kuliko hisia zao. Wanajenga juu ya mchanga, na upepo mkali unapokuja, nyumba yao inafagiliwa mbali. [Pr 261.3; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Nafsi dhaifu za walio wengi zinapapasa gizani, zikitafuta hisia ambazo wengine wanasema wamekuwa nazo katika uzoefu wao. Wanapuuza Ukweli kwamba mwumini katika Kristo lazima aifanyie kazi wokovu wake mwenyewe kwa hofu na kutetemeka. Mwenye dhambi aliyesadikishwa ana jambo la kufanya. Ni lazima atubu na aonyeshe imani ya kweli. [Pr 262.1; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Wakati Yesu anapozungumza juu ya moyo mpya, anamaanisha akili, utu wote, nafsi yote na mtindo wa maisha (mind set and deeds). Kuwa na badiliko la moyo ni kuondoa mapenzi kutoka katika ulimwengu, na kuyafunga kwa Kristo. Kuwa na moyo mpya ni kuwa na akili mpya, makusudio mapya, nia mpya. Ni nini ishara ya moyo mpya? —Maisha yaliyobadilika. Kila siku, kila saa kuna kufa kwa ubinafsi, uchoyo na kiburi.—(Messages to Young People, 71,72) [Pr 262.2; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Maombi Hayachukui Nafasi ya Utiifu—Wanaume na wanawake, katika kukabili amri chanya zaidi za MUNGU, hufuata mwelekeo wao wenyewe, na kisha kuthubutu kuliombea jambo hilo, ili kumshawishi MUNGU ili akubali kuwaruhusu kwenda kinyume na mapenzi Yake Mwenyewe aliyoyasema. MUNGU hapendezwi na maombi hayo. Shetani anakuja upande wao, kama alivyofanya kwa Hawa katika Edeni, na kuwavutia, nao wanapata mguso fulani akilini, na hilo wanasimulia kuwa tukio la ajabu sana ambalo Bwana amewapa.— (The Review and Herald, July. 27, 1886) [Pr 262.3; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Ushirika na MUNGU huipa nafsi ujuzi wa ndani wa mapenzi Yake. Lakini wengi wanaokiri imani hawajui uongofu wa Kweli ni nini. Hawana uzoefu katika ushirika na Baba kwa njia ya Yesu Kristo, na hawajawahi kuhisi nguvu ya neema ya Bwana ya kutakasa moyo. Huomba na kutenda dhambi, hutenda dhambi na kuomba, maisha yao yamejaa uovu, ubaya, udanganyifu, hila, husuda, wivu, kijicho na kujipenda wenyewe. Maombi ya tabaka hili ni chukizo kwa MUNGU. Maombi ya kweli hushirikisha nguvu za roho na huathiri maisha. Yeye anayemimina mahitaji yake mbele za MUNGU anahisi utupu wa kila kitu kilicho chini ya mbingu.—(Testimonies for the Church 4:534, 535) [Pr 262.4; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Kuna masharti ya kutimizwa kwa ahadi za MUNGU, na maombi kamwe hayawezi kuchukua nafasi ya wajibu. “Mkinipenda,” Kristo asema, “mtazishika amri zangu.” “Yeye aliye na amri Zangu, na kuzishika, yeye ndiye anipendaye; naye anipendaye atapendwa na Baba Yangu, Nami nitampenda na kujidhihirisha kwake.” Yohana 14:15, 21. Wale wanaoleta maombi yao kwa MUNGU, wakidai Ahadi Yake huku hawatimizi masharti, wanamtukana Yehova. Wanaoleta Jina la Masihi kama mamlaka yao kwa ajili ya utimilifu wa ahadi, ila hawafanyi mambo yale ambayo yangeonyesha imani katika Kristo na upendo Kwake.— (Christ's Object Lessons, 143) [Pr 263.1; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Kuomba ni kufungua moyo kwa MUNGU kama kwa rafiki. Jicho la imani litamtambua MUNGU Kwa Ukaribu sana, na mwombaji anaweza kupata uthibitisho wenye thamani wa upendo na utunzaji wa Bwana kwake. Lakini kwa nini basi maombi mengi sana hayajibiwi? Anasema Daudi: “Nilimlilia kwa kinywa changu, Naye alitukuzwa na ulimi wangu. Nikiuangalia uovu moyoni mwangu, Bwana hatanisikia.” kupitia nabii mwingine Bwana anatupa ahadi: “Mtanitafuta na kuniona, mtakaponitafuta kwa moyo wenu wote.” Tena, anazungumza kuhusu wengine ambao “hawajanililia kwa mioyo yao.” Maombi kama hayo ni maombi ya mazoea ni mfano tu, ibada ya midomo tu, ambayo Bwana hakubali.— (Testimonies for the Church 4:533) [Pr 263.2; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Maombi ya Haraka, Ya Nyakati Fulani tu Si Ushirika Halisi na MUNGU—Mbingu haijafungwa dhidi ya maombi ya bidii ya wenye haki. Eliya alikuwa mwanadamu mwenye hisia kama sisi, lakini Bwana alisikia na akajibu maombi yake kwa njia ya kushangaza zaidi. Sababu pekee ya kukosa kwetu nguvu na MUNGU inapatikana ndani yetu wenyewe. Ikiwa maisha ya ndani ya wengi wanaokiri Ukweli yangewasilishwa mbele yao, basi wasingedai kuwa wao ni Wakristo. Hawakui katika neema. Ombi la haraka linatolewa hapa na pale, lakini hakuna ushirika wa kweli na MUNGU. [Pr 263.3; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Ni lazima tudumu sana katika maombi ikiwa tunakusudia kufanya maendeleo katika maisha ya Kiungu/mbingu. Ujumbe wa kweli ulipotangazwa kwa mara ya kwanza, tuliomba sana. Ni mara ngapi sauti ya maombezi ilisikika

chumbani, ghalani, kwenye miti ya bustani, na kwenye vijisitu au shambani. Mara kwa mara tulitumia saa nyingi katika maombi ya dharti na bidii, wawili au watatu pamoja tukidai ahadi; mara nyingi sauti ya kilio ilisikika na kisha sauti ya shukrani na wimbo wa sifa.—(Testimonies for the Church 5:161, 162) [Pr 263.4; Maombi Aya ya 17]

MUNGU Huchukia Maombi ya Wenye Ubinafsi—Niliona kwamba kulikuwa na watu kama Yuda Iskariote miongoni mwa wale wanaodai kuwa wanamngoja Bwana wao. Shetani anawadhibiti, lakini wao hawajui. MUNGU hawezi kuridhia hata kiwango kidogo cha tamaa au ubinafsi, na Yeye Anachukia maombi na dua za kuamrisha za wale wanaoendekeza katika tabia hizi ovu. Shetani anavyoona kwamba wakati wake ni mfupi, huwaongoza wanadamu kuwa wachoyo, wabinafsi na wenye tamaa zaidi na zaidi, na kisha hujiinua kwa kujitutukuza, anapowaona watu wakiwa wamejifungia ndani yao wenyewe (wanajifikiria wenyewe), ni bahili wa kutupwa, masikini wa roho, wasio na faida, wachoyo, na wenye ubinafsi. Ikiwa macho ya hao yangefumbuliwa, wangemwona Shetani akiwa anashangilia ushindi wa kuzimu, akishangilia juu yao na kuucheka upumbavu wa wale wanaokubali madokezo yake na kuingia katika mitego yake.— (Early Writings, 268) [Pr 264.1; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Maombi Makavu, Malegevu Hayamsaidii Mtu yeyote—Kanisa linahitaji uzoefu mpya (freshi), na hai wa washiriki ambao wamekuwa na mazoea ya ushirika na MUNGU. Ushuhuda mkavu, uliochakaa, uliousu/kuchacha (stale) na maombi bila udhihirisho wa Kristo ndani yake, havina msaada kwa watu. Ikiwa kila mtu anayedai kuwa mtoto wa MUNGU angejazwa na imani na nuru na uzima, ni ushahidi wa ajabu jinsi gani ungetolewa kwa wale wanaokuja ili kusikia ile Kweli! Je, ni roho ngapi zingeweza kuokolewa kwa Kristo!—(Testimonies for the Church 6:64) [Pr 264.2; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Hazina zote za mbinguni zilikabidhiwa kwa Yesu Kristo, ili aweze kutoa karama hizi za thamani kwa mtafutaji mwenye bidii, mwadilifu na aliye mvumilivu. Yeye “Amemfanya Yeye kuwa hekima yetu, haki yetu na utakaso na ukombozi.” 1 Wakorintho 1:30. Lakini hata maombi ya wengi ni yale ya urasmi, yasiyo na moyo au jotojoto, ya

mazoea, makavu na ya kwenda na ratiba tu (rasmi), kiasi kwamba hayana ushawishi wowote kwa ajili ya wema. Haya sio manukato au harufu iletayo uzima (2Wakorintho 2:16). [Pr 264.3; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Ikiwa walimu wangenyenyekeza mioyo yao mbele za MUNGU na kutambua jukumu ambalo wamekubali katika kuwasimamia vijana wakiwa kwa lengo la kuwaelimisha kwa ajili ya maisha yajayo ya umilele, badiliko kubwa lingeonkana upesi katika mtazamo wao. Maombi yao yasingekuwa makavu na yasiyo na uhai, bali wangeomba kwa dhati, usadikisho na bidii kwaajili ya nafsi zinazohisi hatari zao.— (Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 371, 372) [Pr 265.1; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Onyo Juu ya Maombi Ambayo Yana ubinafsi kama Kiini Chake—Maombi yetu kwa MUNGU hayapaswi kutoka katika mioyo iliyojaa matamano binafsi. MUNGU anatusihi tuchague karama ambazo zitaongezeka kwaa utukufu Wake. Yeye Angetaka tuchague ya mbinguni badala ya yale ya duniani. Yeye Anatufungulia na kutudhihirishia mbele zetu uwezekano na manufaa ya uchumi wa mbinguni, kununua vile vya mbinguni. Yeye Anatia moyo malengo yetu ya juu zaidi, usalama katika hazina yetu iliyo bora zaidi. Wakati mali ya kidunia itafagiliwa mbali, muumini atafurahi katika hazina yake ya mbinguni, utajiri ambao hauwezi kupotea katika maafa yoyote ya kidunia. — (Sons and Daughters of God, 188) [Pr 265.2; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Maombi ya Kweli na ya Bandia Yalinganishwa—Yule mtoza ushuru maskini aliyeomba, “MUNGU unirehemu mimi mwenye dhambi” (Luka 18:13), alijiona kuwa mtu mwovu sana, na wengine walimtazama katika nuru hiyo hiyo; lakini mtu huyu alihisi hitaji lake, na kwa mzigo wake wa hatia na aibu alienda mbele ya MUNGU, akiomba rehema Yake. Moyo wake ulikuwa wazi kwa ajili ya Roho wa MUNGU kufanya kazi Yake ya ukarimu na neema na hivyo kumweka huru dhidi ya nguvu za dhambi. Ombi la farisayo la kujigamba, la kujihesabia haki lilionyesha kwamba moyo wake ulikuwa umefungwa na kufuli dhidi ya ushawishi wa Roho Mtakatifu. Kwa sababu ya umbali wake kutoka kwa MUNGU, hakuwa na hisia ya unajisi wake mwenyewe, alikuwa tofauti na ukamilifu wa utakatifu wa Bwana. Yeye hakuona hitaji/uhitaji, naye hakupokea

chochote.—(Steps to Christ, 30, 31) [Pr 265.3; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Kuna aina mbili za maombi - maombi ya mazoea, kwaajili kutimiza wajibu tu au mfano tu na maombi ya imani. Kurudiwa kwa seti za sentensi zilizozoeleka, wakati moyo hauhisi haja ya MUNGU, ni maombi ya urasmi, yale ya kutimiza wajibu au kuendana na ratiba tu, maombi yasiyo na moyo au joto ndani, kukariri maneno fulani rasmi....Tunapaswa kuzingatia sana katika maombi yetu yote kunena matakwa ya moyo na kusema kile tunachomaanisha tu. Maneno yote ya madoido mengi ambayo yamo kwenye uwezo wetu kutoa, hayalingani na shauku moja takatifu. Maombi yenye ufasaha zaidi huwa ni maneno ya kupayuka-payuka kwa kurudia-rudia tu yale ambayo yamekaririwa, nayo hayaonyeshi hisia za kweli za moyo bali ni makavu, yenye kutimiza wajibu, na kuendana na ratiba ya urasmi (formal prayers). Lakini maombi yatokayo katika moyo mnyofu, pale matakwa rahisi ya nafsi yanapoonyeshwa kama ambavyo tungeomba upendeleo kwa rafiki wa duniani, tukitazamia kwamba tutapewa—hili ndilo ombi la imani. Mtoza ushuru aliyepanda kwenda hekaluni kuomba ni kielelezo kizuri cha mwumini mnyoofu, aliyejitoa kikamilifu. Alihisi kwamba alikuwa mtenda-dhambi, na uhitaji wake mkubwa ulipelekea mlipuko wa tamanio lenye shauku, “MUNGU unirehemu mimi mwenye dhambi.”— (My Life Today, 19) [Pr 265.4; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Imesemwa juu ya Kristo: "Na akiwa katika dhiki, Aliomba kwa bidii zaidi." ni tofauti ya jinsi gani kuhusu maombezi haya ya Mkuu wa mbinguni na unapolinganisha na maombi duni, yasiyo na moyo ambayo hutolewa na wanadamu kwa MUNGU. Wengi wameridhika na maudhui ya midomo (huduma za mdomo tu, maneno matupu bila matendo au moyo ndani yake), na ni wachache walio na hamu ya dhati, ya bidii, na ya upendo kwa MUNGU. [Pr 266.1; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Ushirika na MUNGU huipa nafsi ujuzi wa ndani wa mapenzi Yake. Lakini wengi wanaokiri imani hawajui uongofu wa kweli ni nini. Hawana uzoefu katika ushirika na Baba kwa njia ya Yesu Kristo, na hawajawahi kuhisi nguvu ya neema ya Mungu inayotakasa moyo. Huomba na kutenda dhambi, hutenda dhambi na kuomba, maisha yao yamejaa

udanganyifu, hila, husuda, chuki, wivu, na kujipenda wenyewe. Maombi ya tabaka hili ni chukizo kwa MUNGU. Maombi ya Kweli hushirikisha nguvu za roho na huathiri maisha. Yeye anayemimina mahitaji yake mbele za MUNGU anahisi ubatili na utupu wa kila kitu chini ya mbingu. “Shauku yangu yote i mbele Zako,” akasema Daudi, “na kuugua kwangu hakufichiki Kwako.” “Nafsi yangu ina kiu ya MUNGU, MUNGU Aliye hai, ni lini nitakuja nionekane mbele za MUNGU?” “Ninapokumbuka mambo haya, naimimina nafsi yangu iliyo ndani yangu.”—(Testimonies for the Church 4:534, 535) [Pr 266.2; Maombi Aya ya 26]

SURA YA 27

SHETANI NA MAOMBI

Shetani Anajaribu Kuziba njia ili Maombi yetu Yasimfikie MUNGU—Giza la yule mwovu linawafunika wale wanaopuuzia kuomba. Majaribu yanayonong’onwa na adui yanawavuta watu hao kutenda dhambi; na yote ni kwa sababu hawatunii upendeleo ambao MUNGU amewapa katika miadi mitakatifu Naye, kupitia Maombi. Kwa nini basi wana na binti za MUNGU wawe wenye kusitasita au kutotaka kuomba, wakati maombi ndiyo ufunguo katika mkono wa imani ili kufungua ghala za hazina za mbinguni, ambako kunatunzwa rasilimali zenye thamani isiyo na kikomo, za Yule ambaye ni Mweza wa yote? Bila maombi na kukesha daima kwa uadilifu tuko katika hatari ya kuongeza kutojali na kukengeuka kutoka katika njia iliyo sawa/sahihi. Adui anatafuta daima kuifunga njia ya kuelekea kwenye Kiti cha Rehema, ili tukileta maombi ya dhati na imani tusipate neema na uwezo wa kuyapinga majaribu.— (Steps to Christ, 94, 95) [Pr 267.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Kuna nguvu kuu katika maombi. Adui wetu mkuu anatafuta daima anaendelea kuiweka nafsi inayopitia dhoruba, mbali na MUNGU. Ombi la kwenda mbinguni la yule mtakatifu, aliye mnyenyekevu zaidi ndilo linaloogopwa zaidi na Shetani kuliko sheria za bunge na mamlaka ya wafalme.— (The SDA Bible Commentary 2:1008) [Pr 267.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Adui huwazuia wengi wenu msiombe, kwa kuwaambia kwamba hamhisi roho ya maombezi ndani yenu, na kwamba ingefaa mngoje mpaka roho ya maombezi iwajie ili maombi yenu yasije yakawa ni dhihaka. Lakini unapaswa kumwambia Shetani, "Imeandikwa" kwamba "wanadamu wanapaswa kuomba siku zote, na wala wasizimie." Tunapaswa kuomba mpaka tuwe na mzigo wa mahitaji yetu juu ya nafsi zetu; na tukivumilia tutapata. Bwana atatuajaza Roho Wake Mtakatifu. Bwana anajua, na Ibilisi anajua, kwamba sisi wanadamu hatuwezi kupinga majaribu ya Shetani bila nguvu kutoka juu. Kwa sababu hii yule mwovu anatafuta kutuzuia tusimshike Yeye aliye na uwezo Mkuu wa kuokoa. Bwana wetu alifanya hili kuwa ni wajibu wetu, pamoja na upendeleo wetu, kuunganisha udhaifu wetu sisi wanadamu tunaokufa, ujinga wetu, hitaji letu, pamoja na hekima Yake, Haki Yake na nguvu Zake. Yeye anaunganisha uwezo Wake usio na kikomo na juhudi za viumbe wenye ukomo, ili wawe zaidi ya washindi katika vita na adui wa nafsi zao. [Pr 268.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Hebu mwanadamu yeyote asivunjike moyo, maana Yesu Yu hai ili atumbee. Kuna mbingu ya kujipatia/kuingia, na jehanamu ya kutoroka, na Kristo anapendezwa na ustawi wetu (maslahi yetu). Yeye Atawasaidia wale wote wamwitao. Ni lazima tuchanganye imani na maombi yetu yote. Hatuwezi kumshusha Kristo chini, lakini, kupitia njia ya imani, sisi tunaweza kujiinua wenyewe hadi tukawa na umoja na mapatanao, na mshikamano kwa kiwango kamili cha haki. Tuna adui mdanganyifu wa kukutana naye na kumshinda, lakini twaweza kufanya hivyo katika Jina la Yule Mmoja Mwenye Nguvu zote.—(The Review and Herald, October 30, 1888) [Pr 268.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Usiruhusu Mapendekezo ya Shetani yakuzuie Kuomba
— Hatupaswi kutindikiwa/kulemewa sana na mawazo ya dhambi na makosa yetu kiasi cha kuacha kuomba. Wengine hutambua udhaifu wao mkuu na dhambi, na kukata tamaa. Shetani anaweka kivuli chake cheusi kati yao na Bwana Yesu, ambaye Ndiye dhabihu yao ya upatanisho. Wanasema, Haina faida kwangu kuomba. Maombi yangu yamechanganyika na mawazo maovu kiasi kwamba Bwana hatayasikia. [Pr 268.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Mapendekezo haya yanatoka kwa Shetani. Katika ubinadamu Wake Kristo alikutana na kupinga jaribu hili, na

Yeye Anajua jinsi ya kuwasaidia wale wanaojaribiwa hivyo. Kwa niaba yetu, “ Yeye alitoa maombi na dua pamoja na kilio kikuu na machozi” (Waebrania 5:7). [Pr 268.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Wengi, bila kuelewa kwamba mashaka yao yanatoka kwa Shetani, wanakata tamaa na kuzimia na kisha kushindwa katika pambano hilo. Usiache kuomba kwa sababu mawazo yako ni maovu. Kama tungeweza kwa hekima na nguvu zetu kuomba ipasavyo, tungeweza pia kuishi sawa, na hivyo tusingehitaji dhabihu ya upatanisho. Lakini kutokamilika kupo juu ya ubinadamu wote. Ielimishe, izoeze na kufundisha akili yako, ili uweze kumwambia Bwana kwa usahili/urahisi kile unachohitaji. Unapotoa maombi yako kwa MUNGU, ukitaifuta msamaha wa dhambi, angahewa ya usafi wa moyo na takatifu zaidi itaizunguka nafsi yako.—(In Heavenly Places, 78) [Pr 269.1; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Maombi yanafadhaisha na kupumbaza Juhudi Zenye Nguvu Zaidi za Shetani—Mwanadamu ni mateka wa Shetani na kwa asili ana mwelekeo wa kufuata mapendekezo yake na kutenda maagizo/matakwa yake yule mwovu. Yeye mwenyewe ndani yake hana uwezo wa kumpinga mwovu na kumsukumilia mbali yule uovu. Ni pale tu Kristo atakapokaa ndani yake kwa imani hai, akishawishi matamano yake na kumtia nguvu kwa zile nguvu zitokazo juu, ndipo mwanadamu ataweza kujitosa kumkabili adui huyu wa kutisha sana. Njia nyingine zozote za ulinzi ni bure kabisa. Ni kwa njia ya Kristo pekee ndiyo nguvu za Shetani zinadhibitiwa (zinawekewa mipaka). Huu ni Ukweli mzito (mlima wa ukweli) ambao wote wanapaswa kuelewa kwani unahusu hatima yao. Shetani yupo kazini akishugulika kwa bidii sana (busy) kila dakika, akienda huku na huko, akitembea juu na chini katika nchi, akitaifuta mtu ammeze. Lakini maombi ya dhati na bidii ya imani yatazuia juhudi zake zenye nguvu. Kisha chukueni “ngao ya imani,” ndugu zangu , “ambayo kwayo mtaweza kuizima mishale yote yenye moto ya yule mwovu.”(Testimonies for the Church 5:294) [Pr 269.2; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Maombi Huzuia Mashambulizi ya Shetani—Maombi hutuunganisha sisi kwa sisi pia pamoja na MUNGU. Maombi humleta Yesu kando yetu, na kuipa roho iliyozimia, iliyofadhaika nguvu mpya ya kuushinda ulimwengu, mwili,

na Ibilisi. Maombi huzuia mashambulizi ya Shetani.—
(Christ's Object Lessons, 250) [Pr 269.3; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Ni lazima tuvae silaha zote za MUNGU na kuwa tayari wakati wowote kwa ajili ya mapambano na nguvu za giza. Majaribu na mitihani vinapotujia, sisi tumwendee MUNGU na tumlilie kwa uchungu katika maombi. Yeye Hatatuambia turudi tukiwa watupu, bila chochote, bali atatupa neema na nguvu za kushinda, na kuvunja nguvu za adui.—(Early Writings, 46) [Pr 269.4; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Shetani Hutetemeka akisikia Sauti ya Maombi—Wakati Shetani anapona kwamba yuko katika hatari ya kupoteza nafsi moja, atajitahidi kadiri ya uwezo wake wote kuihifadhi. Na mtu huyo anapoamshwa kwenye hatari yake, na, kwa dhiki na bidii na usongo, akamtazama Yesu ili kupata nguvu, Shetani anaogopa kwamba atampoteza mateka wake, naye anaita majeshi ya malaika wake ili kuizunguka roho hiyo dhaifu, na kuunda ukuta wa giza kumzunguka, ili nuru ya mbinguni isimfikie. Lakini ikiwa yule aliye hatarini anastahimili bila kuchoka, na katika hali yake ya kutokuwa na uwezo akajisalimisha juu ya wema na sifa za damu ya Kristo, Mwokozi wetu husikiliza ombi la dhati la imani, na kutuma jeshi la wale malaika wenye uwezo mkubwa ili kumkomboa. Shetani hawezi kuvumilia kuona mpinzani wake mwenye nguvu anaitwa/anasihiwa, kwa kuwa anaogopa na kutetemeka mbele ya nguvu za ajabu na ukuu Wake Mwenyezi Mungu. Kwa sauti ya ombi la dhati, jeshi zima la Shetani hutetemeka kama majani, bila kujizuia. Ibilisi huendelea kuita majeshi ya malaika waovu ili kutimiza lengo lake. Na wakati malaika, waliosheheni uwezo*, waliovikwa la silaha za mbinguni, wanapokuja kusaidia nafsi iliyozimia, inayofuatiliwa kama mawindo, Shetani na jeshi lake wanarudi nyuma na kuanguka chini, wakijua vema kwamba wameshindwa katika vita yao. Raia au wafuasi waliojitolea kwa Shetani, (tunaowajua kwa jina kama mapepo) ni waaminifu, watenda kazi wenye bidii, na wameunganishwa katika kusudi lao moja. Na ingawa wanachukiana na kupigana wao kwa wao, huwa wanaboresha kila fursa ili kuendeleza maslahi yao ambayo wote wanaafikiana nayo (kumsikitisha Mungu kwa kumtendea mwanadamu ubaya na ukatili, ni mojawapo ya yale wanavyoafikiana). Lakini Kamanda mkuu mbinguni na duniani amewekea mipaka nguvu za Shetani (*Angels that

excel in strength).- (Testimonies for the Church 1:345, 346) Pr 270.1; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Shetani Anaogopa Maombi ya Mtakatifu Mnyenyekevu Zaidi— Kuna nguvu kuu katika maombi. Adui wetu mkuu anatafuta mara kwa mara kuiweka nafsi yenye shida mbali na MUNGU. Ombi la kwenda mbinguni la mtakatifu mnyenyekevu zaidi huogopwa zaidi na Shetani kuliko maagizo ya mabaraza au maagizo ya wafalme.— (The SDA Bible Commentary 2:1008) Pr 270.2; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Maombi ni Silaha Dhidi ya Shetani—Jihadhari jinsi unavyopuuzwa maombi ya siri na kujifunza Neno la MUNGU. Hizi ni silaha zako dhidi ya yeye ambaye anajitahidi kuzuia safari yako ya kwenda mbinguni. Kupuuza kwa mara ya kwanza maombi na kusoma Biblia hurahisisha upuuziaji wa mara ya pili tena. Kumpinga Roho wa Mungu anapokusihi mara ya kwanza, hutayarisha njia ya upinzani wa pili. Hivyo moyo unafanywa kuwa mgumu, na dhamira inachomwa ili isiwe nyeti.— (Messages to Young People, 96) Pr 270.3; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Maombi Huvunja Mtego uliojificha wa Shetani—Pale tunapohisi kwamba hatujisikii sana kuzungumza na Yesu, basi na tuombe zaidi. Kwa kufanya hivyo tutavunja mtego wa Shetani uliojificha, mawingu ya giza yatatoweka, nasi tutatambua uwepo mzuri wa Yesu.— (Lift Him Up, 372) [Pr 271.1; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Maombi Yanashinda Dhidi ya Shetani—Ombi la imani ndiyo nguvu kuu ya Mkristo, na hakika litashinda dhidi ya Shetani. Ndiyo maana adui anadokeza ushauri kwamba hatuna haja ya maombi. Jina la Yesu, Mwombezi wetu, yeye analichukia sana; na tunapomwendea kwa dhati ili kupata msaada, jeshi la Shetani hufadhaika na kupata mshtuko. Kusudi lake linatimia vyema ikiwa tutapuuzia zoezi la kuomba, kwa maana basi maajabu yake ya uwongo yatapokelewa kwa urahisi zaidi.— (Testimonies for the Church 1:296) [Pr 271.2; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Maombi Ni Muhimu Hasa Katika hali tete na za dharura katika Mapambano Yetu dhidi ya Shetani—Katika pambano na mashirika ya kishetani kuna nyakati za maamuzi ambazo zitaamua ushindi ama kwa upande wa MUNGU au upande wa mtawala wa ulimwengu huu. Ikiwa wale wanaohusika katika vita hii hawako makini na macho

kabisa, wakiweka bidii na umakini/uangalifu, wakiomba kwa dhati hekima, wakikesha katika maombi, ... Shetani ataibuka kama mshindi, wakati angeweza kushindwa na majeshi ya Bwana.....Walinzi waaminifu wa MUNGU hawapaswi kuzipa nguvu za uovu manufaa au mwanya wowote—(The SDA Bible Commentary 6:1094) [Pr 271.3; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Shetani Anakasirishwa na Maombi yenye bidii kubwa— Shetani huwaongoza watu wengi kuamini kwamba maombi kwa MUNGU ni bure na ni desturi tu. Anajua vizuri jinsi kutafakari na kuomba kunavyohitajika ili kuwafanya wafuasi wa Kristo waendeleo kuamshwa usingizini ili kuupinga ujanja na udanganyifu wake. Kwa hila zake hugeza akili kutoka kwenye mazoezi haya muhimu, ili nafsi isiegeme msaada wa Yule Mwenye Nguvu zote, na kupata nguvu kutoka Kwake za kupinga mashambulizi yake. Nilielekezwa kwenye maombi ya bidii na yenye matokeo/matunda ya watu wa MUNGU wa kale. “Eliya alikuwa mtu mwenye tabia kama sisi, naye aliomba kwa bidii.” Danieli alimwomba MUNGU wake mara tatu kwa siku. Shetani anakasirishwa na sauti ya ombi lenye shauku kubwa kwa kuwa anajua kwamba atajipatia hasara kubwa. —(Testimonies for the Church 1:295) [Pr 271.4; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Shetani Hufurahi Maombi yanapohenwa bila kutamkwa kwa Uwazi —Hebu wale wanaoomba na wale wanaotamka wayatamke maneno yao ipasavyo na kusema kwa uwazi, dhahiri, wakibainisha maneno, kwa toni isiyo ya juu au chini sana, au inayobadilika-badilika, yaani sauti iliyo thabiti. Ombi likitolewa ipasavyo, ni nguvu ya wema. Ni mojawapo ya njia mojawapo zinazotumiwa na Bwana kuwajulisha watu hazina za Kweli za thamani. Lakini ombi haliwi linavyopaswa kuwa, kwa sababu ya sauti zenye kasoro za wale wanaolitamka. Shetani anafurahi wakati maombi yanayotolewa kwa MUNGU yanakaribia kutosikika masikioni mwa watu (sauti inakuwa na hitilafu, aidha chini au mtu anakuwa kama anakula jojo au ameinamisha uso chini nk). Hebu watu wa MUNGU wajifunze jinsi ya kusema na kuomba kwa njia ambayo itawakilisha ipasavyo zile Kweli kuu walizonazo. Hebu shuhuda zinazotolewa na sala zinazonenwa viwe wazi na kusikika vyema neno kwa neno.

Na Hivyo MUNGU atatukuzwa.—(Testimonies for the Church 6:382) [Pr 272.1; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Shetani Hujaribu Kutusadikisha Kwamba Kuomba Si Lazima (sala siyo jambo la lazima)— Wazo la kwamba maombi si jambo la lazima, ni mojawapo ya mbinu za Shetani zenye ufanisi zaidi za kuharibu nafsi. Maombi ni ushirika pamoja na MUNGU, Chemchemi ya hekima, Chanzo cha nguvu, na amani, na furaha (Maombi ni kuzungumza na Mungu, na Biblia ni Mungu anazungumza na sisi, vyote Shetani hataki mwanadamu avifikie).—(Child Guidance, 518) [Pr 272.2; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Shetani anaona watumishi wa Bwana wamelemewa mzigo, kwasababu ya giza la kiroho linalowafunika watu. Naye huyasikia maombi yao ya dhati kwa ajili ya neema ya Bwana na uwezo wa kuvunja uchawi wa kukosa shauku na kutojali, uvivu na kutokuwa makini. Akiwa na usongo mpya, anaikobeka sanaa yake. Yeye huwajaribu watu kuendekeza uchu wa tamaa ya chakula au namna nyingine ya tamaa ya mwili ya kujiridhisha, na hivyo kuzifisha hisia zao hata washindwe kusikia mambo yale ambayo wanahitajika sana kujifunza. [Pr 272.3; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Shetani anajua vyema kwamba wote wale ambao yeye anaweza kuwaongoza kwenye kupuuzia maombi na kuyachunguza Maandiko, watatekewa na hivyo kuzidiwa na mashambulizi yake. Kwa hivyo yeye huvumbua kila nyenzo inayowezekana ili kuishugulisha na kuiteka akili. Daima kumewahi kuwa na tabaka la watu wanaokiri kumcha MUNGU, ambao, badala ya kuifuatilia na kuijua ile Kweli, wanaifanya dini yao kuwa ni kutafuta kasoro fulani ya tabia au makosa fulani ya kiimani kwa wale ambao hawakubaliani nao. Hao ndio wasaidizi wa mkono wa kulia wa Shetani. Washitaki wa ndugu si wachache, na daima wapo kibaruanii wakati MUNGU anapofanya kazi na watumishi Wake, wanaomtolea ibada ya Kweli. Wataweka rangi za uwongo juu ya maneno na matendo ya wale wanaoipenda na kuitii ile Kweli. Watawashutumu watumishi wa Kristo walio wanyofu/waaminifu zaidi, wenye bidii na wanaojikana nafsi zao kama waliodanganyika au wadanganyifu. Ni kazi yao kupotosha nia ya kila tendo la Kweli na bora/adhimu, kusambaza maneno ya hiana, na kuibua mashaka katika akili za wale wasio na uzoefu. Kwa kila njia inayowezekana watatafuta

kufanya kile kilicho safi na cha haki au uadilifu, kionekane kuwa najisi, kichafu na cha udanganyifu.—(The Great Controversy, 519) [Pr 273.1; Maombi Aya ya 21]

SURA YA 28

MAOMBI KATIKA SIKU ZA MWISHO

Wale Wanaoishi hasa Katika Siku za Mwisho Wanahitaji Kuomba haswa—Ikiwa Mwokozi wa wanadamu, na nguvu Zake za Kiungu, alihisi hitaji la maombi/kuomba,

Je, ni kiasi gani watu wanyonge, wenye dhambi wanapaswa kuhisi umuhimu wa maombi—maombi ya bidii na ya kudumu! Wakati Kristo alipopatwa na majaribu makali zaidi, Yeye Hakula chochote. Alijikabidhi kwa MUNGU, na kupitia maombi ya dhati, na kujitiisha kikamilifu kwenye mapenzi ya Baba Yake, Naye aliibuka kama mshindi. Wale wanaoukiri na kuushuhudia Ukweli kwa ajili ya siku hizi za mwisho, zaidi ya jamii nyingine yoyote ya wanaodai kuwa Wakristo, wanapaswa kumwiga Yeye Yule aliye Kielelezo Kikuu katika maombi.— (Counsels on Diet and Foods, 52, 53) [Pr 274.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Watu wa MUNGU Wana Wajibu wa Kuomba kwa ajili ya Miaka Michache Zaidi ya Neema Kabla Mwisho haujafika— Lazima kuwe na hali ya kiroho zaidi, kujitolea wakfu kwa kina zaidi kwa MUNGU, na usongo/ari katika kazi Yake ambayo haijapata kufikiwa bado. Lazima muda mwingi lutumike katika maombi, ili mavazi yetu ya tabia yasafishwe na kufanywa meupe katika damu ya Mwana-Kondoo. [Pr 274.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Tunapaswa kuwa na imani isiyoyumba haswa, tunapaswa kumtafuta MUNGU ili neema na nguvu zitolewe kwa watu Wake sasa. Hatuamini kwamba wakati umetimia wa kuwekwa vikwazo juu ya uhuru wetu. Nabii aliona “malaika wanne wamesimama katika pembe nne za dunia, wakizulia pepo nne za dunia, ili upepo usivume juu ya nchi, wala juu ya bahari, wala juu ya mti wowote. Malaika mwingine, akipanda kutoka mashariki, akawalilia, akisema, Msiidhuru nchi, wala bahari, wala miti, hata tutakapokwisha kuwatia muhuri watumishi wa MUNGU wetu katika vipaji vya nyuso zao.” Hii inasonda kazi tunayopaswa kufanya sasa. Wajibu mkubwa umekabidhiwa kwa wanaume na wanawake wa maombi katika nchi nzima kuomba ili MUNGU afagilie mbali wingu la uovu na kutoa miaka michache zaidi ya neema ya kufanya kazi kwa ajili ya Bwana. Hebu tumlilie MUNGU ili malaika wazizuie pepo nne hadi wamishenari watakapotumwa katika sehemu zote za ulimwengu na kutangaza onyo dhidi ya kutotii sheria ya Yehova.— (Testimonies for the Church 5:717, 718. [Pr 274.3; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Maombi Katika Nyakati za Amani yatawatayarisha Watu wa MUNGU kwa ajili ya Nyakati za Taabu Mwishoni —Watumishi wa Kristo hawakupaswa kutayarisha maelezo

au hotuba yoyote ya kutoa watakapofikishwa mahakamani. Maandalizi yao yalipaswa kufanywa siku baada ya siku katika kuzitunza zile Kweli za thamani za Neno la MUNGU, na kwa njia ya maombi kuimarisha imani yao. Walikapofikishwa mahakamani, Roho Mtakatifu atawakumbusha zile Kweli ambazo zitahitajika haswa. [Pr 275.1; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Juhudi za kila siku za dhati za kumjua MUNGU, na Yesu Kristo ambaye Yeye amemtuma, zitaleta nguvu na ufanisi kwenye nafsi. Ujuzi unaopatikana kwa kuchunguza Maandiko kwa bidii uliangaziwa katika kumbukumbu kwa wakati ufaao. Lakini kama kuna yeyote ambaye alikuwa amepuuza kujizoeza na kujifahamisha na Maneno ya Kristo, endapo hawakupata kamwe kujaribu na kujihakikishia wenyewe uwezo wa neema Yake katika majaribu, basi wasingeweza kutarajia kwamba Roho Mtakatifu angeleta Maneno Yake kwenye kumbukumbu zao. Walipaswa kumtumikia MUNGU kila siku kwa upendo usiogawanyika, na kisha kumtumaini Yeye.—(The Desire of Ages, 355) [Pr 275.2; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Tunaishi katika kipindi nyeti, cha kutafakari kwa umakini zaidi katika historia ya ulimwengu huu. Hatima ya umati wa watu duniani inakaribia kuamuliwa. Ustawi wetu wenyewe wa wakati ujao, na pia wokovu wa roho nyingine, unategemea njia tunayofuata sasa. Tunahitaji kuongozwa na Roho wa Kweli. Kila mfuasi wa Kristo anapaswa kuomba na kuuliza dhati na kwa bidii, “Bwana, wataka mimi nifanye nini?” Tunahitaji kujinyenyekeza mbele za Bwana, kwa kufunga na kuomba, na kutafakari sana Neno Lake, hasa kuhusiana na matukio ya hukumu. Inatupasa sasa kutafuta uzoefu wa kina na ulio hai katika mambo ya MUNGU. Hatuna hata nukta ya kupoteza. Matukio ya muhimu sana yanaendelea kufanyika karibu nasi; tuko kwenye ardhi ya Shetani iliyorogwa.—(The Great Controversy, p. 601) [Pr 275.3; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Majira ya dhiki na uchungu mbele yetu yatahitaji imani inayoweza kustahimili uchovu, uchelewesho/kukawia, na njaa— imani ambayo haitazimia ingawa imejaribiwa vikali. Muda wa mlango wa rehema kuwa wazi umetolewa kwa wote kujiandaa kwa ajili ya wakati huo. Yakobo alishinda kwa sababu alivumilia, aliazimia na kujizatiti. Ushindi wake Yakobo, ni ushahidi wa nguvu ya maombi yasiyochoka

na yenye bidii. Wote watakaoshikilia ahadi za MUNGU, kama yeye na kuwa dhati na wavumilivu kama alivyokuwa, watafanikiwa kama Yakobo alivyofaulu. Wale ambao hawako tayari kujikana nafsi, kuteseka mbele ya MUNGU, kuomba kwa muda mrefu na kwa bidii kwa ajili ya baraka Zake, hakika hawataipata. Kushindana mweleka na MUNGU (mfano wa Yakobo na Malaika)—ni wachache kiasi gani wanaojua ina maana gani! Ni wachache kiasi gani ambao wamewahi kuvutiwa roho zao kumfuata Mwenyezi MUNGU kwa matamania makubwa kiasi cha kunyumbulisha kila nguvu. Wakati mawimbi ya kukata tamaa ambayo hakuna lugha inayoweza kueleza yanapomkumba mwombaji, ni wachache kiasi gani wanaoshikamana na imani isiyobadilika kwenye ahadi za MUNGU.— (The Great Controversy, 621) [Pr 276.1; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Maombi yawe ulinzi hata Mwisho—Hadi pambano hilo litakapokoma, kutaendelea kuwa na wale ambao watamwacha MUNGU. Shetani atatengeneza mazingira kiasi kwamba tusipotunzwa na uwezo wa Bwana, yatakaribia kuharibu ngome za nafsi bila kujua. Tunahitaji kuomba katika kila hatua, “Je, hii ndiyo njia ya Bwana?” kadiri maisha haya yanavyoendelea kuwapo na bado tunaendelea kupumua, kutakuwa na haja ya kulinda mapenzi na shauku kwa kusudi thabiti. Hakuna hata nukta moja tunayoweza kuwa salama isipokuwa tunamtegemea MUNGU, maisha yaliyofichwa pamoja na Kristo. Kukesha na maombi ni ulinzi wa usafi wa moyo. [Pr 276.2; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Wote wanaoingia katika Jiji la MUNGU wataingia kupitia mlango mwembamba tu— kwa bidii yenye uchungu mkubwa; kwa maana “hakitaingia humo chochote kilicho najisi. Ufunuo 21:27. Lakini hakuna yeyote aliyeanguka anayehitaji kukata tamaa. Wazee, ambao hapo awali waliheshimiwa na MUNGU, wanaweza kuwa walitia unajisi roho zao, wakitoa mhanga wema katika madhabahu ya tamaa za mwili; lakini wakitubu, na kuacha dhambi, na kumgeukia MUNGU, bado kulikuwa na matumaini kwao. Yeye atangazaye, “Uwe mwaminifu hata kufa, Nami nitakupa taji ya uzima,” pia anatoa mwaliko, “Mtu mbaya na aache njia yake, na mtu asiye haki aache mawazo yake, amrudie Mwenyezi-MUNGU apate kumhurumia, amwendee MUNGU wetu maana atamsamehe kabisa.” Ufunuo 2:10;

Isaya 55:7. MUNGU anachukia dhambi, lakini anampenda mwenye dhambi. “Nitaponya uasi wao,” asema; “Nitawapenda kwa ukunjufu wa moyo.” Hosea 14:4.— (Manabii na Wafalme, 83, 84.) [Pr 276.3; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Kundi dogo Litakuwa Likiombea Kanisa Katika Wakati wa Hatari Yake Kubwa Zaidi—Chachu ya utauwa haijapoteza nguvu zake kabisa. Wakati ambapo hatari na mfadhaiko wa kanisa ni mkubwa zaidi, kundi dogo ambalo limesimama kwenye nuru litakuwa likiugua na kulia kwa ajili ya machukizo yanayofanywa katika nchi. Lakini zaidi sana maombi yao yatainuliwa kwa niaba ya kanisa kwa sababu washiriki wake wanafanya kulingana na namna ya ulimwengu. [Pr 277.1; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Maombi ya bidii ya waaminifu hawa wachache hayataenda bure. Wakati Bwana atakapokuja kama muhukumu, atakuja pia kama mlinzi wa wale wote ambao wameilinda imani katika usafi wake na kujilinda wenyewe bila mawaa dhidi ya ulimwengu. Ni wakati huu ndio ambao MUNGU ameahidi kulipiza kisasi kwa niaba ya wateule Wake ambao humlilia mchana na usiku, ingawa Yeye huchukuliana nao na kuwavumilia kwa muda mrefu — (Testimonies for the Church 5:209, 210) [Pr 277.2; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Omba kwa ajili ya Roho Wakati wa Mvua ya Masika—Hatuwezi kutegemea mazoea au taasisi za nje. Tunachohitaji ni ushawishi wa kuhuisha wa Roho Mtakatifu wa MUNGU. “Si kwa nguvu, wala si kwa uwezo, bali kwa Roho Wangu, asema Bwana wa Majeshi.” Ombeni bila kukoma, na kesheni kwa kufanya kazi sawasawa na maombi yenu. Unapoendelea kuomba, amini, mtumaini MUNGU. Ni wakati wa mvua ya masika, ambapo Bwana atatoa Roho Wake kwa wingi. Uwe na bidii na ari/usongo katika maombi, na ukeshe katika Roho.—(The Review and Herald, March 2, 1897) [Pr 277.3; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Maombi ndio Usalama wa Mkristo katika siku za Mwisho— Niliona baadhi, wakiwa na imani yenye nguvu na vilio vya uchungu, wakimsihi MUNGU. Nyuso zao zilikuwa zimedhoofu na zilikuwa zina alama ya fadhaa na wasiwasi mwingi, zikionyesha mapambano yao ya ndani. Uthabiti na bidii kubwa vilionyeshwa katika nyuso zao; matone makubwa ya jasho yakaanguka kutoka kwenye vipaji vya

nyuso zao. Mara kwa mara nyuso zao ziling'aa kwa alama za ukubali/kibali cha MUNGU, na tena ule mwonekano ulio mzito (makini, usio na tabasamu), wa dhati, na wa wasiwasi ukakaa juu yao. [Pr 278.1; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Malaika waovu walikusanyika kuwazunguka, wakisukuma giza juu yao ili kumfungia Yesu asionekane kwao (wasimwone), ili macho yao yavutwe kwenye giza lililowazunguka, na hivyo kuongozwa kutomwamini MUNGU na kumnung'unikia. Usalama wao pekee ulikuwa katika kuelekeza macho yao juu. Malaika wa MUNGU walikuwa na mamlaka juu ya watu Wake, na anga hewa lenye sumu ya malaika waovu liliposogezwa karibu na hawa watu wenye kufadhaika na wasiwasi, malaika wa mbinguni walikuwa wakipepea mbawa zao juu yao ili kulitawanya giza nene. [Pr 278.2; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Waombaji walipokuwa wakiendelea na kilio chao cha dhati, nyakati fulani nuru ya Yesu iliwajia, ili kuwatia moyo yao na kuangaza nyuso zao. Baadhi, niliwaona, hawakushiriki katika kazi hii ya kulia kwa uchungu na kusihi. Walionekana kutozingatia na kutojali. Hawakuwa wakipinga giza lililowazunguka, na liliwafunga kama wingu zito. Malaika wa MUNGU waliwaacha hawa na kwenda kusaidia wale walio na bidii, wanaosali. Niliona malaika wa MUNGU wakiharakisha kuwasaidia wale wote waliokuwa wakihangaika kupambana kwa uwezo wao wote kuwapinga malaika wabaya na kujaribu kujisaidia wenyewe kwa kumwita MUNGU kwa ustahimilivu. Lakini malaika Wake waliwaacha wale ambao hawakufanya jitihada yoyote ya kujisaidia, nao wkapotea katika upeo wa macho yangu.— (Early Writings, 269) [Pr 278.3; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Watu wa MUNGU Wataomba na Kushinda Mwishoni Kama Alivyofanya Yakobo—Yakobo na Esau wanawakilisha matabaka mawili; Yakobo mwenye haki, na Esau mwovu. Kufadhaika kwa Yakobo alipojua kwamba Esau alikuwa anakuja dhidi yake, pamoja na gwaride la watu mia nne, kunawakilisha taabu ya wenye haki wakati amri inapotoka ya kuwaua, kabla tu ya kuja kwa Bwana (Yeremia 30:7). Waovu wanapokusanyika kuwazunguka, watajawa na mateso ya akili na mwili, kwani hawawezi kuona njia ya kuyaponya maisha yao kama Yakobo. Malaika akajiweka mbele ya Yakobo, naye akamshika malaika huyo, na kumng'ang'ania, na akashindana Naye mieleka usiku

kucha. Vivyo hivyo na wenye haki, wakati wa taabu na dhiki zao, watahindana mweleka na MUNGU katika maombi, kama vile Yakobo alivyoshindana mweleka na malaika. Yakobo katika dhiki yake aliomba usiku kucha kwa ajili ya ukombozi kutoka kwenye mkono wa Esau (Mwanzo 32). Wenye haki katika uchungu wao unaohisiwa kiakili, watamlilia MUNGU mchana na usiku ili awakomboe kutoka katika mkono wa waovu wanaowazunguka. [Pr 278.4; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Yakobo alikiri kutostahili kwake. "Sistahili hata kidogo rehema Zako zote, na Kweli yote uliyonionyesha mtumishi Wako." Wenye haki, katika dhiki yao, watakuwa na hisia ya kina ya kutostahili kwao, na kwa machozi mengi watakiri kutostahili kwao kabisa, na kama vile Yakobo wataomba ahadi za MUNGU kupitia njia ya Kristo, zilizofanywa kwa ajili ya wadhambi kama hao na wategemezi, wasiojiweza, na wenye dhambi wanaotubu. [Pr 279.1; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Yakobo akamng'ang'ania huyo Malaika katika shida yake, wala hakumruhusu aende Zake. Alipokuwa akiomba dua kwa machozi, Malaika huyo alimkumbusha makosa yake ya zamani, na akajaribu kumtoroka Yakobo, ili kumjaribu na kumthibitisha. Ndivyo hivyo wenye haki, katika siku ya dhiki yao, watapimwa, na kuthibitishwa, na kujaribiwa, ili kudhihirisha nguvu zao za imani, ustahimilivu wao na ujasiri usiotikisika katika uwezo wa MUNGU wa kuwakomboa (Malaika Herufi kubwa ni Kristo). [Pr 279.2; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Yakobo hakuweza kugeuzwa. Alijua kwamba MUNGU ni Mwenye rehema, na aliomba rehema Yake. Aliangalia nyuma kwenye huzuni yake ya zamani na toba ya makosa yake, na akashinikiza ombi lake la ukombozi dhidi ya mkono wa Esau. Hivyo ombi lake lisilochoka na lenye msukumo likaendelea usiku kucha. Alipopitia upya makosa yake ya zamani, ilimfanya kukaribia kukata tamaa. Lakini alijua kwamba lazima apate msaada kutoka kwa MUNGU au aangamie. Ndipo akamshika Yule malaika, na kushinikiza ombi lake kwa kilio cha uchungu, cha bidii, hata akashinda. Ndivyo itakavyokuwa kwa watu wema. Wanapopitia matukio ya maisha yao ya zamani, matumaini yao yatakaribia kuzama. Lakini wanapotambua kwamba ni jambo la uzima au kifo, watamlilia MUNGU kwa bidii, na

kumsihi kuhusiana na huzuni yao ya zamani na toba ya unyenyekevu ya dhambi zao nyingi, na kisha watarejelea kwenye ahadi Yake, “Hebu ashike nguvu Zangu, na afanye amani Nami, naye atafanya amani Nami.” Hivyo maombi yao ya bidii yatatolewa kwa MUNGU mchana na usiku.— (Spiritual Gifts 3:131- 133) [Pr 279.3; Maombi Aya ya 19]

SURA YA 29

FURSA YA MAOMBI -UPENDELEO WA MAOMBI

Kupitia asili na mafunuo, kupitia majaliwa Yake, na kwa ushawishi wa Roho Wake, MUNGU huzungumza nasi. Lakini basi, haya hayatoshi; tunahitaji pia kumimina mioyo yetu Kwake Yeye. Ili tuwe na uzima na nguvu za kiroho, ni lazima tufanye ushirika halisi na Baba yetu wa mbinguni. Akili zetu zinaweza kuvutwa kumwelekea Yeye; tunaweza kutafakari juu ya kazi Zake, rehema Zake, baraka Zake; lakini hii sio maana kamili ya kuwa na ushirika Naye. Ili kuwa na ushirika na MUNGU, ni lazima tuwe na kitu cha kumwambia kuhusu maisha yetu halisi. [Pr 280.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Kuomba ni kufungua moyo kwa MUNGU kama kwa rafiki. Si kwamba ni lazima tumjulishe MUNGU jinsi tulivyo, bali ili kutuwezesha sisi kumpokea Yeye. Maombi hayamshushi MUNGU kwetu, bali hutuina juu Kwake. [Pr 280.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Yesu alipokuwa duniani, aliwafundisha wanafunzi Wake jinsi ya kuomba. Aliwaelekeza kuwasilisha mahitaji yao ya kila siku mbele za MUNGU, na kumtwika Yeye mahangaiko yao yote. Na uhakikisho aliowapa kwamba maombi yao yatasikika, ni uhakikisho wetu pia. [Pr 280.3; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Yesu Mwenyewe, alipokuwa akiishi miongoni mwa wanadamu, mara nyingi alikuwa katika maombi. Mwokozi wetu alijitambulisha Mwenyewe na mahitaji na udhaifu wetu, na katika hilo alifanyika muhitaji, mwombaji, akitafuta kutoka kwa Baba Yake nyongeza ya nguvu, ili apate kwenda akiwa imara kwa ajili ya kazi, wajibu na

majaribu. Yeye ni mfano wetu katika mambo yote. Yeye ni ndugu katika udhaifu wetu, “Yeye alijaribiwa katika mambo yote kama sisi; bali kama mtu asiye na dhambi. asili yake ilijiepusha na uovu; Alivumilia mapambano na mateso ya nafsi katika ulimwengu wa dhambi. Ubinadamu Wake ulifanya maombi kuwa hitaji la lazima na kipaumbele. Alipata faraja na furaha katika ushirika na Baba Yake. Na kama Mwokozi wa wanadamu, Mwana wa MUNGU, alihisi hitaji la maombi, ni kiasi gani wanadamu wanyonge, wenye dhambi wanapaswa kuhisi ulazima wa maombi ya bidii, yenye ari, endelevu - ya kudumu. [Pr 280.4; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Baba yetu wa mbinguni anangoja kutupa utimilifu wa baraka Zake. Ni fursa yetu kunywa kwa kiasi kikubwa kwenye chemchemi ya upendo usio na mipaka. Inashangaza sana kwamba tunaomba kidogo sana! MUNGU ameridhia na Yuko tayari kusikia maombi ya dhati ya aliye mnyenyekevu zaidi kati ya watoto Wake, na bado kuna kusitasita kwa wazi kwa upande wetu kumjulisha MUNGU mahitaji yetu. Malaika wa mbinguni wanaweza kufikiria nini juu ya wanadamu dhaifu wasiojiweza, ambao wanakandamizwa chini ya majaribu, wakati moyo wa MUNGU wa upendo usio na kikomo unawahitaji, tayari kuwapa zaidi ya wanavyoweza kuomba au kufikiria, na bado wanaomba kidogo sana na wana imani ndogo? Malaika hupenda kusujudu mbele za MUNGU; wanapenda kuwa karibu Naye. Wanaona ushirika na MUNGU kuwa ndiyo furaha yao kuu; na bado wana wa dunia, ambao ni wahitaji sana wa msaada ambao MUNGU pekee anaweza kutoa, wanaonekana kutosheka kutembea bila nuru ya Roho Wake, kuandamana na uwepo Wake. [Pr 281.1; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Giza la yule mwovu linawafunika wale wanaopuuzwa kuomba. Majaribu ya kunong'ona ya adui yanawavuta kutenda dhambi; na yote ni kwa sababu hawatumii fursa ambayo MUNGU amewapa katika miadi mitakatifu Naye Katika maombi. Kwa nini wana na binti za MUNGU wanakuwa wenye kusitasita kuomba, wakati maombi ni ufunguo katika mkono wa imani ili kufungua ghala la mbinguni, ambako kunatunzwa rasilimali zisizo na kikomo za Mweza wa yote? Bila maombi na kukesha kwa bidii, tuko katika hatari ya kuongeza roho ya kutojali, uzembe na kukengeuka kutoka katika njia iliyo sahihi. Adui anatafuta

daima kufunga njia ya kuelekea Kiti cha Rehema, ili kwamba kwa maombi ya dhati na imani tusipate neema na uwezo wa kupinga majaribu. [Pr 281.2; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Kuna masharti fulani ambayo tunaweza kutarajia kwamba MUNGU atasikia na kuyajibu maombi yetu. Mojawapo ya hayo ni kwamba tunahisi hitaji letu la msaada kutoka Kwake. Yeye Ameahidi, “Nitamimina maji juu yake yeye aliye na kiu, na mito juu ya nchi kavu.” Isaya 44:3. Wale walio na njaa na kiu ya haki, wenye matamanio na MUNGU, wanaweza kuwa na hakika kwamba watashibishwa. Moyo lazima uwe wazi kwa ushawishi wa Roho, vinginevyo baraka za MUNGU haziwezi kupokelewa. [Pr 282.1; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Haja yetu kubwa yenyewe ni hoja tosha, nayo inasihi kwa umbuji/ufasaha zaidi kwa niaba yetu. Lakini Bwana anapaswa kutafutwa afanye mambo haya kwa ajili yetu. Yeye Anasema, “Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa. Na “Yeye ambaye hakumhurumia Mwana Wake Mwenyewe, bali alimtoa kwa ajili yetu sisi sote, atakosaje basi kutupatia vitu vyote kwa ukarimu pamoja Naye?” Mathayo 7:7; Warumi 8:32. [Pr 282.2; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Tukiendekeza maovu mioyoni mwetu, tukishikamana na dhambi yoyote inayojulikana, Bwana hatatusikia; lakini ombi la mtu aliyetubu na aliyekiri hukubaliwa daima. Makosa yote yanayojulikana yanaporekebishwa, tunaweza kuamini kwamba MUNGU atajibu maombi yetu. Haki yetu sisi wenyewe au mazuri yetu sisi wenyewe hayatatufanya tupate kibali cha MUNGU; ni kustahili Kwake Yesu tu, ndiko kutatuokoa, damu Yake itatusafisha; lakini bado tuna kazi ya kufanya kwa kuzingatia masharti ya kukubalika. [Pr 282.3; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Kipengele kingine cha maombi yenye nguvu ni imani. “Mtu amwendeaye MUNGU lazima aamini kwamba Yeye Yuko, na kwamba huwapa thawabu wale wamtafutao.” Waebrania 11:6. Yesu aliwaambia wanafunzi Wake, yoyote myaombayo mkisali, aminini ya kwamba mnayapokea, nayo yatakuwa yenu. Marko 11:24. Je, tunamuendea Yeye kwa Neno Lake? [Pr 282.4; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Uhakikisho ni mpana na hauna kikomo, na Yeye Aliye mwaminifu ambaye ameahidi, Naye Atatenda. Wakati hatupokei vile vile tulivyoomba, wakati tunaomba, bado

tunapaswa kuamini kwamba Bwana anasikia na kwamba atajibu maombi yetu. Sisi ni wakosefu sana na hivyo hatuoni mbali kiasi kwamba wakati fulani tunaomba mambo ambayo hayatakuwa ya baraka kwetu, na Baba yetu wa mbinguni kwa upendo anajibu maombi yetu kwa kutupa yale ambayo yatakuwa kwa manufaa yetu ya juu—yale ambayo sisi wenyewe tungetamani ikiwa kwa nuru ya maono ya Bwana tungeweza kuona mambo yote jinsi yalivyo Kweli. Maombi yetu yanapoonekana kutojibiwa, tunapaswa kushikilia ahadi; kwani wakati wa kujibu hakika utakuja, na tutapokea baraka tunazohitaji zaidi. Lakini kudai kwamba maombi daima yatajibiwa kwa njia ile ile na kwa jambo lile lile bayana/mahsusuni tunalotamani, ni dhana potofu ambayo haiendani na mapenzi ya Mungu, ni imani na ujasiri bandia, na pengine hata ni kiburi (presumption). MUNGU ni Mwenye hekima sana kiasi kwamba hawezi kamwe kukosea, na ni Mwema sana hata asiweze kuwanyima kitu chochote kizuri wale waendao kwa unyofu. Basi usiogope kumtumaini/kumwamini, ingawa hauoni majibu ya haraka ya maombi yako. Tegemea ahadi Yake ya hakika, “Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa.” [Pr 282.5; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Ikiwa tunashauriana na mashaka na hofu zetu na tunajaribu kutatua kila tatizo wakati ambapo hatuna upeo wa kuona mambo kwa uwazi, basi mashaka na hofu badala ya kuwa na imani yataongezeka na kuwa ya kina. Lakini tukimwendea MUNGU, tukijihisi kuwa hatuna msaada na wategemezi, kama tulivyo kihalisia, na kwa imani ya unyenyekevu, yenye kumtumaini, tukiweka wazi matakwa yetu Kwake Yeye ambaye ujuzi Wake hauna kikomo, ambaye huona kila kitu katika uumbaji, na anayetawala kila kitu kwa mapenzi Yake na Neno Lake, basi Yeye Anaweza na atasikiliza kilio chetu, na ataacha nuru iangaze ndani ya mioyo yetu. Kupitia maombi ya dhati tunaletwa katika mshikamano na mawazo ya Yeye Asiye na mwisho. Huenda tusiwe na ushahidi wa ajabu wakati huo kwamba uso wa Mkombozi wetu unainama juu yetu kwa huruma na upendo, lakini ndivyo ilivyo haswa. Huenda tusihisi mguso Wake unaonekana, lakini mkono Wake uko juu yetu kwa upendo na huruma nyingi. [Pr 283.1; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Tunapoenda kuomba rehema na baraka kutoka kwa MUNGU tunapaswa kuwa na roho ya upendo na msamaha ndani ya mioyo yetu wenyewe. Je, tunawezaje kuomba, “Utusamehe deni zetu, kama sisi tunavyowasamehe wadeni wetu,” na bado tuwe na roho ya kutosamehe? Mathayo 6:12. Ikiwa tunatarajia maombi yetu sisi binafsi yasikilizwe, ni lazima tuwasamehe wengine kwa namna sawa na kwa kiwango sawa na tunachotarajia kusamehewa. [Pr 283.2; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Kudumu katika maombi kwa uvumilivu bila kuchoka kumefanywa kuwa sharti la kupokea. Ni lazima tuombe kila mara ikiwa tunataka kukua katika imani na uzoefu. Tunapaswa kuwa “wenye utayari katika kuomba mara zote,” na “kudumu katika maombi, na kukesha katika hayo kwa kutoa shukrani.” Warumi 12:12; Wakolosai 4:2. Petro anawasihi waumini wawe na kiasi, na msawaziko wa akili, na kukesha katika maombi. 1 Petro 4:7. Paulo anaagiza, “Katika kila neno kwa kusali na kuomba, pamoja na kushukuru, haja zenu na zijulikane na MUNGU.” Wafilipi 4:6. “Lakini ninyi, wapenzi,” asema Yuda, “mkiomba katika Roho Mtakatifu, jilindeni katika upendo wa MUNGU.” Yuda 20, 21. Ombi lisilokoma ni muungano usiovunjika wa nafsi na MUNGU, ili uzima kutoka kwa MUNGU utiririke ndani ya maisha yetu; na kutoka nje ya maisha yetu, usafi na utakatifu utatiririke kurudi kwa MUNGU. [Pr 283.3; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Kuna ulazima wa uadilifu na bidii katika maombi; usiruhusu chochote kikuzuie. Fanya kila juhudi kuweka wazi ushirika kati ya Yesu na roho yako mwenyewe. Tafuta kila nafasi ya kwenda mahali ambapo maombi yamezoeleka kufanywa. Wale ambao kwa kweli wanatafuta ushirika na MUNGU wataonekana katika mkutano wa maombi, wakiwa waaminifu kufanya wajibu wao na kwa bidii na shauku ya kuvuna faida zote wanazoweza kupata. Wataboresha kila fursa ya kujiweka mahali ambapo wanaweza kupokea miale ya nuru kutoka mbinguni. [Pr 284.1; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Tunapaswa kuomba katika mzunguko wa familia, na zaidi ya yote hatupaswi kupuuza maombi ya siri, kwa maana haya ni uzima wa nafsi. Haiwezekani kabisa nafsi kusitawi wakati maombi ya faragha yamepuuzwa. Sala ya familia au hadhara pekee yake haitoshi. Katika upweke roho iwekwe wazi (ianikwe) mbele ya jicho la

upekuzi/ukaguzi la MUNGU. Maombi ya siri yanapaswa kusikilizwa na MUNGU pekee anayesikia maombi. Hakuna sikio la udadisi linalopaswa kupokea mzigo wa maombi hayo. Katika maombi ya siri nafsi inakuwa huru dhidi ya vishawishi vinavyoizunguka, huru dhidi ya msisimko. Kwa utulivu, lakini kwa bidii, itamfikia MUNGU. Mvuto unaotoka kwake Yeye aonaye kwa siri utakuwa mtamu/mzuri na wa kudumu, Yule ambaye sikio Lake liko wazi kusikia maombi yanayotoka moyoni. Kwa imani tulivu, iliyo sahili, roho hushikilia ushirika na MUNGU na kujikusanyia miale ya nuru ya Bwana ili kuiimarisha na kuitegemeza katika pambano na Shetani. MUNGU Ndiye mnara wetu wa nguvu zetu. [Pr 284.2; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Omba chumbani mwako au mahali pa faragha, na unapoendelea na kazi yako ya kila siku acha moyo wako uinuliwe kwa MUNGU mara kwa mara. Ilikuwa kwa namna hiyo ambapo Henoko alitembea na MUNGU. Maombi haya ya kimya huinuka kama uvumba wa thamani mbele ya kiti cha neema. Shetani hawezi kumshinda yule ambaye moyo wake umejitegemeza kwa MUNGU. [Pr 284.3; Maombi Aya ya 16b]

Katika maombi ya siri nafsi haivutiwi na vile inavyoizunguka, iko huru kutokana na misisimko. Kwa utulivu, lakini kwa ari na shauku, hakika itamfikia Mungu. Utamu na ulio wa kudumu utakuwa mvuto unaotoka kwa Yeye aonaye kwa siri, ambaye sikio Lake liko wazi kusikia sala inayotoka moyoni. Kwa imani tulivu, iliyo sahili, roho hushikilia ushirika na Mungu na kujikusanyia miale ya nuru ya Bwana ili kuiimarisha na kuitegemeza katika pambano na Shetani. Mungu Ndiye mnara wa nguvu zetu. [Pr 284.2; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Hakuna wakati au mahali ambapo haifai kutoa ombi kwa MUNGU. Hakuna kitu kinachoweza kutuzuia kuinua mioyo yetu katika roho ya maombi yaliyo dhati na ya bidii. Katika umati wa watu barabarani na mitaani, katikati ya pilikapilika za shughuli za kibiashara, tunaweza kutuma ombi kwa MUNGU na kusihhi mwongozo wa Bwana, kama alivyofanya Nehemia alipotoa ombi lake mbele ya Mfalme Artashasta. Chumba cha ushirika wa faragha kinaweza kupatikana popote tulipo. Tunapaswa kuacha mlango wa moyo wazi daima na mwaliko wetu uwe unaendelea

kupanda ili Yesu aje na kukaa ndani ya moyo kama mgeni wa mbinguni katika nafsi. [Pr 284.4; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Ingawa kunaweza kuwa na mazingira machafu, yaliyoharibika karibu nasi na yenye giza, sisi hatuhitaji kupumua hewa yake chafu na yenye kunuka vibaya, lakini tunaweza kuishi katika hewa safi ya mbinguni. Tunaweza kufunga kila mlango wa fikra chafu na mawazo machafu yasiyo matakatifu kwa kuinua roho katika uwepo wa MUNGU kupitia maombi ya moyo wa dhati. Wale ambao mioyo yao iko wazi kupokea msaada na baraka za MUNGU watatembea katika angahewa takatifu zaidi kuliko ile ya dunia na watakuwa na ushirika wa kudumu/endelevu na mbingu. [Pr 285.1; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Tunahitaji kuwa na maoni dhahiri zaidi ya Yesu na ufahamu kamili zaidi wa thamani ya uhalisia wa milele. Uzuri wa utakatifu unapaswa kujaza mioyo ya watoto wa MUNGU; na ili hili liweze kutimizwa, tunapaswa kutafuta mafunuo ya Bwana yahusuyo mambo ya mbinguni. [Pr 285.2; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Hebu roho ivutwe nje na kwenda juu, ili MUNGU atujalie pumzi ya angahewa la mbinguni. Tunaweza kuwa karibu sana na MUNGU ili kwamba katika kila changamoto au jaribu lisilotazamiwa, mawazo yetu yatamgeukia Yeye kama asili, yaani kama kawaida kama vile ua linavyogeukia jua (naturally au automatik). [Pr 285.3; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Weka mahitaji yako, furaha yako, huzuni zako, wasiwasi wako, na hofu zako mbele za MUNGU. Wewe auwezi kumlelea Yeye; wewe hauwezi kumchosha Bwana. Yeye Anayehesabu nywele za kichwa chako hayuko tofauti juu ya mahitaji ya watoto Wake (hujali mahitaji ya watoto Wake). “Bwana ni mwingi wa huruma, ni mwingi wa rehema.” Yakobo 5:11. Moyo Wake wa upendo unaguswa na sikitiko letu na hata sisi tunavyozitamka huzuni hizi. Mpelekee Yeye kila kitu kinachotatanisha akili. Hakuna lililo kubwa Kwake kustahimili, kwani Yeye Ndiye anayeshikilia malimwengu (sayari zote), Yeye Anatawala mambo yote ya kila mahali (mbingu na nchi Universe au galaksi zote). Hakuna jambo lolote ambalo kwa njia yoyote ile linahusu amani yetu ni dogo sana Kwake hata asilitambue. Hakuna sura katika uzoefu wetu ambayo ina giza sana Kwake hata asiweze kuisoma; hakuna wasiwasi

ulio mgumu sana Kwake hata asiwe kuutatua. Hakuna janga liwezalo kumpata hata yule aliye mdogo kabisa kati ya watoto Wake, hakuna uonevu au masumbufu yoyote yanayosumbua nafsi, hakuna furaha ya shangwe, hakuna sala ya unyoofu inayotoka midomoni, ambayo Baba yetu wa mbinguni haioni, au ambayo Yeye haizingatii mara moja kwa kuonyesha shauku Yake. "Yeye huwaponya waliovunjika moyo, na kufunga majeraha yao." Zaburi 147:3. Mahusiano kati ya MUNGU na kila nafsi ni dhahiri na yamesheheni (ni makamilifu) kana kwamba hakuna nafsi nyingine duniani inayoshiriki ulinzi Wake, au nafsi nyingine ambayo kwayo Yeye alimtoa Mwanawe Mpendwa kwa ajili Yake. [Pr 285.4; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Yesu alisema, "Mtaomba kwa Jina Langu; si Mimi niliyewaambia, kwamba nitamuomba Baba kwa ajili yenu: kwani Baba anawapenda ninyi" "Nimewachagua ili chochote muombacho kwa Jina Langu, Awapatie." Yohana 16:26, 27; Yohana 15:16. Lakini kuomba kwa Jina la Yesu ni zaidi ya kutaja tu Jina hilo mwanzoni na mwisho wa maombi. Ni kuomba katika akili na roho ya Yesu, huku tunaamini ahadi Zake, na kutegemea neema Yake, na kutenda kazi Zake. [Pr 286.1; Maombi Aya ya 24]

MUNGU hamaanishi kwamba yeyote kati yetu ajiepushe na watu au awe mtawa na kujitenga na ulimwengu ili kujishughulisha na ibada- kwa kwenda kuishi wasipo watu kabisa au kuishi katika jumba moja na waumini fulani tu (hermit na monk). Maisha lazima yawe kama maisha ya Kristo—kati ya mlima na umati wa watu. Yule ambaye hafanyi chochote isipokuwa kuomba ataacha hivi karibuni kuomba, au maombi yake yatakuwa ya mazoea ya kila siku. Watu wanapojiondoa katika maisha ya kijamii, mbali na nyanja ya wajibu wa Kikristo na pia kubeba msalaba; wanapoacha kufanya kazi kwa bidii kwa ajili ya Bwana wao, ambaye alifanya kazi kwa bidii kwa ajili yao, wanapoteza kusudi la msingi la maombi na wanapoteza kichocheo cha kujitoa kwa ibada au kujitoa wakfu. Maombi yao yanakuwa ya kibinafsi na ya ubinafsi/uchoyo. Hawawezi kuomba kuhusiana na mahitaji ya wanadamu au ya kujengwa kwa ufalme wa Kristo, wakiomba nguvu za kuifanya kazi Yake. [Pr 286.2; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Tunapata hasara kubwa tunapopuuza fursa ya kujumuika pamoja ili kuimarishana na kutiana moyo katika utumishi

wa MUNGU. Kweli za Neno Lake hupoteza udhahiri/uangavu na umuhimu Wake katika bongo zetu. Mioyo yetu inaacha kuangazwa na kuamshwa na mvuto Wake wa kutakasa, na tunapungua katika hali ya kiroho. Katika ushirika wetu kama Wakristo tunapoteza mengi kwa kukosa kuhurumiana sisi kwa sisi. Yule anayejifungia nafsi yake ili akae mwenyewe, haikalii nafasi ambayo MUNGU alipanga aijaze. Ukuzaji ufaao wa vipengele vya kijamii katika asili yetu hutuleta katika huruma na wengine na ni njia ya maendeleo ya utu wetu na nguvu kwetu katika utumishi wa MUNGU. [Pr 286.3; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Ikiwa Wakristo wangeshirikiana pamoja, wakisemezana juu ya upendo wa MUNGU na zile Kweli zenye thamani za ukombozi, mioyo yao wenyewe ingefanywa upya na kuwafanya upya wenzao. Tunaweza kuwa tunajifunza zaidi juu ya Baba yetu wa mbinguni kila siku, tukipata uzoefu mpya wa neema Yake; ndipo tutatamani kuzungumzia juu ya upendo Wake; na tunapofanya hivi, mioyo yetu itatiwa jotojoto na kutiwa moyo. tungewaza na kuzungumza zaidi juu ya Yesu, badala yetu sisi wenyewe, basi tungekuwa na uwepo Wake mwingi zaidi. [Pr 287.1; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Ikiwa tungemfikiria MUNGU pekee mara nyingi tunapokuwa na ushahidi wa ulinzi na utunzaji Wake kwetu, tungetakiwa kumweka daima katika mawazo yetu na tunapaswa kufurahi kuzungumza juu Yake na kumsifu. Tunazungumza juu ya mambo ya kupita, yale yasiyodumu, kwa sababu tunapendezwa nayo. Tunazungumza juu ya marafiki zetu kwa sababu tunawapenda; furaha zetu na huzuni zetu zimefungamana nao. Hata hivyo tuna sababu kubwa isiyo na kikomo ya kumpenda MUNGU kuliko kuwapenda marafiki zetu wa duniani; inapaswa kuwa jambo la kawaida zaidi ulimwenguni kumfanya Yeye kuwa wa kwanza katika mawazo yetu yote, kuzungumza juu ya wema Wake na kueleza juu ya uwezo Wake. Zawadi nono alizotupa hazikukusudiwa kuchukua mawazo na upendo wetu hata tusiwe na kitu cha kumpa MUNGU; hizi zinapaswa kutukumbusha daima juu Yake na kutufunga katika vifungo vya upendo na shukrani kwa Mfadhili wetu wa mbinguni. Tunageukia sana nyanda za chini za dunia (yakatishayo tamaa au yaliyo hasi). Hebu na tuyainue macho yetu kwenye mlango uliofunguliwa wa Patakatifu pa juu, ambapo nuru ya utukufu wa MUNGU inang'aa katika

uso wa Kristo, ambaye “aweza kuwaokoa kabisa wao wanaomwendea MUNGU kwa njia Yake Yesu.” Waebrania 7:25. [Pr 287.2; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Tunahitaji kumsifu MUNGU zaidi “kwa ajili ya wema Wake, na kwa ajili ya matendo Yake ya ajabu kwa wanadamu.” Zaburi 107:8. Mazoezi yetu ya ibada hayapaswi kuhusisha kuomba na kupokea peke yake. Hebu tusiwe tunafikiria kila mara matakwa yetu na sio faida tunazopata. Mara nyingi hatuombi kiasi cha kutosha (hatuombi kupindukia), ila tuna tabia ya kutoa shukrani zetu kwa ubahili sana. Sisi ni wapokeaji wa rehema za MUNGU mara kwa mara, na bado ni shukrani ndogo kiasi gani tunaonyesha, ni mara chache kiasi gani tunamsifu kwa yale ambayo Yeye ametufanyia. [Pr 287.3; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Hapo zamani za kale Bwana aliwaambia Israeli, walipokutana pamoja kwa ajili ya utumishi Wake, “Mtakula mbele za Bwana, MUNGU wenu, nanyi mtafurahi katika yote mtakayotia mkono wenu, ninyi na nyumba zenu, ambazo Bwana, MUNGU wenu, amewabarikia ninyi.” Kumbukumbu la Torati 12:7. Kile kinachofanyika kwa utukufu wa MUNGU kinapaswa kufanywa kwa furaha, kwa nyimbo za sifa na shukrani, sio kwa huzuni na masikitiko. [Pr 288.1; Maombi Aya ya 30]

MUNGU wetu ni Baba mpole, Mwenye moyo mwororo, huruma na rehema. Utumishi Wake haupaswi kuangaliwa kama zoezi gumu la kuhuzunisha moyo, na kuleta msongo. Inapaswa kuwa furaha kumwabudu Bwana na kushiriki katika kazi Yake. MUNGU asingetaka watoto Wake, ambao wokovu mkuu umetolewa kwao, watende kana kwamba Yeye ni msimamizi mgumu na mkali (mnyapara), mwenye kutubebesha majukumu mazito. Yeye ni rafiki yao/yetu mkubwa; na tunapomwabudu, Yeye anatazamia kuwa pamoja nasi, na kutubariki na kutufariji, akijaza mioyo yetu shangwe na upendo. Bwana anatamani sisi watoto Wake tupate faraja katika huduma Yake na kupata raha zaidi kuliko shida katika kazi Yake. Yeye Anatamani kwamba wale tunaokuja kumwabudu Yeye tuchukue pamoja nasi mawazo ya thamani ya ulinzi, utunzaji Wake na upendo Wake, ili tuweze kuchangamshwa katika shughuli zote za maisha ya kila siku, ili tupate neema ya

kutenda kwa ukweli/kikweli na uaminifu katika mambo yote. [Pr 288.2; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Ni lazima tukusanyike kwenye msalaba. Kristo na kusulubiwa Kwake inapaswa kuwa mada yetu kutafakari, ya mazungumzo, na ya hisia zetu za furaha na shangwe zaidi. Tunapaswa kuweka katika mawazo yetu kila baraka tunayopokea kutoka kwa MUNGU, na tunapotambua upendo Wake mkuu tunapaswa kuwa tayari kukabidhi kila kitu kwenye mkono ule uliopigiliwa msumari msalabani kwa ajili yetu. [Pr 288.3; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Nafsi inaweza kupaa juu karibu na mbingu kwa mbawa za sifa. Mungu anaabudiwa kwa nyimbo na muziki katika makao yaliyo juu, na tunapoonyesha shukrani zetu, basi tunakaribia ibada ya majeshi ya mbinguni. Yeye “Atoaye sadaka ya sifa humtukuzi MUNGU. Zaburi 50:23. Hebu na tuje mbele ya Muumba wetu kwa shangwe ya uchaji, kwa “shukrani, na sauti ya shangwe.” Isaya 51:3. [Pr 288.4; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Sura hii inaonekana katika Steps to Christ, 93-104

SURA YA 30

SALA YA BWANA

“Basi ninyi salini hivi.” Mathayo 6:9.

Sala ya Bwana ilitolewa mara mbili na Mwokozi wetu, kwanza mbele ya umati katika Mahubiri ya Mlimani, na kisha, miezi kadhaa baadaye kwa wanafunzi peke yao. Wanafunzi walikuwa wamekaa mbali kwa muda mfupi na Bwana wao, nao waliporudi walimkuta amezama/ametekewa katika ushirika/mawasiliano na MUNGU. Akiwa ameonekana kwao kwamba hajui uwepo wao, Aliendelea kuomba kwa sauti. Uso wa Mwokozi ulin’gaa, ukimulikwa na mwangaza wa mbinguni. Waliona kama Yupo mbele Zake Yeye Yule Asiyeonekana kabisa (Mungu BABA), na kulikuwa na nguvu hai katika Maneno Yake kama ya mtu anayezungumza na MUNGU. [Pr 289.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Mioyo ya wanafunzi waliokuwa wakisikiliza ilitekewa kwa kuguswa sana. Walikuwa wamehesabu ni mara ngapi Alikuwa ameenda kwa muda mrefu katika upweke kwenye ushirika na Baba Yake. Siku zake zilipita katika huduma kwa makutano waliomsonga, na katika kufunua hila za udanganyifu wa viongozi wa kidini, na kazi hii isiyokoma mara nyingi ilimfanya awe hoi kwa kuchoka sana hata mama Yake na ndugu Zake na pia wanafunzi Wake waliogopa kwamba ingemgarimu maisha (afya Yake ingetolewa mhanga). Lakini aliporudi kutoka katika saa za maombi zilizofunga siku ile yenye taabu, walishuhudia mwonekano wa amani juu ya uso Wake, hisia ya kuburudishwa ambayo ilionekana kutawala uwepo Wake. Upya na hali hii kwa ujumla vilitokana na saa alizotumia na MUNGU na ndipo alienda, asubuhi baada ya asubuhi, kuleta

nuru ya mbinguni kwa wanadamu. Wanafunzi Wake wakafikia hatima ya kuzihusisha saa Zake za maombi na nguvu za Maneno Yake na kazi Zake. Sasa, walipokuwa wakisikiliza ombi Lake, mioyo yao ilipata hofu takatifu (awe), kwa ule utukufu, na kisha wakanyenyekea. Alipomaliza kuomba tu, ilikuwa ni kwa usadikisho wa hitaji lao la ndani na kina, ndipo walipopaza sauti na kusihi, “Bwana, tufundishe sisi kusali.” Luka 11:1. [Pr 289.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Yesu hawapi watu aina mpya ya ombi. Yale Aliyowafundisha hapo awali Anayarudia, kana kwamba Angesema kwetu leo, Mnahitaji kuelewa kile nilichokwisha kutoa. Kuna maana ya kina ambayo bado hamjajielewa. [Pr 290.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Mwokozi, hata hivyo, hatuzui kutumia maneno haya kama yalivyo. Akiwa mmoja na ubinadamu, Yeye Anawasilisha wazo Lake la maombi yaliyo bora, maneno sahili./mepesi sana kiasi kwamba yanaweza kukaririwa na mtoto mdogo, lakini yanafunika kila kitu na yanaeleweka sana kiasi kwamba umuhimu wake hauwezi kamwe kueleweka kikamilifu, hata na akili za watu werevu zaidi (**genius**). Tunafundishwa kumwendea MUNGU na zawadi yetu ya shukrani, kumweleza mahitaji yetu, kuungama dhambi zetu, na kudai rehema Zake kwa mujibu wa ahadi Zake. [Pr 290.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

“Mnaposali, semeni Baba Yetu.” Luka 11:2.

Yesu anatufundisha kumwita Baba Yake, Baba yetu. Yeye haoni haya kutuita ndugu Zake. Waebrania 2:11. Moyo wa Mwokozi kwa matamano makubwa uko tayari kutukaribisha kama wanachama wa familia ya MUNGU, ndio sababu katika Maneno Yake ya utambulisho Wake wa kwanza kabisa, tumeambiwa tupasavyo kuyatumia katika kumwendea/kumsogelea MUNGU, Yeye ameweka humo uhakikisho wa uhusiano wetu wa Kiungu Naye (na Mungu), “Baba yetu.” [Pr 290.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Hili ni tangazo la Ukweli huo wa ajabu, Ukweli unaotia moyo na faraja mno, kwamba MUNGU anatupenda jinsi anavyompenda Mwanawe. Hivi ndivyo Yesu alisema katika sala Yake ya mwisho kwa ajili ya wanafunzi Wake, “Umewapenda wao kama ulivyonipenda Mimi.” Yohana 17:23. [Pr 290.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Ulimwengu ambao Shetani amedai kuuchukua na kuwa wake na kisha kuutawala kwa jeuri yenye ukatili, Mwana wa MUNGU, kwa ushindi mmoja mkubwa, ameuzingira katika upendo Wake na kuunganisha tena pamoja na kiti cha ufalme cha Yehova. Makerubi na maserafi, na majeshi yasiyohesabika ya ulimwengu (universe) wote usioanguka, waliimba nyimbo za sifa kwa MUNGU na Mwana-Kondoo wakati ushindi huu ulipohakikishwa. Walifurahi kwamba njia ya wokovu ilikuwa imefunguliwa kwa jamii iliyoanguka na kwamba dunia ingekombolewa kutoka katika laana ya dhambi. Je! ni shangwe ya ajabu kiasi gani basi, inayopaswa kuwabubujikia wale ambao ndio walengwa wa upendo huo wa ajabu! [Pr 290.5; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Je, tunawezaje basi kuwa katika mashaka na kutokuwa na uhakika, na kuhisi kwamba sisi ni yatima? Ilikuwa ni kwa niaba ya wale ambao walikuwa wameivunja sheria ndipo Yesu akachukua juu Yake asili ya ubinadamu; Yeye Akawa kama sisi, ili tuwe na amani ya milele na uhakikisho. Tunae Wakili mbinguni, na yeyote anayemkubali kama Mwokozi wake binafsi haachiwi kamwe kama yatima kubeba mzigo wa dhambi zake mwenyewe. [Pr 291.1; Maombi Aya ya 8]

"Wapenzi, sasa tu wana wa MUNGU." "Na ikiwa ni watoto, basi tu warithi; warithi wa MUNGU, warithio pamoja na Kristo; ikiwa tukiteswa pamoja Naye, ili tupate kutukuzwa pamoja Naye." "Bado haijadhihirika tutakavyokuwa; lakini twajua ya kuwa atakapodhihirishwa tutafanana Naye; kwa maana tutamwona jinsi alivyo." 1 Yohana 3:2; Warumi 8:17. [Pr 291.2; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Hatua ya kwanza kabisa ya kumkaribia MUNGU ni kujua na kuamini upendo alionao kwetu (1 Yohana 4:16); kwa maana ni kupitia kuvutiwa na upendo Wake ndipo tunapoongozwa kwenda Kwake. [Pr 291.3; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Kuusikia, kuhuhisi na kuuishi upendo wa MUNGU hufanya kazi katika kuukana ubinafsi. Katika kumwita MUNGU Baba yetu, tunawatambua watoto Wake wote kama ndugu zetu. Sisi sote ni sehemu ya mtandao mkuu wa ubinadamu, sote ni washiriki wa familia moja. Katika maombi yetu tunapaswa kujumuisha majirani zetu na sisi wenyewe. Hakuna anayeomba kwa usahihi ambaye anatafuta baraka

kwa ajili yake peke yake (anayejiombea shida au mahitaji yake binafsi tu). [Pr 291.4; Maombi Aya ya 11]

MUNGU wa milele yaani Yeye Yule Asiye na kikomo, alisema Yesu ameifanya iwe fursa kwetu sisi, kumwita Yeye kwa Jina la Baba. Elewa yote ambayo hii inamaanisha. Hakuna mzazi wa duniani aliyewahi kusihi kwa ajili ya mtoto Wake mwenye makosa kwa bidii kama Yeye Alituumba anavyotukaribisha na anavyosihi kwa ajili ya sisi wapotovu. Hakuna maslahi ya upendo wa kibinadamu yaliyowahi kuwafuata wasiotubu kwa mialiko hiyo ya huruma. MUNGU anakaa katika kila makazi; Yeye husikia kila neno linalonenwa, husikiliza kila ombi linalotolewa, huonja huzuni na kukatishwa tamaa kwa kila nafsi, huangalia jinsi anavyotendewa baba, mama, dada, rafiki na jirani. Yeye Anajali mahitaji yetu, na upendo Wake na rehema na neema vinaendelea kumiminika daima ili kutosheleza hitaji letu. [Pr 291.5; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Lakini mkimwita MUNGU Baba yenu mwaafikiana kuwa ninyi ni watoto Wake, na mu tayari kuongozwa na hekima Yake na kuwa watiifu katika mambo yote, mkijua kwamba upendo Wake haubadiliki. Mtakubaliana na mpango Wake kwa ajili ya maisha yenu. Kama watoto wa MUNGU, mtaishikilia hadhi Yake, heshima Yake, tabia Yake, familia Yake, kazi Yake, kama malengo ya shauku yenu ya juu zaidi. Itakuwa furaha yenu kutambua na kuheshimu uhusiano wenu na Baba yenu na kwa kila mwanafamilia Yake. Mtafurahi kufanya tendo lolote, hata liwe la unyenyekevu kwa kiasi gani, litakalopelekea kuleta utukufu Wake Mungu au ustawi wa ndugu zetu au udugu wetu (binadamu sote). [Pr 292.1; Maombi Aya ya 13]

"Uliyeko juu mbinguni." Yeye ambaye Kristo anatubidisha tumtazame kama "Baba yetu" "Yuko mbinguni: Yeye amefanya yale yote yanayompendeza." Katika utunzaji na ulinzi Wake tunaweza kupumzika kwa usalama, tukisema, "Wakati ninaoogopa, nitakutumaini Wewe." Zaburi 115:3; Zaburi 56:3. [Pr 292.2; Maombi Aya ya 14]

"Jina lako litukuzwe." Mathayo 6:9.

Kulitukuza Jina la Bwana kunahitaji kwamba maneno ambayo tunazungumza juu ya Yeye Aliye Mkuu Zaidi

yatamkwe kwa heshima. “Jina Lake ni takatifu na lenye kuheshimiwa ‘*kwa kicho*’.” Zaburi 111:9. Kamwe hatupo katika nafasi ya kuchukulia kwa wepesi vyeo au majina ya Uungu. Katika maombi tunaingia kwenye chumba cha kuonana na Yeye Aliye Juu; nasi tunapaswa kwenda mbele Zake kwa kicho kitakatifu. Malaika hufunika nyuso zao mbele Yake. Makerubi na maserafi angavu na watakatifu wanakaribia kiti Chake cha enzi kwa heshima kuu (kicho). Je! ni zaidi kiasi gani kwetu basi, sisi viumbe wenye ukomo, wenye dhambi, tunapaswa kwenda kwa njia ya uchaji/kicho mbele za Bwana, Muumba wetu! [Pr 292.3; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Lakini kulitukuza Jina la Bwana kunamaanisha mengi zaidi ya haya. Tunaweza, kama Wayahudi wa siku za Kristo, tukadhihirisha heshima kubwa zaidi ya nje kwa MUNGU, na bado tunachafua Jina Lake sikuzote. “Jina la Bwana” ni “Mwenye huruma na neema, mvumilivu, na mwingi wa fadhili na Kweli, ... Mwenye kusamehe uovu na makosa na dhambi.” Kutoka 34:5-7. Imeandikwa hivi kuhusu kanisa la Kristo: “Na mji huo utaitwa ‘Mwenyezi-MUNGU ni Ukombozi Wetu, Mwenyezi Mungu ni haki yetu’.” Yeremia 33:16. Jina hili limewekwa kwa kila mfuasi wa Kristo. Ni urithi wa mtoto wa MUNGU. Familia inaitwa kwa jina la Baba. Nabii Yeremia, katika wakati wa taabu na dhiki kuu za Israeli, aliomba, “Tumeitwa kwa Jina Lako; usituache.” Yeremia 14:9. [Pr 292.3; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Jina hili linatukuzwa na kusujudiwa na malaika wa mbinguni, na wakazi wa malimwengu yasiyoanguka (universe-galaxies zote). Unapoomba, “Jina lako litukuzwe,” wewe unaomba kwamba litukuzwe katika ulimwengu huu, na pia litukuzwe ndani yako wewe mwenyewe. Mwenyezi MUNGU amekukiri wewe mbele za watu na Malaika kwamba u mtoto Wake; ombea ili usilikufuru na kulivunja heshima “Jina lile jema tuliloitiwa.” Yakobo 2:7. MUNGU anakutuma ulimwenguni kama mwakilishi Wake. Katika kila tendo la maisha unatakiwa kudhihirisha Jina la MUNGU. Ombi hili linakutaka tumiliki tabia Yake. Wewe huwezi ukalitukuza Jina Lake, huwezi kumwakilisha kwenye ulimwengu, isipokuwa katika maisha na tabia tunawakilisha maisha na tabia ile ile ya MUNGU (tabia Yake Mwenyewe). Hili

unaweza kufanya tu kwa kukubali neema na haki ya Kristo.
[Pr 293.1; Maombi Aya ya 17]

“Ufalme wako uje.” Mathayo 6:10.

MUNGU ni Baba yetu, anayetupenda na kutujali sisi kama watoto Wake; Yeye pia Ndiye Mfalme mkuu wa malimwengu yote (sayari zote). Maslahi na shauku ya ufalme Wake ni masilahi yetu, na tunapaswa kufanya kazi kwa ajili ya kuujenga huo ufalme. [Pr 293.2; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Wanafunzi wa Kristo walikuwa wanatazamia ujio wa haraka wa ufalme Wake wa utukufu, lakini katika kuwapa ombi hili Yesu alifundisha kwamba ufalme usingesimikwa wakati huo. Walipaswa kuombea ujio Wa Ufalme huo kama tukio la wakati ujao. Lakini ombi hili pia lilikuwa uhakikisho kwao. Japo wasingeweza kuuona ujio wa ufalme huo katika siku zao, uhakika wa kwamba Yesu aliwaambia wauombe ni uthibitisho kwamba katika wakati aliouweka MUNGU Mwenyewe, hakika utakuja. [Pr 293.2; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Ufalme wa neema ya MUNGU sasa unasimikwa, siku baada ya siku mioyo ambayo imejaa dhambi na uasi inajitoa na kujisalimisha kwenye ukuu wa upendo Wake. Lakini kusimamishwa kikamilifu kwa ufalme wa utukufu Wake hakutafanyika mpaka ujio wa pili wa Kristo katika ulimwengu huu. “Na ufalme, na mamlaka, na ukuu wa ufalme, chini ya mbingu zote, watapewa watu wa watakatifu wake Aliye juu; ufalme wake ni ufalme wa milele, na wote wenye mamlaka watamtumikia na kumtii” watapewa “watu watakatifu wa MUNGU Mkuu.” Danieli 7:27. Wataurithi ufalme uliotayarishwa kwa ajili yao “tangu kuwekwa misingi ya ulimwengu.” Mathayo 25:34. Naye Kristo atajitwalia uweza Wake mkuu na kutawala. [Pr 293.3; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Malango ya mbinguni yatainuliwa tena, na pamoja na elfu kumi mara elfu kumi na maelfu ya maelfu ya watakatifu, Mwokozi wetu atakuja kama Mfalme wa wafalme na Bwana wa mabwana. Yehova Imanueli

“atakuwa Ndiye mfalme pekee wa dunia yote; Naye atakuwa Ndiye Mwenyezi-MUNGU pekee, Mmoja tu, na Jina Lake litakuwa ndilo Jina pekee.” “Maskani ya MUNGU” Itakuwa pamoja na wanadamu, “Naye atakaa pamoja nao, nao watakuwa watu Wake, na MUNGU Mwenyewe atakuwa pamoja nao, na atakuwa MUNGU wao.” Zekaria 14:9; Ufunuo 21:3 [Pr 294.1; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Lakini kabla ya kuja huko, Yesu alisema, “Injili hii ya ufalme itahubiriwa katika ulimwengu wote kuwa ushuhuda kwa mataifa yote.” Mathayo 24:14. Ufalme Wake hautakuja mpaka habari njema ya neema Yake ifikishwe duniani kote. Kwa hiyo, tunapojitua kwa MUNGU, na kuleta nafsi nyingine Kwake, sisi tunaharakisha ujio wa ufalme Wake. Ni wale tu wanaojitua kwa ajili ya utumishi Wake, wakisema, “Mimi hapa; nitume” (Isaya 6:8), kufungua macho ya vipofu, kuwaongoa watu “kutoka gizani hadi kwenye nuru na kutoka katika nguvu za Shetani na kumwelekea MUNGU, ili wapate ondoleo la dhambi na urithi miongoni mwao waliotakaswa” (Matendo 26:18)—wao pekee wanaomba kwa uaminifu, “Ufalme wako uje.” [Pr 294.2; Maombi Aya ya 22]

“Mapenzi Yako yafanyike duniani kama huko mbinguni.” Mathayo 6:10.

Mapenzi ya MUNGU yanaonyeshwa katika kanuni za sheria Yake takatifu, na kanuni za sheria hii ni kanuni za mbinguni. Malaika wa mbinguni hawapati ujuzi wa juu zaidi kuliko ule wa kuyajua mapenzi ya MUNGU, na kuyafanya mapenzi Yake ndiyo huduma ya juu zaidi kabisa ambayo wao wanaweza kuzihusisha nguvu zao. (Mapenzi ya Mungu ndiyo sheria Yake na sheria Yake ndiyo Mapenzi Yake, malaika wao hawataki kujua chochote isipokuwa yale yaliyokuwa kwenye duara la mapenzi ya Mungu tu-hawataki uovu kwa ufupi!) [Pr 294.3; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Lakini mbinguni, huduma haitolewi katika roho ya kisheria. Shetani alipoasi sheria ya Yehova, wazo la kwamba kulikuwa na sheria lilikuja kwa malaika kama ufahamu wa wazo ambalo wao hawakuwa wamelifikiria. Katika huduma yao malaika si kama watumishi, bali kama wana. Kuna umoja kamili kati yao na Muumba wao. Utii

kwao sio jukumu zito au kongwa. Upendo wao kwa MUNGU hufanya utumishi wao uwe wenye shangwe yaani wa kushangilia. Kwa hiyo katika kila nafsi ambayo iko ndani ya Kristo, tumaini la utukufu, hutamalaki, Maneno Yake hurudiwa kama mwangwi tena na tena, “Kuyafanya mapenzi Yako, Ee MUNGU wangu, ndiyo furaha yangu; Naam, sheria Yako imo moyoni mwangu..” Zaburi 40:8. [Pr 294.4; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Ombi, “Mapenzi yako yatimizwe duniani kama huko mbinguni,” ni sala ya kusihhi kwamba utawala wa uovu humu duniani uweze kukomeshwa, ili dhambi iteketezwe milele, na ufalme wa haki usimamishwe. Kisha duniani kama vile ilivyo mbinguni, patasheheni “raha yote ya wema Wake.” 2 Wathesalonike 1:11. [Pr 295.1; Maombi Aya ya 25]

"Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku." Mathayo 6:11.

Nusu ya kwanza ya ombi ambalo Yesu ametufundisha inahusu jina na ufalme na mapenzi ya MUNGU—ili Jina Lake liheshimiwe, ufalme Wake usimikwe, na mapenzi Yake yatimizwe. Unapofanya utumishi wa MUNGU kuwa jambo la kipaumbele cha Kwanza kwako, unaweza kuomba kwa uhakika na ujasiri kwamba mahitaji yako mwenyewe yaweze kutimizwa. Ikiwa umejinyima na kuikana na nafsi yako na kujitoa kwa Kristo, wewe ni mwanachama wa familia ya MUNGU, na kila kitu ndani ya nyumba ya Baba ni kwa ajili yako. Hazina zote za MUNGU zimefunguliwa kwako, yaani za ulimwengu uliopo sasa na ule ujao. Huduma ya malaika, karama ya Roho Wake, kazi ya watumishi Wake—zote zipo hapo kwaajili yako. Dunia, yenye kila kitu ndani yake, ni yako kwa kadiri inavyoweza kukutendea wema/fadhila. Hata uadui wa waovu utathibitika kuwa baraka kwa kukunidhamisha kwa ajili ya mbingu. Ikiwa “ninyi ni wa Kristo,” “vitu vyote ni vyenu.” 1 Wakorintho 3:23, 21. [Pr 295.2; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Lakini wewe ni kama mtoto ambaye bado hajawekwa kuutawala/kuudhibiti urithi wake. MUNGU hakukabidhi mali yako ya thamani, ili Shetani asije akakudanganya kwa ujanja wake, kama alivyowafanyia ile jozi ya watu wa kwanza kule Edeni. Kristo anashikilia urithi kwa ajili yako kwa usalama ili usifikiwe na mharibifu. Kama mtoto,

utapokea siku baada ya siku kile kinachokidhi mahitaji lyako ya kila siku. Kila siku unatakiwa kuomba, “Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku.” Usifadhaike ikiwa hauna vya kutosha kwa ajili ya kesho. Wewe una uhakika wa ahadi Yake, “Basi mtakaa katika ardhi, na hakika mtalishwa.” Daudi anasema, “Nalikuwa kijana nami sasa ni mzee; lakini sijamwona mwenye haki ameachwa, wala watoto wake wakiombaomba chakula. Zaburi 37:3, 25. Yule MUNGU aliyetuma kunguru kumlisha Eliya karibu na kijito Kerithi hatampita mmoja wa watoto Wake mwaminifu na wenye kujitoa. Imeandikwa hivi kuhusu yeye aendaye kwa haki: “Mkate atapewa; maji yake yatadumu.” “Hawataaibishwa wakati wa uovu; na siku za njaa watashiba. “Yeye hakumhurumia Mwanawe, bali alimtoa kwa ajili yetu sote, atakosaje basi kutupatia vitu vyote kwa ukarimu pamoja Naye?” Isaya 33:16; Zaburi 37:19; Warumi 8:32. Yeye ambaye alipunguza mizigo na mahangaiko ya mama Yake mjane na kumsaidia kwa kuleta riziki nyumbani kule Nazareti, anamhurumia kila mama katika jitihada zake za kuwaandalia watoto wake chakula. Yeye ambaye alikuwa na huruma kwa umati kwa sababu “walichoka na kutawanyika” (Mathayo 9:36), bado ana huruma kwa maskini wanaoteseka. Mkono Wake umenyooshwa kuelekea kwao katika kubariki; na katika ombi lile lile alilowapa wanafunzi Wake, Yeye anatufundisha kuwakumbuka maskini. [Pr 295.3; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Tunapomba, “Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku,” tunaomba kwa ajili ya wengine na sisi wenyewe pia. Na tunakubali kwamba kile ambacho MUNGU anatupa si kwa ajili yetu wenyewe. MUNGU hutukabidhi sisi kama amana, ili tuwalishe wenye njaa. Kwa wema Wake, Yeye amewaandalia maskini. Zaburi 68:10. Naye anasema, “Ufanyapo chakula cha usiku au cha jioni, usiwaite rafiki zako, wala ndugu zako, wala jamaa zako, wala jirani zako matajiri.....Bali ufanyapo karamu, waite maskini, na vilema, viwete, vipofu, nawe utabarikiwa; kwa maana wao hawana cha kukulipa; kwa maana utalipwa katika ufufuo

wa wenye haki." Luka 14:12-14. [Pr 296.1; Maombi Aya ya 28]

“MUNGU aweza kuwajaza kila neema kwa wingi; ili ninyi, mkiwa na riziki za kila namna siku zote, mpate kuzidi sana katika kila tendo jema.” “Yule Apandaye haba atavuna haba; na apandaye kwa ukarimu atavuna kwa ukarimu.” 2 Wakorintho 9:8, 6. [Pr 296.2; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Ombi la mkate wa kila siku halijumuishi tu chakula cha kutegemeza mwili, bali mkate wa kiroho ambao utailisha roho hata uzima wa milele. Yesu anatuagiza, “Msikifanyie kazi chakula chenye kuharibika, bali kile kidumucho hata uzima wa milele.” Yohana 6:27. Anasema, “ Mimi ni Mkate wa Uzima uliotoka mbinguni. Mtu yeyote akiula mkate huu ataishi milele. Kifungu cha 51. [Pr 297.1; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Mwokozi wetu Ndiye mkate wa uzima, na ni kwa kuutazama upendo Wake tu, kwa kuupokea ndani ya roho, ndipo tunakuwa tukila mkate ulioshuka kutoka mbinguni. [Pr 297.2; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Tunampokea Kristo kupitia kwenye Neno Lake, na Roho Mtakatifu anatolewa ili kufungua Neno la MUNGU katika ufahamu wetu, na kuleta kwetu ile Kweli Yake kwenye mioyo yetu. Tunapaswa kuomba siku baada ya siku kwamba tunaposoma Neno Lake, MUNGU atume Roho Wake ili kutufunulia Ukweli ambao utaimarisha roho zetu kwa mahitaji ya siku hiyo. [Pr 297.3; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Katika kutufundisha kuomba kila siku kile tunachohitaji – baraka za kimwili za muda mfupi na zile za kiroho—MUNGU ana kusudi la kutimiza kile ambacho ni kwa manufaa yetu wenyewe. Yeye Anatutaka tutambue kutegemea kwetu daima ulinzi Wake, kwa kuwa anatafuta kutuvuta katika ushirika Naye Mwenyewe. Katika ushirika huu na Kristo, kwa njia ya maombi na kujifunza zile Kweli kuu na za thamani za Neno Lake, kama roho zenye njaa tutalishwa; kama wale walio na kiu, kisha tutaburudishwa kwenye chemchemi ya uzima. [Pr 297.4; Maombi Aya ya 33]

“Utusamehe dhambi zetu kwa kuwa na sisi tunawasamehe wote wanaotukosea.” Luka 11:4.

Yesu anafundisha kwamba tunaweza kupokea msamaha kutoka kwa MUNGU pale tu tunapowasamehe wengine. Upendo wa MUNGU ndio unaotuvuta Kwake, na upendo huo hauwezi kugusa mioyo yetu bila kuumba upendo kwa ndugu zetu. [Pr 297.5; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Baada ya kumaliza Sala ya Bwana, Yesu aliongeza hivi: “Kwa maana mkiwasamehe watu makosa yao, na Baba yenu wa mbinguni atawasamehe ninyi. Bali msipowasamehe watu makosa yao, wala Baba yenu hatawasamehe ninyi makosa yenu. Yeye asiyesamehe hukata njia ambayo kwayo pekee anaweza kupokea rehema kutoka kwa MUNGU. Hatuna haki kufikiri kwamba wale ambao wametuumiza wasipokiri kosa lao kwetu basi sisi tuna haki ya kuwanyima msamaha wetu. Hakika na bila shaka, ni sehemu yao kunyenyekeza mioyo yao kwa toba na maungamo; lakini sisi tunapaswa kuwa na roho ya huruma kwa wale ambao wametukosea, endapo wanakiri makosa yao au la. Haijalishi wametujeruhi vibaya kiasi gani, hatupaswi kuthamini kutotendewa haki kwetu na kujihurumia wenyewe kuhusiana na majeraha yetu; lakini kama tunavyotarajia kusamehewa makosa yetu dhidi ya MUNGU tunapaswa kuwasamehe wote wale waliotutendea sisi uovu. [Pr 297.6; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Lakini msamaha una maana pana kuliko wengi wanavyodhani. MUNGU anapotoa ahadi kwamba “atasamehe kabisa,” anaongeza, kana kwamba maana ya ahadi hiyo inapita yote tunayoweza kuelewa kwa utashi wetu: “Mawazo Yangu si kama mawazo yenu, wala njia zenu si kama njia Zangu, asema Bwana. Kwa maana kama vile mbingu zilivyo juu sana kuliko nchi, kadhalika njia Zangu zi juu sana kuliko njia zenu, na mawazo Yangu kuliko mawazo yenu.” Isaya 55:7-9. Msamaha wa MUNGU si tu tendo la haki ambalo kwalo Yeye hutuweka huru dhidi ya hukumu. Sio tu msamaha wa dhambi, bali ni ukombozi kutoka katika dhambi. Ni ububujikaji wa upendo unaokomboa, unaogeuzi moyo. Daudi alikuwa na dhana ya Kweli ya msamaha alipoomba, “Uniumbie moyo safi, ee MUNGU, uweke ndani yangu roho mpya na thabiti..” Zaburi 51:10. Na tena anasema, “Kama mashariki ilivyo mbali na magharibi, ndivyo alivyoweka dhambi zetu mbali nasi.” Zaburi 103:12. [Pr 298.1; Maombi Aya ya 36]

MUNGU katika Kristo alijitoa kwa ajili ya dhambi zetu. Yeye Aliteseka kwa kifo cha kikatili cha msalabani, alitubebea mzigo wa hatia, “wenye haki kwa wasio haki,” ili aweze kutufunulia upendo Wake na kutuvuta Kwake. Naye anasema, “Iweni wafadhili ninyi kwa ninyi, wenye huruma, mkasameheane kama na MUNGU katika Kristo alivyowasamehe ninyi. Waefeso 4:32, Hebu Kristo, Aliye maisha matakatifu, akae ndani yako na kupitia kwako adhihirishe upendo uliozaliwa mbinguni ambao utahuisha tumaini kwa wasio na tumaini na kuleta amani ya mbinguni kwenye moyo uliosumbuliwa na kupipigwa-pigwa na dhambi. Tunapomwendea MUNGU, hili ndilo sharti tinalokutana nalo kwenye kizingiti, kwamba, tukipokea rehema kutoka Kwake, basi nasi tunajitoa ili kudhihirisha neema Yake kwa wengine. [Pr 298.2; Maombi Aya ya 37]

Jambo moja la muhimu kwetu ili tuweze kupokea na kutoa kwa wengine upendo huu wa Mungu wa kusamehe, ni kuujua na kuuamini upendo Yeye alionao kwetu. 1 Yohana 4:16. Shetani anafanya kazi kwa kila udanganyifu anaoweza kuuamuru, ili tusiweze kuutambua upendo huo. Adui atatuongoza kufikiri kwamba makosa na maovu yetu yamekuwa ya kutisha na kuhuzunisha sana kiasi kwamba Bwana hataheshimu maombi yetu na hatatubariki na kutuokoa. Ndani yetu wenyewe hatuwezi kuona chochote ila udhaifu, hakuna kitu cha kutupatia haki mbele za MUNGU (hatuna CV ya kufaa), na Shetani anatuambia haisaidii kitu, kwani hatuwezi kurekebisha kasoro zetu za tabia. Tunapojaribu kumwendea MUNGU, adui atanong'ona kwetu, Haifai kitu kwako kuomba; Je, haukufanya ubaya huo kweli? Je! haujamtenda MUNGU dhambi na kukiuka dhamiri yako mwenyewe? Lakini tunaweza kumwambia adui kwamba “damu ya Yesu Kristo Mwanawe inatutakasa dhambi zote.” 1 Yohana 1:7. Tunapohisi kwamba tumetenda dhambi na hivyo hatuwezi kuomba, basi huo ni wakati wa kuomba haswa. Tunaweza kuona aibu usoni na kuona tumenyenyekeswa sana, lakini lazima tuombe na kuamini. “Neno hili ni la kuaminiwa, tena lastahili kukubalika kabisa, ya kwamba Kristo Yesu alikuja ulimwenguni kuwaokoa wenye dhambi; ambao mimi ni mkuu wao.” 1 Timotheo 1:15. Msamaha, upatanisho na MUNGU, huja kwetu, si kama haki au thawabu kwaaajili ya matendo yetu, hautolewi kwa sababu ya wema wa sifa yetu au haki yetu sisi wenye dhambi, bali ni zawadi kwetu,

iliyokita kwenye msingi wa utoaji kutoka katika ile Haki isiyo na mawaa ya Kristo. [Pr 298.3; Maombi Aya ya 38]

Hatupaswi kujaribu kupunguza hatia yetu kwa kutolea udhuru dhambi. Ni lazima tukubali makadirio ya MUNGU ya dhambi (jinsi anavyoipima), nayo ni mazito kweli kweli. Kalvari pekee yake, ndiyo inaweza kudhihirisha ukubwa na uzito wa kuogofya wa dhambi. Kama ingebidi tuibebe hatia yetu wenyewe, basi ingetusagasaga kabisa. Lakini Yule asiye na dhambi amechukua mahali petu; Japokuwa hastahili, amebeba maovu yetu. “Tukiziungama dhambi zetu,” MUNGU ni mwaminifu na wa haki hata atuondolee dhambi zetu, na kutusafisha na udhalimu wote.” 1 Yohana 1:9. Kweli tukufu!— Mwenye haki na Mwaminifu juu ya sheria Yake Mwenyewe, na bado ni Mwenye kuwahesabia haki wote wanaomwamini Yesu. “Ee MUNGU, ni nani aliye kama Wewe? Mwenye kusamehe uovu, na kuliachilia kosa la watu wa urithi wake waliosalia, wala huyaangalii makosa yao. Hasira Yako haidumu milele, ila wapendelea zaidi kutuonesha fadhili Zako.” Mika 7:18. [Pr 299.1; Maombi Aya ya 39]

**"Usitutie majaribuni, bali utuokoe na yule mwovu."
Mathayo 6:13, R.V.**

Majaribu ni ushawishi wa kutenda dhambi, na huu hautoki kwa MUNGU, bali kwa Shetani na kutoka kwenye uovu wa mioyo yetu wenyewe. “MUNGU hawezi kujaribiwa na maovu, wala Yeye Mwenyewe hamjaribu mtu.” Yakobo 1:13 R.V. [Pr 300.1; Maombi Aya ya 40]

Shetani anatafuta kutuingiza katika majaribu, ili ubaya wa tabia zetu udhihirishwe mbele ya wanadamu na malaika, ili apate kudai na kutuchukua kama wake. Katika unabii wa ishara wa Zekaria, Shetani anaonekana amesimama mkono wa kuume wa Malaika wa Bwana, akimshtaki Yoshua, kuhani mkuu, ambaye amevaa mavazi machafu, na akipinga kazi ambayo Malaika anatamani kumfanyia. Hii inawakilisha mtazamo wa Shetani kwa kila nafsi ambayo Kristo anatafuta kuivuta Kwake. Adui hutuongoza katika dhambi, na kisha anatushtaki mbele ya anga la mbinguni kuwa hatustahili upendo wa MUNGU (hatustahili kupendwa na Mungu). Lakini “Mwenyezi-MUNGU na akulaani, ewe Shetani! Naam, Mwenyezi-MUNGU aliyeuteua mji wa Yerusalemu na akulaani! Je! hiki

si kama kinga kilichonyakuliwa kutoka motoni?" Naye akamwambia Yoshua, Tazama, nimekuondolea uovu wako, Nami nitakuvika mavazi ya thamani; Zekaria 3:1-4. [Pr 300.2; Maombi Aya ya 41]

MUNGU katika upendo Wake mkuu anatafuta kukuza ndani yetu neema za thamani za Roho Wake. Yeye Anaturuhusu tukabiliane na vikwazo, mateso, na magumu, si kama laana, bali kama baraka kuu zaidi maishani mwetu. Kila jaribu linalopingwa, kila mtihani unaobebwa kwa ujasiri, hutupatia uzoefu mpya na hutukuza katika kazi ya kujenga tabia. Nafsi ambayo kwa uwezo wa Bwana inapinga majaribu inaudhirishia ulimwengu na anga la mbinguni ufanisi wa neema ya Kristo. [Pr 300.3; Maombi Aya ya 42]

Lakini huku tukiwa hatupaswi kufadhaishwa na majaribu, hata yawe na uchungu wa kiasi gani, sisi tunapaswa kuomba ili MUNGU asituruhusu tupelekwe mahali ambapo tutavutwa mbali na tamaa za mioyo yetu wenyewe yenye uovu. Katika kutoa ombi ambalo Kristo ametupatia, tunajisalimisha katika uongozi wa MUNGU, tukimwomba atuongoze katika njia salama. Hatuwezi kutoa ombi hili kwa dhati, na bado tukaamua kutembea katika njia yoyote tunayoichagua sisi wenyewe. Tutasubiri mkono Wake utuongoze; tutaikiliza sauti Yake, ikisema, "Njia ni hii, ifuateni." Isaya 30:21. [Pr 300.4; Maombi Aya ya 43]

Si salama kwetu kujikawiza kwa kutafakari manufaa tunayoweza kujichumia kwa kukubali madokezo ya Shetani. Dhambi maana yake ni fedheha na balaa kwa kila nafsi inayojiendekeza nayo; lakini inapofusha na inadanganya katika asili yake, na itatuvutia kwa maonyesho ya kubembeleza na udanganyifu. Ikiwa tutajitosa kwenye ardhi ya Shetani, basi sisi hatuna uhakika wa kulindwa dhidi ya uwezo wake. Kwa kadiri ilivyo ndani yetu, tunapaswa kufunga kila njia ambayo kwayo mjaribu yanaweza kupata mpenyo wa kutufikia. [Pr 300.5; Maombi Aya ya 44]

Ombi kwamba, "Usitutie majaribuni," lenyewe ni ahadi. Tukijikabidhi kwa MUNGU tuna uhakika, Yeye "hataruhusu tujaribiwe kupita nguvu zenu, ila pamoja na majaribu, Yeye atawapeni pia nguvu ya kustahimili na njia ya kutoka humo salama." 1 Wakorintho 10:13. [Pr 301.1; Maombi Aya ya 45]

Kinga pekee dhidi ya uovu ni kutamalaki kwa Kristo ndani ya moyo kupitia imani katika haki Yake. Ni kwa sababu ubinafsi upo ndani ya mioyo yetu ndiyo maana majaribu yana nguvu juu yetu. Lakini tunapouona upendo mkuu wa MUNGU, ubinafsi unaonekana kwetu katika tabia yake kutisha na ya kuchukiza, na tunatamani ufukuziliwe mbali kutoka katika nafsi. Roho Mtakatifu anapomtukuza Kristo, mioyo yetu inalainika na kutiishwa, majaribu yanapoteza nguvu zake, na neema ya Kristo inabadilisha tabia. [Pr 301.2; Maombi Aya ya 46]

Kristo hataiacha kamwe nafsi ambayo Yeye ameifia. Nafsi inaweza kumwacha Yeye na kulemewa na majaribu, lakini Kristo hawezi kamwe kugeuka na kumwacha yule mtu ambaye amemlipia gharama ya maisha Yake Mwenyewe. Ikiwa maono yetu ya kiroho yangeweza kuhuishwa, tungeweza kuziona nafsi zilizoinama chini ya ukandamizaji na kulemewa na mizigo ya huzuni, zikisukumwa kama mkokoteni chini ya miganda na tayari kufa kwa kuvunjika moyo. Tunapaswa kuona malaika wakiruka kwa upesi ili kuwasaidia watu hawa waliojaribiwa, ambao wamesimama kama ukingoni mwa kilele cha mwamba. Malaika kutoka mbinguni huyarudisha nyuma majeshi ya mwovu ambayo yanazingira roho hizi, na kuziongoza kusimika miguu yao juu ya msingi thabiti na wenye hakika. Vita vinavyopiganwa kati ya majeshi hayo mawili ni halisi sawa na vile vinavyopiganwa na majeshi ya ulimwengu huu, na kuhusu suala la mzozo huu wa kiroho, hatima za milele zimejiegemeza huko. [Pr 301.3; Maombi Aya ya 47]

Kwetu sisi, kama kwa Petro, Neno hili linazungumzwa, “Shetani ameomba ili awapepete kama ngano; lakini nimekuombea wewe ili imani yako isipotee. Luka 22:31, 32. Namshukuru MUNGU, hatujaachwa peke yetu. Yeye ambaye “aliupenda ulimwengu, hata akamtoa Mwanawe pekee, ili kila mtu amwaminiye asipotee, bali awe na uzima wa milele” (Yohana 3:16), hatatuacha katika vita vya adui wa MUNGU na wanadamu. Naye Anasema, “Tazama, nimewapa uwezo wa kukanyaga nyoka na nge, na nguvu zote za yule adui, wala hakuna kitu kitakachowadhuru. Luka 10:19. [Pr 301.4; Maombi Aya ya 48]

Ishi kwa kuwasiliana pamoja na Kristo aliye hai, Naye atakushikilia kwa nguvu kwa mkono ambao hautaweza kukuacha kamwe. Tambueni na kuamini upendo Mungu alio nao kwetu, nanyi mmekuwa salama; kwamba upendo ni ngome isiyoweza kushindwa au kupenyeka na udanganyifu na mashambulizi yote ya Shetani. "Jina la Bwana ni ngome imara; Mwenye haki hulikimbilia, akawa salama." Mithali 18:10. [Pr 302.1; Maombi Aya ya 49]

"Ufalme ni Wako, na nguvu, na utukufu." Mathayo 6:13.

Sentensi ya mwisho kama sentensi ya kwanza ya Sala ya Bwana, inaelekeza kwa Baba yetu kama Yule aliye juu ya nguvu zote na mamlaka na kila jina linalotajwa. Mwokozi aliona miaka iliyokuwa inakuja mbele ya wanafunzi Wake, kwamba haikuwa kama walivyoiotea, wakiwa wamelala kwenye mwanga wa jua wa mafanikio na heshima ya ulimwengu, bali katika giza na tufani za chuki ya kibinadamu na ghadhabu ya shetani. Katikati ya vita na uharibifu wa kitaifa, hatua za wanafunzi zilisongwa na hatari, na mara nyingi mioyo yao ilikandamizwa na woga. Wangeiona Yerusalemu ikiwa ukiwa, hekalu likifagiliwa mbali, ibada yake ikikoma milele, na Israeli ikitawanywa katika nchi zote, kama mabaki kwenye ufuo wa jangwa. Yesu alisema, "Mtasikia habari za vita na tetesi za vita. "Taifa litaondoka kupigana na taifa, na ufalme kupigana na ufalme; kutakuwa na njaa, na tauni, na matetemeko ya ardhi sehemu mbalimbali. Yote hayo ndiyo mwanzo wa uchungu." Mathayo 24:6-8. Hata hivyo, wafuasi wa Kristo hawakupaswa kuogopa kwamba tumaini lao limepotea au kwamba MUNGU alikuwa ametelekeza dunia. Nguvu na utukufu ni Vyake Yeye ambaye makusudi Yake makuu yangeendelea bila kuzuiliwa kuelekea utimilifu wake. Katika sala inayotoa pumzi ya matakwa yao ya kila siku, wanafunzi wa Kristo walielekezwa kupeleka nguvu zote juu ya mambo yote ya utawala wa uovu, kwa Bwana MUNGU wao, ambaye ufalme Wake unatawala juu ya yote na ambaye ni Baba yao na Rafiki wa milele. [Pr 302.2; Maombi Aya ya 50]

Kuangamia kwa Yerusalemu ilikuwa ishara ya uharibifu wa mwisho ambao ungeufadhaisha ulimwengu. Unabii uliotimizwa kiasi fulani katika kupinduliwa kwa Yerusalemu

unahusiana moja kwa moja na mambo ya siku za mwisho. Sasa tumesimama kwenye mlango wa matukio makubwa na mazito. Mgogoro tete ulio mbele yetu ambao ulimwengu haujawahi kushuhudia, uko mbele yetu. Habari njema kwetu, kama kwa wanafunzi wa kwanza, unakuja uhakikisho kwamba ufalme wa MUNGU unatawala juu ya yote. Mpango wa matukio yanayokuja uko mikononi mwa Muumba wetu. Mkuu wa mbinguni Ana hatima ya mataifa, pamoja na maslahi ya kanisa Lake, chini ya usimamizi na uwezo Wake Mwenyewe. Mwalimu wa Kiungu anamwambia kila wakala katika utimilifu wa mipango Yake, kama vile alivyomwambia Koreshi, “Nilikutia nguvu, ingawa wewe haukunijua.” Isaya 45:5. [Pr 303.1; Maombi Aya ya 51]

Katika maono ya nabii Ezeieli kulikuwa na kuonekana kwa mkono chini ya mabawa ya makerubi. Hii ni kuwafundisha waja Wake kwamba ni uweza wa Mungu ndio unaowapa mafanikio. Wale ambao MUNGU huwaajiri kama wajumbe Wake, wasihisi kwamba kazi Yake inawategemea wao. Viumbe wenye ukomo hawakuachwa kubeba mzigo huu wa wajibu. Yeye asiyesinzia kamwe, ambaye daima anafanya kazi kwa ajili ya kutimiza makusudi Yake, ataendeleza kazi Yake Mwenyewe. Bali makusudi ya watu waovu huyasukumilia mbali, na kuyavuruga/kuyakanganyisha mashauri ya wale wanaopanga mabaya juu ya watu Wake. Yeye aliye Mfalme, Bwana wa majeshi, aketiye juu ya makerubi, na katikati ya migogoro na ghasia za mataifa, bado huwalinda watoto Wake. Yeye Anayetawala mbinguni ni Mwokozi wetu. Yeye hupima kila jaribu, hulinda moto wa tanuru ambao lazima ujaribu kila nafsi. Ngome za wafalme zitakapopinduliwa, mishale ya hasira itakapoingia mioyoni mwa adui Zake, watu Wake watakuwa salama mikononi Mwake. [Pr 303.2; Maombi Aya ya 52]

“Ee Bwana, ukuu ni Wako, na uweza, na utukufu, na kushinda, na enzi; maana vitu vyote vilivyo mbinguni na duniani ni Vyako... uwezo na nguvu vimo mkononi Mwako; na mkononi Mwako wawakuza uwapendao, na huwaimarisha wote.” 1 Mambo ya Nyakati 29:11, 12. [Pr 303.3; Maombi Aya ya 53]

Sura hii inaonekana katika (Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 102-122)

SURA YA 31

KUOMBA ILI KUTOA KWA WENGINE

Kristo alikuwa akipokea daima kutoka kwa Baba ili aweze kuwasiliana nasi. “Neno hilo mnalolisikia,” alisema, “si Langu, bali ni la Baba aliyenituma.” Yohana 14:24. “Mwana wa Adamu hakuja kutumikiwa, bali kutumika.” Mathayo 20:28. Aliishi na kufikiria na kuomba, sio kwa ajili Yake Mwenyewe, bali kwa ajili ya wengine. Kutoka katika saa alizotumia pamoja na MUNGU alitoka asubuhi baada ya asubuhi kupeleka nuru ya mbinguni kwa wanadamu. Kila siku alipokea ubatizo mpya wa Roho Mtakatifu. Katika saa za mapema (alfajiri) za siku mpya Bwana alimwamsha kutoka katika usingizi Wake, na nafsi Yake na midomo Yake ilipakwa neema, ili aweze kuwagawia wengine. Alipatiwa Maneno mapya kutoka kwenye nyua za mbinguni, Maneno ambayo angeweza kuzungumza katika msimu unaofaa kwa waliochoka na kuonewa. “Bwana MUNGU amenipa,” alisema, “ulimi wa hao wafundishwao, nipate kumtegemeza kwa Neno yeye aliyechoka, huniamsha asubuhi baada ya asubuhi; huniamsha, sikio langu lipate kusikia kama watu wafundishwao.” Isaya 50:4. [Pr 304.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

Wanafunzi wa Kristo walivutiwa sana na maombi Yake na mazoea Yake ya ushirika na MUNGU. Siku moja baada ya kutokuwepo kwa Mola wao kwa muda mfupi, walimkuta ametekewa/amezama katika dua. Akionekana kutojua uwepo wao, Aliendelea kuomba kwa sauti. Mioyo ya wanafunzi iliguswa sana. Alipoacha kuomba, wakapaza sauti kwa shauku kubwa, “Bwana, tufundishe kuomba.” [Pr 304.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Katika kujibu, Kristo alirudia sala ya Bwana, kama alivyokuwa ameitoa katika mahubiri ya mlimani. Kisha katika kisa alitoa mfano wa somo alilotaka kuwafundisha. [Pr 305.1; Maombi Aya ya 3]

“Ni nani kwenu,” akasema, “aliye na rafiki, naye atamwendea usiku wa manane, na kumwambia, Rafiki, nikopeshe mikate mitatu; kwa maana rafiki yangu amekuja kwangu katika safari yake, nami sina kitu cha kumpatia? Naye aliye ndani ajibu, na kusema, Usinisumbue; mlango sasa umefungwa, na watoto wangu wako pamoja nami kitandani; siwezi kuinuka na kukupa. Nawaambia, ijapokuwa hataamka kumpa kwa kuwa ni rafiki yake, lakini kwa sababu ya kusisitiza kwake ataamka na kumpa kadiri ya haja yake.” [Pr 305.2; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Hapa Kristo anamwakilisha mwombaji anayesihhi/anayebembeleza kama yule anayeomba kwa makusudi ya kutoa tena. Ni lazima apate mkate, la sivyo hawezi kumpatia msafiri aliyechoka, aliyechelewa. Ijapokuwa jirani yake hayuko tayari kusumbuliwa, hataacha kushinikiza ombi lake; rafiki yake lazima asaidiwe; na hatimaye ombi lake linajibiwa, mahitaji yake yanatimizwa. [Pr 305.3; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Katika namna ifananayo na hiyo, wanafunzi walipaswa kutafuta baraka kutoka kwa MUNGU. Katika kulisha makutano na katika mahubiri yahasuyo mkate kutoka mbinguni, Kristo alikuwa amewafungulia kazi yao kama wawakilishi Wake. Walipaswa kuwapa watu mkate wa uzima. Yeye aliyewapa kazi yao, aliona ni mara ngapi imani yao itajaribiwa. Mara nyingi walitupwa katika mazingira yasiyotarajiwa, na walitambua upungufu wao wa kibinadamu. Nafsi zilizokuwa na njaa ya mkate wa uzima ziliwajia, na walijiona kuwa maskini na wasio na msaada. Ni lazima wapokee chakula cha kiroho, la sivyo wasingekuwa na chochote cha kuwapa wengine. Lakini hawakupaswa kuiacha nafsi hata moja kurudi kwao bila kulishwa. Kristo anawaelekeza kwenye chanzo cha ugavi na usambazaji. Mtu ambaye rafiki yake alienda kwake kwa ajili ya kuburudishwa/burudani, hata saa isiyofaa ya usiku wa manane, yeye hakumfukuza. Hakuwa na kitu cha kumwekea kwenye meza yake ili ale, lakini alimwendea mmoja aliyekuwa na chakula na kusisitiza ombi lake mpaka jirani akamtimizia haja yake. Na je, MUNGU, ambaye alikuwa ametuma watumishi Wake kulisha wenye njaa, Je, asingeweza kuyatosheleza mahitaji yao ya kazi Yake Mwenyewe? [Pr 305.4; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Lakini jirani mwenye ubinafsi katika mfano huo haiwakilishi tabia ya MUNGU (mifano huwa haiwakilishi vipengele vyote vyema!). Somo limetolewa/limechotwa, si kwa kulinganisha, bali kwa kutofautisha. Mtu mwenye ubinafsi ataitikia na kulitenda ombi lililotolewa kwa haraka, ili kujiepusha na mtu anayesumbua pumziko lake. Lakini MUNGU anafurahia kutoa. Yeye ni mwingi wa huruma, na anatamani sana kutimiza maombi ya wale wanaomjia kwa imani. Anatupa sisi ili tuweze kuwahudumia wengine na hivyo kuwa kama Yeye. [Pr 306.1; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Yesu anasema, “Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa; tafuteni, nanyi mtapata; bisheni, nanyi mtafunguliwa; kwa maana kila aombaye hupokea; naye atafutaye hupata; na yeye abishaye atafunguliwa.” [Pr 306.2; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Mwokozi anaendelea: “Je, kuna yeyote miongoni mwenu ambaye mtoto wake akimwomba mkate, atampa jiwe? Au je, akimwomba samaki, atampa nyoka? Kama basi nyinyi, ingawa ni waovu, mwajua kuwapa watoto wenu vitu vizuri, Je! Baba yenu wa mbinguni hatazidi sana kuwapa Roho Mtakatifu hao wamwombao?” [Pr 306.3; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Ili kuimarisha tumaini na ujasiri wetu kwa MUNGU, Kristo anatufundisha kumwita kwa Jina Jipya, Jina lililoambatanishwa na ushirika wa dhati zaidi wa moyo wa mwanadamu. Yeye Anatupa fursa ya kumwita MUNGU ambaye hana kikomo Baba yetu. Jina hili, Linapotamkwa Kwake na kuhusu Yeye, ni ishara ya upendo na uaminifu wetu Kwake, na ahadi ya kujali katika mahusiano Yake Nasi/kwetu. Linapotamkwa Kwake wakati wa kuomba upendeleo (feva) au baraka Zake, ni kama muziki masikioni Mwake. Ili tusifikirie kuwa ni kujiamini kwa kupitiliza kinyume cha mapenzi ya Mungu kumwita kwa Jina hili (au kuwa na kiburi) Bwana amerudia tena na tena. Yeye Anatamani tulitambue na kujizoeza na Jina hilo. [Pr 306.4; Maombi Aya ya 10]

MUNGU anatuona sisi ni watoto Wake. Ametukomboa kutoka katika ulimwengu usiojali na ametuchagua tuwe washiriki wa familia ya kifalme, wana na binti za Mfalme wa mbinguni. Yeye Anaturalika tumtumaini Yeye tukiwa na matumaini na imani yenye kina na yenye nguvu zaidi kuliko

ile ya mtoto kwa baba yake wa duniani. Wazazi wanawapenda watoto wao, lakini upendo wa MUNGU ni mkubwa, mpana, na wa kina zaidi kuliko upendo wa kibinadamu unavyoweza kuwa. Upendo Wake hauna kipimo. Basi ikiwa wazazi wa kidunia wanajua kuwapa watoto wao zawadi nzuri, je! Baba yetu aliye mbinguni hatazidi sana kuwapa Roho Mtakatifu wale wamwombao? [Pr 306.5; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Masomo ya Kristo kuhusu maombi yanapaswa kuzingatiwa kwa uangalifu. Kuna sayansi ya Bwana katika maombi, na mfano Wake unaleta mtazamo wa kanuni ambazo wote tunapaswa kuelewa. Yeye Anaonyesha kile ambacho ni roho ya Kweli ya maombi, Anafundisha umuhimu wa kudumu katika kuwasilisha maombi yetu kwa MUNGU, na anatumakikishia nia Yake ya kusikia na kujibu maombi. [Pr 307.1; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Maombi yetu hayapaswi kuwa maombi yenye ubinafsi, ya kujipatia vitu kwa faida yetu wenyewe tu. Tunapaswa kuomba ili tuweze kutoa. Kanuni ya maisha ya Kristo lazima iwe kanuni ya maisha yetu. “Kwa ajili yao,” Yeye alisema, akizungumza juu ya wanafunzi Wake, “Najiweka wakfu, ili nao watakaswe.” Yohana 17:19. Kujitoa vile vile, kujitoa mhanga kwa namna ile ile, utiifu uleule wa madai ya Neno la MUNGU, ambao ulidhihirika katika Kristo, lazima uonekane kwa watumishi Wake. Utume wetu kwa ulimwengu sio kujitumikia au kujifurahisha wenyewe; tunapaswa kumtukiza MUNGU kwa kushirikiana Naye kuwaokoa wenye dhambi. Tunapaswa kuomba baraka kutoka kwa MUNGU ili tuweze kuwasiliana na wengine. Uwezo wa kupokea kutoka Kwake au kupewa Naye, huhifadhiwa au unakuwepo tu kwa kutoa. Sisi hatuwezi kuendelea kupokea hazina ya mbinguni bila kuwasiliana na wale wanaotuzunguka (kutoa kwa ukarimu).— (Christ's Object Lessons, 142, 143) [Pr 307.2; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Katika kisa cha mfano cha aliyeomba/mwombaji, ni kwamba alikataliwa tena na tena, lakini hakuliacha kusudi lake. Kwa hiyo maombi yetu mara zingine hayaonekani kupata jibu la haraka; lakini Kristo anafundisha kwamba hatupaswi kuacha kuomba. Dhumuni la maombi sio kumbadilisha MUNGU au kuleta mabadiliko Kwake; bali ni kutuleta katika upatanifu na MUNGU. Tunapomwomba Yeye, anaweza kuona kwamba ni muhimu kwetu

kuipeleleza mioyo yetu na kutubu dhambi. Kwa hiyo anatingiza katika majaribu na mitihani, hutupitisha kwenye njia ya kujidhili na unyenyekevu, ili tupate kuona kile kinachozuia utendaji wa Roho Wake Mtakatifu kupitia kwetu. [Pr 307.3; Maombi Aya ya 14]

Kuna masharti ya kutimizwa kwa ahadi za MUNGU, na maombi hayawezi kamwe hayawezi kuchukua nafasi ya wajibu. “Mkinipenda,” Kristo asema, “mtazishika amri Zangu.” “Yeye aliye na amri Zangu, na kuzishika, Yeye Ndiye anipendaye; naye anipendaye atapendwa na Baba Yangu, Nami nitampenda na kujidhihirisha kwake.” Yohana 14:15, 21. Wale wanaoleta maombi yao kwa MUNGU, wakidai ahadi Yake huku wao hawaendani na masharti, wanamtukana Yehova. Wanaleta Jina la Kristo kama mamlaka yao ya utimizo wa ahadi, lakini hawatendi mambo yale ambayo yangeonyesha imani katika Kristo na upendo Kwake. [Pr 307.4; Maombi Aya ya 15]

Wengi wanapoteza haki ya kukubalika na Baba. Tunahitaji kuchunguza kwa makini tendo la kumtumaini Mungu, tunapokuwa tunamkaribia Yeye. Tusipotii, sisi tunamletea Bwana hundi ya kulipwa wakati hatujatimiza masharti ambayo yangetufanya tulipwe. Tunawasilisha kwa MUNGU ahadi Zake, na kumwomba au kumwuliza azitimize, wakati kwa kufanya hivyo angelivunjia heshima Jina Lake Mwenyewe. [Pr 308.1; Maombi Aya ya 16]

Ahadi ni “Ninyi mkikaa ndani Yangu, na Maneno Yangu yakikaa ndani yenu, ombeni mtakalo lote nanyi mtatendewa.” Yohana 15:7. Naye Yohana anatangaza hivi: “Katika hili twajua ya kuwa tumemjua Yeye, ikiwa tunashika amri Zake. Yeye asemaye, Nimemjua, wala hazishiki amri Zake, ni mwongo, wala Kweli haimo ndani yake. Bali yeye alishikaye Neno Lake, ndani yake huyo pendo la MUNGU limekamilika hakika.” 1 Yohana 2:3-5. [Pr 308.2; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Mojawapo ya amri za mwisho za Kristo kwa wanafunzi Wake ilikuwa “Mpendane kama nilivyowapenda ninyi.” Yohana 13:34. Je, tunatii amri hii, au tunafurahia na kuendekeza sana tabia zisizo za Kikristo? Ikiwa kwa namna yoyote tumehuzunisha au kuwajeruhi wengine, ni jukumu letu kuungama kosa letu na kutafuta upatanisho. Haya ni maandalizi muhimu ili tuweze kwenda mbele za MUNGU

kwa imani, katika kuomba baraka Zake. [Pr 308.3; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Kuna jambo lingine ambalo mara nyingi hupuuzwa na wale wanaomtafuta Bwana katika maombi. Je, umekuwa mwaminifu na mkweli kwa MUNGU? Kupitia nabii Malaki Bwana anatangaza, “Tangu siku za baba zenu mmeziacha amri Zangu, wala hamkuzishika. Nirudieni Mimi, Nami nitawarudia ninyi, asema Bwana wa majeshi. Lakini ninyi mwasema, Turudi kwa namna gani? Je, mwanadamu atamwibia Mungu? Lakini ninyi mmeniibia Mimi. Lakini ninyi mwasema, Tumekuibia kwa jinsi gani? Mmeniibia zaka na dhabihu.” Malaki 3:7, 8. [Pr 308.4; Maombi Aya ya 19]

Kama Mpaji wa kila baraka, MUNGU anadai sehemu fulani ya vyote tulivyo navyo. Hili ni fungu lililo katika mpango Wake ili kuendeleza mahubiri ya injili. Na kwa kumrudishia MUNGU, tunakuwa tumeonyesha kuthamini kwetu zawadi Zake. Lakini tukimzuilia kile ambacho ni Chake Mwenyewe, tunawezaje kudai baraka Zake? Ikiwa sisi ni mawakili wasio waaminifu wa mambo ya duniani, tunawezaje kumtarajia Yeye kutuamini kwa kutukabidhi vitu vya mbinguni? Huenda hapa ndio kuna siri ya maombi yasiyojibiwa. [Pr 309.1; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Lakini Bwana katika rehema Zake kuu Yu tayari kusamehe, Naye asema, “Leteni zaka kamili ghalani, ili kiwemo chakula katika nyumba Yangu, mkanijaribu kwa njia hiyo, kama sitawafungulia madirisha ya mbinguni, na kuwamwagieni baraka, hata isiwepo nafasi ya kutosha kuipokea. Nami kwa ajili yenu nitamkemea yeye alaye, wala hataharibu matunda ya ardhi yenu; wala mzabibu wenu hautapukutisha matunda yake kabla ya wakati wake katika shamba. Na mataifa yote watawaiteni heri; maana mtakuwa nchi ya kupendeza sana, asema Bwana wa majeshi. Malaki 3:10-12. [Pr 309.2; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Ndivyo ilivyo kwa kila takwa au sharti jingine la MUNGU. Zawadi Zake zote zimeahidiwa kwa sharti la utii. MUNGU ana mbingu iliyojaa baraka kwa wale watakaoshirikiana Naye. Wote wanaomtii wanaweza kudai kwa ujasiri kutimizwa kwa ahadi Zake [Pr 309.3; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Lakini ni lazima tuonyeshe tumaini thabiti na lisilokengeuka kwa MUNGU. Mara nyingi Yeye hucheleweshwa kutujibu ili kujaribu imani yetu au kujaribu

unyofu/ukweli wa shauku yetu. Baada ya kuomba kulingana na Neno Lake, tunapaswa kuamini ahadi Yake na kusisitiza maombi yetu kwa mtazamo wenye kuazimia kwamba hayatakataliwa. [Pr 309.4; Maombi Aya ya 23]

MUNGU hasemi, Ombeni mara moja, nanyi mtapata. Yeye Anatubidisha tuombe. Dumu katika maombi bila kuchoka. Kuomba kwa bidii humleta mwombaji katika mtazamo wa dhati zaidi, na kumpa shauku kubwa ya kupokea mambo ambayo anaombea. Kristo alimwambia Martha kwenye kaburi la Lazaro, “Kama ukiamini, utaona utukufu wa MUNGU.” Yohana 11:40. [Pr 309.5; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Lakini wengi hawana imani iliyo hai. Na hii ndiyo sababu hawazoni nguvu ya MUNGU zaidi. Udhaifu wao ni matokeo ya kutokuamini kwao. Wana imani zaidi katika kazi na juhudi zao wenyewe kuliko katika utendaji wa MUNGU kwao. Wamejiweka katika kujitunza na kujishugulikia wenyewe. Wanapanga na kufikiri, lakini wanaomba kidogo, na wana imani ndogo ya Kweli kwa MUNGU. Wanafikiri wana imani, lakini ni msukumo tu wa wakati huo (mhemko). Kwa kushindwa kutambua hitaji lao wenyewe, au nia ya MUNGU kuwapa, hawadumu katika kuweka maombi yao mbele za Bwana. [Pr 310.1; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Maombi yetu yanapaswa kuwa ya dhati na yasiyochoka kama yalivyokuwa maombi ya yule rafiki mhitaji aliyeomba mikate usiku wa manane. Kadiri tunavyoomba kwa bidii na uthabiti, ndivyo muungano wetu wa kiroho na Kristo utakavyokuwa karibu zaidi. Tutapokea baraka nyingi kwa sababu tumeongeza imani. [Pr 310.2; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Sehemu yetu ni kuomba na kuamini. Kesheni katika maombi. Kesha, na ushirikiane na MUNGU asikiaye maombi. Kumbuka kwamba “sisi ni watenda kazi pamoja na MUNGU.” 1 Wakorintho 3:9. Zungumza na kutenda kulingana na maombi yako. Itafanya tofauti ya kudumu kwako hata jaribu litaipima imani yako kuwa ya kweli, au itaonyesha kuwa maombi yako ni ya desturi/mazoea au mfano tu. [Pr 310.3; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Wakati mashaka yanapotokea, na matatizo yanakukabili, usitafute msaada kwa wanadamu. Tumainia yote kwa MUNGU. Mazoea ya kuwaambia wengine magumu yetu hutufanya tu kuwa dhaifu, na hayaleti nguvu kwao.

Inaweka juu yao mzigo wa udhaifu wetu wa kiroho, ambao hawawezi kuutatua au kutuletea afueni. Tunatafuta nguvu za mwanadamu mwenye dhambi, anayekosea, na mwenye kikomo, wakati tunaweza kuwa na nguvu za MUNGU asiyekosea, na asiye na mwisho. [Pr 310.4; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Hauhitaji kwenda kwenye miisho ya dunia kwa ajili ya hekima, kwa maana MUNGU Yuko karibu. Sio uwezo ulionao sasa au utakaowahi kuwa nao wakati wowote ule, ndio utakaokupa mafanikio. Ni yale ambayo Bwana anaweza kukufanyia. Tunahitaji kuwa na imani ndogo sana katika kile ambacho mwanadamu anaweza kufanya na kuwa na ujasiri zaidi katika kile ambacho MUNGU anaweza kufanya kwa kila nafsi inayoamini. Yeye Anatamani kukufanya wewe umfikie Yeye kwa imani. Yeyey Anatamani sana wewe utarajie mambo makubwa kutoka Kwake. Yeye Anatamani kukupa ufahamu katika mambo ya kimwili, yaani yale ya muda mfupi na yale kiroho. Yeyey Anaweza akazinoa akili. Yeyey Anaweza kutoa busara na ujuzi. Weka talanta/vipawa vyako kazini, na kisha mwombe MUNGU hekima, nawe utapewa. [Pr 310.5; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Lichukue Neno la Kristo kama uhakikisho wako. Kwani Yeye hajakualika wewe uje Kwake? Usijiruhusu kamwe kuzungumza kwa njia isiyo na matumaini, iliyovunjika moyo. Ukifanya hivyo utapoteza sana. Kwa kutazama mwonekano na kulalamika shida na shinikizo vinapokujia, unatoa uthibitisho wa imani yenye ugonjwa na iliyodhoofika. Ongea na tenda kana kwamba imani yako haiwezi kushindwa. Bwana ni tajiri wa mali; Yeye Anamiliki dunia. Tazama mbinguni kwa imani. Mwangalie Yeye aliye na nuru na uwezo na ufanisi. [Pr 311.1; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Katika imani ya kweli kuna uchangamfu, uthabiti wa kanuni, na uimara wa kusudi ambao hakuna wakati wala taabu inayoweza kudhoofisha. “Hata vijana watafifia na kulegea; naam, wataanguka kwa uchovu. Lakini wote wanaomtumainia Mwenyezi MUNGU, watapata nguvu mpya. Watapanda juu kwa mabawa kama tai; watakimbia bila kuchoka; watatembea bila kulegea.” Isaya 40:30, 31, [Pr 311.2; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Kuna wengi wanaotamani kuwasaidia wengine, lakini wanahisi kwamba hawana nguvu za kiroho au nuru ya kuwapa wengine. Hebu wawasilishe maombi yao kwenye kiti cha neema. Omba kwa ajili ya Roho Mtakatifu. MUNGU anasimama nyuma ya kila ahadi Yake aliyoitoa (uhakika). Ukiwa na Biblia yako mikononi mwako sema, nimefanya kama ulivyosema. Ninawasilisha ahadi Yako, “Ombeni, nanyi mtapewa; tafuteni, nanyi mtapata; bisheni, nanyi mtafunguliwa.” [Pr 311.3; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Hatupaswi kuomba kwa Jina la Kristo tu, bali kwa uvuvio wa Roho Mtakatifu. Hii inafafanua kile kinachomaanishwa inaposemwa kwamba Roho “hufanya maombezi kwa ajili yetu kwa uchungu mzito usioweza kutamkika.” (kuugua kusikotamkika) Warumi 8:26. Ombi kama hilo MUNGU hufurahia kulijibu. Tunapotoa ombi katika jina la Kristo kwa dhati, bidii na mkazo wa kina, kuna ahadi kubwa kutoka kwa ule mkazo kwamba MUNGU atajibu ombi letu “kuliko yote tuyaombayo au tuyawazayo.” Waefeso 3:20. [Pr 311.4; Maombi Aya ya 33]

Kristo amesema, “Yoyote myaombayo mkisali, aminini ya kwamba mnayapokea, nayo yatakuwa yenu. Marko 11:24. “Nanyi mkiomba lolote kwa Jina Langu, hilo nitalifanya, ili Baba atukuzwe ndani ya Mwana.” Yohana 14:13. Naye Yohana mpendwa, chini ya uvuvio wa Roho Mtakatifu, anasema kwa uwazi na uhakikisho mkubwa: “Tukiomba kitu sawasawa na mapenzi Yake, Yeye anatusikia; na kama tukijua ya kuwa atusikia, tumwombalo lo ote, twajua ya kuwa tunazo haja tulizomwomba.” 1 Yohana 5:14, 15. Basisi wewe wasilisha ombi lako kwa Baba katika Jina la Yesu. MUNGU ataliheshimu Jina hilo. [Pr 311.5; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Upinde wa mvua unaokizunguka kiti cha enzi ni uthibitisho kwamba MUNGU ni Kweli/Mkweli, kwamba ndani Yake hakuna kubadilikabadilika, wala kugeuka kama kivuli. Tumemtendea dhambi na hatustahili rehema Zake. lakini Yeye Mwenyewe ameweka katika midomo yetu maombi yale ya ajabu sana, “Usitutupe, kwa heshima ya Jina Lako; usikidharau kiti Chako cha enzi kitukufu. Ukumbuke agano ulilofanya nasi, wala usilivunje.” Yeremia 14:21. Tunapoenda kKwake tukiungama kutostahili na dhambi zetu, Yeye amejitolea kukisikiliza kilio chetu. Heshima ya kiti Chake cha enzi imo hatarini kwa ajili ya

utimilifu wa Neno Lake kwetu (heshima Yake ipo hatarini Neno Lake lisipotimia). [Pr 312.1; Maombi Aya ya 35]

Kama Haruni, aliyefananishwa na Kristo, Mwokozi wetu anabeba majina ya watu Wake wote moyoni Mwake katika Patakatifu. Kuhani wetu Mkuu anakumbuka Maneno yote ambayo kwayo ametutia moyo kuyatumaini. Daima Yeye hukumbuka na kujali Agano Lake. [Pr 312.2; Maombi Aya ya 36]

Wote watafutao kutoka Kwake watapata. Wote wanaobisha watafunguliwa mlango. Udhuru hautatolewa, kwamba Usinisumbue; mlango umefungwa; Sitaki kufungua. Kamwe hataambiwa mtu, 'siwezi kukusaidia'. Wale wanaoomba mkate usiku wa manane ili kulisha roho zenye njaa watafanikiwa. [Pr 312.3; Maombi Aya ya 37]

Katika kisa cha Mfano, cha yule anayeomba mkate kwa ajili ya mgeni, hupokea "kwa wingi kadiri ya haja yake." Na ni kwa kipimo gani basi MUNGU atatugawia ili tuwagawie wengine? "Kwa kadiri ya kipimo cha kipawa cha Kristo." Waefeso 4:7. Malaika wanatazama kwa hamu kubwa kuona jinsi mwanadamu anavyoshughulika na wanadamu wenzake (anavyohusiana na wenzake). Wanapona mtu akidhihirisha huruma kama ya Kristo kwa wakosaji, wanajongea kwa karibu sana naye na kuleta kwenye kumbukumbu yake maneno ya kusema ambayo yatakuwa kama Mkate wa Uzima kwenye nafsi hiyo "MUNGU atawajazeni kila mnachokihitaji kwa kadiri ya utajiri Wake, katika utukufu, ndani ya Kristo Yesu." Wafilipi 4:19. Ushuhuda wako katika Ukweli na uhalisia wake, Yeye ataufanya kuwa na nguvu katika uwezo ya maisha yajayo. Neno la Bwana litakuwa kinywani mwako kama Kweli na haki. [Pr 312.4; Maombi Aya ya 38]

Juhudi binafsi kwa wengine zinapaswa kutanguliwa maombi mengi ya siri; kwa maana inahitaji hekima kubwa kuelewa sayansi ya kuokoa roho. Kabla ya kuwasiliana na wanadamu, fanya ushirika na Kristo. Katika kiti cha enzi cha neema ya mbinguni, wewe pata maandalizi ya kuwahudumia watu. [Pr 313.1; Maombi Aya ya 39]

Hebu moyo wako uvunjike kwaajili ya matamano uliyo nayo kwa MUNGU, kwa MUNGU aliye hai. Uhai na maisha ya Kristo vimeonyesha kile ambacho binadamu anaweza kufanya kwa kuwa mshiriki wa asili ya Uungu. Yote ambayo

Kristo alipokea kutoka kwa MUNGU sisi pia tunaweza kuwa nayo. Hivyo wewe omba na upokee. Kwa imani yenye kudumu ya Yakobo, pamoja na ustahimilivu wa Eliya, omba mwenyewe yote ambayo MUNGU ameahidi. [Pr 313.2; Maombi Aya ya 40]

Hebu mawazo yenye utukufu ya MUNGU yatawale akili yako. Hebu maisha yako yasukwe na miunganiko iliyofichika ya maisha ya Yesu. Yeye aliyeamuru nuru iangaze kutoka gizani, Yuko tayari kuangaza moyoni mwako, na kukupa nuru ya elimu ya utukufu wa MUNGU katika uso wa Yesu Kristo. Roho Mtakatifu atachukua mambo ya MUNGU na kukuonyesha wewe, akiyafikisha kama nguvu iliyo hai ndani ya moyo mtiifu. Kristo atakuongoza hadi kwenye mlango wa Asiye na mwisho. Unaweza kuuona utukufu uliopo nyuma ya pazia, na kuwafunulia watu utoshelevu Wake Yeye anayeishi sikuzote kufanya maombezi kwa ajili yetu. [Pr 31z.3; Maombi Aya ya 41]

Sura hii inaonekana katika Christ's Object Lessons, pages 139-149

SURA YA 32

IMANI NA MAOMBI

Imani ni kumtumaini MUNGU—kuamini kwamba Yeye anatupenda, Naye anajua zaidi kile ambacho ndicho chema na cha manufaa kwetu. Na Hivyo, badala ya kuchagua yale yetu kama njia au mawazo yetu wenyewe, tunaongozwa kuchagua njia Yake. Katika mahali pa ujinga wetu, sisi tunaikubali hekima Yake; badala ya udhaifu wetu, sisi tunapokea nguvu Zake; badala ya dhambi zetu, sisi tunapokea haki Yake. Maisha yetu sisi wenyewe, tayari ni ya Kwake; imani inakiri umiliki Wake, kwamba Yeye Ndiye Mmiliki na kukubali baraka Zake. Ukweli, unyoofu, usafi wa moyo, vimetajwa/vimesondwa kuwa siri za mafanikio ya maisha. Ni imani ndiyo inayotuweka katika kumiliki kanuni hizi. [Pr 314.1; Maombi Aya ya 1]

“Kila msukumo mzuri au matamano ni zawadi ya MUNGU; imani hupokea kutoka kwa MUNGU maisha ambayo ndiyo hayo pekee yanayoweza kuzalisha ukuaji wa Kweli na ufanisi. [Pr 314.2; Maombi Aya ya 2]

Namna ya kutumia/kuizoesha imani yapaswa kuwekwa wazi sana na kwa usahili sana. Kwa kila ahadi ya MUNGU kuna masharti. Ikiwa tuko tayari kufanya mapenzi Yake, Nguvu na uwezo Wake wote ni wetu. Karama yoyote Yeye anayoahidi, iko katika ahadi yenyewe. “Mbegu ni Neno la MUNGU.” Luka 8:11. “Kwa hakika kama vile mbegu ya mwaloni ilivyo ndani ya mti wa mwaloni (oak tree), ndivyo karama ya MUNGU ilivyo katika ahadi Yake. Ikiwa tunapokea ahadi, basi tunayo zawadi.” [Pr 314.3; Maombi Aya ya 3]

Ile Imani inayotuwezesha kupokea karama za MUNGU, yenyewe hiyo ni zawadi, ambayo kila mwanadamu mwanadamu amepewa kwa kipimo fulani. Nayo inakua kadiri inavyotumiwa kwa usahihi wa Neno la MUNGU. Ili kuimarisha imani, ni lazima tuiunganishe mara mara na Neno Lake. [Pr 314.4; Maombi Aya ya 4]

Katika ujifunzaji wa Biblia mwanafunzi anapaswa kuongozwa kuona nguvu ya Neno la MUNGU. Katika uumbaji, Yeye “Akanena, ikawa; Akatoa amri, nayo ikasimama hivyo.” Yeye “huamuru vitu ambavyo havipo viwepo.” (Zaburi 33:9; Warumi 4:17); kwa maana anapoviamuru, huwa papo hapo. [Pr 315.1; Maombi Aya ya 5]

Ni mara ngapi wale walioamini Neno la Mungu, ingawa wao wenyewe binafsi hawana msaada au uwezo kabisa, wamepinga nguvu za ulimwengu wote – Henoka, mwenye moyo safi, mtakatifu katika mtindo wa maisha, akishikilia sana imani yake katika ushindi wa haki dhidi ya kizazi kiovu na chenye watu waliojaa dhihaka; Nuhu na nyumba yake dhidi ya watu wa wakati wake, watu wenye nguvu kubwa ya mwili na akili mahiri na maadili yenye uchafu/ufisadi zaidi; watoto wa Israeli kwenye Bahari ya shamu, umati wa watumwa wasio na msaada, na wenye hofu, dhidi ya jeshi lenye nguvu zaidi kupita mataifa yote ya duniani (Misri); Daudi, kijana mchungaji, aliye na ahadi ya MUNGU ya kiti cha ufalme, dhidi ya Sauli, mfalme aliyewekwa rasmi, aliazimia kuzishikilia nguvu Zake Mungu; Shadraka na wenzake katika moto, na Nebukadreza kwenye kiti cha enzi; Danieli kati ya simba, maadui zake katika nafasi za hadhi ya hali ya juu katika ufalme; Yesu msalabani, na makuhani wa Kiyahudi na watawala wakimlazimisha hata gavana wa Kirumi kufanya mapenzi yao; Paulo akiwa amefungwa minyororo akiwa amehukumwa kifo cha mhalifu, na Nero dikteta/dhalimu wa himaya ya ulimwengu. [Pr 315.2; Maombi Aya ya 6]

Mifano kama hiyo haipatikani katika Biblia pekee. Imejaa katika kila rekodi ya maendeleo ya mwanadamu. Wavaudois na Wahuguenoti, Wycliffe na Huss, Jerome na Luther, Tyndale na Knox, Zinzendorf na Wesley, pamoja na umati wa wengine, wameshuhudia nguvu ya Neno la MUNGU dhidi ya nguvu na sera za binadamu katika kuunga mkono uovu. Hawa ndio watu bora, waungwana na

waaminifu wa Kweli wa ulimwengu. Huu ni msururu/safu Yake ya watiifu. Katika mstari huu vijana wa leo wanaitwa kuchukua nafasi zao. [Pr 315.3; Maombi Aya ya 7]

Imani inahitajika katika madogo na isipungue katika mambo makubwa zaidi ya maisha. Katika masilahi na kazi zetu zote za kila siku nguvu ya kudumisha ya MUNGU inakuwa halisi kwetu kupitia imani ya kudumu ndani Yake. [Pr 315.4; Maombi Aya ya 8]

Yakitazamwa kutoka katika upande wake wa kibinadamu, maisha ni njia ambayo hakuna mtu yeyote aliyewahi kupita. Ni njia ambayo, kwa kuzingatia uzoefu wetu wa kina, kila mmoja hupita peke yake. Katika maisha yetu ya ndani hakuna mwanadamu mwingine anayeweza kuingia kikamilifu. Mtoto mdogo anapoanza katika safari hiyo ambayo, mapema au baadaye, ni lazima achague njia yake mwenyewe, yeye mwenyewe akiamua masuala ya maisha ya umilele, ni jitihada ya bidii kiasi gani basi inapaswa kutumika kuelekeza imani yake kwa Kiongozi na Msaidizi wa hakika! (Mwenyezi Mungu) [Pr 315.5; Maombi Aya ya 9]

Kama ngao dhidi ya majaribu, msukumo wa usafi wa moyo na Ukweli, hakuna ushawishi mwingine unaoweza kuwa sawa na hisia ya uwepo wa MUNGU. “kila kitu kimefunuliwa wazi mbele ya macho Yake Yeye ambaye Kwake tutapaswa kutoa hoja ya matendo yetu” Yeye ni “mtakatifu kabisa, hawezi kutazama uovu, hawezi kustahimili kamwe kuona mabaya.” Waebrania 4:13; Habakuki 1:13. Wazo hili lilikuwa ngao ya Yusufu kati ya ufiisadi na uchafu wa Misri. Juu ya vivutio vya majaribu jibu lake lilikuwa thabiti: “Ninawezaje kufanya uovu huu mkuu, na kumtendea MUNGU dhambi?” Mwanzo 39:9. Imani, ikiwa itatunzwa, italetta ngao kama hiyo juu ya kila roho. [Pr 316.1; Maombi Aya ya 10]

Utambuzi wa uwepo wa MUNGU pekee yake, ndiyo unaweza kukomesha hofu ambayo, kwa mtoto mwenye woga ungemfanyia maisha kuwa mzigo. Hebu aweke katika kumbukumbu yake ahadi, “Malaika wa Bwana hufanya kituo, Akiwazunguka wamchao, na kuwaokoa.” Zaburi 34:7. Hebu asome Kisa kile cha ajabu cha Elisha katika mji ulio mlimani, na, kati yake na majeshi ya maadui wenye silaha, kikosi chenye nguvu cha malaika wa mbinguni

kikiwazunguka. Hebu asome jinsi Petro, Akiwa gerezani na kuhukumiwa kifo, malaika wa MUNGU alimtokea; jinsi, alivyowapita walinzi wenye silaha, milango mikubwa na lango kubwa la chuma lenye makufuli yake na makomeo, malaika alimwongoza mtumishi wa MUNGU nje kwa usalama. Hebu asome juu ya tukio lile la baharini, wakati wale askari-jeshi na mabaharia waliokuwa wakirushwa na tufani, wakiwa wamechoshwa na kazi ngumu na kukesha na kufunga kwa muda mrefu, Paulo mfungwa, akiwa njiani kuelekea kwenye hukumu na kuuawa, aliposema Maneno yale makuu ya ujasiri na tumaini: “Jipeni moyo; kwa maana hakuna mtu kati yenu atakayepoteza maisha yake.....Kwa maana usiku huu Malaika wa MUNGU ambaye mimi ni Wake na ninayemtumikia alisimama karibu nami, akisema, Usiogope, Paulo; imekupasa kuletwa mbele ya Kaisari; na tazama, MUNGU amekupa wote wasafirio pamoja nawe.” Kwa imani ya ahadi hii Paulo aliwahakikishia wenzake, “Hapataanguka hata unywele mmoja wa kichwa cha mmoja wenu.” Na ikawa. Kwa sababu ndani ya merikebu hiyo kulikuwa na mtu mmoja ambaye kupitia kwake MUNGU angeweza kufanya kazi, shehena yote ya meli ya askari wa kipagani na mabaharia ilihifadhiwa. “Walivuka wote hadi nchi kavu salama.” Matendo 27:22-24, 34, 44. [Pr 316.2; Maombi Aya ya 11]

Mambo haya hayakuandikwa ili tusome tu na kushangaa—shangaa (kustaajabu), bali ili imani ile ile iliyotenda kazi ndani ya watumishi wa MUNGU wa zamani ifanye kazi ndani yetu pia. Kwa namna isiyopungua ya yale aliyoyafanya wakati huo, Yeye Atafanya kazi sasa popote palipo na mioyo ya imani iwe mifereji ya nguvu Zake. [Pr 317.1; Maombi Aya ya 12]

Hebu wale wasiojiamini, ambao upungufu wa kutojitegemea kwao unawapelekea kuzama mbali na kujali na kuwajibika, wafundishwe kumtegemea MUNGU. Hivyo wengi ambao la sivyo wangukuwa tu watu duni ulimwenguni (sifuri), pengine mizigo tu isiyo na msaada, wataweza kusema pamoja na mtume Paulo, “Nayaweza mambo yote katika Yeye anitiaye nguvu.” Wafilipi 4:13. [Pr 317.2; Maombi Aya ya 13]

Kwa mtoto ambaye pia ni mwepesi kuchukizwa na majeraha ya chuki au visasi moyoni, kwake imani ina masomo ya thamani. Mwelekeo wa kupinga uovu au

kulipiza kisasi mara nyingi huchochewa na hisia kali ya kujali haki na roho ya kutenda na yenye bidii. Hebu mtoto wa namna hiyo afundishwe kwamba MUNGU Ndiye mlinzi wa haki wa milele zote. Yeye Ana ulinzi maridhawa kwa viumbe ambao Amewapenda sana kiasi cha kumtoa Mwanaye Mpendwa kuokoa. Atashughulika kikamilifu na kila anayetenda uovu. [Pr 317.3; Maombi Aya ya 14]

"Kwa maana Yeye awagusaye ninyi aigusa mboni ya jicho Lake." Zekaria 2:8. [Pr 317.4; Maombi Aya ya 15]

"Mkabidhi Mwenyezi maisha yako; mtumainie Yeye Naye atafanya kitu. Ataufanya wema wako ung'ae kama mwanga, na uadilifu wako kama jua la adhuhuri." Zaburi 37:5, 6. [Pr 317.5; Maombi Aya ya 16]

"Bwana Naye atakuwa kimbilio kwa walioonewa, kimbilio wakati wa taabu. Nao wakujuao Jina Lako watakutumaini Wewe, kwa maana Wewe, Bwana, hukuwaacha wakutafutao." Zaburi 9:9, 10. [Pr 317.6; Maombi Aya ya 17]

Huruma ambayo MUNGU anaonyesha kwetu, Yeye anatubidisha tuionyeshe kwa wengine. Hebu watu wenye hasira, mihemko, wenye kujitumaini nafsi, wenye kulipiza kisasi, wantazame Yeye Aliye mpole na mnyenyekevu, akiongozwa kama kondoo anayekwenda kuchinjwa, bila kulipiza kisasi kama kondoo mbele ya mkata manyoya wake. Wantazame Yeye ambaye dhambi zetu zimemchoma na huzuni zetu zimemlemea, nao watajifunza kuvumilia, kustahimili, na kusamehe. [Pr 317.7; Maombi Aya ya 18]

Kupitia imani, kila upungufu wa tabia unaweza kutolewa (kujazwa na kukawa na ukamilifu), kila unajisi kusafishwa, kila kosa kurekebishwa, kila ubora unapata kuendelezwa. [Pr 318.1; Maombi Aya ya 19]

"Nyinyi mmekamilika katika Yeye." Wakolosai 2:10. [Pr 318.2; Maombi Aya ya 20]

Maombi na imani vina uhusiano wa karibu (pacha), na vinahitaji kujifunzwa/kuchunguzwa pamoja. Katika maombi ya imani kuna sayansi ya Mbingu/Bwana; ni sayansi ambayo kila mtu ambaye anahitaji kuifanya kazi yake ya maisha ifanikiwe lazima aielewe. Kristo anasema, "Yoyote myaombayo mkisali, aminini ya kwamba mnayapokea, nayo

yatakuwa yenu.” Marko 11:24. Anaweka wazi kwamba maombi yetu lazima yapatane na mapenzi ya MUNGU; lazima tuombe mambo ambayo Yeye ameahidi, na chochote tunachopokea lazima kitumike katika kufanya mapenzi Yake. Masharti yakitimizwa, ahadi haizuiliki. [Pr 318.3; Maombi Aya ya 21]

Kwa msamaha wa dhambi, kwa Roho Mtakatifu, kwa hulka na tabia kama ya Kristo, kwa hekima na nguvu ya kufanya kazi Yake, kwa zawadi yoyote ambayo Yeye ameahidi, tunaweza kuomba; kisha tunapaswa kuamini kwamba tutapokea, na kurudisha shukrani kwa MUNGU kwamba tumepokea. [Pr 318.4; Maombi Aya ya 22]

Hatuhitaji mwonekano wowote wa nje wa ushahidi kwamba tumebarikiwa au tumepokea baraka. Zawadi ipo katika ahadi, na tunaweza kuendelea na kazi yetu tukiwa na hakika kwamba kile ambacho MUNGU amekiahidi Ana uwezo wa kukitekeleza, na kwamba zawadi, ambayo tayari kabisa tunayo, itadhihirika wakati tunaipohitaji sana. [Pr 318.5; Maombi Aya ya 23]

Kuishi hivyo kwa Neno la MUNGU maana yake ni kusalimisha Kwake maisha yetu yote. Kutakuwa na hisia endelevu ya hitaji na utegemezi, kuvutwa kutoka moyoni kumtafuta MUNGU. Maombi ni lazima; maana ni uhai wa nafsi. Maombi ya familia, maombi ya hadhara, yana nafasi yake; lakini ni ushirika wa siri na MUNGU unaotegemeza/unaodumisha uhai wa nafsi. [Pr 318.6; Maombi Aya ya 24]

Ilikuwa katika mlima pamoja na MUNGU ndipo ambapo Musa aliona kielelezo/pateni/ramani ya jengo lile la ajabu ambalo lilipaswa kuwa makao ya utukufu Wake. Ni katika mlima pamoja na MUNGU—katika mahali pa siri pa ushirika—ndimo tunapaswa kutafakari ubora Wake tukufu kwa wanadamu. Ndipo tutawezeshwa kutengeneza ujenzi wa tabia yetu ili ahadi Yake iweze kutimizwa kwetu, “Nitakaa ndani yao, na nitatembea kati yao; Nami nitakuwa MUNGU wao, nao watakuwa watu Wangu.” 2 Wakorintho 6:16. [Pr 318.7; Maombi Aya ya 25]

Ilikuwa katika masaa ya maombi ya peke Yake ndipo mahali ambapo Yesu katika maisha Yake ya duniani alipokea hekima na nguvu. Hebu vijana wafuate mfano Wake katika kutenga majira ya utulivu wakati wa

mapambazuko na machweo ya jua kwa ajili ya ushirika na Baba yao wa mbinguni. Na katika siku nzima waendeleo kuinua mioyo yao kwa MUNGU. Katika kila hatua ya njia yetu Yeye anasema, “Mimi, Bwana, MUNGU wako, nitakushika mkono wako wa kuume..... Usiogope; nitakusaidia.” Isaya 41:13. Endapo watoto wetu wataweza kujifunza masomo haya mapema katika miaka yao ya awali, ni burudisho na nguvu kiasi za gani, ni furaha na uzuri kiasi gani, vingeletwa katika maisha yao! [Pr 319.1; Maombi Aya ya 26]

Haya ni masomo ambayo ni yule tu ambaye amejifunza anaweza kuyafundisha. Ni kwa sababu wazazi na waalimu wengi wanadai kuliadini Neno la MUNGU na huku maisha yao yakikana nguvu Zake, ndiyo maana mafundisho ya Maandiko hayana matokeo makubwa zaidi kwa vijana. Wakati fulani vijana huletwa kuhisi nguvu ya Neno. Wanaona thamani ya upendo wa Kristo. Wanaona uzuri wa tabia Yake, na jinsi maisha yaliyotolewa kwa utumishi Wake yanavyoweza kuwa na uwezekano wa matunda yasiyo na ukomo. Lakini kinyume cha hilo wataona maisha ya wale wanaojidai kuheshimu maagizo ya MUNGU. Ni Maneno ya Ukweli mangapi yaliyonenwa kwa nabii Ezekieli: [Pr 319.2; Maombi Aya ya 27]

Watu wako “Wananchi wenzako wanazungumza juu yako, wameketi kutani na milangoni mwa nyumba zao na kuambiana: ‘Haya! Twende tukasikie Neno alilosema Mwenyezi-Mungu!’ Basi, hukujia makundi kwa makundi na kuketi mbele yako kama watu Wangu, wasikie unachosema, lakini hawafanyi unachowaambia wafanye. Wanasema kwamba wana upendo, lakini hayo ni maneno matupu; wanachotafuta kwa moyo ni faida yao tu. Kwao, wewe umekuwa tu kama mwimbaji wa kutumbuiza mwenye sauti nzuri ikiandamana na muziki safi! Wanayasikia yale unayosema, lakini hawatekelezi hata mojawapo.” Ezekieli 33:30-32. [Pr 319.3; Maombi Aya ya 28]

Ni jambo moja kuona Biblia kuwa kitabu chenye mafundisho mazuri ya kimaadili, cha kuzingatiwa kadiri kinavyopatana na roho ya nyakati hizo na nafasi yetu katika ulimwengu; ni jambo lingine kukichukulia kama jinsi kilivyo kweli, katika uhalisia wake—Neno la MUNGU aliye hai, Neno ambalo ni uzima wetu, Neno linalofaa kufinyanga/kuumba matendo yetu, na maneno yetu, na

mawazo yetu. Kushikilia Neno la MUNGU pungufu ya kitu chochote kati ya hayo ni kulikataa. Na kulikataa huku kwa wale wanaodai kuliadini, ni sababu ya awali miongoni mwa sababu za kushuku (skepticism) na ukosefu wa imani kwa vijana (dhana potofu). [Pr 319.4; Maombi Aya ya 29]

Nguvu ambayo haijawahi kuonekana hapo awali inatawala ulimwengu. Katika maburudisho, katika kutafuta pesa, katika kugombea madaraka, katika mapambano ya kuishi, kuna nguvu ya kutisha ambayo huchota mwili na akili na roho. Katikati ya msukumo huu unaovuruga, MUNGU anazungumza. Yeye Anatuamuru tujitenge mahali pa faragha na tuzungumze Naye. “Nyamazeni, mjue ya kuwa Mimi ni MUNGU.” Zaburi 46:10. [Pr 320.1; Maombi Aya ya 30]

Wengi, hata katika majira yao ya ibada, wanashindwa kupokea baraka za ushirika halisi na MUNGU. Wana haraka sana. Kwa hatua za haraka-haraka wanasonga mbele katika mzunguko wa uwepo wa Kristo mwenye upendo, wakisimama (wakipose) labda kwa muda kidogo ndani ya mazingira matakatifu, lakini bila kungoja shauri. Hawana muda wa kubaki na Mwalimu wa mbingu, yaani Mwalimu aliye Mungu. Wanarudi makazini mwao wakiwa na mizigo yao. [Pr 320.2; Maombi Aya ya 31]

Watenda kazi hawa hawawezi kamwe kupata mafanikio ya juu zaidi mpaka wajifunze siri ya nguvu. Ni lazima wajipe muda wa kutafakari, kuomba, na kumngoja MUNGU kwa ajili ya nguvu za kimwili, kiakili na kiroho kufanywa upya. Wanahitaji ushawishi wa kuinua wa Roho Wake. Wakipokea haya, watahuishwa na Roho Mtakatifu kwa maisha mapya. Mwili na akili iliyochoka vitafanywa upya, moyo uliolemewa utafanywa kuwa mwepesi. [Pr 320.3; Maombi Aya ya 32]

Sio kutulia kwa muda katika uwepo Wake, ila kumgusa kwa mguso binafsi na Kristo, kuketi katika ushirika pamoja Naye-hili ndilo hitaji letu kuu. Iwana baraka, heri na furaha watoto majumbani mwetu na wanafunzi wa shule zetu wakati wazazi na walimu watakapojifunza katika maisha yao uzoefu wa thamani unaoonyeshwa katika Maneno haya kutoka katika Wimbo Ulio Bora: [Pr 320.4; Maombi Aya ya 33]

“Kama nyinyoro (lily) kati ya miiba, Kadhalika mpenzi wangu kati ya binti.
Kama tofaha kati ya miti ya msituni, Kadhalika mpendwa Wangu kati ya vijana. Naliketi kivulini mwake kwa furaha, Na matunda Yake naliyaonja kuwa matamu.
Akanileta mpaka nyumba ya karamu, Na bendera Yake juu yangu ni mapenzi.” Wimbo ulio bora 2:3, 4. [Pr 320.5; Maombi Aya ya 34]

Sura hii inapatikana katika Education, 253-261

GENERAL COMMENTARY of this book in English Known as
Prayer by EGW

You can see these comments in
RevivalandReformation.Org Bible reading blog

“Free Gift” (if you sign up for an expensive plan)

“Huge return for small investment” (which disappears once you’ve paid the subscription fee)

“Pill to remove pain” (also addictive and deadly)

We see and hear advertising scams every day. When it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Nothing worthwhile is really free - except when it comes to God!

Prayer is such an amazing gift, sometimes it’s hard to believe that it’s real. Prayer is a direct line to the Creator of everything that exists! Not only that, He is never busy, and always interested in even our smallest needs. We can pray without even speaking, and it’s a privilege that can never be taken away.

We are so used to advertising, we expect that no one would give us something if they weren’t expecting at least as much in return.

But God isn’t like that. Our prayers never burden or tire Him. He wants to take our fears, our sorrows, and our discouragements, and in return give us peace, joy, and hope! In God we find a Friend who will never leave us, who wants the best for us, and who has sacrificed more than we can ever imagine to save us from slavery to evil.

God promises a foretaste of heaven when we put our trust fully in Him and communicate with Him about everything. Let’s make a plan to use this free gift regularly!

Prayer 1

COMMENTARY

“Free Gift” (if you sign up for an expensive plan)

“Huge return for small investment” (which disappears once you’ve paid the subscription fee)

“Pill to remove pain” (also addictive and deadly)

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Lisa Ward

Country Life SDA Church Clerk, Cleburne, Texas USA
JUMP TO DISCUSSION

Prayer 2

COMMENTARY

Behold, a certain man decided to traverse the city of Chicago, blindfolded and unaided.

That sounds like the beginning of a story that doesn't end well. After all, the city of Chicago is a metropolis of obstacles, from crowded buildings, dense population, busy streets, bad weather, waterways, and antagonistic people and animals. Most would agree that it would be dangerous to set out on such a trip without making use of all available resources.

Behold, a certain man decided to traverse the walk of life, prayerless and self-confident.

How much more dangerous is this than the first situation? Through an amazing set of circumstances, the first man may actually make it through

Chicago unscathed. The second is jeopardizing not just his life here on earth, but his future beyond the grave as well.

“If there was ever a time when we should watch and pray in real earnest, it is now. There may be supposable things that appear as good things, and yet they need to be carefully considered with much prayer, for they are specious devices of the enemy to lead souls in a path which lies so close to the path of truth that it will be scarcely distinguishable from the path which leads to holiness and heaven.” - Prayer, p. 27

The devil has set out the obstacles. God has provided the solution. The choice is yours.

Lisa Ward

Country Life SDA Church Clerk, Cleburne, Texas USA

Prayer 3

COMMENTARY

“I feel invisible.”

“I want to be heard.”

“I want to know that I matter to someone.”

There is a hunger in our world, and not just for food. People are starved for meaning and belonging in life. We want to know that someone shares our happiness, cares when we cry, and ultimately wants what is best for us.

Unfortunately, in the world we live, people are always going to let us down. This is a need that only God can fill, and what a God we have! He’s given us a prayer hotline to access Him from anywhere at any time. He’s not only interested in every single prayer, but He lived here before, and He’s able to understand first hand the struggles we have. Not only that, He knows the end from the beginning and can answer our prayers knowing what is best from an eternal perspective.

So why are there so many people craving the God that is available to all?

Because He’s depending on us to share Him! Now is the time!

“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” -Mark 16:15

Lisa Ward
Country Life SDA Church Clerk, Cleburne, Texas USA

Prayer 4

COMMENTARY

Often times we hear about soul winning or witnessing as if it is an important task that we must work toward such as a sales quota. In other words, the number of people reached is the goal rather than the life changing encounter with Jesus that transforms their soul.

Witnessing is imperative and life changing work. People are yearning for light and strength during these dark times. However, we can only present Jesus effectively if we already know Him as our personal Savior. It is from love and gratitude to Jesus that our hearts reach out to seek others that seem to be as lost and confused as we once were. As we pray about how to connect with these individuals, it draws us closer to Jesus' side and unites us with Heaven. We then will have more grace and more life to offer them. Often, this is not a work that can be done in a few minutes on a doorstep (although God certainly does work through those encounters!) It is in forming a relationship over time through patience and persistent effort.

Just as Jesus continues to woo, guide, and direct each of us over our lifetimes, let's prayer bathe these relationships that our friends may come to see Jesus for the kind and loving God that He is. And likewise that you, dear reader, may continue to fall endlessly in love with Him as well.

Jane Cvancara Wendt

Health Ministries, Glendale, Arizona USA

Prayer 5

COMMENTARY

Have you ever felt like God was a million miles away and that your prayers just kind of echo back from the ceiling? I've also felt that God is most likely busy with other more urgent prayers and mine will just have to wait

for a while. But, listen to this! I love the word picture that is described in this chapter-- Christ is the connecting link between God and man, encircling us with his human arm, while with His divine arm He grasps the throne of the Infinite. What a tremendous promise of his continual love and strength! It is comforting for me to know that Jesus is with me, hears me, and continues to minister on my behalf. To know that he understands what it's like to be human and has compassion for our struggles. And yet, because He has conquered sin, He makes a way for us to be touched by divine grace and healing. And as we press further into a relationship with Him, we will come to know that He is trustworthy. He will answer our prayers at just the right time and in just the right way for our best good. I'm beginning to understand the peace that comes with knowing that God is interested in my well-being. It is a precious promise to know that He doesn't hide from us and that He will be found by those who seek Him in Prayer. And he truly is the Pearl of great price!

Jane Cvancara Wendt

Health Ministries, Glendale, Arizona USA

Prayer 6

COMMENTARY

This chapter is a Must Read! In the past, I've become discouraged when reading about living a victorious Christian life, thinking that I'm not doing enough, praying enough, or being holy enough. This chapter is filled with phenomenally empowering truths that quell those types of thoughts and provide hope and strength - which is found in an abiding faith in Jesus.

There is no limit to the promises of God. He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. Late at night, during a particularly difficult time in my life, I was mentally wrestling with God over a dilemma. I finally came to the realization that He is all powerful, and all knowing, and all loving. Why wouldn't I want to give my problem over to Him? I tentatively surrendered it to Him like a frightened and shivering little child. Honestly, I didn't really have peace, but I was trusting God at His word that He could

handle my situation. At that moment I felt Heaven was rejoicing over that small victory when faith triumphed over my dark feelings. Actually, I think it's a pretty huge victory when we let Jesus be the Lord of our lives and our thoughts. Let your faith take hold of the blessings that Christ as so ready to give you!

Jane Cvancara Wendt

Health Ministries, Glendale, Arizona USA

Prayer 7

COMMENTARY

“Day by day and with each passing moment, Strength I find to meet my trials here; Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment, I've no cause for worry or for fear. He whose heart is kind beyond all measure, gives unto each day what He deems best. Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure, Mingling toil with peace and rest” (Hymnal #532)

Prayer is how we can continually lift our hearts and minds to God. Throughout the day I find myself asking for help to turn my thoughts away from self and back into alignment with God's will. When feelings of frustration and irritation start to flood my mind, I have found that if I immediately ask God for help, those feelings flee. We are in a war for our minds. We must be on guard against the evil one at all times. Constantly

turning to Jesus for help throughout the day is the only way to keep our guard up.

Start each morning by dedicating your coming day to God and His plan for your life. I have a special place at work that I go to if I feel myself dwelling too much on my own feelings. I remind myself that I am called to minister to others and be a servant to even my coworkers. Self needs to be put away. I can't do this alone. Believe me, I've tried! I have to intentionally invite Jesus to come back and instill His spirit inside me.

Then without even being aware of it, whatever was a source of irritation for me is suddenly removed. My mindset is no longer on me, but back on being Jesus' hands and feet. And peace again fills my heart and mind.

Lord, teach us to run back to you if we stray from your loving presence.

Cheri Holmes
Emergency Room Registered Nurse, Lynden, Washington
USA

Prayer 8

COMMENTARY

Communication is key in any relationship. We are created in God's image which tells me God also loves to talk. He knows what we are thinking, but He longs for us to tell Him directly. I have found in the Bible that when God spoke to people, He often asked questions. God longs to hear us speak to Him and tell what we are feeling.

Recently I found myself saddened by a lack of communication in a close relationship. It was hurtful and I felt pretty sad about it. I took this situation to God in prayer. He began to show me that that is how He feels when I neglect to spend personal time talking to Him. It hurts Him deeply. Tell Jesus everything, including how you feel, and then ask Him to help you develop the character He wants to you have. Tell Him all your wants, fears, joys, and sorrows. I've found that if I visually put whatever I'm worried about in a box and hand it over to my Savior, He takes that burden away. He promises to help carry our burdens and give us peace!

Once we do this, true peace and calm take over and fills our hearts. I may have to do this process more than once, but He has never failed me!

"Cultivate the habit of talking with the Savior when you are alone, when you are walking, and when you are busy with your daily labor." (Prayer, p. 76)

Cheri Holmes
Emergency Room Registered Nurse, Lynden, Washington
USA

Prayer 9

COMMENTARY

For my fourth birthday, my parents gifted me with a very special gift - a shiny, navy blue remote-control Corvette Stingray.

For several days, the car and I were inseparable. Throughout our home, down our sidewalks, through our lawn, my car and I went. But then something happened. My car didn't respond as usual-- the turns were more sluggish, the acceleration was diminished. I asked my parents what was happening. "It's run out of juice," they told me. "We'll have to buy some more batteries."

Has the stress, injustice, and pain of this world left you feeling wiped out? Does the guilt of your own shortcomings have you seeking a spiritual recharge? There's hope, my friend.

Through prayer, God has given us something more powerful than anything this world has to offer.

In the great faceoff on Mount Carmel, Elijah earnestly prayed that God would open up the clouds and send rain. One, two, three... six times he prayed, and seemingly nothing happened. Not even one cloud dotted the horizon.

But that didn't stop Elijah. Instead of growing despondent, Elijah

searched his own heart. Was anything in the way of his relationship with Jesus? As he searched, he realized his weakness and his need. It

was then that he approached the God of heaven a seventh time. And God answered.

Do you need an outpouring of God's mercy and power in your life? Why not follow the plan of Elijah to persistently, fervently and humbly pray to God? Heaven's bounties await.

Eddie Schwisow

Voice of Prophecy Public Relations Director, Johnstown, Colorado, United States

Prayer 10

COMMENTARY

As a parent of young children, I often hear the question, "But why, Daddy?" In most cases, the question is a fair one. After

all, young, developing minds need cogent reasons for doing what they're asked.

However, sometimes asking "why" is an attempt to avoid making necessary changes. How do I know? Well, because, as much as I hate to admit it, when God impresses me to make changes in my life, I often find myself using this same strategy.

Making prayer a bigger part of our lives will be a sacrifice for many of us. It will take time and persistence, and may challenge us to make even more changes in our lives.

But is making this change worthwhile? Yes, incredibly so. As this chapter so aptly points out, there are dozens of good reasons to prioritize prayer in our lives.

Consider the example of Jesus.

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed (Mark 1:35, NKJV).

At the top of His day, before anything could interfere, Jesus prayed. And it wasn't only at the beginning of the day. Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus could be found in prayer regardless of the hour of day.

And because He prayed, Jesus experienced victory over Satan and sin. And because of that victory, salvation is mine, and yours. Thank you, Jesus, for placing a priority on prayer. May I follow in Your steps.

Eddie Schwisow

Voice of Prophecy Public Relations Director, Johnstown, Colorado, United States

Prayer 11

COMMENTARY

Our tenth-month old girl lay limp, gaze fixed, unresponsive. "Madelyn, Madelyn," I repeated unsuccessfully. Calling my husband over, he too tried to get her attention to no avail.

“We have to get her to the hospital.” While he called 911, I phoned my parents who lived five minutes away. They arrived before the EMTs. My dad took little Maddie in his arms, and still completely unresponsive, she threw up. Sensing the emergency, he started walking out to the road to meet the ambulance.

“We need the mother to get in the ambulance,” the EMT told my husband. “We’re headed to Children’s Hospital. You may not follow us, but that’s where you’ll find us.”

As we neared the hospital, the attending EMT stood up. Peering through the small window, he phoned the hospital, letting them know an unresponsive 10-month old was arriving. I held it together until we arrived at the hospital. With tears streaming down my face and my body shaking, I entered the ER.

It was prayer that held us - I can’t explain our peace despite the uncertainty.

A friend offered to have our church family pray. This led to an international prayer chain. My husband and I covenanted we would remain committed to God no matter what.

God answered those prayers, our prayers. A full 12 hours later, in the PICU, I saw my “real” Maddie. Doctors and emergency staff explained that similar situations don’t usually have a happy ending like ours.

Do I believe God answers prayer? Absolutely!

Sarah Schwisow
Johnstown, Colorado USA

Prayer 12

COMMENTARY

“I can’t believe what he did. He was so heartless. And to think, he calls himself a Christian!”

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

“But he’s supposed to be a friend, someone I respected, but instead he seems like he’s out to get me.”

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

“Oh, I don’t think you understand. He doesn’t have even one bone of regret in his body.”

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

“Ok, ok. I’ll try.”

“Lord, change my heart for I can’t change it. Take out my vengeful heart and create in me something new and loving. And, if possible, please change my ‘friend’ as well.”

For a week, I prayed a prayer like this.

Though I had hoped that the heart of my “friend,” would change, it was not to be.

In my heart, though, something had changed. After seven days of prayer, I no longer had thoughts of revenge. In their place, I now had sympathy and compassion.

God had performed a miracle in my heart - a revival of love for one I had despised.

Could it be that He wants to do the same for you?

God says in 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Needing revival? He’s only a prayer away.

Eddie Schwisow

Voice of Prophecy Public Relations Director, Johnstown,
Colorado United States

Prayer 14

COMMENTARY

Several years ago, my son was a student at a nearby college. He did not yet have a car of his own, so I was preparing to drive to campus and pick him up for lunch. Suddenly, I received notification that the campus was on

lockdown, as there was the threat of an active shooter on campus.

This situation was certainly NOT one I had anticipated happening that day! Yet during my quiet time that morning I had been working on memorizing Isaiah 26:3 ESV, which says "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."

Quickly I gathered my young daughter and we dropped to our knees, asking for protection for my son and husband, who were both on campus. Isaiah 26:3 came back to my mind, and I claimed God's perfect peace. In a few minutes, I received a phone call from a friend far away, who had two daughters in lockdown on the campus. We prayed together over the phone, and I was able to share my promise with her.

Happily, the situation ended up being a threat, but not a reality. As it was determined that there was no real shooter on campus, things quickly returned to normal day to day activity. Yet the reminder of our dependence on Him remained in my heart. Each day, there is nothing more important than our connection with our Saviour. We do not know what that day will bring. But we are promised that He will provide what we need.

Susan Menzmer
Homemaker, Collegedale, Tennessee

Prayer 14

COMMENTARY

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Susan Menzmer
Homemaker, Collegedale, Tennessee

Prayer 15

COMMENTARY

I recently participated in two music festivals, one over a weekend for adults and one the next week for kids. They are Christian festivals, but not all who come may consider themselves Christians. I join these festivals because I love to play music, but I have realized that other people watch my example. Before and during the events, I prayed that God might use me as an example and blessing to someone.

This was my first year participating in the adult festival, and at 16 I was one of the youngest there. In a group I played in, an elderly lady complimented me on my playing and said that my love for music showed when I played. I don't try to show a love for music when I play, but I am passionate about it. If my love for music shows like that, I am sure that people also notice if I act like a Christian or not.

This was my fifth year at the kids' festival. I am one of the oldest and most advanced students. I know both teachers and students see what I do and how I act. This year I was an Apprentice, so I helped one of the teachers

with a younger group of kids. Being an Apprentice makes the way I live even more visible.

I pray God may use my example in these festivals and in all interactions I have with people to bless them and bring them nearer to Him.

Alison Menzmer

Homeschooled High School Junior, Violist/Violinist,
Collegedale, Tennessee USA

Prayer 16

COMMENTARY

God is never too busy to listen to us talk to Him. We are His kids. He loves to spend time with us. No matter where we are or what we are doing, we can talk to Him.

We should not neglect to devote time each day specifically to being with Him, time where we can read His Words, hear His Voice, and speak to Him.

However, in addition to this, I can think little thoughts to Him as I go about my day, work on my school, or do the dishes.

No one has to know. God knows, and I know.

We are to “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” 1 Thess. 5:16-18, KJV.

Rejoice when you sweep the floor, do the dusting, the laundry, the vacuuming.

Pray when you spend time with friends, read a book, cook a special dinner.

Give thanks when you are in school, at work, in the grocery store, in the garden.

And do these things in all circumstances: at the doctor’s, the auto shop, on vacation, at dawn, noon, twilight, midnight – well, you know what I mean.

We know it, but do we always remember to do it? Maybe so, and praise God for the communication channels that

are open between His mind and ours. Maybe not, and praise Him for His willingness to help us remember.

Talk to Him.

He's listening.

Alison Menzmer
Homeschooled High School Junior, Collegedale,
Tennessee USA

Prayer 17

COMMENTARY

If you are a parent, then I am sure you have already stepped up your own private prayer life. Just looking at that tiny newborn who did not come with an instruction book is enough to strike fear into the most courageous person! But in addition to covering your children with prayer, it is also your privilege and indeed responsibility to teach THEM how to pray.

Philippians 4:6-7 says "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." ESV

Are your children learning to open their hearts to their Heavenly Father? This is true prayer! My daughter is in the middle of her teen years--SO much change and growth happening! We do not need to look far to find stress and disappointment in her life. But when she shares her concerns with me, I try to remember to ask her first "Have you prayed about this?" If the answer is not yet, I stop right then to pray with her, taking her problems to God and asking for His solution.

My daughter will not be living at home very many more years, but the habit of going to her Heavenly Father for all her problems in life will always be with her, even when I am not.

Susan Menzmer
Homemaker, Collegedale, Tennessee USA

Prayer 18

COMMENTARY

I appreciate the counsel offered in this chapter titled Prayer and Worship as it addresses aspects of public prayer which have troubled me at times. Since 1995, when I was re-baptized into the SDA church, I have focused on learning more about prayer, seeing it as a conversation with

Christ and God the Father. This has caused me to listen closely to prayers offered in worship services to get some hints on how to go about it. At times these prayers were discouraging to me as I didn't think these people prayed this way at home or if they did, it did not seem as if they had much of a conversation with the Deity and never included

time for Him to reply.

EGW's revelations and counsel in this chapter express the importance and gravity of our encounters with the Lord in worship.

She encourages us to gather with others for prayer as a way of

giving worship to our Lord, and expands on the use of prayer as a very important part of a worship experience. Her encouragement to keep public prayers clear, distinct, easy to understand, and to the point, yet personal, is eye-opening and educational. Prayer used in worship is not only our own approach to God as evidenced in public but also an example to all those participating in the worship by listening and silently commenting in their own prayer. I agree that prayer and worship are an integral part of a close relationship with Christ.

Barbara Gardner
Berrien Springs, Michigan USA

Prayer 19

COMMENTARY

Paul reminds us to “Pray without ceasing.” I Thess 5:17. And in this chapter on prayer, Ellen White tells us, “Cultivate the habit of talking with the Saviour when you are alone, when you are walking, and when you are busy with your daily labor. Let the heart be continually uplifted in silent petition for help, for light, for strength, for knowledge. Let every breath be a prayer.”

During this past year of COVID, my husband and I found ourselves often taking long walks together outdoors. As “essential workers,” both of us worked through the entire pandemic, my husband at a local TV station, and I worked in a local hospital. We had a lot to talk about, as we shared what had happened during our work days. And as we talked about everything – things that were funny, or sad, or simply routine – we grew closer. We were on the same team, looking out for our family and friends, sharing our lives, encouraging each other. As I read this chapter on prayer, it struck me that this is simply what God longs for from us – our conversation, and a listening heart. The God of the universe values us and our time, and He wants to talk with us, about everything that matters

to us. “Let every breath be a prayer.” As we walk through our days,
wherever we are, we are never alone.

Anne Larson
Indiana, USA

Prayer 20

COMMENTARY

Next time you pray, envision Christ with His arm around you, drawing you close, while His other arm grasps His Father’s throne in supplication. What an intimate, encouraging picture of Christ’s involvement in our prayer lives. As you pray, Christ prays with you and for you. Christ’s merits perfume our prayers as they ascend to the Father, mingling human and divine appeals.

As we pray, we unveil our hearts to our Savior, who knows our faults, flaws, and failures and yet loves us

unflinchingly. Nothing we have ever done or ever will do, nothing we have thought or will think, can erase God's love, unless we choose to reject His transformative wooing.

Nothing is too painful to reveal to Christ, nothing too shameful for Him to bury at the bottom of the sea. Come to Christ as your Best Friend, your Counselor. Let your prayers unburden your heart, heal your wounds, and uplift your loved ones.

The Bible is chockfull of promises that are fuel for prayers. For instance, "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken, nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord who has compassion on you." Isaiah 54:10.

Facing trials and unimaginable suffering? Remind God that He promised to never remove His peace. Claim His peace! Claim His love! Claim His deliverance! God is more willing to answer than you are to pray.

Pray the promises back to God's compassionate heart.

Lori Engel

Chaplain (currently disabled), Eugene, Oregon USA

Prayer 21

COMMENTARY

Was your dad safe to trust? Was he interested in your needs and wants? Did you feel safe in his presence or did he radiate emotional danger so you were always walking on eggshells around him?

If you didn't trust your dad at a deep neurological level, one that influenced your limbic system, it will be difficult for you to trust God emotionally, no matter how much you trust Him intellectually. Your mind will be consumed with worry and anxiety, always trying to protect yourself, to arrange everything perfectly, to meet your own needs. You fight to remain in control! If you aren't in control, you fall apart or blow up.

Many of us need our image of God transformed. Not intellectually but experientially, in how we regulate our emotions, feed our thoughts, and react in relationships.

When our internal image of God becomes one of unfailing safety and care, rather than whatever distorted image our imperfect human father created, we will be able to experientially believe “that God loves us and means to do us good...We shall trust God as a child trusts a loving parent.”

When you experience - not just intellectualize - God as eternally trustworthy, it will transform your mind and heart. God will never shame you, blow up at you, or ignore you. It is safe to stop worrying and believing you must take care of yourself or no one will.

You have a trustworthy, loving Father who will always care for you. Rest in trust.

Lori Engel

Chaplain (currently disabled), Eugene, Oregon USA

COMMENTARY

Hope deferred makes us heartsick. Prolonged delays in healing compel the suffering to question whether their faith is too feeble for God to bestow healing. Or perhaps cherished sins thwart healing? Has God turned His back?

Why does God sometimes heal and other times allow disease or disability to linger or take lives? Answers are scarce. Occasionally unhealed illness can be attributed to an unwillingness to choose a healthy lifestyle, to give up debilitating habits. People long for renewed health but refuse to change. God will not work against the laws of nature. How can God heal people who are intent on destroying themselves?

Yet frequently this is not the case. We detect no reason for God to

withhold healing. Only heaven will unveil life's unanswered mysteries.

One thing is certain: a lack of healing does not always equate to fragile faith. Extraordinary Christians have suffered lifelong agonies or gone to their graves

prematurely, and it was not due to insufficient faith. God has purposes of which we are unaware. Trust His heart when you can't understand His ways.

God is more interested in eternal healing than temporary healing. Perhaps a life unhealed physically is being restored emotionally and spiritually. Perhaps internal wounds are being healed that are far more profound than any physical ailment. God uses life's agonies to shape us and deepen our dependence on Him.

Trust that God's heart has restorative reasons when healing is delayed or

denied. Hope in His love!

Lori Engel

Chaplain (currently disabled), Eugene, Oregon USA

Prayer 23

COMMENTARY

There is tremendous encouragement in Chapter 23, "Praying for Forgiveness." It contains a clear call to be humble and intentional in seeking God. Romans 6 shows a helpful progression from indicative to imperative. The indicative describes what is true that we can trust in, and the imperative is how we live in light of those truths. Chapter 23 contains similar categories. The indicative contains gems like, "...as you ask in faith your heart will be softened." Seeking God with faith will change our hearts and attitudes. For a stubborn person like me this is encouraging. Praying with faith changes my reality! Another, "It is His will to cleanse us from sin, to make us his children, and to enable us to live a holy life." He desires to heal our brokenness and bring us to life.

A powerful truth emphasized --When we pray, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors," we should remember that we are asking God to treat us as we treat others. This makes the imperative to forgive others clear.

We are also told to confess specifically not generally. I knew a man who obsessed over himself, fearful of missing an unconfessed sin. Psalms 139:23, 24, asks God to search our hearts. What a hopeful idea! We clean up by coming to God intentionally. "Look to Jesus for the things you need."

“We need to open our hearts.”

Bill Roberts
Ministerial Director, Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, USA

Prayer 24

COMMENTARY

"Let those older in experience watch over the younger ones; and when they see them tempted, take them aside, and pray with them and for them."

I have been in youth ministry for most of my professional career--as a Bible teacher, youth pastor, student literature evangelism director and conference youth director. As an associate director of the White Estate, I had the opportunity to travel globally to speak to young people. During those years, I often asked teens I hadn't met before this question: "Has anyone, other than your parents, ever prayed one-on-one with you? Has a youth pastor, Bible teacher, Sabbath School teacher, or another adult in your life asked if they could pray with you for your specific needs?"

Only once or twice did a young person say that someone other than their parents had personally prayed with them! What a lost opportunity! Young people long for adults to take a real interest in them and even in their spiritual journey. They welcome the chance to tell a genuinely interested adult about their walk with Jesus, even if their relationship with Him never really began, or has slackened.

Intercessory prayer requires perseverance, faith, compassion, self-distrust, and love. If some of those qualities are missing in our prayer life, we can ask God to supply the lack, to change our hearts and transform our priorities. He wants to work mightily on behalf of the individuals for whom we pray. Let's pray more, and stress less!

Cindy Tutsch
Blog Editor, RevivalandReformation.org

Prayer 25

COMMENTARY

“All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord.”

Were our hearts enthralled by the veracity of these lyrics, our lives would be transformed. Physical and emotional suffering would weigh far less

heavily. Knowing that angels view our traumas, trials, and temptations with “sympathizing tenderness” strengthens us to fight life’s fiercest battles. Angelic tenderness buoys aching hearts and shattered lives.

Beyond protecting us physically, angels also minister to minds and hearts, encouraging our noblest instincts, supplying us with grace, strength, and wisdom. They seek to guard our hearts and minds from earth’s polluting influences. Angels are spiritual bodyguards, seeking to preserve us from the devil’s wiles and earth’s woes.

Angels are heaven’s 911 system. Gathered around God’s throne, angels wait to respond to prayers rising from sincere hearts. Yet sadly humans often ignore angelic presence and availability; our neglectful indifference renders us spiritually fragile. Attempting to cope with our emergencies and predicaments in our own puny strength, we neglect dialing heaven’s 911 - PRAYER. Consequently, we are left more susceptible to the devil’s attacks.

Prayer unlocks the power and protection of heaven for those earnestly striving to overcome. Through prayer, you and I have access to “invisible armies of light and power.” God’s angelic army is ready and willing to fight on our behalf, to help us win unwinnable battles, to strengthen faltering hearts and troubled minds.

Are you in need of God’s 911 service? Dial P-R-A-Y-E-R!
Help is on the way!

Lori Engel
Chaplain (currently disabled), Eugene, Oregon USA

Prayer 26
READ PASSAGE JOIN DISCUSSION

COMMENTARY

Did you realize that submission and obedience are an essential part of prayer? Certainly, we can come to God just as we are and ask Him to renew our hearts and minds through His Spirit. But if we insist on our own way of rebellion, and ask God to "okay" our plans that are clearly

outside of His Word, God is not pleased and will allow Satan to give us a counterfeit experience.

Here is the citation:

"Men and women, in the face of the most positive commands of God, will follow their own inclination, and then dare to pray over the matter, to prevail upon God to consent to allow them to go contrary to His expressed will. God is not pleased with such prayers. Satan comes to their side, as he did to Eve in Eden, and impresses them, and they have an exercise of mind, and this they relate as a most wonderful experience which the Lord has given them" (p. 262).

These are sobering words! Let's come to God with holy, reverent boldness, but never in presumption.

Cindy Tutsch

RevivalandReformation.org Blog Editor

Prayer 27

COMMENTARY

Prayer is like breathing. We can't live without it. We sometimes look at it only like vitamins. It is good for us. Chapter 27 makes very clear why prayer is so important. First, we are born captives of the enemy and are naturally inclined to do his bidding. We don't have power to change this reality. "Only as Christ abides in him by faith," is what can change our direction.

Chapter 27 makes clear that the enemy will do anything to keep us from prayer. He targets our shame and brokenness. Neglect of prayer and scripture weakens us so we can be defeated.

The rocky soil in the parable of the sower shows how people can find joy in Jesus and yet fall away during

storms. There is an almost surreal depiction of what happens behind the scenes. The enemy will try to keep someone from escaping his influence and by surrounding them with darkness so they can't see light. It is a depressing scenario and it is too

real. I have seen it. If the person perseveres in prayer, angels come to deliver. It reminds me of my kids. If a bully were bothering them in our front yard and they called for my help, I could not ignore their cry.

There are pivotal moments where prayer plays a vital role in the war between darkness and light. This chapter makes me aware of my deep need of prayer in connecting with Jesus by faith and with intention.

Bill Roberts

Ministerial Director, Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, USA

Prayer 28

COMMENTARY

Our young son was a counter-intuitive thinker. We memorized Proverbs 3:5-6 and asked him what he thought "Lean not on your own understanding" meant. He replied, "It means that lots of confusing stuff is going to happen to you." He was not wrong, but that wasn't the "promise" we were looking for.

Ellen White wrote, "We do not believe that the time has fully come when He would have our liberties restricted." (Prayer 274.3) It's easy to focus on the strife stirring up all around us, trying to find meaning in every current event, and conclude that things have changed since that was

written. Things have changed, but I'd like to invite you to take a different focus.

The rest of the paragraph says that angels are holding the winds held back, "till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." The easy way to understand this is that we still have more time since the earth hasn't been completely destroyed yet. The better way to understand it is that, if we can see that the wind is

blowing, God is busy examining His people and now is the time to be ready and help others get ready.

She concluded, “A vast responsibility is devolving upon men and women of prayer throughout the land to petition that God will sweep back the cloud of evil and give a few more years of grace in which to work for the Master.” (Prayer 274.3)

Karen D. Lifshay
Communications Secretary, Hermiston Church, Oregon
USA

Prayer 29

COMMENTARY

How thirsty are you? I remember when I desperately needed water while traveling in Mexico. The hotel I was staying at had run out of filtered water and I had spent all day out in the dust and smog working hard on a mission project construction site. By that night I could hardly speak and realized I was in trouble. I needed water, but I was visiting refugees in an a neighborhood under construction with no running water. Finally, while

talking to someone just outside his makeshift home, I noticed that I could see a bottled water dispenser through his open door. I practically begged him for a drink.

What happened next changed my life. The man returned with a pitcher and a glass. He handed me the glass and filled it with pure water. I was so thirsty that I emptied the glass in seconds. I dared to ask for another glassful. He looked at me, laughed, and started to refill my glass. When it got to the top, he just kept pouring until the cup overflowed and water spilled on the ground. I understood him to mean that his supply

was limitless and I was welcome to all I needed.

At that moment I realized that so it is with God. “Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, who long after God, may be sure that they will be filled. The heart must be open to the Spirit’s influence, or God’s blessing cannot be received.” Prayer 282.1

Karen D. Lifshay

Communications Secretary, Hermiston Church, Oregon
USA

Now that you have seen how they comment you can continue to comment in the last 3 Chapters that are remaining, Pray for our Team of Translators as we continue with this work!

MARANATHA! JESUS IS COMING SOON

1. Profound Prayer Quotes To Encourage You may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.” - Max Lucado

2. “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” - Martin Luther

3. “True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that - it is a spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth.” - Charles Spurgeon

4. “If you believe in prayer at all, expect God to hear you. If you do not expect, you will not have. God will not hear you unless you believe He will hear you; but if you believe He will, He will be as good as your faith.” - Charles Spurgeon

5. “Prayer makes a godly man, and puts within him the mind of Christ, the mind of humility, of self-surrender, of service, of pity, and of prayer. If we really pray, we will become more like God, or else we will quit praying.” - E.M. Bounds

6. “Prayer should not be regarded as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty.” - E.M. Bounds

7. “God can handle your doubt, anger, fear, grief, confusion, and questions. You can bring everything to him in prayer.” - Rick Warren

8. “Prayers outlive the lives of those who uttered them; outlive a generation, outlive an age, outlive a world.” - E.M Bounds

9. “Prayer delights God’s ear; it melts His heart.” - Thomas Watson

10. “It is possible to move men, through God, by prayer alone.” - Hudson Taylor

11. “To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees.” - Billy Graham

12. “Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue; God’s voice is its most essential part. Listening to God’s voice is the secret of the assurance that He will listen to mine.” - Andrew Murray

13. “To desire revival... and at the same time to neglect (personal) prayer and devotion is to wish one way and walk another.” - A.W. Tozer

14. “I saw more clearly than ever, that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord.” - George Mueller

15. “Our praying, however, needs to be pressed and pursued with an energy that never tires, a persistency which will not be denied, and a courage which never fails.” - E. M. Bounds

16. “God does nothing but by prayer, and everything with it.” - John Wesley

17. “Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.” - Oswald Chambers

18. "Search for a person who claims to have found Christ apart from someone else's prayer, and your search may go on forever." - E. Bauman

19. "Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace
and persevere therein, and mercy will come down." -
John Wesley

20. "God will do great things for you if you will wait for Him. Yield to Him. Cooperate with Him." - John Smith

21. "A day without prayer is a day without blessing, and a life without
prayer is a life without power." - Edwin Harvey

22. "Quit playing, start praying. Quit feasting, start fasting. Talk less with men, talk more with God. Listen less to men, listen to the words of God. Skip travel, start travail." - Leonard Ravenhill

23. "None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience. It is a great matter when in extreme need to take hold on prayer." - Martin Luther

24. "You know the value of prayer: it is precious beyond all price. Never,
never neglect it." - Sir Thomas Buxton

25. "Prayer is the first thing, the second thing, the third thing necessary to a minister. Pray, then my dear brother; pray, pray, pray." - Edward Payson

26. "It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must patiently, believingly, continue in prayer until we obtain an answer; and further we have not only to continue in prayer unto the end, but we have also to believe that God does hear us, and will answer our prayers. Most frequently we fail in not continuing in prayer until the blessing is obtained, and in not expecting the blessing." - George Müller

27. “Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things!” - Andrew Murray

28. “The reason why we obtain no more in prayer is because we expect no more. God usually answers us according to our own hearts.” - Richard Alleine

29. “Satan cannot deny but that great wonders have been wrought by prayer. As the spirit of prayer goes up, so his kingdom goes down.” - William Gurnall

30. “The devil is aware that one hour of close fellowship, hearty converse with God in prayer, is able to pull down what he hath been contriving and building many a year.” - Flavel

31. “Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things ‘above all that we ask or think.’” - Andrew Murray

32. “If we would pray aright, the first thing we should do is to see to it that we really get an audience with God, that we really get into His very presence. Before a word of petition is offered, we should have the definite consciousness that we are talking to God, and should believe that He is listening and is going to grant the thing that we ask of Him.” - Dr. R. A. Torrey

33. “What is love if it be not fiery? What are prayers if the heart be not ablaze? They are the battles of the soul.” - Samuel Chadwick

34. “Mind how you pray. Make real business of it. Let it never be a dead formality...plead the promise in a truthful, business-like way...Ask for what you want, because the Lord has promised it.” - Charles Spurgeon

35. “Where there is much prayer, there will be much of the Spirit; where there is much of the Spirit, there will be

ever-increasing prayer.” - Andrew Murray

36. “A godly man is a praying man. As soon as grace is poured in, prayer is poured out. Prayer is the soul’s traffic with Heaven; God comes down to us by His Spirit, and we go up to Him by prayer.” - Thomas Watson

37. “Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure.” - D. L. Moody

38. “There is no way that Christians, in a private capacity, can do so much to promote the work of God and advance the kingdom of Christ as by prayer.” - Jonathan Edwards

39. “As it is the business of tailors to make clothes, and the business of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray!” - Martin Luther

40. “Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness.” - Martin Luther

41. “Intercessory prayer is exceedingly prevalent. What wonders it has wrought! The Word of God teems with its marvelous deeds. Believer, thou hast a mighty engine in thy hand, use it well, use it constantly, use it with faith, and thou shalt surely be a benefactor to thy brethren.” - C. H. Spurgeon

42. “The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.” - Samuel Chadwick

43. “What the church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men who the Holy Spirit can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Spirit does not come on machinery but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men—men of prayer.” - E. M. Bounds

44. "Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" - Corrie Ten Boom

45. "What wings are to a bird and sails to a ship, so is prayer to the soul." - Corrie Ten Boom

46. "Spiritual work is taxing work, and men are loath to do it. Praying, true praying, costs an outlay of serious attention and of time, which flesh and blood do not relish." - E.M. Bounds

47. "In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart." - John Bunyan

48. "Prayer is no petty duty, put into a corner; no piecemeal performance made out of the fragments of time which have been snatched from business and other engagements of life; but it means that the best of our time, the heart of our time and strength must be given." - E.M. Bounds

49. All I know is that when I pray, coincidences happen; and when I don't pray, they don't happen. - Dan Hayes

50. If your day is hemmed in with prayer, it is less likely to come unraveled.
- Cynthia Lewis

51. Prayer is the exercise of drawing on the grace of God. - Oswald Chambers

52. Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers. - J. Sidlow Baxter

53. History is silent about revivals that did not begin with prayer. - Edwin Orr

54. If the heart wanders or is distracted, bring it back to the point quite gently and replace it tenderly in its Master's presence. And even if you did nothing during the whole of your hour but bring your heart back and place it

again in our Lord's presence, though it went away every time you brought it back, your hour will be very well employed. - St. Francis de Sales

"Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God."

- St. John Damascene

"It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without heart."

- Mahatma Gandhi

"Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him."

- St. Augustine

"Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of containing God's gift of himself."

- Mother Theresa

"Do not make prayer a monologue...make it a conversation."

- Author Unknown

"Prayer is the song of the heart. It reaches the ear of God even if it is mingled with the cry and tumult of a thousand men."

- Kahlil Gibran

".....a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God. This relationship is prayer."

- para. 2558 Catechism of the Catholic Church

"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."

- St. Augustine

"Pray as you can, not as you can't."

- Dom Chapman

"Prayer is the inner bath of love into which the soul plunges itself."

- St. John Vianney

"The whole reason why we pray is to be united into the vision and contemplation of God to whom we pray."

- Julian of Norwich

"Do not forget that the value and interest of life is not so much to do conspicuous things ...as to do ordinary things with the perception of their enormous value."

- Teilhard de Chardin

"I believe that it is impossible to grasp all the different forms of prayer without great purity of heart and soul. There are as many forms of prayer as there are states of soul. A person prays in a certain manner when cheerful and in another when weighed down by sadness or a sense of hopelessness. When one is flourishing spiritually, prayer is different from when one is oppressed by the extent of one's struggles."

- John Cassian

"Therefore, when you decide to undertake this work of prayer and feel by grace that you are called by God, lift up your heart to God with a meek stirring of Love."

- Cloud of Unknowing

"If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is 'thank you' that would suffice."

- Meister Eckhart

"Prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God."

- Teresa of Avila

"A generous prayer is never presented in vain; the petition may be refused, but the petitioner is always, I believe, rewarded by some gracious visitation."

- Robert Louis Stevenson

"The wish to pray is a prayer in itself."

- Georges Bernanos

"Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul."

- Mahatma Gandhi

"Prayer is not an old woman's amusement. Properly understood and applied, it is the most potent instrument of action."

- Mahatma Gandhi

"Any concern too small to be turned into prayer is too small to be made into a burden."

- Corrie Ten Boom

"God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer."

- Mother Teresa

"And so I urge you: carry on an ongoing conversation with God about the daily stuff of life, a little like Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof. For now, do not worry about 'proper' praying, just talk to God."

- Richard J. Foster

"Don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines."

- Satchel Paige

"Prayer, then, is a matter of our participating in the life of Jesus Christ."

- Michael Casey

"The value of persistent prayer is not that God will hear us, but that we will finally hear God."

- William McGill

"Work as if everything depends on you. Pray as if everything depends on God."

- St. Ignatius Loyola

"Give me faith, Lord, and let me help others find it."

- Leo Tolstoy

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

- Matthew 5:44

"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that. It is a spiritual transaction with the creator of Heaven and Earth."

- Charles Spurgeon

"A beginner must look on himself as one setting out to make a garden for his Lord's pleasure, on most unfruitful soil which abounds in weeds. His

majesty roots up the weeds and will put in good plants instead. Let us reckon that this is already done when the soul decides to practice prayer and has begun to do so."

- Saint Teresa of Avila

"Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night."

- George Herbert

"There is variation in our prayer because we look toward God from different vantage points. Our situation changes; we develop and are subjected to a range of external factors. Our situation can also change because we deliberately choose to seek further into the mystery of God."

- Michael Casey

"The wish to pray is a prayer in itself."

- Georges Bernanos

Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between his will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer. – Elisabeth Elliot

Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden. – Corrie Ten Boom

Work as if you were to live a hundred years, pray as if you were to die tomorrow. – Benjamin Franklin

Prayer must carry on our work as much as preaching; he preacheth not heartily to his people that will not pray for them. – Richard Baxter

Groanings which cannot be uttered are often prayers which cannot be refused. – Spurgeon

God warms his hands at man's heart when he prays. – John Masefield

If your day is hemmed in with prayer, it is less likely to come unraveled. – Cynthia Lewis

When you are in the dark, listen, and God will give you a very precious message. – Oswald Chambers

Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians than praying together. Never do they love one another so well as when they witness the outpouring of each other's hearts in prayer. – Charles Finney

Leaders must be released from the idea that they must be great prayer warriors before they can begin to call others to prayer. – David Bryant

In worship, God imparts himself to us. – C.S. Lewis

The amount of time we spend with Jesus – meditating on his Word and his majesty, seeking his face – establishes our fruitfulness in the kingdom. – Charles Stanley

God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil. – E.M. Bounds

It is possible to move men, through God, by prayer alone. – Hudson Taylor

There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer. — D.A.T. Pierson

Worship and intercession must go together; the one is impossible without the other. Intercession means that we rouse ourselves up to get the mind of Christ about the one for whom we pray. — Oswald Chambers

The great people of the earth today are the people who pray, (not) those who talk about prayer. — S.D.Gordon

An unschooled man who knows how to meditate upon the Lord has learned far more than the man with the highest education who does not know how to meditate. — Charles Stanley

Of all the things Christ wants for us, loving him and focusing our attention on him are the most important. — Charles Stanley

All vital praying makes a drain on a man's vitality. True intercession is a sacrifice, a bleeding sacrifice. — J.H. Jowett

Work, work, from morning until late at night. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall have to spend the first three hours in prayer. — Martin Luther

To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees. —Billy Graham

Prayer is the exercise of drawing on the grace of God. — Oswald Chambers

Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue; God's voice is its most essential part. Listening to God's voice is the secret of the assurance that he will listen to mine. — Andrew Murray

Prayer at its highest is a two-way conversation and for me the most important part is listening to God's replies. — Frank C. Laubach

Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers. — J. Sidlow Baxter

God never gives us discernment in order that we may criticize, but that we may intercede. — Oswald Chambers

To desire revival... and at the same time to neglect (personal) prayer and devotion is to wish one way and walk another. — A.W. Tozer

God does not delay to hear our prayers because he has no mind to give; but that, by enlarging our desires, he may give us the more largely. — Anselm of Canterbury

Prayer is not only asking, but an attitude of mind which produces the atmosphere in which asking is perfectly natural. — Oswald Chambers

The supreme thing is worship. The attitude of worship is the attitude of a subject bent before the King... the fundamental thought is that of prostration, of bowing down. — Campbell Morgan

There must be the inward worship within the shrine if there is to be outward service. — Alexander MacLaren

If Bible Christianity is to survive the present world upheaval, we shall need to have a fresh revelation of the greatness and the beauty of Jesus.... He alone can raise our cold hearts to rapture and restore again the art of true worship. — A.W. Tozer

I'm convinced that the man who has learned to meditate upon the Lord will be able to run on his feet and walk in his spirit. Although he may be hurried by his vocation, that's not the issue. The issue is how fast his spirit is going. To slow it down takes a period of time. — Charles Stanley

The essence of meditation is a period of time set aside to contemplate the Lord, listen to him, and allow him to permeate our spirits. — Charles Stanley

Learn to worship God as the God who does wonders, who wishes to prove in you that he can do something supernatural and divine. — Andrew Murray

History is silent about revivals that did not begin with prayer. —

Edwin Orr

All I know is that when I pray, coincidences happen; and when I don't pray, they don't happen. — Dan Hayes

There is a place where thou canst touch the eyes Of
blinded men to instant, perfect sight; There is a place
where thou canst say, "Arise" To dying captives, bound in
chains of night; There is a place where thou canst reach
the store Of hoarded gold and free it for the Lord; There is
a place – upon some distant shore – Where thou canst
send the worker and the Word. Where is that secret
place--dost thou ask, "Where?" O soul, it is the secret place
of prayer! – Alfred Lord Tennyson

God's way of answering the Christian's prayer for more
patience, experience, hope, and love often is to put him
into the furnace of affliction. – Richard Cecil

I have lived to thank God that not all my prayers have
been answered. – Jean Ingelow

Prayer is exhaling the spirit of man and inhaling the
spirit of God. –

Edwin Keith

To pray well is the better half of study. – Martin Luther

Prayer is not eloquence, but earnestness; not the
definition of helplessness, but the feeling of it; not figures
of speech, but earnestness of soul. – Hannah More

Study your prayers, a great part of my time is spent
getting in tune for prayer. – Robert McCheyne

I saw more clearly than ever, that the first great and
primary business to which I ought to attend every day was,
to have my soul happy in the Lord. The first thing to be
concerned about was not, how I might serve the Lord, how
I might glorify the Lord; but how I

I've prayed many prayers when no answer came, I've
waited patient and long;

But answers have come to enough of my prayers

To make me keep praying on. (The Secret of Abundant
Living)

♣ Prayer is no more inconsistent with the unchangeable
purposes of God, than the use of any other means; for God
in forming his purposes

had respect to all appropriate means of producing the intended ends, and among these prayer has an important place.

♣ It is as natural and reasonable for a dependent creature to apply to its Creator for what it needs, as for a child thus to solicit the aid of a parent who is believed to have the disposition and ability to bestow what it needs. Charles Allen

♣ If your knees are shaking, kneel on them. Richard Alleine

♣ The reason why we obtain no more in prayer is because we expect no more. God usually answers us according to our own hearts. Leith Anderson

♣ There come times in our lives when we in our desperation and pain run to God and dial our 911 prayers. Sometimes we're hysterical. Sometimes we don't know the words to speak. But God hears. He knows our number and he knows our name and he knows our circumstance. That help is already on the way; God has already begun to bring the remedy to us. M.E. Andross

♣ Time spent alone with God is not wasted. It changes us; it changes our surroundings; and every Christian who would live the life that counts, and who would have power for service must take time to pray.

♣ Make time to pray. The great freight and passenger trains are never too busy to stop for fuel. No matter how congested the yards may be, no matter how crowded the schedules are, no matter how many things demand the attention of the trainmen, those trains always stop for fuel.

♣ There is no other activity in life so important as that of prayer. Every other activity depends upon prayer for its best efficiency.

♣ If the Christian does not allow prayer to drive sin out of his life, sin will drive prayer out of his life. Like light and darkness, the two cannot dwell together.

♣ "...the man on his knees has a leverage underneath the mountain

which can cast it into the sea, if necessary, and can force all earth and

heaven to recognize the power there is in 'His name.

♣ When prayer has become secondary, or incidental, it has lost its power. Those who are conspicuously men of prayer are those who use prayer as they use food, or air, or light, or money."Augustine

♣ Longing desire prayeth always, though the tongue be silent. If thou art ever longing, thou art ever praying.

♣ Remove from prayer much speaking, not much praying.

♣ Do you wish to pray in the temple? Pray in your own heart. But begin by being God's temple, for He will listen to those who invoke Him in His temple.

♣ Pray as though everything depended on God; work as though everything depended on you.

♣ It was your Lord who put an end to long-windedness, so that you would not pray as if you wanted to teach God by your many words. Piety, not verbosity, is in order when you pray, since He knows your needs. Now someone perhaps will say: 'But if He knows our needs, why should we state our requests even in a few words? Why should we pray at all? Since He knows, let Him give what He deems necessary for us.' Even so, He wants you to pray so that He may confer His gifts on one who really desires them and will not regard them lightly.

♣ We may pray most when we say least, and we may pray least when we say most.

♣ The nature of the divine goodness is not only to open to those who knock, but also to cause them to knock and ask.

♣ We may pray when we say least, and we may pray least when we say most

♣ What can be more excellent than prayer; what is more profitable to our life; what sweeter to our souls; what more sublime, in the course of our whole life, than the practice of prayer!

♣ He that loveth little prayeth little, he that loveth much prayeth much.

♣ Lord, thou madest us for thyself, and we can find no rest till we find rest in thee.

♣ Even the straws under my knees shout to distract me from prayer

♣ If faith fails, prayer perishes. Charles Baudelaire

♣ The man who says his prayers in the evening is a captain posting his sentries. After that, he can sleep.

William Barclay

♣ I do not think that prayer is ever evasion, that prayer saves us from having to face things that we do not want to face and that are going to hurt if we face them. Jesus in Gethsemane discovered that there was no evasion of the cross.

♣ God will not do for me what I can do for myself. Prayer must never be regarded as a labor-saving device.

♣ Prayer is not flight; prayer is power. Prayer does not deliver a man from some terrible situation; prayer enables a man to face and to master the situation.

♣ Real prayer is simply being in the presence of God. When I am in trouble, and when I go to my friend, I don't want anything from him except himself. I just want to be with him for a time, to feel his comradeship, his concern, his caring round me and about me, and then to go out to a world warmer because I spent an hour with him. It must be that way with me and God. I must go to him simply for himself.

♣ Prayer is not a way of making use of God; prayer is a way of offering ourselves to God in order that He should be able to make use of us.

♣ We are trying not so much to make God listen to us as to make ourselves listen to him; we are trying not to persuade God to do what we want, but to find out what he wants us to do. It so often happens that in prayer we are really saying, 'Thy will be changed,' when we ought to be saying, 'Thy will be done.' The first object of prayer is not

so much to speak to God as to listen to him.

♣ Prayer will never do our work for us; what it will do is to strengthen us for work which must be done.

♣ True prayer is asking God what He wants. Sidlow Baxter

♣ Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons—but they are helpless against our prayers.

♣ I care not what black spiritual crisis we may come through or what delightful spiritual Canaan we may enter, no blessing of the Christian life becomes continually possessed unless we are men and women of regular, daily, unhurried secret lingerings in prayer.

♣ My pail I'm often dropping
Deep down into this well,
It never touched the bottom, However deep it fell;
And though I keep on dipping By study, faith and prayer,
I have no power to measure
The living water there. Richard Baxter

♣ You shall find this to be God's usual course: not to give his children the taste of his delights till they begin to sweat in seeking after them.

♣ Lord, what Thou wilt, where Thou wilt, and when Thou wilt. (Ed: A prayer that opens the windows of heaven to a flood of grace!)

♣ Spend your time in nothing which you know must be repented of; in nothing on which you might not pray for the blessing of God; in nothing which you could not review

with a quiet conscience on your dying bed; in nothing which you might not safely and properly be found doing if death should surprise you in the act.

- ♣ Prayer is the breath of the new creature.

- ♣ Above all be much in secret prayer and meditation. By this you will fetch the heavenly fire that must kindle your sacrifice: remember you cannot decline and neglect your duty to your own hurt alone, many will be losers by it as well as you.

- ♣ Prayer must carry on our work as much as preaching; he preacheth not heartily to his people that will not pray for them. Joseph Bayly

- ♣ Lord, burn eternity into my eyeballs! Henry Ward Beecher

- ♣ It is not well for a man to pray cream and live skim milk.

- ♣ Prayer covers the whole of man's life. There is no thought, feeling, yearning, or desire, however low, trifling, or vulgar we may deem it, which if it affects our real interest or happiness, we may not lay before God and be sure of sympathy.

- ♣ His nature is such that our often coming does not tire him. The whole burden of the whole life of every man may be rolled on to God and not weary him, though it has wearied man.

- ♣ I pray on the principle that wine knocks the cork out of a bottle. There is an inward fermentation, and there must be a vent.

- ♣ Prayer is often an argument of laziness: "Lord, my temper gives me a vast deal of inconvenience, and it would be a great task for me to correct it; and wilt thou be pleased to correct it for me, that I may get along easier?" If prayer was answered under such circumstances, independent of action of natural laws, it would be paying a premium on indolence.

- ♣ I used to think the Lord's Prayer was a short prayer; but as I live longer, and see more of life, I begin to believe there is no such thing as getting through it. If a man, in

praying that prayer, were to be stopped by every word until he had thoroughly prayed it, it would take him a lifetime.

- ♣ There is no harder shield for the devil to pierce with temptation than singing with prayer.

- ♣ Let the day have a blessed baptism by giving your first waking thoughts into the bosom of God. The first hour of the morning is the rudder of the day.

- ♣ I pray on the principle that wine knocks the cork out of a bottle. There is an inward fermentation, and there must be a vent

- ♣ I used to think the Lord's Prayer was a short prayer; but, as I live longer, and see more of life, I begin to believe there is no such thing as getting through it. If a man, in praying that prayer, were to be stopped by every word until he had thoroughly prayed it, it would take him a lifetime. "Our Father"—there would be a wall a hundred feet high in just those two words to most men. If they might say, "Our Tyrant," or "Our Monarch," or even "Our Creator," they could get along with it; but "Our Father"—why, a man is almost a saint who can pray that! You read, "Thy will be done," and you say to yourself, "O, I can pray that"; and all the time your mind goes round and round in immense circuits and far-off distances; but God is continually bringing the circuits nearer to you, till he says, "How is it about your temper and your pride? How is it about your business and daily life?" This is a revolutionary petition. It would make many a man's shop and store tumble to the ground to utter it. Who can stand at the end of the avenue along which all his pleasant thoughts and wishes are blossoming like flowers, and send these terrible words, "Thy will be done," crashing down through it? I think it is the most fearful prayer to pray in the world. Charles Bent

- ♣ Intercessory prayer might be defined as loving our neighbour on our knees.

- ♣ The real end of prayer is not so much to get this or that single desire granted, as to put human life into full and joyful conformity with the will of God.

♣ Prayer is not so much the means whereby God's will is bent to man's desires, as it is that whereby man's will is bent to God's desires. John Berridge

♣ No heart thrives without much secret converse with God, and nothing will make amends for the want of it. Paul E. Billheimer

♣ Satan does not care how many people read about prayer if only he can keep them from praying. (Ed: Or how many pithy quotes we quote!) Henry Blackaby

♣ God speaks through a variety of means. In the present God primarily speaks by the Holy Spirit, through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church.

♣ If you have trouble hearing God speak, you are in trouble at the very heart of your Christian experience.

♣ All revival begins, and continues, in the prayer meeting. Some have also called prayer the "great fruit of revival." In times of revival, thousands may be found on their knees for hours, lifting up their heartfelt cries, with thanksgiving, to heaven.

♣ Prayer is designed to adjust you to God's will, not to adjust God to your will.

♣ Why is it that when we talk to God, it's called 'prayer,' but when God speaks to us, it's called schizophrenia?

♣ Prayerless leaders are like ship captains without compasses; they can make their best guess at which direction to go, but they have no assurance they are heading the right way. Prayer keeps leaders focused on the one absolutely consistent factor in life - God. John Blanchard

We need more Christians for whom prayer is the first resort, not the last.

♣ No answer to prayer is an indication of our merit; every answer to prayer is an indication of God's mercy.

♣ Waiting for an answer to prayer is often part of the answer.

♣ There is a great difference between praying to God about something and mentioning it to him in passing.

♣ The real secret of prayer is secret prayer.

♣ We cannot expect to live defectively and pray effectively.

♣ No man can pray Scripturally who prays selfishly.

♣ Prayer is not the least we can do; it is the most.

♣ The secret of reaching men is to know the secret of reaching God.

♣ The place for prayer is everywhere.

♣ To attempt any work for God without prayer is as futile as trying to launch a space probe with a peashooter.

♣ We need more Christians for whom prayer is the first resort, not the last.

♣ The Holy Spirit turns prayer from activity into energy.

♣ When problems get Christians praying they do more good than harm.

♣ When we miss out on prayer we cause disappointment to Christ, defeat to ourselves and delight to the devil.

♣ Effective prayer is a quartet—the Father, the Son, the Spirit and the Christian.

♣ Prayer is not wrestling with God's reluctance to bless us; it is laying hold on his willingness to do so.

♣ We dare not limit God in our asking, nor in his answering.

♣ You stand tall when you kneel to pray.

♣ When in prayer you clasp your hands, God opens His.

♣ There are no depths from which the prayer of faith cannot reach heaven.

♣ We are encouraged to come freely to God but not flippantly.

♣ We dare not limit God in our asking, nor in his answering.

♣ Prayer is not so much submitting our needs to God but submitting ourselves to Him.

♣ Praying is much more difficult than saying words to God.

♣ We need to agonize as well as organize (Ed: When we pray). (Col 4:12)Lionel Blue

♣ A prayer is not holy chewing gum and you don't have to see how far you can stretch it.

♣ James Montgomery Boice

♣ If you are praying for something and God is not answering your request with a 'Yes,' ask what you can accomplish in the meantime and give yourself to that. It does not mean that God may not give you what you are asking for eventually, but in the meantime you will be doing good work.

♣ David Bolt

♣ Anyone who has ever tried to formulate a private prayer in silence, and in his own heart, will know what I mean by diabolical interference. The forces of evil are in opposition to the will of God. And the nearer a man approaches God's will, the more apparent and stronger and more formidable this opposition is seen to be. It is only when we are going in more or less the same direction as the devil that we are unconscious of any opposition at all. Andrew Bonar

♣ kept a card on his mantel that read, "He who has truly prayed has completed the half of his study."

♣ Oh brother, pray; in spite of Satan, pray; spend hours in prayer; rather neglect friends than not pray; rather fast, and lose breakfast, dinner, tea, and supper - and sleep too - than not pray. And we must not talk about prayer, we must pray in right earnest. The Lord is near. He comes softly while the virgins slumber."

♣ God likes to see his people shut up to this, that there is no hope but in prayer. Herein lies the church's power against the world.

♣ The Prince of the power of the air seems to bend all the force of his attack against the spirit of prayer.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

♣ The Lord's Prayer is not merely the pattern prayer, it is the way Christians must pray.... The Lord's Prayer is the quintessence of prayer.

♣ Prayer does not mean simply to pour out one's heart. It means rather to find the way to God and to speak with him, whether the heart is full or empty.

♣ The richness of God's Word ought to determine our prayer, not the poverty of our heart.

♣ It is much easier for me to imagine a praying murderer, a praying prostitute, than a vain person praying. Nothing is so at odds with prayer as vanity.

♣ It matters little what form of prayer we adopt or how many words we use. What matters is the faith which lays hold on God, knowing that He knows our needs before we even ask Him. That is what gives Christian prayer its boundless confidence and its joyous certainty.

♣ The right way to pray is to stretch out our hands and ask of One who we know has the heart of a Father.

♣ The child asks of the Father whom he knows. Thus, the essence of Christian prayer is not general adoration, but definite, concrete petition. The right way to approach God is to stretch out our hands and ask of One who we know has the heart of a Father.

♣ The more deeply we grow into the psalms and the more often we pray them as our own, the more simple and rich will our prayer become.

♣ If we are to pray aright, perhaps it is quite necessary that we pray contrary to our own heart. Not what we want to pray is important, but what God wants us to pray. The richness of the Word of God ought to determine our prayer, not the poverty of our heart.

♣ The entire day receives order and discipline when it acquires unity. This unity must be sought and found in morning prayer. The morning prayer determines the day.

♣ Temptations which accompany the working day will be conquered on the basis of the morning breakthrough to God. Decisions, demanded by work, become easier and simpler where they are made not in the fear of men, but only in the sight of God. He wants to give us today the power which we need for our work.

♣ True prayer is done in secret, but this does not rule out the fellowship of prayer altogether, however clearly we may be aware of its dangers. In the last resort it is immaterial whether we pray in the open street or in the secrecy of our chambers, whether briefly or lengthily, in the Litany of the Church, or with the sigh of one who knows not what he should pray for. True prayer does not depend either on the individual or the whole body of the faithful, but solely upon the knowledge that our Heavenly Father knows our needs.

♣ Prayer is the supreme instance of the hidden character of the Christian life.

♣ If we want to read and to pray the prayers of the Bible and especially the Psalms, therefore, we must not ask first what they have to do with us, but what they have to do with Jesus Christ...It does not depend, therefore, on whether the Psalms express adequately that which we feel at a given moment in our heart. If we are to pray aright, perhaps it is quite necessary that we pray contrary to our own heart. Not what we want to pray is important, but what God wants us to pray.

♣ The Psalter is the great school of prayer.

♣ A day without morning and evening prayers and personal intercessions is actually a day without meaning or importance.

♣ The Psalter is the prayer book of Jesus Christ in the truest sense of the word. He prayed the Psalter and now it has become his prayer for all time...we understand how the Psalter can be prayer to God and yet God's own Word, precisely because here we encounter the praying Christ...because those who pray the psalms are joining in with the prayer of Jesus Christ, their prayer reaches the ears of God. Christ has become their intercessor...

♣ Intercessory prayer is the purifying bath into which the individual and the community must enter every day. William Booth

♣ Work as if everything depended upon your work, and pray as if everything depended upon your prayer.

♣ You must pray with all your might. That does not mean saying your prayers, or sitting gazing about in church or chapel with eyes wide open while someone else says them for you. It means fervent, effectual, untiring wrestling with God...This kind of prayer be sure the devil and the world and your own indolent, unbelieving nature will oppose. They will pour water on this flame. E. M. Bounds

♣ Prayer should not be regarded "as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty.

♣ The men in the pew given to praying for the pastor are like poles which hold up the wires along which the electric current runs. They are not the power, neither are they the specific agents in making the Word of the Lord effective. But they hold up the wires upon which the divine power runs to the hearts of men. They make conditions favorable for the preaching of the Gospel.

♣ It was claimed for Augustus Caesar that he found Rome a city of wood, and left it a city of marble. The pastor who succeeds in changing his people from a

prayerless to a prayerful people has done a greater work than did Augustus. And after all, this is the prime work of the preacher.

♣ God's willingness to answer our prayers exceeds our willingness to give good and necessary things to our children, just as far as God's ability, goodness and perfection exceed our infirmities and evil."

♣ Prayer honors God, acknowledges his being, exalts his power, adores His providence, secures his aid.

♣ To be little with God is to be little for God.

♣ Importunate (persistent or pressing) praying is the earnest inward movement of the heart toward God.

♣ The word of God is the food by which prayer is nourished and made strong.

♣ A life growing in its purity and devotion will be a more prayerful life.

♣ Prayer breaks all bars, dissolves all chains, opens all prisons, and widens all straits by which God's saints have been held.

♣ Four things let us ever keep in mind: God hears prayer, God heeds prayer, God answers prayer, and God delivers by prayer.

♣ Praying gives sense, brings wisdom, and broadens and strengthens the mind. The prayer closet is a perfect schoolteacher and schoolhouse for the preacher. Thought is not only brightened and clarified in prayer, but thought is born in prayer.

♣ The prime need of the church is not men of money nor men of brains, but men of prayer.

♣ To give prayer the secondary place is to make God secondary in life's affairs.

- ♣ A holy mouth is made by praying.
- ♣ Prayer and a holy life are one. They mutually act and react. Neither can survive alone. The absence of the one is the absence of the other.

- ♣ Prayer goes by faith into the great orchard of God's exceeding great and precious promises, and with hand and heart picks the ripest and richest fruit.

- ♣ Prayer is humbling work. It abases intellect and pride, crucifies vainglory and signs our spiritual bankruptcy, and all these are hard for flesh and blood to bear.

- ♣ God's greatest movements in this world have been conditioned on, continued and fashioned by prayer. God has put Himself in these great movements just as men have prayer. Persistent, prevailing, conspicuous and mastering prayer has always brought God to present. How vast are the possibilities of prayer! How wide its reach!

It lays its hand on Almighty God and moves Him to do what He would not do if prayer was not offered. Prayer is a wonderful power placed by Almighty God in the hands of His saints, which may be used to accomplish great purposes and to achieve unusual results. The only limits to prayer are the promises of God and His ability to fulfill those promises.

- ♣ Nothing whatever can atone for the neglect of praying.

- ♣ Other duties become pressing and absorbing and crowd out prayer. 'Choked to death' would be the coroner's verdict in many cases of dead praying if an inquest could be secured on this dire, spiritual calamity.

- ♣ Prayer can do anything that God can do.

- ♣ The church upon its knees would bring heaven upon the earth.

♣ The men who have done the most for God in this world have been early on their knees. He who fritters away the early morning, its opportunity and freshness, in other pursuits than seeking God will make poor headway seeking Him the rest of the day. If God is not first in our thoughts and efforts in the morning, He will be in the last place the remainder of the day.

♣ Units of prayer combined, like drops of water, make an ocean which defies resistance.

♣ The closet is not an asylum for the indolent and worthless Christian. It is not a nursery where none but babes belong. It is the battlefield of the church, its citadel, the scene of heroic and unearthly conflicts. The closet is the base of supplies for the Christian and the church. Cut off from it there is nothing left but retreat and disaster. The energy for work, the mastery over self, the deliverance from fear, all spiritual results and graces, are much advanced by prayer. The difference between the strength, the experience, the holiness of Christians is found in the contrast of their praying.

♣ The central significance of prayer is not in the things that happen as results, but in the deepening intimacy and unhurried communion with God at His central throne of control in order to discover a "sense of

God's need in order to call on God's help to meet that need.

♣ Those who know God the best are the richest and most powerful in prayer. Little acquaintance with God, and strangeness and coldness to Him, make prayer a rare and feeble thing.

♣ We are obliged to pray if we are citizens of God's Kingdom. The gospel cannot live, fight, or conquer without prayer—prayer unceasing, instant, and ardent.

♣ Prayer is not learned in a classroom but in the closet.

♣ Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still.

♣ Be not afraid to pray; to pray is right;

Pray if thou canst with hope, but ever pray, Though hope be weak or sick with long delay; Pray in the darkness if there be no light;

And if for any wish thou dare not pray Then pray to God to cast that wish away.

♣ No learning can make up for the failure to pray. No earnestness, no diligence, no study, no gifts will supply its lack.

♣ The little estimate we put on prayer is evidence from the little time we give to it.

♣ God's cause is committed to men; God commits Himself to men. Praying men are the vice-regents of God; they do His work and carry out His plans.

♣ What the Church needs today is not more or better machinery, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men— men of prayer.

♣ No erudition, no purity of diction, no width of mental outlook, no flowers of eloquence, no grace of person can atone for lack of fire. Prayer ascends by fire. Flame gives prayer access as well as wings, acceptance as well as energy. There is no incense without fire; no prayer without flame.

♣ The pulpit of this day is weak in praying. The pride of learning is against the dependent humility of prayer. Prayer is with the pulpit too often only official—a performance for the routine of service. Prayer is not to the modern pulpit the mighty force it was in Paul's life or Paul's ministry. Every preacher who does not make prayer a mighty factor in his own life and ministry is weak as a

factor in God's work and is powerless to project God's cause in this world.

♣ Prayer is the easiest and hardest of all things; the simplest and the sublimest; the weakest and the most powerful; its results lie outside the range of human possibilities; they are limited only by the omnipotence of God.

♣ Perhaps little praying is worse than no praying. Little praying is a kind of make-believe, a salve for the conscience, a farce and a delusion.

♣ In reality, the denial of prayer is a denial of God himself.

♣ I think Christians fail so often to get answers to their prayers because they do not wait long enough on God. They just drop down and say a few words, and then jump up and forget it and expect God to answer them. Such praying always reminds me of the small boy ringing his neighbor's door-bell, and then running away as fast as he can go.

♣ God is waiting to be put to the test by His people in prayer. He delights in being put to the test on His promises. It is His highest pleasure to answer prayer, to prove the reliability of His promises.

♣ To say prayers in a decent, delicate way is not heavy work. But to pray really, to pray till hell feels the ponderous stroke, to pray till the iron gates of difficulty are opened, till the mountains of obstacles are removed, till the mists are exhaled and the clouds are lifted, and the sunshine of a cloudless day brightens-this is hard work, but it is God's work, and man's best labor.

♣ Trust perfected is prayer perfected. Trust looks to receive the thing asked for and gets it. Trust is not a belief that God can bless or that He will bless, but that He does bless, here and now. Trust always operates in the present tense. Hope looks toward the future. Trust looks to the present. Hope expects. Trust possesses. Trust receives

what prayer acquires. So, what prayer needs, at all times, is abiding and abundant trust.

♣ The ministry of prayer, if it be anything worthy of the name, is a ministry of ardor, a ministry of unwearied and intense longing after God and after his holiness.

♣ The goal of prayer is the ear of God, a goal that can only be reached by patient and continued and continuous waiting upon Him, pouring out our heart to Him and permitting Him to speak to us. Only by so doing can we expect to know Him, and as we come to know Him better we shall spend more time in His presence and find that presence a constant and ever-increasing delight.

♣ Every mighty move of the Spirit of God has had its source in the prayer chamber.

♣ There is power through prayer. For many Christians, prayer is nothing special, just something we're supposed to do - go to church, tithe, read the Bible, pray. But prayer should be so much more than an item on our "to do" lists.

♣ They are not leaders because of brilliancy. but because, by the power of prayer, they could command the power of God.

♣ Prayer, in one phase of its operation, is a disinfectant and a preventive. It purifies the air; it destroys the contagion of evil.

♣ Prayer is the one prime, eternal condition by which the Father is pledged to put the Son in possession of the world. Christ prays through His people. Had there been Importunate, universal, and continuous prayer by God's people, long ere this the earth had been possessed for Christ.

♣ We can learn more in an hour praying, when praying indeed, than from many hours of rigorous study.

♣ Prayer is no fitful, short-lived thing. It is no voice crying unheard and unheeded in the silence. It is a voice

which goes into God's ear, and it lives as long as God's ear is open to holy pleas, as long as God's heart is alive to holy things.

♣ The soul which has come into intimate contact with God in the silence of the prayer chamber is never out of conscious touch with the Father; the heart is always going out to Him in loving communion, and the moment the mind is released from the task upon which it is engaged, it returns as naturally to God as the bird does to its nest.

♣ A holy life does not live in the closet, but it cannot live without the closet.

♣ God shapes the world by prayer. Prayers are deathless. The lips that uttered them may be closed to death, the heart that felt them may have ceased to beat, but the prayers live before God, and God's heart is set on them and prayers outlive the lives of those who uttered them; they outlive a generation, outlive an age, outlive a world.

♣ The stream of praying cannot rise higher than the fountain of living.

♣ That man is the most immortal who has done the most and the best praying. They are God heroes, God's saints, God's servants, God's vicegerents.

♣ Importunate praying is the earnest inward movement of the heart toward God.

♣ A man can pray better because of the prayers of the past; a man can live holier because of the prayers of the past; the man of many and acceptable prayers has done the truest and greatest service to the incoming generation.

♣ The central significance of prayer is not in the things that happen as results, but in the deepening intimacy and unhurried communion with God at His central throne of control in order to discover a sense of

God's need in order to call on God's help to meet that need.

♣ Public prayers are of little worth unless they are founded on or followed up by private praying.

♣ The prayers of God's saints strengthen the unborn generation against the desolating waves of sin and evil.

♣ When trust is perfect and there is no doubt, prayer is simply the outstretched hand ready to receive.

♣ The story of every great Christian achievement is the history of answered prayer.

♣ Faith, and hope, and patience and all the strong, beautiful, vital forces of piety are withered and dead in a prayerless life. The life of the individual believer, his personal salvation, and personal Christian graces have their being, bloom, and fruitage in prayer.

♣ If we would have God in the closet, God must have us out of the closet. There is no way of praying to God, but by living to God.

♣ Prayer puts God's work in his hands-and keeps it there.

♣ Love is kindled in a flame, and ardency is its life. Flame is the air which true Christian experience breathes. It feeds on fire; it can withstand anything rather than a feeble flame; but when the surrounding atmosphere is frigid or lukewarm, it dies, chilled and starved to its vitals. True prayer must be aflame.

♣ Prayer is not learned in a classroom but in the closet.

♣ I feel it is far better to begin with God, to see His face first, to get my soul near Him before it is near another. In general it is best to have at least one hour alone with God before engaging in anything else.

♣ Men would pray better if they lived better. They would get more from God if they lived more obedient and well-pleasing to God.

♣ By prayer, the ability is secured to feel the law of love, to speak according to the law of love, and to do everything in harmony with the law of love.

♣ Trouble and prayer are closely related. Trouble often drives men to God in prayer, while prayer is but the voice of men in trouble.

♣ We can never know God as it is our privilege to know Him by brief repetitions that are requests for personal favors, and nothing more.

♣ It is hard to wait and press and pray, and hear no voice, but stay till God answers.

♣ Prayer is of transcendent importance. Prayer is the mightiest agent to advance God's work. Praying hearts and hands only can do God's work. Prayer succeeds when all else fails.

♣ Private place and plenty of time are the life of prayer.

♣ It is only when the whole heart is gripped with the passion of prayer that the life-giving fire descends, for none but the earnest man gets access to the ear of God.

♣ Straight praying is never born of crooked conduct.

♣ Praying which does not result in pure conduct is a delusion. We have missed the whole office and virtue of praying if it does not rectify conduct. It is in the very nature of things that we must quit praying, or quit bad conduct.

♣ Importunity is a condition of prayer. We are to press the matter, not with vain repetitions, but with urgent repetitions. We repeat, not to count the times, but to gain the prayer. We cannot quit praying because heart and soul

are in it. We pray "with all perseverance." We hang to our prayers because by them we live. We press our pleas because we must have them, or die.

♣ Prayer, like faith, obtains promises, enlarges their operation, and adds to the measure of their results.

♣ Prayer is a trade to be learned. We must be apprentices and serve our time at it. Painstaking care, much thought, practice and labour are required to be a skillful tradesman in praying. Practice in this, as well as in all other trades, makes perfect.

♣ Our praying, to be strong, must be buttressed by holy living. The life of faith perfects the prayer of faith.

♣ Jesus taught that perseverance is the essential element of prayer. Men must be in earnest when they kneel at God's footstool. Too often we get faint-hearted and quit praying at the point where we ought to begin. We let go at the very point where we should hold on strongest. Our prayers are weak because they are not impassioned by an unfailing and resistless will.

♣ Prayer is our most formidable weapon, the thing which makes all else we do efficient.

♣ We can do nothing without prayer. All things can be done by Importunate prayer. It surmounts or removes all obstacles, overcomes every resisting force and gains its ends in the face of invincible hindrances.

♣ Natural ability and educational advantages do not figure as factors in this matter of prayer; but a capacity for faith, the power of a thorough consecration, the ability of self-littleness, an absolute losing of one's self in God's glory and an ever present and insatiable yearning and seeking after all the fullness of God.

♣ We cannot talk to God strongly when we have not lived for God strongly. The closet cannot be made holy to God when the life has not been holy to God.

♣ The possibilities of prayer are found in its allying itself with the purposes of God, for God's purposes and man's praying are the combination of all potent and omnipotent forces.

♣ if the devil can get the church to withdraw from prayer by believing reasonable excuses, the church is under his dominion.

♣ It is necessary to iterate and reiterate that prayer, as a mere habit, as a performance gone through by routine or in a professional way, is a dead and rotten thing.

♣ Little praying is a kind of make believe, a salve for the conscience, a farce and a delusion.

♣ Prayer is the greatest of all forces, because it honors God and brings him into active aid.

♣ Prayer in Jesus' name puts the crowning crown on God, because it glorifies Him through the Son and it pledges the Son to give to men 'whatsoever and anything' they shall ask.

♣ God shapes the world by prayer. The prayers of God's saints are the capitol stock of heaven by which God carries on His great work upon the earth.

♣ There is neither encouragement nor room in Bible religion for feeble desires, listless efforts, lazy attitudes; all must be strenuous, urgent, ardent. Flamed desires, impassioned, unwearied insistence delight heaven. God would have His children incorrigibly in earnest and persistently bold in their efforts. Heaven is too busy to listen to half- hearted prayers or to respond to pop-calls. Our whole being must be in our praying.

♣ Prayer is the highest intelligence, the profoundest wisdom, the most vital, the most joyous, the most efficacious, the most powerful of all vocations.

♣ Our praying, however, needs to be pressed and pursued with an energy that never tires, a persistency which will not be denied, and a courage which never fails.

♣ Pray for 'all men.' We usually pray more for things than we do for men. Our prayers should be thrown across their pathway as they rush in their downward course to a lost eternity.

♣ True praying has the largest results for good. Poor praying the least. We cannot do too much of real praying. We cannot do too little of the

sham. If we would learn the wondrous power of prayer, we must not give a fragment here and there - A little talk with Jesus, as the tiny saintlets sing - but we must demand and hold with an iron grasp the best hours of the day for God and prayer, or there will be no praying worth the name.

♣ Heavenly citizenship and heavenly homesickness are in prayer. Prayer is an appeal from the lowness, from the emptiness, from the need of earth, to the highness, the fullness and to the all-sufficiency of heaven.

♣ Non-praying is lawlessness, discord, anarchy.

♣ The most important lesson we can learn is how to pray. Prayers do not die, prayers live before God, and God's heart is set on them.

♣ No man can do a great and enduring work for God who is not a man of prayer, and no man can be a man of prayer who does not give much time to praying.

♣ Prayer is God's plan to supply man's great and continuous need with God's great and continuous abundance.

♣ Apostolic preaching cannot be carried on unless there be apostolic prayer. Men of God, before anything else, are indispensable to the furtherance of the kingdom of God on earth

♣ No insistence in the Scripture is more pressing than that we must pray...How clear it is, when the Bible is

consulted, that the almighty God is brought directly into the things of this world by the prayers of His people.

♣ Prayer makes a godly man, and puts within him "the mind of Christ," the mind of humility, of self-surrender, of service, of pity, and of prayer. If we really pray, we will become more like God, or else we will quit praying.

♣ Walking with God down the avenue of prayer we acquire something of His likeness, and unconsciously we become witnesses to others of His beauty and His grace.

♣ Prayer is far-reaching in its influence and worldwide in its effects. It affects all men, affects them everywhere, and affects them in all things. It touches man's interest in time and eternity. It lays hold upon God and moves Him to interfere in the affairs of earth. It moves the angels to minister to men in this life. It restrains and defeats the devil in his schemes to ruin man. Prayer goes everywhere and lays its hand upon everything.

♣ Every preacher who does not make prayer a mighty factor in his own life and ministry is weak as a factor in God's work and is powerless to project God's cause in this world.

♣ Praying that does not result in right thinking and right living is a farce. We have missed the whole office of prayer if it fails to purge our character and correct conduct. We have failed entirely to understand the virtue of prayer, if it does not bring about the revolutionizing of life. In the very nature of things, we must either quit praying or quit our bad conduct.

♣ Sainthood's piety is made, refined, perfected, by prayer. The gospel moves with slow and timid pace when the saints are not at their prayers early and late and long.

♣ The lazy man does not, will not, cannot pray, for prayer demands energy.

♣ Prayer concerns God, whose purposes and plans are conditioned on prayer. His will and His glory are bound up in praying.

♣ Prayer and a holy life are one. They mutually act and react. Neither can survive alone. The absence of the one is the absence of the other.

♣ Prayer thrives in the atmosphere of true devotion.

♣ The sanctity of prayer is needed to impregnate business. We need the spirit of Sunday carried over to Monday and continued until Saturday. But this cannot be done by prayerless men, but by men of prayer.

♣ Prayer is the language of a man burdened with a sense of need.

♣ It is true that Bible prayers in word and print are short, but the praying men of the Bible were with God through many a sweet and holy wrestling hour. They won by few words but long waiting.

♣ Mans access in prayer to God opens everything and makes his impoverishment his wealth. All things are his through prayer.

♣ To give prayer the secondary place is to make God seconday in life's affairs.Samuel Logan Brengle

♣ All great soul-winners have been men of much and mighty prayer, and all great revivals have been preceded and carried out by persevering, prevailing, knee-work in the closet.

♣ Keep me, O Lord, from waxing mentally and spiritually dull and stupid. Help me to keep the physical, mental, and spiritual fiber of the athlete, of the man who denies himself daily and takes up his cross and follows Thee. Give me good success in my work, but hide pride from me. Save me from the self-complacency that so frequently accompanies success and prosperity. Save me from the spirit of sloth, of self- indulgence, as physical infirmities and decay creep upon me."Bill

Bright

♣ Show me a church or a Christian organization that emphasizes prayer, and I'll show you a ministry where

people are excited about Jesus Christ and are witnessing for Him. Phillips Brooks

♣ Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. (Warren Wiersbe - "That is the way the early Christians prayed, and that is the way God's people should pray today.")

♣ Pray for and work for fullness of life above every thing; full red blood in the body; full honesty and truth in the mind; and the fullness of a grateful love for the Saviour in your heart.

♣ If man is man and God is God, to live without prayer is not merely an awful thing; it is an infinitely foolish thing.

♣ Prayer is not conquering God's reluctance, but taking hold of God's willingness.

♣ Pray the largest prayers. You cannot think a prayer so large that God, in answering it, will not wish you had made it larger. Pray not for crutches but for wings.

♣ It does not need to be a formal prayer: the most stumbling and broken cry—a sigh, a whisper, anything that tells the heart's loneliness and need and penitence—can find its way to him.

♣ If God doesn't want something for me, I shouldn't want it either. Spending time in meditative prayer, getting to know God, helps align my desires with God's.

♣ Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God.

♣ Pray not for crutches but for wings.

♣ I do not pray for a lighter load, but for a stronger back.

♣ If man is man and God is God, to live without prayer is not merely an awful thing, it is an infinitely foolish thing.

♣ Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks.

♣ A prayer in its simplest definition is merely a wish turned Godward. David Brainerd

♣ The idea that everything would happen exactly as it does regardless of whether we pray or not is a specter that haunts the minds of many who sincerely profess belief in God. It makes prayer psychologically impossible, replacing it with dead ritual at best.

♣ Lord, to Thee I dedicate myself. Oh, accept of me be Thine forever. Lord, I desire nothing else; I desire nothing more.

♣ Give yourself to prayer, to reading and meditation on divine truths: strive to penetrate to the bottom of them and never be content with a superficial knowledge.

♣ This morning about nine I withdrew to the woods for prayer. I was in such anguish that when I arose from my knees I felt extremely weak and overcome I cared not how or where I lived, or what hardships I went through, so that I could but gain souls for Christ.

♣ I love to live alone in my own little cottage, where I can spend much time in prayer, etc

♣ God enabled me to so agonize in prayer that I was quite wet with perspiration, though in the shade and the cool wind. My soul was drawn out very much from the world, for multitudes of souls.

♣ In prayer I was exceedingly enlarged, and my soul was as much drawn out as I ever remember it to have been in my life. I was in such anguish, and pleaded with so much earnestness and importunity, that when I rose from my knees I felt extremely weak and overcome; I could scarce walk straight; my joints were loosed; the sweat ran down

my face and body; and nature seemed as if it would dissolve Jerry

Bridges

♣ Prayer is the most tangible expression of trust in God.

♣ The great antidote to anxiety is to come to God in prayer. We are to pray about everything. Nothing is too big for Him to handle, and nothing is too small to escape His attention.

♣ We ought to be as earnest and frequent in our prayers of thanksgiving when the cupboard is full as we would be in our prayers of supplication if the cupboards were bare.

♣ Prayer assumes the sovereignty of God. If God is not sovereign, we have no assurance that He is able to answer our prayers. Our prayers would become nothing more than wishes. But while God's sovereignty, along with his wisdom and love, is the foundation of our trust in Him, prayer is the expression of that trust.

♣ Prayer is the most tangible expression of trust in God. If we would trust God for our persecuted brothers and sisters in other countries, we must be diligent in prayer for their rulers. If we would trust God when decisions of government in our own country go against our best interests, we must pray for His working in the hearts of those officials and legislators who make those decisions. The truth that the king's heart is in the hand of the Lord is meant to be a stimulus to prayer, not a stimulus to a fatalistic attitude. Thomas Brooks

♣ Cold prayers always freeze before they reach to heaven.

♣ Cold prayers shall never have any warm answers. God will suit His returns to our requests. Lifeless, services shall have lifeless answers. When men are dull, God will be dumb.

♣ Look, as a painted man is no man, and as painted fire is no fire, so a cold prayer is no prayer.

♣ God's hearing of our prayers doth not depend upon sanctification, but upon Christ's intercession; not upon what we are in ourselves, but what' we are in the Lord Jesus; both our persons and our prayers are acceptable in the beloved [Eph 1.6]."

♣ If you would have God hear you when you pray, you must hear him when he speaks. |

♣ The best Christian is he that is the greatest monopolizer of time for private prayer.

♣ God looks not at the oratory of your prayers, how elegant they may be; nor at the geometry of your prayers, how long they may be; nor at the arithmetic of your prayers, how many they may be; not at logic of your prayers, how methodical they may be; but the sincerity of them he looks at.

♣ Prayer is nothing but the breathing that out before the Lord, that was first breathed into us by the Spirit of the Lord.

♣ The best and sweetest flowers of paradise God gives to His people when they are upon their knees. Prayer is the gate of heaven.

♣ A family without prayer is like a house without a roof, open and exposed to all the storms of heaven.

♣ Prayer crowns God with the honor and glory due to His name, and God crowns prayer with assurance and comfort. The most praying souls are the most assured souls.

♣ Christ choosing solitude for private prayer, doth not only hint to us the danger of distraction and deviation of thoughts in prayer, but how necessary it is for us to choose the most convenient places we can for private prayer. Our own fickleness and Satan's restlessness call upon us to get into such places where we may freely pour out our soul into the bosom of God [Mark 1.35].

♣ God sees us in secret, therefore, let, us seek his face in secret. Though heaven be God's palace, yet it is not his prison.

♣ The root-trouble of the present distress is that the Church has more faith in the world and the flesh than in

the Holy Ghost, and things will get no better till we get back to His realized presence and power. Frederick Bruner

♣ For the brevity of prayer can naturally lead to the frequency of prayer and more frequent prayer might lead to more fervent prayer. And that's what we want. It is of no value to pray for prayer's sake.

♣ The paradox of prayer is that only when it is relieved of the necessity of much will people experience the freedom for much. When disciples know they don't have to pray much, they will, surprisingly, desire to pray more David Bryant

♣ Pursuing prayer is prayer on a mission. It is diligent, fervent, constant, persevering, determined, and convinced.

♣ Prayer is action. By it we step out in advance of all other results . . . Praying is an activity upon which all others depend. By prayer we establish a beachhead for the kingdom among peoples where it has never been before. Prayer strikes the winning blow. All other missionary efforts simply gather up the fruits of our praying.

♣ Lack of world vision in any Christian produces a 'pea-sized Christianity'.

♣ One is not old until Dreams become Regrets.

♣ The president of International Concerts of Prayer, David Bryant, told of arriving in a major city to help conduct a time of prayer. As he entered the building where the meeting was to take place, he noticed that the huge hall was being shared by another event. In one room was the prayer meeting; in the other room there was going to be a boxing match. Two signs greeted visitors, each with arrows pointing the way. In bold letters, one said BOXING; the other said PRAYER. Bryant said it occurred to him that this was the first time he had ever been in a situation where people had to choose between boxing and

wrestling (cp Ge 32:24, 25, 26-30) Elizabeth Barrett Browning

♣ God answers sharp and sudden on some prayers, And thrusts the thing we have prayed for in our face. A gauntlet with a gift in 't. John Bunyan

♣ He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find Him the rest of the day.

♣ We can do more than pray after we have prayed, but we cannot do more than pray before we have prayed.

♣ Far away from the Bible's example are most people when they pray! Prayer with earnestness and urgency is genuine prayer in God's account. Alas, the greatest number of people are not conscious at all of the duty of prayer. And as for those who are, it is to be feared that many of them are very great strangers to sincere, sensible, and affectionate-- emotional--pouring out of their hearts or souls to God. Too many content themselves with a little lip-service and bodily exercise, mumbling over a few imaginary prayers. When the emotions are involved in such urgency that the soul will waste itself rather than go without the good desired, there is communion and solace with Christ. And hence it is that the saints have spent their strength, and lost their lives, rather than go without the blessings God intended for them.

♣ John Bunyan in *The Pilgrim's Progress* wrote: About the midst of this valley I perceived the mouth of hell to be, and it stood also hard by the wayside. Now thought Christian, what shall I do? And ever and anon the flame and smoke would come out in such abundance, with sparks and hideous noises (things that cared not for Christian's sword, as did

Apollyon before), that he was forced to put up his sword, and betake

himself to another weapon, called "All-Prayer." (cp Eph 6:18)

♣ In prayer it is better to have a heart without words, than words without a heart.

♣ You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. (S.D.Gordon)

♣ Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer. (Mt 6:13)

♣ Pray often; for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan. (Eph 6:18)

♣ Prayer is “a sincere, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God has promised, or according to his Word, for the good of the church, with submission in faith to the will of God.”

♣ Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer.

♣ The best prayers often have more groans than words.

♣ When thou prayest, rather let thy heart be without words than thy words without a heart.

♣ Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer.

♣ Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Spirit, for such things as God has promised.

♣ Prayer is only true when it is within the compass of God’s Word.

♣ The truths that I know best I have learned on my knees. I never know a thing well, till it is burned into my heart by prayer.

♣ A sensible thanksgiving for mercies received is a mighty prayer in the Spirit of God. It prevails with Him unspeakably.

♣ Prayer is a shield to the soul

♣ The best prayer I ever prayed had enough sin to damn the whole world.

♣ Prayer opens the heart to God, and it is the means by which the soul, though empty, is filled with God.

♣ Here is the life of prayer, when in or with the Spirit, a man being made sensible of sin, and how to come to the Lord for mercy; he comes, I say, in the strength of the Spirit, and crieth Father. That one word spoken in faith is better than a thousand prayers, as men call them, written and read, in a formal, cold, lukewarm way.

♣ Prayer is an ordinance of God, that must continue with a soul so long as it is on this side glory.

♣ It is not the mouth that is the main thing to be looked at in prayer, but whether the heart is so full of affection and earnestness in prayer with God, that it is impossible to express their sense and desire; for then a man desires indeed, when his desires are so strong, many, and mighty, that all the words, tears, and groans that can come from the heart, cannot utter them.

♣ We know not the matter of the things for which we should pray, neither the object to whom we pray, nor the medium by or through whom we pray; none of these things know we, but by the help and assistance of the Spirit.

♣ In prayer, it is better to have heart without words, than words without heart. Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin entice a man to cease from prayer. The spirit of prayer is more precious than treasures of gold and silver. Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan.

♣ To pray rightly, you must make God your hope, stay, and all. Right prayer sees nothing substantial or worth being concerned about

except God.

♣ In all your prayers forget not to thank the Lord for his mercies.

♣ To despise the world is the way to enjoy heaven; and blessed are they who delight to converse with God by prayer. George Buttrick

♣ Prayer is not a substitute for work, thinking, watching, suffering, or giving; prayer is a support for all other efforts.

♣ Prayer is not a vain attempt to change God's will; it is a filial desire to learn God's will and to share it. Prayer is not a substitute for work: it is the secret spring and indispensable ally of all true work.

♣ Prayer is listening as well as speaking, receiving as well as asking; and its deepest mood is friendship held in reverence. So the daily prayer should end as it begins - in adoration.

♣ Prayer is not a substitute for work, thinking, watching, suffering, or giving; prayer is a support for all other efforts. Lord Earl Cairns, Lord Chancellor of England

♣ If I have had any success in life, I attribute it to the habit of giving the first two hours of each day to Bible study and prayer. John Calvin

♣ Since this is a holy exercise both for the humbling of men and for their confession of humility, why should we use it less than the ancients did?

♣ Our prayer must not be self-centered. It must arise not only because we feel our own need as a burden we must lay upon God, but also because we are so bound up in love for our fellow men that we feel their need as acutely as our own. To make intercession for men is the most powerful and practical way in which we can express our love for them."

♣ To pray rightly is a rare gift.

♣ Doubtful prayer is no prayer at all.

♣ Prayer is the chief exercise of faith.

♣ Prayer flows from doctrine.

♣ God can never be expected to undertake a cause which is unworthy of defence.

♣ We are not at liberty in calling upon God to follow the suggestions of our own mind and will, but must seek God only in so far as he has invited us to approach him.

♣ Unless we fix certain hours in the day for prayer, it easily slips from our memory.

♣ God tolerates even our stammering, and pardons our ignorance whenever something inadvertently escapes us - as, indeed, without this mercy there would be no freedom to pray.

♣ Against the persecution of a tyrant the godly have no remedy but prayer.

♣ Joy and patience are far above our strength... We must persevere in prayer that he may not permit our hearts to faint... Prayer and perseverance are necessary in our daily conflicts. The best remedy to the weariness is diligence in prayer.

♣ Prayer unaccompanied by perseverance leads to no result.

♣ We must resist wandering thoughts in prayer. Raising our hands reminds us that we need to raise up our minds to God, setting aside all irrelevant thoughts.

♣ The door is closed to prayer unless it is opened with the key of trust. Alexis Carrel

♣ As a physician, I have seen men, after all other therapy had failed, lifted out of disease and melancholy by the serene effort of prayer. William Carey

♣ Prayer - secret, fervent, believing prayer - lies at the root of all personal godliness.

♣ I cannot go to India on my feet, but I can go to India on my knees.

♣ The most glorious works of grace that have ever took place, have been in answer to prayer; and it is in this way, we have the greatest reason to suppose, that the glorious out-pouring of the Spirit, which we expect at last, will be bestowed.

♣ One of the first, and most important of those duties which are incumbent upon us, is fervent and united prayer.

♣ I am very defective in all duties... In prayer I wander and am formal... I soon tire; devotion languishes; and I do not walk with God. Amy Carmichael

♣ God always answers us in the deeps, never in the shallows of our soul.

♣ We have one crystal clear reason apart from the blessed happiness of this way of life. It is this: prayer is the core of our day. Take prayer out, and the day would collapse, would be pithless, a straw blown in the wind. But how can you pray--really pray, I mean--with one against whom you have a grudge or whom you have been discussing critically with another? Try it. You will find it cannot be done.

♣ It is a solemn thing to find oneself drawn out in prayer which knows no relief till the soul it is burdened with is born. It is no less solemn afterwards, until Christ is formed in them.

♣ When an answer I did not expect comes to a prayer which I believed I truly meant, I shrink back from it; if the burden my Lord asks me to bear be not the burden of my heart's choice, and I fret inwardly and do not welcome His will, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

♣ Prayer is the core of the day. Take prayer out, and the day would collapse ...

♣ Every work undertaken in obedience to a divine command, whether the work be that form of conflict with the powers of darkness that we

call prayer, or whether it be the action that follows, leads sooner or later to a new demand on personal devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ. D A Carson

- ♣ All of us would be wiser if we would resolve never to put people down, except on our prayer lists.

- ♣ We do not drift into spiritual life or disciplined prayer. We will not grow in prayer unless we plan to pray.

- ♣ Effective prayer is the fruit of a relationship with God, not a technique for acquiring blessings.

- ♣ Either worrying drives out prayer, or prayer drives out worrying.

- ♣ Much praying is not done because we do not plan to pray. We do not drift into spiritual life; we do not drift into disciplined prayer. We will not grow in prayer unless we plan to pray. That means we must self-consciously set aside time to do nothing but pray. (see similar comment by John Piper)

- ♣ Some Christians want enough of Christ to be identified with him but not enough to be seriously inconvenienced; they genuinely cling to basic Christian orthodoxy but do not want to engage in serious Bible study; they value moral probity, especially of the public sort, but do not engage in war against inner corruptions; they fret over the quality of the preacher's sermon but do not worry much over the quality of their own prayer life. Such Christians are content with mediocrity.

- ♣ The person who prays more in public than in private reveals that he is less interested in God's approval than in human praise. Not piety but a reputation for piety is his concern.

- ♣ Draw nigh to God, so that you may dread the grave as little as your bed. Draw nigh to God, that you may live a happy and useful life. Drawing nigh to God is the most concentrated energy of the soul. Effective prayer is the fruit of a relationship with God, not a technique for acquiring blessings.

♣ Prayer is God's appointed means for appropriating the blessings that are ours in Christ Jesus.

♣ Our prayers may be an index of how small and self-centered our world is.

♣ George Washington Carver

♣ My prayers seem to be more of an attitude than anything else. I indulge in no lip service, but ask the great God silently, daily, and often many times a day, to permit me to speak to Him. I ask Him to give me wisdom, understanding and bodily strength to do His will. Hence, I am asking and receiving all the time. Louis Cassels

♣ Adoration is the highest form of prayer. Samuel Chadwick

♣ Hurry is the death of prayer.

♣ There is no better way to serve others than to pray for them. There is nothing about which I do not pray. I go over all my life in the presence of God. All my problems are solved there.

♣ Nothing would turn the nation back to God so surely and so quickly as a Church that prayed and prevailed. The world will never believe in a religion in which there is no supernatural power. A rationalized faith, a socialized Church and a moralized gospel may gain applause, but they awaken no conviction and win no converts.

♣ We give ourselves to prayer. We preach a Gospel that saves to the uttermost, and witness to its power. We do not argue about worldliness; we witness. We do not discuss philosophy; we preach the Gospel. We do not speculate about the destiny of sinners; we pluck them as brands from the burning. We ask no man's patronage. We beg no man's money. We fear no man's frown. Let no man join us who is afraid, and we want none but those who are saved, sanctified and aflame with the fire of the Holy Ghost.

♣ To pray in the name of Christ is to pray as one who is at one with Christ, whose mind is the mind of Christ, whose desires are the desires of Christ, and whose purpose is one with that of Christ.

♣ In these days there is no time to pray; but without time, and a lot of it, we shall never learn to pray.

♣ Satan laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.

♣ Prayer turns ordinary mortals into men of power. It brings power. It brings fire. It brings rain. It brings life. It brings God.

♣ It takes us long to learn that prayer is more important than organization, more powerful than armies, more influential than wealth and mightier than all learning.

♣ The reason so many people do not pray is because of its cost. The cost is not so much in the sweat of agonizing supplication as in the daily fidelity to the life of prayer.

♣ True prayer is a lonely business.

♣ The great souls who became mighty in prayer and rejoiced to spend three and four hours a day alone with God were once beginners.

♣ Intensity is a law of prayer. God is found by those who seek Him with all their heart. Wrestling prayer prevails. The fervent effectual prayer of the righteous is of great force.

♣ The prayer that prevails is not the work of lips and fingertips. It is the cry of a broken heart and the travail of a stricken soul.

♣ There is no way of learning to pray but by praying. No reasoned philosophy of prayer ever taught a soul to pray. We know not what we should pray for as we ought, and if prayer waits for understanding it will never begin. We discover by using. We learn by practice. Though a man should have all knowledge about prayer, and though he should understand all mysteries about prayer, unless he prays he will never learn to pray.

♣ The Church gives more time, thought, and money to recreation and sport than to prayer.

♣ Great grief prays with great earnestness. Prayer is not a collection of balanced phrases; it is the pouring out of the soul. What is love if it be not fiery? What are prayers if the heart be not ablaze? They are the battles of the soul. In them men wrestle with principalities and powers... "The prayer that prevails is not the work of lips and fingertips. It is the cry of a broken heart and the travail of a stricken soul.

♣ Jesus never mentioned unanswered prayer. He had the unlimited certainty of knowing that prayer is always answered.

♣ God answers prayer in the best way—not just sometimes, but every time Do we expect God to answer prayer?

♣ Prayer is the acid test of devotion.

♣ Satan dreads nothing but prayer. . . . The Church that lost its Christ was full of good works. Activities are multiplied that meditation may be ousted, and organizations are increased that prayer may have no chance. Souls may be lost in good works, as surely as in evil ways. The one concern of the devil is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.

♣ There is no power like that of prevailing prayer, of Abraham pleading for Sodom, Jacob wrestling in the stillness of the night, Moses standing in the breach, Hannah intoxicated with sorrow, David heartbroken with remorse and grief, Jesus in sweat of blood. Add to this list from the records of the church your personal observation and experience, and always there is the cost of passion unto blood. Such prayer prevails. It turns ordinary mortals into

men of power. It brings power. It brings fire. It brings rain. It brings life. It brings God.

♣ The one concern of the devil is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray.

♣ To pray as God would have us pray is the greatest achievement on earth. Such a prayer life costs. It takes time....All praying saints have spent hours every day in prayer....In these days, there is no time to pray; but without time, and a lot of it, we shall never learn to pray.

♣ Great supplicants have sought the secret place of the Most High, not that they might escape the world, but that they might learn to conquer it. Thomas Chalmers

♣ Prayer does not enable us to do a greater work for God. Prayer is a greater work for God.

♣ I want to feel my own nothingness, I want to give myself up in absolute resignation to God, to lie prostrate and passive at His feet, with no other disposition in my heart than that of merging my will into His will, and no other language in my mouth than that of prayer for the perfecting of His strength in my weakness. Oswald Chambers

♣ Prayer is an effort of will. (Ed: Yes, but an effort enabled by the Spirit giving us the desire and power! Phil 2:13NLT-note).

♣ Prayer is simple, as simple as a child making known its wants to its parents.

♣ Our Lord in His teaching regarding prayer never once referred to unanswered prayer; He said God always answers prayer. If our prayers are in the name of Jesus, that is, in accordance with His nature, the answers will not be in accordance with our nature, but with His. We are apt to forget this, and to say without thinking that God does not always answer prayer. He does every time, and when we are in close communion with Him, we realize that we have not been misled. (Prayer: A Holy Occupation)

♣ Remember, no one has time to pray; we have to take time from other things that are valuable in order to understand how necessary prayer is. The things that act like thorns and stings in our personal lives will go away instantly when we pray; we won't feel the smart any more, because we have God's point of view about them. Prayer means that we get into union with God's view of other people. (Prayer: A Holy Occupation)

♣ Prayer to us is not practical, it is stupid, and until we do see that prayer is stupid, that is, stupid from the ordinary, natural, common sense point of view, we will never pray. 'It is absurd to think that God is going to alter things in answer to prayer.' But that is what Jesus says He will do. It sounds stupid, but it is a stupidity based on His redemption. The reason that our prayers are not answered is that we are not stupid enough to believe what Jesus says." (Prayer: A Holy Occupation)

♣ Prayer alters a man on the inside, alters his mind and his attitude to things. The point of praying is not that we get things from God, but that we learn by prayer to detect the difference between God's order and God's permissive will. God's order is—no pain, no sickness, no devil, no war, no sin; His permissive will is all these things. What a man needs to do is to get hold of God's order in the kingdom on the inside, and then he will begin to see how to handle the riddle of the universe on the outside. (Prayer: A Holy Occupation)

♣ The purpose of prayer is to reveal the presence of God equally present all the time in every condition.

♣ Men always ought to pray, and not lose heart. Jesus also taught the disciples the prayer of patience. If you are right with God and God delays the answer to your prayer, don't misjudge Him. Don't think of Him as an unkind friend, or an unnatural father, or an unjust judge, but keep at it. Your prayer will certainly be answered, for 'everyone who asks receives.' Pray and do not cave in. Your heavenly Father will explain it all one day. He cannot

just yet because He is developing your character. (Prayer: A Holy Occupation)

♣ It is not so true that prayer changes things as that prayer changes me, and then I change things; consequently we must not ask God to do what He has created us to do. For instance, Jesus Christ is not a social reformer; He came to alter us first, and if there is any social reform to be done on earth, we must do it. (Prayer: A Holy Occupation)

♣ Beware of placing the emphasis on what prayer costs us; it cost God everything to make it possible for us to pray.

♣ We take for granted that prayer is preparation for work, whereas prayer is the work. Intercessory prayer is God's chosen way of working.

♣ Whenever the insistence is on the point that God answers prayer, we are off the track. The meaning of prayer is that we get hold of God, not of the answer.

♣ One of the reasons for our sense of futility in prayer is that we have lost our power to imagine. We can no longer even imagine putting ourselves deliberately before God. It is actually more important to be broken bread and poured-out wine in the area of intercession than in our personal contact with others. The power of imagination is what God gives a saint so that he can go beyond himself and be firmly placed into relationships he never before experienced.

♣ If in the first waking moment of the day you learn to fling the door back and let God in, every public thing will be stamped with the presence of God.

♣ The primary thought in the area of religion is—keep your eyes on God, not on people. Your motivation should not be the desire to be known as a praying person. Find an inner room in which to pray where no one even knows you are praying, shut the door, and talk to God in secret. Have no motivation other than to know your Father in heaven. It

is impossible to carry on your life as a disciple without definite times of secret prayer.

♣ In the natural realm, prayer is not practical but absurd. We have to realize that prayer is foolish from the commonsense point of view.

♣ The old Puritans used to pray for ‘the gift of tears.’ If ever you cease to know the virtue of repentance, you are in darkness. Examine yourself and see if you have forgotten how to be sorry. (Repentance)

♣ Prayer is not simply getting things from God—that is only the most elementary kind of prayer. Prayer is coming into perfect fellowship and oneness with God. (My Utmost for His Highest)

♣ It is impossible to carry on your life as a disciple without definite times of secret prayer. (My Utmost for His Highest)

♣ God wants to instruct us in regard to His Son, He wants to turn our times of prayer into mounts of transfiguration, and we will not let Him. (My Utmost for His Highest)

♣ Am I continually in touch with the reality of God, or do I pray only when things have gone wrong— when there is some disturbance in my life? (My Utmost for His Highest)

♣ The point of prayer is not to get answers from God, but to have perfect and complete oneness with Him. If we pray only because we want answers, we will become irritated and angry with God. We receive an answer every time we pray, but it does not always come in the way we expect, and our spiritual irritation shows our refusal to identify ourselves truly with our Lord in prayer. We are not here to prove that God answers prayer, but to be living trophies of God’s grace. (My Utmost for His Highest)

♣ Prayer is not only asking, but an attitude of mind which produces the atmosphere in which asking is

perfectly natural. “Ask, and it shall be given you.” (My Utmost for His Highest)

♣ Think of the last thing you prayed about—were you devoted to your desire or to God? Determined to get some gift of the Spirit or to get at God? “Your Heavenly Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask Him.” (Mt 6:8) The point of asking is that you may get to know God better. “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.” (Ps 37:4) Keep praying in order to get a perfect understanding of God Himself.

♣ We make prayer the preparation for work, it is never that in the Bible. Prayer is the exercise of drawing on the grace of God. Don’t say—‘I will endure this until I can get away and pray.’ Pray now; draw on the grace of God in the moment of need. Prayer is the most practical thing, it is not the reflex action of devotion. Prayer is the last thing in which we learn to draw on God’s grace.

♣ If, during a prayer meeting, God shows you something to do, don’t say, “I’ll do it”— just do it! Pick yourself up by the back of the neck and shake off your fleshly laziness. Laziness can always be seen in our cravings for a mountaintop experience; all we talk about is our planning for our time on the mountain. We must learn to live in the ordinary “gray” day according to what we saw on the mountain.

♣ Are we so wedded to Jesus Christ’s idea of prayer —“Thy will be done”— that we catch the secrets of God? The things that make God dear to us are not so much His great big blessings as the tiny things, because they show His amazing intimacy with us; He knows every detail of our individual lives.

♣ The purpose of God is not to answer our prayers, but by our prayers we come to discern the mind of God, and this is revealed in John 17. There is one prayer God must answer, and that is the prayer of Jesus— “that they may be one, even as We are one.” (John 17:11, 21, 22) Are we as close to Jesus Christ as that?

♣ We think rightly or wrongly about prayer according to the conception we have in our minds of prayer. If we think of prayer as the breath in our lungs and the blood from our hearts, we think rightly. The blood flows ceaselessly, and breathing continues ceaselessly; we are not conscious of it, but it is always going on. We are not always conscious of Jesus keeping us in perfect joint with God, but if we are obeying Him, He always is. Prayer is not an exercise, it is the life.

♣ Beware of anything that stops the offering up of prayer. “Pray without ceasing...”— maintain the childlike habit of offering up prayer in your heart to God all the time.

♣ We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties.

♣ Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.

♣ Jesus Christ carries on intercession for us in heaven; the Holy Ghost carries on intercession in us on earth; and we the saints have to carry on intercession for all men.

♣ If God sees that my spiritual life will be furthered by giving the things for which I ask, then He will give them, but that is not the end of prayer. The end of prayer is that I come to know God Himself.

♣ The revelation of our spiritual standing is what we ask in prayer; sometimes what we ask is an insult to God; we ask with our eyes on the possibilities or on ourselves, not on Jesus Christ.

♣ Never make the blunder of trying to forecast the way God is going to answer your prayer.

♣ When you pray, things remain the same, but you begin to be different.

♣ Prayer is simple, as simple as a child making known its wants to its parents.

♣ The armor is for the battle of prayer. The armor is not to fight in, but to shield us while we pray. Prayer is the battle.

♣ The battle of prayer is against two things in the earthlies: wandering thoughts, and lack of intimacy with God's character as revealed in His word. Neither can be cured at once, but they can be cured by discipline.

♣ The prayer of the feeblest saint on earth who lives in the Spirit and keeps right with God is a terror to Satan. The very powers of darkness are paralyzed by prayer; no spiritual séance can succeed in the presence of a humble praying saint. No wonder Satan tries to keep our minds fussy in active work till we cannot think in prayer.

♣ We are ill-taught if we look for results only in the earthlies when we pray. A praying saint performs far more havoc among the unseen forces of darkness than we have the slightest notion of.

♣ We look upon prayer simply as a means of getting things for ourselves, but the biblical purpose of prayer is that we may get to know God Himself.

♣ We impoverish God in our minds when we say there must be answers to our prayers on the material plane; the biggest answers to our

prayers are in the realm of the unseen.

♣ Get into the habit of dealing with God about everything. Unless in the first waking moment of the day you learn to fling the door wide back and let God in, you will work on a wrong level all day; but swing the door wide open and pray to your Father in secret, and every public thing will be stamped with the presence of God.

♣ Spiritual lust--'I must have it at once'--causes me to demand an answer from God, instead of seeking God

himself who gives the answer. Is today 'the third day' and He has still not done what I expected? Whenever we insist that God should give us an answer to prayer we are off track. The purpose of prayer is that we get a hold of God, not of the answer.

♣ God brings you to places, among people, and into certain conditions to accomplish a definite purpose through the intercession of the Spirit in you. Your part in intercessory prayer is not to agonize over how to intercede, but to use the everyday circumstances and people God puts around you by His providence to bring them before His throne, and to allow the Spirit in you the opportunity to intercede for them. In this way God is going to touch the whole world with His saints.

♣ God never gives us discernment in order that we may criticize, but that we may intercede.

♣ The whole meaning of prayer is that we may know God.

♣ We think of prayer as a preparation for work, or a calm after having done work, whereas prayer is the essential work

♣ Prayer is the evidence that I am spiritually concentrated on God.

♣ See that you do not use the trick of prayer to cover up what you know you ought to do.

♣ When a man is at his wits' end it is not a cowardly thing to pray, it is the only way he can get in touch with Reality.

♣ Prayer is the way the life of God is nourished.

♣ We tend to use prayer as a last resort, but God wants it to be our first line of defense. We pray when there's nothing else we can do, but God wants us to pray before we do anything at all. Most of us would prefer, however, to spend our time doing something that will get immediate results. We don't want to wait for God to resolve matters

in His good time because His idea of 'good time' is seldom in sync with ours. (Prayer A Holy Occupation)

- ♣ Don't forget to pray today because God did not forget to wake you up this morning.

- ♣ It is impossible to live the life of a disciple without definite times of secret prayer. You will find that the place to enter in is in your business, as you walk along the streets, in the ordinary ways of life, when no one dreams you are praying, and the reward comes openly, a revival here, a blessing there.

- ♣ Never make the blunder of trying to forecast the way God is going to answer your prayer.

- ♣ Our prayers are heard, not because we are in earnest, not because we suffer, but because Jesus suffered.

- ♣ God's "nothings" are His most positive answers. We have to stay on God and wait. Never try to help God to fulfill His word.

- ♣ Prayer is the vital breath of the Christian; not the thing that makes him alive, but the evidence that he is alive.

- ♣ Prayer is simple, prayer is supernatural, and to anyone not related to our Lord Jesus Christ, prayer is apt to look stupid.

- ♣ What a blessed habit I have found my prayer list, morning by morning, it takes me via the Throne of all Grace straight to the intimate personal heart of each one mentioned here, and I know that He Who is not prescribed by time and geography answers immediately.

- ♣ The greatest answer to prayer is that I am brought into a perfect understanding with God, and that alters my view of actual things.

♣ Too often we treat prayer as the preparation for the work of the church. Do you not see? Prayer IS the work of the church.

♣ When we pray "in the Name of Jesus" the answers are in accordance with His nature, and if we think our prayers are unanswered it is because we are not interpreting the answer along this line.

♣ Pray because you have a Father, not because it quietens you, and give Him time to answer.

♣ Some prayers are followed by silence (from God) because they are wrong, others because they are bigger than one can understand. It will be a wonderful moment for some of us when we stand before God and find that the prayers we clamored for in early days and imagined were never answered, have been answered in the most amazing way, and that God's silence has been the sign of the answer.

♣ Jesus Christ carries on intercession for us in heaven; the Holy Ghost carries on intercession in us on earth; and we the saints have to carry on intercession for all men.

♣ Our true character comes out in the way we pray.

♣ God does not exist to answer our prayers, but by our prayers we come to discern the mind of God.

♣ Ask God for what you want, but you cannot ask if you are not asking for a right thing. When you draw near to God, you cease from asking for things. "Your Father knows what things you have need of, before you ask him." Then, why ask? That you may get to know Him.

♣ Our understanding of God is the answer to prayer; getting things from God is God's indulgence of us. When God stops giving us things, He brings us into the place where we can begin to understand Him.

♣ Prayer is not only asking, it is an attitude of heart that produces an atmosphere in which asking is perfectly

natural, and Jesus says, "every one that asketh receiveth."

♣ There is nothing to be valued more highly than to have people praying for us; God links up His power in answer to their prayers.

♣ Intercessory prayer for one who is sinning prevails. God says so! The will of the man prayed for does not come into question at all, he is connected with God by prayer, and prayer on the basis of the Redemption sets the connection working and God gives life.

♣ God's silences are His answers. If we only take as answers those that are visible to our senses, we are in a very elementary condition of grace.

♣ Prayer is the practice of drawing on the grace of God. Don't say, "I will endure this until I can get away and pray." Pray now - draw on the grace of God in your moment of need. Prayer is the most normal and useful thing; it is not simply a reflex action of your devotion to God. We are very slow to learn to draw on God's grace through prayer.

♣ Prayer is not getting things from God. That is a most initial stage; prayer is getting into perfect communion with God: I tell Him what I know He knows in order that I may get to know it as He does.

♣ Prayer is not logical, it is a mysterious moral working of the Holy Spirit.

♣ There is no need to get to a place of prayer; pray wherever you are.

♣ We pray pious blether, our will is not in it, and then we say God does not answer; we never asked Him for anything. Asking means that our wills are in what we ask.

♣ If we rely on the Holy Spirit, we shall find that our prayers become more and more inarticulate; and when they are inarticulate, reverence grows deeper and deeper.

♣ We hear it said that a man will suffer in his life if he does not pray; I question it. What will suffer is the life of the Son of God within him, which is nourished not by food but by prayer...Prayer is the way the life of God is nourished.

♣ Watch your motive before God; have no other motive in prayer than to know Him.

♣ It is by no haphazard chance that in every age men have risen early to pray. The first thing that marks decline in spiritual life is our relationship to the early morning.

♣ If you have ever prayed in the dawn you will ask yourself why you were so foolish as not to do it always: it is difficult to get into communion with God in the midst of the hurly-burly of the day.

♣ One of the most subtle burdens God ever puts on us as saints is this burden of discernment concerning other souls. He reveals things in order that we may take the burden of these souls before Him and form the mind of Christ about them. It is not that we bring God into touch with our minds, but that we rouse ourselves until God is able to convey His mind to us about the one for whom we intercede.

♣ Do not have as your motive the desire to be known as a praying man. Get an inner chamber in which to pray where no one knows you are praying, shut the door, and talk to God in secret.

♣ Our Lord never referred to unanswered prayer; he taught that prayers are always answered. He ever implied that prayers were answered rightly because of the Heavenly Father's wisdom.

♣ Prayer is God's answer to our poverty, not a power we exercise to obtain an answer.

♣ Never say you will pray about a thing; pray about it.

♣ We lean to our own understanding, or we bank on service and do away with prayer, and consequently by

succeeding in the external we fail in the eternal, because in the eternal we succeed only by prevailing prayer.

♣ You say, "But He has not answered." He has, He is so near to you that His silence is the answer. His silence is big with terrific meaning that you cannot understand yet, but presently you will.

♣ One great effect of prayer is that it enables the soul to command the body. By obedience I make my body submissive to my soul, but prayer puts my soul in command of my body.

♣ Prayer is the supreme activity of all that is noblest in our personality, and the essential nature of prayer is faith.

♣ The inattentive, slovenly way we drift into the presence of God is an indication that we are not bothering to think about Him. Whenever our Lord spoke of prayer, He said, "Ask." It is impossible to ask if you do not concentrate.

♣ Worship and intercession must go together, the one is impossible without the other. Intercession means that we rouse ourselves up to get the mind of Christ about the one for whom we pray.

♣ The men with God's 'go' in them have these three characteristics—a saving experience, the evidence of supernatural power at work, and the spiritual efficacy of success in prayer.

♣ When a man is born from above, the life of the Son of God is born in him, and he can either starve that life or nourish it. Prayer is the way the life of God is nourished. Our ordinary views of prayer are not found in the New Testament. We look upon prayer as a means of getting things for ourselves; the Bible's idea of prayer is that we may get to know God Himself.

♣ Prayer is the answer to every problem there is.

♣ The real business of your life as a saved soul is intercessory prayer.

♣ God answers prayer on the ground of Redemption and on no other ground.

♣ The prayer of the saints is never self-important, but always God- important. Walter J. Chantry

♣ Self must be denied as to time and attention for prayer. All-prayer cannot be wielded without the expenditure of time. "A minute with God" seldom lays hold of Him. Sustained prayer is necessary. Such

time may only be found by snatching it from personal pursuits, however legitimate they may be.

♣ J Wilbur Chapman

♣ It was a season of prayer with John ("Praying") Hyde that made me realize what real prayer was. I owe to him more than I owe to any man for showing me what a prayer life is and what a real consecrated life is. Jesus Christ became a new ideal to me, and I had a glimpse of His prayer life, and I had a longing which has remained to this day to be a real praying man.

Evelyn Christianson

♣ Praying together is like riding a bike. You can read how to do it or have someone tell you; but until you try it yourself, you'll never learn how to do it.

♣ Have you ever seen a bright blue iceberg? In Alaska I stared in awe at a mountain lake filled with beautiful blue icebergs that had broken off Portage Glacier. Immediately my mind went back to an article in a Family Time magazine that compared our secret praying to an iceberg. The "Absolutely No Boating" on the edge of the lake reminded me that eight-ninths of the bulk of an iceberg is below the waterline— out of sight. Only one-ninth is visible above the surface. The next day at our prayer seminar in Anchorage I explained how prayer should be like those icebergs, with about one-ninth showing in our public group praying and eight-ninths out of sight in our secret closets. (from A Journey Into Prayer) John B Coburn

♣ Be yourself. Be natural before God. Do not pretend to emotions you do not feel. Tell him whatever is on your heart and mind with whatever words are most natural to you. You do not have to speak to him in "religious" language about "spiritual" matters only . . . Speak as

naturally and as easily as you would to a friend, since God is just that. . . . This natural expression of yourself at the outset is the guarantee that you can go on to a creative, free, and mature relationship with God.

♣ Samuel Taylor Coleridge

♣ Prayer is the very highest energy of which the mind is capable.

♣ He prayeth best, who loveth best All things both great and small; For the dear God who loveth us, He made and loveth all.

♣ I look'd to Heav'n, and try'd to pray; But or ever a prayer had gusht, A wicked whisper came and made My heart as dry as dust. Thomas Constable - Talking to God, 124 page book

♣ There is no verse in the Bible that gives us a definition of prayer per se. Consequently we must discover what it is by examining the prayers and references to prayer in the Bible if we want a biblical definition. Essentially prayer is talking to God. It is expressing our thoughts and feelings to deity. Chrysostom

♣ The potency of prayer hath subdued the strength of fire; it has bridled the rage of lions, hushed anarchy to rest, extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases, repelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course, and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt. Prayer is an all-efficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky unobscured by clouds, a heaven unruffled by the storm. It is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings.

♣ (Modernized Version) The potency of prayer has subdued the strength of fire, it has bridled the rage of lions, hushed anarchy to rest, extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the fates of heaven, assuaged diseases, dispelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course, and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt. There is (in it) an all-sufficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky

unobscured by clouds, a heaven unruffled by the storm. It is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings! William Culbertson

♣ Keep praying, but be thankful that God's answers are wiser than your prayers! Jim Cymbala

♣ The reason "other churches" don't grow: "Jim, the truth is, I couldn't have a real prayer meeting in my church. I'd be embarrassed at the smallness of the crowd..."

♣ No matter what I preach or what we claim to believe in our heads, the future will depend upon our times of prayer.

♣ Anything, and I mean anything, becomes a blessing if it drives us to prayer.

♣ You can tell how popular a church is by who comes on Sunday morning. You can tell how popular the pastor or evangelist is by who comes on Sunday night. But you can tell how popular Jesus is by who comes to the prayer meeting.

♣ What does it say about our churches today that God birthed the church in a prayer meeting, and prayer meetings today are almost extinct?

♣ God says to us, "Pray, because I have all kinds of things for you; and when you ask, you will receive. I have all this grace, and you live with scarcity. Come unto me, all you who labor. Why are you so rushed? Where are you running now? Everything you need, I have."

♣ Prayer is the opening of the heart so we can receive all these good things that God has for us every day. It's like sitting down at a table that God has prepared for us. He says, 'I have everything you need today - all the grace, all the wisdom, all the provision that you need - but sit down at the table and eat. Don't be so rushed and so busy and try to live without My supply.'

♣ The birth of the church was during a prayer meeting, not preaching, not singing, but prayer.

♣ Prayer cannot truly be taught by principles and seminars and symposiums. It has to be born out of a whole environment of felt need. If I say, "I ought to pray," I will soon run out of motivation and quit; the flesh is too strong. I have to be driven to pray. (from Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire)

♣ Prayer begets Revival, which begets more prayer.

♣ Persistent calling upon the name of the Lord breaks through every stronghold of the devil, for nothing is impossible with God. For

Christians in these troubled times there is simply no other way.

♣ The apostles had this instinct: When in trouble, pray. When intimidated, pray. When challenged, pray. When persecuted, pray!

♣ The Bible does say, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." Preaching, music, the reading of the Word-these things are fine-but they must never override prayer as the defining mark of God's dwelling.

♣ Does the Bible ever say anywhere from Genesis to Revelation, 'My house shall be called a house of preaching'? Does it ever say, 'My house shall be called a house of music'? Of course not. The Bible does say, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'. Preaching, music, the reading of the Word - these things are fine; I believe in and practice all of them. But they must never override prayer as the defining mark of God's dwelling. the honest truth is that

I have seen God do more in people's lives during ten minutes of real prayer than in ten of my sermons. Dennis J De Haan

♣ "Lord, make me sensitive" is a prayer that should always be on our hearts. A C Dixon

♣ We are tempted to let other good things displace prayer: hours, days and weeks for other things, and only

minutes for prayer. Knowing how and what is not sufficient. We must take time to do it, for GOD works in answer to prayer, and GOD at work is our greatest need. (from How to Pray)

♣ When we rely upon organization, we get what organization can do; when we rely upon education, we get what education can do; when we rely upon eloquence, we get what eloquence can do. And so on. But when we rely upon prayer, we get what God can do.

♣ Prayer is the key to success. Not to pray is to fail. To pray aright is never to fail.

♣ Luther's motto gives us the secret of success along all lines: "To have prayed well is to have studied well." To have prayed well is to have preached well, to have written well, to have worked well, to have

resisted well, to have lived well and to have died well. Prayer is the key to success. Not to pray is to fail. To pray aright is never to fail. (from How to Pray)

♣ When we have accepted Jesus Christ, we have become akin to the Father; having become real children of God, we then have the spirit of sonship by which we can come into His presence and make known our wants in a familiar way.

♣ What we need now for quickening is not so much money and wisdom as the spirit of supplication. Pray for yourself until the new life is infused. When that new life comes, it will lead you to pray for others. John Donne

♣ A Christian is more music When he prays,
Than spheres, or angel's praises be,

In panegyric alleluias. Fyodor Mikhaylovich Dostoyevski

♣ Be not forgetful of prayer. Every time you pray, if your prayer is sincere, there will be new feeling and new meaning in it, which will give you fresh courage, and you will understand that prayer is an education Wesley L. Duewel

♣ All you need to do to learn to pray is to pray.

♣ Prayer is God's ordained way to bring His miracle power to bear in human need.

♣ Many Christians are so spiritually frail, sickly, and lacking in spiritual vitality that they cannot stick to prayer for more than a few minutes at a time.

♣ The greatest privilege God gives to you is the freedom to approach Him at any time.

♣ "God waits for you to communicate with Him. You have instant, direct access to God. God loves mankind so much, and in a very special sense His children, that He has made Himself available to you at all times.

♣ Many Christians are so spiritually frail, sickly, and lacking in spiritual vitality that they cannot stick to prayer for more than a few minutes at a time.

♣ "The more you praise God, the more you become God-conscious and absorbed in His greatness, wisdom, faithfulness, and love. Praise reminds you of all that God is able to do and of great things He has already done

♣ There is unusual power in united prayer. God has planned for His people to join together in prayer, not only for Christian fellowship, spiritual nurture, and growth, but also for accomplishing His divine purposes and reaching His chosen goals.

♣ Fasting in the biblical sense is choosing not to partake of food because your spiritual hunger is so deep, your determination in intercession so intense, or your spiritual warfare so demanding that you have temporarily set aside even fleshly needs to give yourself to prayer and meditation.

♣ The prayer of faith is a prayer willing to believe and prevail for God's answer in a situation that is utterly impossible. Regardless of the difficulty of the situation, you require no external confirmation but believe God in spite of appearance. Your eyes are on God, not on the situation.

♣ Prayers prayed in the Spirit never die until they accomplish God's intended purpose. His answer may not be what we expected, or when we expected it, but God often provides much more abundantly than we could think or ask. He interprets our intent and either answers or stores up our prayers. Sincere prayers are never lost. Energy, time, love, and longing can be endowments that will never be wasted or go unrewarded.

♣ No form of Christian service is both so universally open to all and so high in Christ's priority for all Christians as prevailing prayer.

♣ The Spirit does not lead you to pray for useless goals.

♣ Prayer is the master strategy that God gives for the defeat and rout of Satan.

♣ Nothing is more calculated to beget a spirit of prayer than to unite in social prayer with one who has the Spirit himself.

♣ Prayer has mighty power to move mountains because the Holy Spirit is ready both to encourage our praying and to remove the mountains hindering us. Prayer has the power to change mountains into highways.

♣ Prayer is God's ordained way to bring His miracle power to bear in human need.

♣ Prayer is the only adequate way to multiply our efforts fast enough to reap the harvest God desires.

♣ Prayer is the supreme way to be workers together with God.

♣ Prayer is your way, often the only way, to water the harvest. By prayer you can bring the Holy Spirit's blessing on any Gospel effort anywhere in the world.

♣ Prayerless pulpits will produce prayerless and powerless congregations.

♣ Prayerlessness means unavailability to God.

♣ Prayerlessness proves that the person has very little love for God.

♣ Prevailing prayer is almost always for the sake of others. Prevailing prayer is prayer that pushes right through all difficulties and obstacles, drives back all the opposing forces of Satan, and secures the will of God. Its purpose is to accomplish God's will on earth. Prevailing prayer is prayer that not only takes the initiative but continues on the offensive for God until spiritual victory is won.

♣ Prevailing prayer is the most divine ministry you will ever have.

♣ The more you intercede, the more intimate will be your walk with Christ and the stronger you will become by the Spirit's power.

♣ The more you prevail, the more you will learn the secrets of God's grace and the powers of His kingdom.

♣ There is no easier sin to commit than the sin of prayerlessness. It is a sin against God and against Man.

♣ We have been so busy depending on our own natural strengths, our good training and our busyness for God that we are near spiritual bankruptcy. Jonathan Edwards

♣ Resolved, never to count that a prayer, nor to let that pass as a prayer, nor that as a petition of a prayer, which is so made, that I cannot hope that God will answer it; nor that as a confession, which I cannot hope God will accept.

♣ Many pray with their lips for that for which their hearts have no desire.

♣ When God is about to do a mighty new thing He always sets His people praying.

♣ He that lives a prayerless life, lives without God in the world.

♣ It is God's will through His wonderful grace, that the prayers of His saints should be one of the great principal means of carrying on the designs of Christ's kingdom in the world. When God has something very great to accomplish for His church, it is His will that there should precede it the extraordinary prayers of His people. and it is revealed that, when God is about to accomplish great things for His church, He will begin by remarkably pouring out the spirit of grace and supplication.

♣ That which God abundantly makes the subject of his promises, God's people should abundantly make the subject of their prayers.

♣ I had vehement longing of soul after God and Christ, and after more holiness, wherewith my heart seemed to be full, and ready to break.... I spent most of my time in thinking of divine things, year after year;

often walking alone in the woods, and solitary places, for meditation, soliloquy, and prayer, and converse with God; and it was always my manner, at such times, to sing forth my contemplations. I was almost constantly in ejaculatory (an exclamatory utterance of) prayer, wherever I was. Prayer seemed to be natural to me, as the breath by which the inward burnings of my heart had vent. Elisabeth Elliot

♣ A prayerful heart and an obedient heart will learn, very slowly and not without sorrow, to stake everything on God Himself.

♣ Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between His will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer.

♣ This hard place in which you perhaps find yourself is the very place in which God is giving you opportunity to look only to Him, to spend time in prayer, and to learn long-suffering, gentleness, meekness - in short, to learn the depths of the love that Christ Himself has poured out on all of us.

♣ Do you often feel like parched ground, unable to produce anything worthwhile? I do. When I am in need of refreshment, it isn't easy to think of the needs of others. But I have found that if, instead of praying for my own comfort and satisfaction, I ask the Lord to enable me to give to others, an amazing thing often happens - I find my own needs wonderfully met. Refreshment comes in ways I would never have thought of, both for others, and then, incidentally, for myself.

♣ For one who has made thanksgiving the habit of his life, the morning prayer will be, 'Lord, what will you give me today to offer back to you?'

♣ What God gives in answer to our prayers will always be the thing we most urgently need, and it will always be sufficient.

♣ Silence, as someone has said, is the mother of prayer and the nurse of holy thoughts. Silence cuts down on our sins, doesn't it? We can't be sinning in so many different ways if we are being quiet before God. Silence nourishes patience, charity, discretion.

♣ Things happen which would not happen without prayer. Let us not forget that.

♣ I asked Him to give me the prayers He wants me to pray and to give or withhold anything according to his plan for me. Nothing is too big to ask of Him, not even an ocean lot. It is God's business to decide if it is good for me. It is my business to obey Him.

♣ The heart which has no agenda but God's is the heart at leisure from itself. Its emptiness is filled with the Love of God. Its solitude can be turned into prayer.

♣ Cold prayers, like cold suitors, are seldom effective in their aims.

♣ All our problems are theological ones, William Temple said. All of them have to do with our relationship to God and his to us, and this is precisely why it makes sense to come to God with them. Jim Elliot

♣ God is still on His throne, we're still His footstool, and there's only a knee's distance between!

♣ That saint who advances on his knees never retreats.

♣ Cold prayers, like cold suitors, are seldom effective in their aims.

♣ I have felt the impact of your prayer in these past weeks. I am certain now that nothing has had a more powerful influence on this life of mine than your prayers.

♣ Live every day as if the Son of Man were at the door, and gear your thinking to the fleeting moment. Just how can it be redeemed? Walk as if the next step would carry you across the threshold of Heaven. Pray. That saint who advances on his knees never retreats. E. Schuyler

English

♣ Prayer is more than asking things from God. It is an exercise in the worship of God, to extol His name and to offer thanks for all His benefits. The child of God is assured that in prayer he is approaching a throne of grace, not a throne of judgment (Heb. 4:16). The Christian enters the divine presence in the name of Christ (John 14:14, 16:23). If

he prays under the control of the Holy Spirit, he will offer petitions within the will of his Heavenly Father (Romans 8:26, 27). Prayer should be made in faith and with thanksgiving (Phil. 4:6; Col. 4:2). The prayer that Christ taught His disciples, known as the Lord's Prayer, is a model to guide His followers concerning proper principles and goals of prayer (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4). Eusebius

♣ He records the testimony of Hegesippus that James "used to enter alone into the temple and be found

kneeling and praying for forgiveness for the people, so that his knees grew hard like a camel's because of his constant worship of God, kneeling and asking forgiveness for the people. So from his excessive righteousness he was called the Just." (Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History)

♣ Christmas Evans

♣ Prayer is the rope up in the belfry: we pull it, and it rings the bell up in heaven.—Christmas Evans Tony Evans

♣ For many of us, prayer is like the National Anthem before a football game. It gets the game started, but simply has no connection with what's happening on the field. It's a courtesy.

♣ FOR MANY of us, prayer is like a AAA card. It's there if you need it, but you really don't plan to use it very much—unless you're in an emergency.

♣ For some of us, prayer is like putting four quarters in a Coke machine, pushing the button, and not getting a Coke. We push the button again and again, waiting for our Coke, which never comes. Finally, kicking the machine, we just wave our hand and walk away. Many of us have given up on prayer because while it is something we know we are supposed to do, we feel it just doesn't work

♣ A LADY came to the great preacher of the last century G. Campbell Morgan and she said, "I only take the big things to God. I don't take the little things to God." G. Campbell Morgan looked at her and said, "Lady, anything you take to God is little." That is precisely the case. You can bring everything to God because anything you bring to God is little to Him, even if it is big to you.716

♣ Del Fehsenfeld Jr

♣ If revival in this land depended on your prayers, your faith, your obedience, would we ever experience revival? Francois Fenelon

♣ God never ceases to speak to us, but the noise of the world without and the tumult of our passions within bewilder us and prevent us from listening to him.

♣ How can you expect God to speak in that gentle and inward voice which melts the soul when you are making so

much noise with your rapid reflections?

- ♣ Talk to him in prayer of all your wants, your troubles, even of the weariness you feel in serving him. You cannot speak too freely, too trustfully to him.

- ♣ Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads one's heart to a dear friend. People who have no secrets from each other never want subjects of conversations; they do not weigh their words because there is nothing to be kept back.

- ♣ If God bores you, tell him that he bores you; that you prefer the vilest amusements to his presence; that you only feel at your ease when you are far from him.

- ♣ Even if no command to pray had existed, our very weakness would have suggested it.

- ♣ Time spent in prayer is never wasted. John Flavel

- ♣ Providence so orders the case, that faith and prayer come between our wants and supplies, and the goodness of God may be the more magnified in our eyes thereby.

- ♣ That which begins not with prayer, seldom winds up with comfort.

- ♣ No repentance, obedience, self-denial, prayers, tears, reformation or ordinances, without the new creation, avail any thing to the salvation of thy soul. Harry Emerson Fosdick

- ♣ God is not a cosmic bellboy for whom we can press a button to get things.

- ♣ In the foothills of the Himalayas, one hears the prayer: "Oh Lord, we know not what is good for us. You know what it is. For it we pray."

- ♣ Prayer opens our lives for God so his will can be done in and through us, because in true prayer we habitually put ourselves into the attitude of willingness to do whatever God wills. P. T. Forsyth

- ♣ Prayer is the highest use to which speech can be put.

- ♣ Prayer is a weapon, a mighty weapon in a terrible conflict. Our prayers are to be a continual, conscious,

earnest effort of battle, the battle against whatever is not God's will.

- ♣ We shall come one day to a heaven where we shall gratefully know that God's great refusals were sometimes the true answers to our truest prayer.

- ♣ All religion is founded on prayer, and in prayer it has its test and measure.

- ♣ The greatest element in life is not what occupies most of its time, else sleep would stand high in the scale. Nor is it what engrosses most of its thought, else money would be very high. The two or three hours of worship and preaching weekly has perhaps been the greatest signal influence on English life. Half an hour of prayer, morning or evening, every day, may be a greater element in shaping our course than all our conduct and all our thought. George Fox

- ♣ I prayed to God that He would baptize my heart into all conditions so I might be able to enter the needs and conditions of all. James O Fraser

- ♣ Believers at home can do as much for overseas missions as those actually on the field. I believe it will only be known on the last day how much has been accomplished in overseas missions by the prayers of earnest believers at home.

- ♣ Solid, lasting missionary work is done on our knees.

- ♣ Praying without faith is like trying to cut with a blunt knife - much labor expended to little purpose.

- ♣ The aim of Satanic power is to cut off communication with God. To accomplish this aim he deludes the soul with a sense of defeat, covers him with a thick cloud of darkness, depresses and oppresses the spirit, which in turn hinders prayer and leads to unbelief - thus destroying all power.

- ♣ Frank Gaebelin

- ♣ Maintain at all costs a daily time of Scripture reading and prayer. As I look back, I see that the most formative

influence in my life and thought has been my daily contact with Scripture over sixty years.

♣ S. D. Gordon

♣ The greatest thing anyone can do for God and for man is to pray.

♣ Prayer strikes the winning blow; service is simply picking up the pieces.

♣ The greatest thing anyone can do for God and man is pray. It is not the only thing, but it is the chief thing. The great people of earth are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time to pray.

♣ You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. (also attributed to John Bunyan)

♣ Prayer wonderfully clears the vision; steadies the nerves; defines duty; stiffens the purpose; sweetens and strengthens the spirit.

♣ If there are two persons praying, there are three. If three meet to pray, there are four praying. There is always one more than you can see.

♣ The great people of the earth today are the people who pray! I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor those who explain prayer; but I mean those who actually take the time to pray. They have not time. It must be taken from something else. That something else is important, very important and

pressing, but still, less important and pressing than prayer. There are people who put prayer first, and group the other items in life's schedule around and after prayer. These are the people today who are doing the most for God in winning souls, in solving problems, in awakening churches, in supplying both men and money for mission posts, in keeping fresh and strong their lives far off in

sacrificial service on the foreign field, where the thickest fighting is going on, and in keeping the old earth sweet a little while longer.

♣ If there be anything that can render the soul calm, dissipate its scruples and dispel its fears, sweeten its sufferings by the anointing of love, impart strength to all its actions, and spread abroad the joy of the Holy Spirit in its countenance and words, it is this simple and childlike repose in the arms of God.

♣ The greatest thing anyone can do for God and man is pray. It is not the only thing; but it is the chief thing. The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; not those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time and pray.

♣ Prayer is partnership with God in His planet-sized purposes, and includes the "all things" beside, as an important detail of the whole.

♣ One should never initiate anything that he cannot saturate with prayer.

♣ The real victory in all service is won in secret beforehand by prayer.

Billy Graham

♣ Heaven is full of answers to prayer for which no one ever bothered to ask!

♣ Prayer is the rope that pulls God and man together. But it doesn't pull God down to us: it pulls us up to him.

♣ Prayer pulls the rope down below and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly; others give only an occasional jerk at the rope. But he who communicates with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly and

pulls continuously with all his might.

♣ The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.'

♣ Prayer is crucial in evangelism: Only God can change the heart of someone who is in rebellion against Him. No matter how logical our arguments or how fervent our appeals, our words will accomplish nothing unless God's Spirit prepares the way.

♣ To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees.

♣ Many times I have been driven to prayer. When I was in Bible school I didn't know what to do with my life. I used to walk the streets . . . and pray, sometimes for hours at a time. In His timing, God answered those prayers, and since then prayer has been an essential part of my life.

♣ Prayers have no boundaries. They can leap miles and continents and be translated instantly into any language.

♣ May our prayers today, and every day, be from our hearts and with the focus of our whole being.

♣ It is not the body's posture, but the heart's attitude that counts when we pray.

♣ Prayer is spiritual communication between man and God, a two-way relationship in which man should not only talk to God but also listen to Him. Prayer to God is like a child's conversation with his father. It is natural for a child to ask his father for the things he needs.

♣ Remember that you can pray any time, anywhere. Washing dishes, digging ditches, working in the office, in the shop, on the athletic field, even in prison - you can pray and know God hears!

♣ Be careful before leaving someone in a sorrowing situation. Say a word of prayer with them and share even a brief word of

encouragement from the Scriptures.

♣ Sometimes I'm asked to list the most important steps in preparing for an evangelistic mission, and my reply is always the same: prayer... prayer... prayer.

♣ Prayer shouldn't be casual or sporadic, dictated only by the needs of the moment. Prayer should be as much a part of our lives as breathing.

♣ The only time my prayers are never answered is on the golf course.

♣ If there are any tears shed in heaven, they will be over the fact that we prayed so little

♣ In the morning, prayer is the key that opens to us the treasures of God's mercies and blessings; in the evening, it is the key that shuts us up under His protection and safeguard. |

♣ Sometimes I'm asked to list the most important steps in preparing for an evangelistic mission, and my reply is always the same: prayer . . . prayer . . . prayer.

♣ We are slaves to our gadgets, puppets of our power, and prisoners of our security. The theme of our generation is: "Get more, know more, and do more," instead of "Pray more, be more, and serve more."

♣ Prayer is crucial in evangelism: Only God can change the heart of someone who is in rebellion against Him. No matter how logical our arguments or how fervent our appeals, our words will accomplish nothing unless God's Spirit prepares the way.

♣ We should not pray for God to be on our side, but pray that we may be on God's side.

♣ We must repent of our prayerlessness. We must make prayer our priority. Even our churches today have gotten

away from prayer meetings.

♣ You cannot pray for someone and hate them at the same time.

♣ Prayer is for every moment of our lives, not just for times of suffering or joy. Prayer is really a place, a place where you meet God in genuine conversation.

♣ No matter how dark and hopeless a situation might seem, never stop praying.

♣ Prayers have no boundaries. They can leap miles and continents and be translated instantly into any language.

♣ True prayer is a way of life, not just for use in cases of emergency. Make it a habit, and when the need arises you will be in practice.

♣ Persecution, whether it is physical, social, or mental, is one of the worst types of pain, but those who persecute us are to be the objects of our prayers.

♣ Prayer is powerful, but if our prayers are aimless, meaningless, and mingled with doubt, they will be of little hope to us.

♣ Prayer is more than a wish; it is the voice of faith directed to God.

♣ Prayer should not be merely an act, but an attitude of life.

♣ [Jesus] prayed briefly when He was in a crowd; He prayed a little longer when He was with His disciples; and He prayed all night when He was alone. Today, many in the ministry tend to reverse that process.

♣ [Jesus] had only three years of public ministry, but He was never too hurried to spend hours in prayer . . . No day began or closed in which He was not in communion with His Father.

♣ If we are to depend on prayer during tough times, we should be people of prayer before the crisis hits.

♣ Have you ever said, “Well, all we can do now is pray”? . . .When we come to the end of ourselves, we come to the beginning of God.

♣ I realize more than ever that this ministry has been a team effort. Without the help of our prayer partners, our financial supporters, our staff, and our board of directors—this ministry and all of our dreams to spread the Good News of God’s love throughout the world would not have been possible.

♣ No matter where we are, God is as close as a prayer. He is our support and our strength. He will help us make our way up again from whatever depths we have fallen.

♣ The most eloquent prayer is often prayed through hands that heal and bless.

♣ When we know Him, we can be sure God hears our prayers.

♣ When troubles come may prayer be your automatic response.

♣ We were created to live a life of prayer. (Ed: Or "re-created/redeemed" to live a life of prayer.)

♣ We can change the course of events if we go to our knees in believing prayer.

♣ Someone has said, “Prayer is the highest use to which speech can be put.”

♣ I firmly believe God continues to answer the prayers of His people even after He has taken them to heaven. Never forget that God isn’t bound by time the way we are. We see only the present moment; God sees everything. We see only part of what He is doing; He sees it all.

♣ Prayer is key to our effort to communicate the Gospel and win men and women to Christ.

♣ Prayer is the Christian's greatest weapon.

♣ I believe we should pray that God will take possession of our lives totally and completely. We should pray that we will be emptied of self—self-love, self-will, self-ambition—and be placed completely at

His disposal.

♣ Long after you and I are gone, God will still be at work—and many of the things we prayed for will finally come to pass.

♣ Prayer is not just asking. It is listening for God's orders.

♣ Nothing will drive us to our knees quicker than trouble.

♣ Our prayers must be in accordance with [God's] will. He knows better what is good for us than we know ourselves.

♣ The Book of Psalms is the Bible's hymnbook. It will show you what it means to walk with God in prayer and praise.

♣ The devil will tremble when you pray.

♣ We are to pray in times of adversity, lest we become faithless and unbelieving. We are to pray in times of prosperity, lest we become boastful and proud. We are to pray in times of danger, lest we become fearful and doubting. We need to pray in times of security, lest we become self-sufficient.

♣ A prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian.

♣ If [Jesus] felt that He had to pray, how much more do we need to pray!

- ♣ You cannot afford to be too busy to pray.
- ♣ As I close my eyes in prayer, let me see the faces of those who need to know You, beloved Savior.

- ♣ Whether prayer changes our situation or not, one thing is certain: Prayer will change us!

- ♣ Prayer is more than a plea, it is a place where we must spend time if we are to learn its power.

- ♣ It is not the posture of the body, but the attitude of the heart that counts when we pray . . .The important thing is not the position of the

body but the condition of the soul.

- ♣ This should be the motto of every follower of Jesus Christ. Never stop praying no matter how dark and hopeless it may seem.

- ♣ Our prayers must be in accordance with the will of God for the simple reason that God knows better what is good for us than we know ourselves.

- ♣ At its deepest level, prayer is fellowship with God: enjoying His company, waiting upon His will, thanking Him for His mercies . . .listening in the silence for what He has to say to us.

- ♣ Pray frequently as you read [the Bible] and you will discover a fellowship with God.

- ♣ That “the Spirit Himself intercedes” indicates that it is actually God pleading, praying, and mourning through us.

- ♣ God Himself is the power that makes prayer work.

- ♣ The men upon whose shoulders rested the initial responsibility of Christianizing the world came to Jesus with one supreme request. They did not say, “Lord, teach us to preach”; “Lord, teach us to do miracles”; or “Lord,

teach us to be wise” . . .but they said, “Lord, teach us to pray.”

♣ To the Son of God prayer was more important than the assembling of great throngs . . .He often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed [Luke 5:15-16].

♣ The reason many . . . close their eyes while praying is to shut out the affairs of the world so that their minds can be completely concentrated on God . . .it certainly lends itself to the attitude of prayer.

♣ Prayer is more than a wish turned heavenward . . .it is the voice of faith directed Godward.

♣ Obedience is the master key to effectual prayer.

♣ If we are to have our prayers answered, we must give God the glory.

♣ Prayer and Bible study are inseparably linked. Effective prayer is born out of the prompting of God’s Spirit as we read His Word.

♣ Too often we use petty little petitions, oratorical exercises, or the words of others rather than the cries of our inmost being. When you pray, pray!

♣ Those you know the least may need your prayers the most. Don’t let the fact that you don’t know someone keep you from praying for them.

♣ Prayer by itself is like a diet without protein! Prayer is important to our spiritual growth—but of even greater importance is God’s Word, the Bible.

♣ Often, we try to tell God what we want Him to do—but ask Him to help you guard against this, and to seek His will instead of your own. Pray and ask God to guide you.

♣ How can you keep your mind from wandering when you pray? Remember what you are doing: talking to God. If

you had the opportunity to talk with the president, I doubt if your mind would wander. [We] have the privilege of talking to someone far greater: the King of kings!

- ♣ Prayer is not our using of God; it more often puts us in the position where God can use us.

- ♣ God welcomes our prayers. He is much more concerned about our hearts than our eloquence.

- ♣ A friend of mine defines prayer as “a declaration of dependence.”

- ♣ Ask God to give you a greater hunger for Himself and a deeper desire for His fellowship. Then be honest about whatever is keeping you from

prayer, and ask God to help you deal with it.

- ♣ Pray because Christ died to give us access to the Father. Pray because God is worthy of our praise. Pray because we need His forgiveness, cleansing, guidance, and protection. Pray because others need our prayers.

- ♣ Nothing can replace a daily time spent alone with God in prayer. We can also be in an attitude of prayer throughout the day—sitting in a car or at our desks, working in the kitchen, even talking with someone on the phone.

- ♣ Prayer is speaking to God—but sometimes He uses our times of prayerful silence to speak to us in return.

- ♣ Be sure that your motive in praying is to glorify God.

- ♣ Jesus demonstrated the importance of prayer by His own example. His whole ministry was saturated with prayer.

- ♣ We have not yet learned that we are more powerful on our knees than behind the most powerful weapons that can be developed.

♣ A life taught in the Scriptures, and tuned in to God in prayer, produces an outflowing of grace and power.

♣ God urges us to bring our concerns to Him—not just petitions about our own needs, but also intercessions for others. [The apostle] Paul said . . . “Brothers, pray for us” [1 Thessalonians 5:25NIV].

♣ Many doctors today prescribe yoga as a helpful stress reliever but would not consider prescribing prayer to the One who calms our fears and anxieties.

♣ Why do we need to pray? Because the Christian life is a journey, and we need God’s strength and guidance along the way.

♣ [God] says to pray for our enemies. How many of us have ever spent time praying for our enemies?

♣ A survey reported that the majority of the seminaries [in the United States] had no classes on prayer. That really shouldn’t surprise us when we consider how many local churches offer classes on gardening and the “Art of Conversation” instead of the study of God’s Word and prayer.

♣ Prayer is our lifeline to God.

♣ Prayer is not an option but a necessity. (Ed: Prayer is not "plan B" but "plan A!")

♣ Prayer is the most powerful weapon we have in our spiritual arsenal to stand against the world’s greatest enemy, the one who presents himself as an angel of light [2 Corinthians 11:14].

♣ The best way to pray is to open the Bible and pray Scripture back to the Lord, claiming His promises and asking that He strengthen and guide [us] in obeying His Word.

♣ Prayer shouldn’t be a burden but a privilege—God wants our fellowship. (Ed: A prayer burden is a privilege!)

♣ Prayer is the companion of Bible study.

♣ Before prayer changes others, it first changes us.

♣ I listened to a discussion of religious leaders on how to communicate the Gospel. Not once did I hear them mention prayer. And yet I know of scores of churches that win many converts each year by prayer alone.

♣ I have never met anyone who spent time in daily prayer, and in the study of the Word of God, and was strong in faith, who was ever discouraged for very long.

♣ I can tell you that God is alive because I talked with him this morning.

♣ On persevering prayer:"I look at a stone cutter hammering away at a rock a hundred times without so much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the 101st blow it splits in two. I know it was not the one blow that did it, but all that had gone before."

♣ God looks not at the pomp of words and variety of expression, but at the sincerity and devotion of the heart. The key opens the door, not because it is gilt but because it fits the lock. Franklin Graham

♣ No judge can stop us from praying for our country and I pray that on May 6, millions of Americans will join me in praying for our President, all of our elected leaders, and even for this unjust judge and all those who rule from the bench - that God would guide them and give them wisdom.

♣ I don't believe our country will last the way we know it much longer unless there's a change. And we just continue this moral decline going down, and the only hope, I believe, is God. We just hope and pray that maybe he'll hear our prayers and give us some godly leadership.

♣ For those who have already experienced the grace of Almighty God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, prayer becomes the catalyst for fellowship with the Lord of our souls, redeemed by his blood. By tapping into the channel by which we commune with the One who calls his children

“friends,” we can receive his strength in our weakness; his guidance in our steps; and his mercy when we stumble along life's path.

♣ Prayer is the most powerful resource we have in this life; yet, many only turn to it as a last resort. When unbelievers pray for repentance of sin and ask for God's forgiveness, prayer is the spiritual dynamite that obliterates the darkness and despair of a sin-soaked soul.

♣ At a time when our country is waging two wars, approval ratings for Congress are at historic lows, unemployment is at a 70-year high and financial institutions have collapsed around us, I can't imagine anyone seriously opposing a National Day of Prayer.

♣ Prayer is our essential lifeline to God's throne and heart.

Ruth Bell Graham

♣ God has not always answered my prayers. If he had, I would have married the wrong man—several times!

♣ Just pray for a tough hide and a tender heart.

♣ We cannot pray and remain the same. J D Grear

♣ Salvation is not a prayer you pray in a one-time ceremony and then move on from; salvation is a posture of repentance and faith that you begin in a moment and maintain for the rest of your life.

♣ The Gospel Prayer - In Christ, there is nothing I can do that would make You love me more, and nothing I have done that makes You love me less. Your presence and approval are all I need for everlasting joy. As You have been to me, so I will be to others. As I pray, I'll measure Your compassion by the cross and Your power by the resurrection.

♣ Surveys show that more than 50 percent of people in the U.S. have prayed the sinner's prayer and think they're going to heaven because of it even though there is no detectable difference in their lifestyles from those outside of the church. On this issue- the most important issue on

earth- we have to be absolutely clear. We need to preach salvation by repentance before God and faith in the finished work of Christ.

♣ What would your prayers look like if you believed that the cross really was the measure of God's compassion for someone? Richard Greenham

♣ The more godly a man is, and the more graces and blessings of God are upon him, the more need he hath to pray, because Satan is busiest against him, and because he is readiest to be puffed up with a conceited holiness. (Col 4:2) Edward Griffin

♣ What an awful (awesome) place is the Christian's closet. The whole

Trinity is about it every time he kneels. William Gurnall

♣ When people do not mind what God speaks to them in His Word, God doth as little mind what they say to Him in prayer.

♣ Pray often rather than very long at a time. It is hard to be very long in prayer, and not slacken in our affections.

♣ Furnish thyself with arguments from the promises to enforce thy prayers, and make them prevalent with God. The promises are the ground of faith, and faith, when strengthened, will make thee fervent, and such fervency ever speeds and returns with victory out of the field of prayer. The mightier any is in the Word, the more mighty he will

be in prayer.

♣ Prayer is nothing but the promise reversed, or God's Word formed into an argument, and retorted by faith upon God again.

♣ When people do not mind what God speaks to them in His word, God doth as little mind what they say to Him in prayer.

♣ Job's friends chose the right time to visit him, but took not the right course of improving their visit; had they spent the time in praying for him which they did in hot

disputes with him, they would have profited him, and pleased God more.

♣ Never was a faithful prayer lost. Some prayers have a longer voyage than others, but then they return with their richer lading at last, so that the praying soul is a gainer by waiting for an answer.

♣ Prayer, it is the very natural breath of faith.

♣ Praying is the same to the new creature as crying is to the natural. The child is not learned by art or example to cry, but instructed by nature; it comes into the world crying. Praying is not a lesson got by forms and rules of art, but flowing from principles of new life itself.

♣ It is not only our duty to pray for others, but also to desire the prayers of others for ourselves.

♣ Cease to pray and thou will begin to sin. Prayer is not only a means to prevail for mercy but also to prevent sin.

♣ Sometimes, perhaps, thou hearest another pray with much freedom and fluency, whilst thou canst hardly get out a few broken words. Hence thou art ready to accuse thyself and admire him, as if the gilding of the key made it open the door the better.

♣ Satan cannot deny but that great wonders have been wrought by prayer. As the spirit of prayer goes up, so his kingdom goes down. Satan's stratagem against prayer are three. First, if he can, he will keep thee from prayer. If that be not feasible, secondly, he will strive to interrupt thee in prayer. And, thirdly, if that plot takes not, he will labour to hinder the success of thy prayer.

♣ O Christian, stand to your prayer in a holy expectation of what you have begged upon the credit of the promise. Thomas Guthrie

♣ Prayer flies where the eagle never flew.

♣ If you find yourself loving any pleasure more than your prayers, any book better than the Bible, any house better than the house of the Lord, any table better than

the Lord's table, any persons better than Christ, or any indulgence better than the hope of heaven - be alarmed.

♣ The Christian is not always praying; but within his bosom is a heaven-kindled love--fires of desire, fervent longings--which make him always ready to pray, and often engage him in prayer. Robert Haldane

♣ To pray without labouring is to mock God: to labour without prayer is to rob God of his glory.

Bishop Joseph Hall

♣ It is not the arithmetic of our prayers, how many they are; not the rhetoric of our prayers, how eloquent they may be; nor the geometry of our prayers, how long they may be; nor the music of our prayers, how sweet our voice may be; nor the logic of our prayers, how argumentative they may be; nor the method of our prayers, how orderly they may be; nor even the divinity of our prayers, how good the doctrine may be;--which God cares for. Fervency of spirit is that which availeth much. (James 5:16) Ole Hallesby

♣ Begin to realize more and more that prayer is the most important thing you do. You can use your time to no better advantage than to pray whenever you have an opportunity to do so, either alone or with others; while at work, while at rest, or while walking down the street.

Anywhere!

♣ Prayer should be the means by which I receive all that I need, and for this reason, be my daily refuge, my source of rich and inexhaustible joy.

♣ Prayer is the conduit through which power from heaven is brought to earth.

♣ Be sure to remember that nothing in your daily life is so insignificant and so inconsequential that the Lord will not help you by answering your prayer.

♣ See to it, night and day, that you pray for your children. Then you will leave them a great legacy of answers to prayer, which will follow them all the days of their life. Then you may calmly and with a good

conscience depart from them, even though you may not leave them a great deal of material wealth.

♣ To pray is to let God into our lives. He knocks and seeks admittance, not only in the solemn hours of secret prayer. He knocks in the midst of your daily work, your daily struggles, your daily grind. That is when you need Him most.

♣ If we will make use of prayer to call down upon ourselves and others those things which will glorify the name of God, then we shall see the strongest and boldest promises of the Bible about prayer fulfilled. Then we shall see such answers to prayer as we had never thought were possible.

♣ As impossible as it is for us to take a breath in the morning large enough to last us until noon, so impossible is it to pray in the morning in such a way as to last us until noon. Let your prayers ascend to Him constantly, audibly or silently, as circumstances throughout the day permit.

♣ The secret prayer chamber is a bloody battleground. Here violent and decisive battles are fought out. Here the fate of souls for time and eternity is determined, in quietude and solitude.

♣ To strive in prayer means to struggle through those hindrances which would restrain or even prevent us entirely from continuing in

persevering prayer. It means to be so watchful at all times that we can notice when we become slothful in prayer and that we go to the Spirit of prayer to have this remedied. In this struggle, too, the decisive factor is the Spirit of prayer.

♣ The shower of answers to your prayers will continue to your dying hour. Nor will it cease then. When you pass out from beneath the shower, your dear ones will step into it. Every prayer and every sigh which you have uttered for them and their future welfare will, in God's time, descend upon them as a gentle rain of answers to prayer.

♣ As white snowflakes fall quietly and thickly on a winter day, answers to prayer will settle down upon you at every step you take, even to your dying day. The story of your life will be the story of prayer and answers to prayer.

♣ Pray a little each day in a childlike way for the Spirit of prayer. If you feel that you know, as yet, very little concerning the deep things of prayer and what prayer really is, then pray for the Spirit of prayer. There is nothing He would rather do than unveil to you the grace of prayer.

♣ We need to learn to know Him so well that we feel safe when we have left our difficulties with Him.

♣ Listen, my friend! Your helplessness is your best prayer. It calls from your heart to the heart of God with greater effect than all your uttered pleas. He hears it from the very moment that you are seized with helplessness, and He becomes actively engaged at once in hearing and answering the prayer of your helplessness.

♣ There come times when I have nothing more to tell God. If I were to continue to pray in words, I would have to repeat what I have already said. At such times it is wonderful to say to God, "May I be in Thy presence, Lord? I have nothing more to say to Thee, but I do love to be in Thy presence."

♣ Prayer and helplessness are inseparable. Only he who is helpless can truly pray. Your helplessness is your best prayer. It calls from your heart to the heart of God with greater effect than all your uttered

pleas.

♣ The Spirit of prayer makes us so intimate with God that we scarcely pass through an experience before we speak to Him about it, either in supplication, in sighing, in pouring out our woes before Him, in fervent requests, or in thanksgiving and adoration.

♣ Notice carefully every word here. It is not our prayer which draws Jesus into our hearts. Nor is it our prayer which moves Jesus to come in to us. All He needs is access. He enters in of His own accord, because He desires to come in. To pray is nothing more involved than to let Jesus into our needs, and permitting Him to exercise His own power in dealing with them. And that requires no strength. It is only a question of our wills. Will we give Jesus access to our needs? Richard Halverson

♣ Intercession is truly universal work for the Christian. No place is closed to intercessory prayer. No continent - no nation - no organization - no city - no office. There is no power on earth that can keep intercession out. Vance Havner

♣ Any house wife knows that the best way to remember the things she meant to do and forgot is to start praying. They will come to her and divert her from prayer. The devil will let a preacher prepare a sermon if it will keep him from preparing himself.

♣ It is not that God is stingy and must be coaxed, for He "giveth liberally and upbraideth not." It is that we ourselves are so shallow and sinful that we need to tarry before Him until our restless natures can be stilled and the clamor of outside voices be deadened so that we can hear His voice. Such a state is not easily reached, and the men God uses have paid a price in wrestlings and prevailing prayer. But it is such men who rise from their knees confident of His power and go forth to speak with authority.

♣ If you can't pray as you want to, pray as you can. God knows what you mean.

♣ We carry checks on the bank of heaven and never cash them at the window of prayer - we lie to God when we pray rather than rely upon

him after we pray.

♣ The thermometer of a church is its prayer meeting.

♣ We are not going to move this world by criticism of it nor conformity to it, but by the combustion within it of lives ignited by the Spirit of God. We ought to be praying, 'Lord, take the Word; Spirit of God, set it on fire.'

♣ Many a man who would never think of dashing out in the morning without his breakfast, his vitamins and his briefcase, plunges headlong into a perilous day with an unprepared soul. "A little talk with Jesus" readies the body, the mind and the spirit for whatever comes.

♣ 'Lord of the years that are left to me, I give them to Thy hand;
Take me and make me and mold me To the pattern Thou hast planned.'

♣ If you can't pray like you want to, pray as you can. God knows what you mean. And you have good help—the Advocate who is God's Son and the Paraclete who is God's Spirit. They will take your feeblest prayer and make it perfect.

♣ The devil is in constant conspiracy against a preacher who really prays, for it has been said that what a minister is in his prayer closet is what he is, no more, no less.

♣ God is not impressed by length or loudness in our prayer. He sees the heart and when we have prayed our hearts into acceptance of His will and our wills into obedience to it, we may calmly wait for the answer.

♣ When we go to our meeting with God, we should go like a patient to his doctor, first to be thoroughly examined and afterwards to be treated for our ailment. Then something will happen when you pray.

♣ The measure of any Christian is his prayer life.

♣ The Holy Spirit prays for us with unutterable groanings. If He groans for us, we might well agonize in prayer for ourselves!

♣ We may get a secret satisfaction out of praying that makes prayer only an end in itself. "Early will I seek Thee"—that is true prayer.

♣ Prayer may not get us what we want, but it will teach us to want what we need.

♣ When a man makes alliance with the Almighty, giants look like grasshoppers.

♣ We carry checks on the bank of heaven and never cash them at the window of prayer. Matthew Henry

♣ As long as we continue living we must continue praying.

♣ Prayer-time must be kept up as duly as meal-time.

♣ Though we cannot by our prayers give God any information, yet we must by our prayers give him honor.

♣ We read of preaching the Word out of season, but we do not read of praying out of season, for that is never out of season.

♣ Praying in the Spirit is to pray "under His guidance and influence, according to the rule of His word, with faith, fervency, and earnestness; this is praying in the Holy Ghost."

♣ You may as soon find a living man that does not breath, as a living Christian that does not pray.

♣ If we cannot go to the house of the Lord we can go by faith to the Lord of the house.

♣ If you love God, you cannot be at a loss for something to say to him, something for your hearts to pour out before him, which his grace has already put there.

♣ When God intends great mercy for his people, the first thing he does is set them a-praying.

♣ It is not much praying that is condemned ... but much speaking; the danger of this error is when we only say our prayers, not when we pray them.

♣ It is good for us to keep some account of our prayers, that we may not unsay them in our practice. (Ed: And keep a prayer journal of specific request with date and space to write in God's answer! You will be encouraged to pray more!)

♣ God's promises are to be our pleas in prayer.

♣ We cannot expect too little from man, nor too much from God.

♣ The Bible is a letter God has sent to us; prayer is a letter we send to him.

♣ Days of trouble must be days of prayer.

♣ You may as soon find a living man who does not breathe, as a living Christian who does not pray.

♣ Prayer is the midwife of mercy, that helps to bring it forth.

♣ We read of preaching the Word out of season, but we do not read of praying out of season, for that is never out of season.

♣ God's promises are to be our pleas in prayer.

♣ Prayer is the breath of the new man, drawing in the air of mercy in petitions, and returning it in praises; it proves and maintains the spiritual life.

♣ Prayer is a salve for every sore, a remedy for every malady; and when we are afflicted with thorns in the flesh, we should give ourselves to prayer. If an answer be not given to the first prayer, nor to the second, we are to continue praying. Troubles are sent to teach us to pray; and

are continued, to teach us to continue instant in prayer.

♣ The best we can say to God in prayer, is what He has said to us.

♣ When God is about to give His people the expected good, He pours out a Spirit of prayer, and it is a good sign that He is coming towards them in mercy.

♣ The prayers and supplications that Christ offered up were, joined with strong cries and tears, herein setting us example not only to pray, but to be fervent and importunate in prayer. How many dry prayers, how few wet ones, do we offer up to God!

♣ God's Word must be the guide of your desires and the ground of your expectations in prayer. George Herbert

♣ O thou who has given us so much, mercifully grant us one thing more—a grateful heart.

♣ Who goes to bed and does not pray, maketh two nights to every day. Charles Hodge

♣ Prayer is the converse of the soul with God. Therein we manifest or express to Him our reverence, and love for His divine perfection, our gratitude for all His mercies, our penitence for our sins, our hope in His forgiving love, our submission to His authority, our confidence in His care, our desires for His favor, and for the providential and spiritual blessings needed for ourselves and others. Thomas Hooker

♣ Prayer is my chief work, and it is by means of it that I carry on the rest. R. F. Horton

♣ Therefore, whether the desire for prayer is on you or not, get to your closet at the set time; shut yourself in with God; wait upon Him; seek His face; realize Him; pray. Victor Hugo

♣ Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees. Kent Hughes

♣ The essence of prayer is the heart drawing near to God (James 4:8).

Prayer is the soul's desire to come to him, to receive his love, to feel

his power as we conform to his will. This is exactly what Paul's soldier in spiritual armor does. Every piece is in place. The spiritual forces of wickedness approach, and there will be lethal battle. But first the soldier falls to his knees and prays in the Spirit with all kinds of prayers (cf. Ephesians 6:18). There is only one view more welcome than the backside of the Devil—and that is the face of God.

—Preaching the
Word: James

- ♣ Without troubles we would not learn prayer.

- ♣ (Paul) was not like the Boston clergyman who prayed such a self- consciously ornate prayer that Monday's paper described it as "the most eloquent prayer ever offered to a Boston audience." God was Paul's audience.

- ♣ If you have never done it before, pray through all you have, giving everything to God, especially your most treasured possessions. Put everything at his feet, so he can use it as he desires. (Lk 12:33)

- ♣ "Ask," "seek," "knock" is the hidden fire of the heart that believes God will answer and values what he gives. (Mt 7:7)

- ♣ We must ask for the blessings. Jesus says in Luke 11:13, "... how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" What does Jesus mean? Isn't the Holy Spirit already given to believers? The answer is explicit in the Greek grammar, which means the operation of the Holy Spirit. Prayer brings increased fullness and power of the Holy Spirit. We must ask! As we ask for more holiness – a greater sense of adoption, more peace, more love, more patience, more power from the Spirit – we will receive it all.

- ♣ Ephesians – carefully, reverently, prayerfully considered – will change our lives. It is not so much a question of what we will do with the epistle, but what it will do with us.

♣ This great prayer has been called the Lord's Prayer for almost two thousand years. So it would be futile to attempt to change its name— though the best title really would be "The Disciples' Prayer," because that is what it is. At the disciples' request (Luke 11:1), Jesus provided it for them as a pattern for prayer. The initial focus of this model prayer

is upward, as its first three requests have to do with God's glory. Then, having prayed for His glory, the remaining three requests are for our well-being. God first, humans second. That is the ideal order of prayer: His glory before our wants.

♣ The preacher who prayerlessly prepares his sermons on Saturday night as he watches TV and on Sunday delivers short, anecdote-loaded topical homilies which have nothing to do with the text, and indeed are often unsound, will have his work torched!

♣ "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16)—or as some scholars think it is better translated, "The prayer of a righteous man is of great power when energized," the energizer being the Holy Spirit. As the Holy Spirit energizes the prayer, the one praying is energized so that He passionately throws His energy into it—which is precisely what Elijah's example illustrates (James 5:17,18). Therefore, if one is "righteous," having confessed all known sin, being

energized by the Holy Spirit to pray passionately, there will be great power. Hannah Hurnard

♣ An intercessor means one who is in such vital contact with God and with his fellowmen that he is like a live wire closing the gap between the saving power of God and the sinful men who have been cut off from that power. Bill Hybels

♣ Prayer has not always been my strong suit. For many years, even as senior pastor of a large church, I knew more about prayer than I ever practiced in my own life. I have a racehorse temperament, and the tugs of self-sufficiency and self-reliance are very real to me. I didn't want to get off the fast track long enough to find out what prayer is all about.

♣ From birth we have been learning the rules of self-reliance as we strain and struggle to achieve self-sufficiency. Prayer flies in the face of those deep-seated values. It is an assault on human autonomy, an indictment of independent living. To people in the fast lane, determined to make it on their own, prayer is an embarrassing interruption. Prayer is alien to our proud human nature. (Too Busy Not to Pray)

♣ We can have no deep, ongoing fellowship with God unless we obey him—totally.

♣ If the request is wrong, God says, “No.” If the timing is wrong, God says, “Slow.” If you are wrong, God says, “Grow.” But if the request is right, the timing is right and you are right, God says, “Go!” (Too Busy Not to Pray)

♣ The most intimate communion with God comes only through prayer. The greatest fulfillment (of 20 years of praying) has not been

the list of miraculous answers to prayers I have received, although that has been wonderful. The greatest thrill has been the qualitative difference in my relationship with God.

♣ A "prayer warrior" is a person who is convinced that God is omnipotent—that God has the power to do anything, to change anyone and to intervene in any circumstance. A person who truly believes this refuses to doubt God.

♣ Prayerless people cut themselves off from God's prevailing power, and the frequent result is the familiar feeling of being overwhelmed, overrun, beaten down, pushed around, defeated. Prayer is the key to unlocking God's prevailing power in your life.

♣ It is important to have a regular time for prayer, because without regularity prayer will never become a habit. If we want to live in God's presence, we need to shut the world out and tune in to God once a day, every day, without fail. We need to lay aside our other concerns

and focus on God, look at him, talk with him, listen to him, sit quietly before him.

- ♣ God's power flows primarily to people who pray.

- ♣ I used to make excuses for my fainthearted prayer life. I don't have any good models of persevering prayer, I told myself. I have too many responsibilities to fulfill, so I don't have the time to pray properly. But God convinced me that I was not being honest with myself. The real reason my prayers were weak was that my faith was weak.

- ♣ God wants us...to talk to him as to a friend or father-authentically, reverently, personally, earnestly.

- ♣ If your life is rushing in many directions at once, you are incapable of the kind of deep, unhurried prayer that is vital to the Christian walk.

- ♣ If I've learned anything about prayer, it's that desperation drives discipline.

- ♣ I can write about prayer, you can read about prayer...but sooner or later you have to fall to your knees and just plain pray. Then, and only then, will you begin to operate in the vein of God's miracle-working ways.

- ♣ How do you pray a prayer so filled with faith that it can move a mountain? By shifting your focus from the size of your mountain to the sufficiency of the Mountain Mover and then stepping forward in obedience.

- ♣ The Lord's Prayer is an excellent model, but it was never intended to be a magical incantation to get God's attention. Jesus gave this prayer as a pattern to suggest the variety of elements that should be included when we pray.

- ♣ Playing around is one thing; following an established regimen is quite another. It's true with exercise equipment and it is true with prayer. John ("Praying") Hyde

- ♣ Father, give me these souls, or I die. David Jeremiah

- ♣ I learned how to pray out of desperation. For most of us, this is how the adventure usually begins. When we

finally get serious about prayer, the trigger is usually desperation, not duty.

♣ There is no avoiding the fact that Scripture insists God has hard-wired the universe in such a way that He works primarily through prayer. If

prayer really is a great adventure, then why don't we strike out on spiritual safaris more often? I would hazard a guess that the number one reason is the busyness of our lives. We are so busy.

♣ Prayer is not a natural activity. It has been well said that prayer is stupid when viewed in the purely human realm. I remember the day I realized why it was so hard for me to pray. I wrote this down in my Bible: "Prayer is my Declaration of Dependence."

♣ We err when we judge our prayers solely by what we can see happening around us. Prayer is a matter of faith. Prayer is taking God at His word. Prayer is understanding God's promise that if we pray, He will work. And we must keep on praying even when we cannot see what He is doing.

♣ Someone once said that "one sentence burdened with the heart's desire is dearer to God than an hour's rehearsing of words and phrases with no longing behind them." God doesn't want vain repetitions; He wants real communication. When we pray, He wants us to put our heart into it.

♣ We must never make prayer into some spiritual, make-believe game that does not focus on the real needs that confront us. I've been in prayer meetings in which the prayers offered made me wonder whether the people lived on the same planet I do. Oswald Chambers once wrote, "Some of the things that we pray about are as absurd as if we prayed, 'O Lord, take me out of this room,' and then refused to go."

♣ If we're not careful, discouragement (Ed: When it seems God does not hear or answer our prayers) can slip in like a fog and chill our prayer lives.

♣ At least initially, serious prayer is almost always driven by necessity. We don't pray because we ought, we pray because we are without any other recourse. I think God likes to see His people coming to Him in desperation and casting themselves upon His mercy!

♣ Prayer is about real-world concerns, spoken in real-world language. God does not want us to shift into a stained-glass prayer voice to address Him. The necessity of prayer springs out of needs in the real world.

♣ Where did we get the idea that prayer is breaking down God's reluctance? Why do we so often think that prayer is nothing but bashing in the door of God's unwillingness? The Bible doesn't teach that. The Bible says that God is anxious to answer our prayers, that He's eager to do so, that He really wants to grant our requests.

♣ Untutored, we tend to think that prayer is what good people do when they are doing their best. It is not. Inexperienced, we suppose that there must be an "insider" language that must be acquired before God takes us seriously in our prayer. There is not. Prayer is elemental, not advanced, language. It is the means by which our language becomes honest, true, and personal in response to God. It is the means by which we get everything in our lives out in the open before God.

♣ Could it be that one reason we have great problems is that God wants to show us great solutions? He longs to show us the riches of His grace and the poverty of our own resources. Prayer is uniquely designed to demonstrate both truths.

♣ Prayer is the way you defeat the devil, reach the lost, restore a backslider, strengthen the saints, send missionaries out, cure the sick, accomplish the impossible, and know the will of God.

♣ It's not going to happen through technology or our intellectual abilities but only through prayer. When we

pray, God works. We believe God blesses churches that bless missions.

♣ The kind of prayer that changes hearts and transforms neighborhoods and rebuilds communities and revives nations is intense, fervent, and all business. It's that kind of dedicated ministry through which the real work of God gets done. As pastor Bill Hybels has written, "When we work, we work; but when we pray, God works."

♣ Do we approach God from a beggar's perspective or as His cherished child? If we have any difficulty seeing Him as our loving Father, we need to ask Him to help us develop a healthy Father/child relationship.

♣ Prayer is the hard-work business of Christianity, and it nets amazing results.

♣ Be honest with God and ask Him to give you a willingness to do the work of prayer.

♣ A journal is a great way to keep track of what happens daily in your walk with God and to record your prayers and thoughts.

♣ Prayer is the key to unlocking God's prevailing power in your life.

♣ Many a person is praying for rain with his tub the wrong side up

♣ Sometimes it helps to begin our prayers by confessing we don't feel like praying-and ask God to help us with our preference to be doing something else.

♣ I learned to pray out of desperation. For most of us, this is how the adventure usually begins. When we finally get serious about prayer, the trigger is usually desperation, not duty. We don't pray because

we ought, we pray because we are without any other recourse.

♣ Answers to prayer have to be on God's schedule, not ours. He hears us pray, and He answers according to His will in His own time.

♣ Worship seals all prayers at the front and at the back. Always pray with praise beginning and praise ending.

♣ When the problem is worry, the prescription is prayer.

♣ All the great revivals and awakenings of church history were fueled by the power of prayer.

♣ Constancy is the main point of both stories in Luke 11 and 18. They are intended to teach us that no matter what we observe outwardly, no matter what seems to be coming back to us through our sensory perceptions, the fundamental truth of the Christian life is wrapped up in our prayer to God. By our praying we are giving evidence that we have committed ourselves to Him and that even though we can't see what He is doing, we know He is doing something and we will not abort that process by ceasing to pray. We will not lose hope; we will not get discouraged; we will continue to pray.

♣ Certainly discouragement sometimes comes with prayer, but remember this: There will always be discouragement without prayer! Discouragement follows prayerlessness like winter follows fall. But when we choose to continue praying, even through a long and barren winter, eventually spring arrives and with it new life. And at that point, discouragement has no choice but to find somewhere else to live.

♣ We rejoice at answered prayer, but we should rejoice more that God has brought us to the place spiritually where He can afford to answer our prayers. So much of the time we're all wrapped up in the product. God isn't; He's wrapped up in the process. We're all looking for the answer; God is looking for the person who will pray, even when he cannot see the answer. It is only that kind of person whom God can ultimately trust with the answer.

♣ We may pray for something or someone for years and never see anything happen. Does that mean that nothing is happening, that we should give up and use our energy on something more productive? No. God is at work in response to our prayers, whether we see something happening or not. If we are truly praying, “Thy will be done,” forces are at work beyond our comprehension—and often, beyond our vision. But they are working just the same.

♣ I believe that the church, in an effort to stress the intimacy God has given us with Himself through Christ, has moved too far away from reverence. I don’t care for terms such as “The Big Dodger in the sky” or “The Man Upstairs.” They don’t reflect the true majesty and greatness of God. That kind of flippancy and extra-familiarity has no place in our conversation, for we serve an Almighty Heavenly Father of limitless power and glory and unimaginable awesomeness. God is uncommon. He is extraordinary. He is unearthly. He is separated from sinners. He is undefiled. He is holy. God is uniquely different and above all. And yet He is our Father! (Mt 6:9)E. Stanley Jones

♣ Prayer is surrender—surrender to the will of God and cooperation with that will. If I throw out a boat hook from the boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God. (A Song of Ascents)

♣ I am better or worse as I pray more or less. It works for me with mathematical precision.

♣ Prayer is commission. Out of the quietness with God, power is generated that turns the spiritual machinery of the world. When you pray, you begin to feel the sense of being sent, that the divine compulsion is upon you.

♣ Prayer is aligning ourselves with the purposes of God.

♣ When prayer fades out, power fades out. We are as spiritual as we are prayerful; no more, no less.

♣ Prayer means that the total you is praying. Your whole being reaches out to God, and God reaches down to

you.

♣ In the prayer time, the battle of the spiritual life is lost or won.

♣ Prayer is co-operation with God. It is the purest exercise of the faculties God has given us - an exercise that links these faculties with the Maker to work out the intentions He had in mind in their creation.

♣ Prayer is commitment. We don't merely co-operate with God with certain things held back within. We, the total person, co-operate. This means that co-operation equals commitment.

♣ We find, sooner or later, that in prayer we either abandon ourselves or we abandon prayer. J. H. Jowett

♣ It is in the field of prayer that life's critical battles are lost or won. We must conquer all our circumstances there. We must first of all bring them there. We must survey them there. We must master them there. In prayer we bring our spiritual enemies into the Presence of God and we fight them there. Have you tried that? Or have you been satisfied to meet and fight your foes in the open spaces of the world?

♣ If I am called upon to pray in public, I must not dare to use words that are intended to please the ears of my fellow-worshippers, but I just realize that I am speaking to God Himself and that I have business to

transact with the great Lord.

♣ All vital praying makes a drain on a man's vitality. True intercession is a sacrifice, a bleeding sacrifice.

♣ Prayer is not always petition, sometimes it is just communion. It is the exquisite ministry of friendship. Adoniram Judson

♣ Be resolute in prayer. Make any sacrifice to maintain it. Consider that time is short and that business and company must not be allowed to rob thee of thy God.

♣ Our prayers run along one road and God's answers by another, and by and by they meet.

♣ There is more you can do after you pray, but there is nothing you can do until you pray.

♣ God loves importunate prayer so much that He will not give us much blessing without it.

♣ I never prayed sincerely and earnestly for anything but it came at some time; no matter at how distant a day, somehow, in some shape, probably the least I would have devised, it came.

♣ God answers all true prayer, either in kind or in kindness.

♣ Nothing is impossible,' said one of the seven sages of Greece, 'to industry.' Let us change the word, 'industry,' to 'persevering prayer,' and the motto will be more Christian and more worthy of universal adoption. Toyokiko Kagawa

♣ From three to four each morning—that is my hour. Then I am free from interruption and from the fear of interruption. Each morning I wake at three and live an hour with God. It gives me strength for everything. Without it I would be utterly helpless. I could not be true to my friends, or do my work, or preach the gospel which God has given me for his poor.

Alice Kahokuoluna

Before the missionaries came, my people used to sit outside their (idol) temples for a long time meditating and preparing themselves before entering. Then they would virtually creep to the altar to offer their petition and afterwards would again sit a long time outside, this time to "breathe life" into their prayers. The Christians, when they came, just got up, uttered a few sentences, said Amen and were done. For that reason my people call them haolis, "without breath," or those who fail to breathe life into their prayers.

Soren Aabye Kierkegaard

♣ A man prayed, and at first he thought that prayer was talking. But he became more and more quiet until in the end he realized that prayer is listening. Woodrow Kroll

♣ There cannot be an answer until there is a prayer.

♣ The prayer is up to us; the answer is up to God.

♣ Pray according to faith, not circumstances.

♣ A moment of prayerful reflection can prevent a lifetime of bitter regret.

♣ Fervent prayers produce phenomenal results.

♣ Prayer is never complete until God has answered.

♣ Prayer only works when the channels are open. John Laidlaw

♣ The main lesson about prayer is just this: Do it! Do it! Do it! You want to be taught to pray. My answer is pray and never faint, and then you shall never fail..."William Law

♣ He who has learned to pray has learned the greatest secret of a holy and a happy life.

♣ We must alter our lives in order to alter our hearts, for it is impossible to live one way and pray another.

♣ There is nothing that makes us love a man so much as praying for him.

♣ Solemn prayers, rapturous devotions, are but repeated hypocrisies unless the heart and mind be conformable to them.

♣ Fall on your knees and grow there. There is no burden of the spirit but is lighter by kneeling under it. Prayer means not always talking to Him, but waiting before Him till the dust settles and the stream runs clear.

♣ Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man's will done in heaven, but for getting God's will done in earth."

♣ Perhaps there cannot be a better way of judging of what manner of spirit we are of, than to see whether the actions of our life are such as we may safely commend them to God in our prayers.

♣ They, therefore, who are hasty in their devotions and think a little will do, are strangers both to the nature of devotion and the nature of man; they do not know that they are to learn to pray, and that prayer is to be learnt as they learn other things, by frequency, constancy, and perseverance. Brother Lawrence

♣ You need not cry very loud; He is nearer to us than we think.

♣ Our biggest mistake is to think that a time of prayer is different from any other time. It is all one.

♣ The time of business does not differ with me from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquillity as if I were on my knees. Abraham Lincoln

♣ I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day.

♣ We, on our side, are praying to God to give us victory because we believe we are right; but those on the other side pray him, too, for victory, believing they are right. What must he think of us?

♣ I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.

♣ I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right. But it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation should be on the Lord's side.

♣ Rules of living Don't worry, eat three square meals a day, say your prayers, be courteous to your creditors, keep your digestion good, steer clear of biliousness, exercise, go slow and go easy. May be there are other things that your

special case requires to make you happy, but my friend, these, i reckon, will give you a good life.

♣ And I do further recommend to my fellow-citizens aforesaid, that on that occasion they do reverently humble themselves in the dust, and from thence offer up penitent and fervent prayers and supplications to the great Disposer of events for a return of the inestimable blessings of peace, union, and harmony throughout the land which it has pleased him to assign as a dwelling-place for ourselves and for our posterity throughout all generations.

♣ Trusting in Him, who can go with me, and remain with you and be every where for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

♣ Whereas, the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the Supreme Authority and just Government of Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and of nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for National prayer and humiliation...

♣ I am much indebted to the good Christian people of the country for their constant prayers and consolations; and to no one of them, more than to yourself.

♣ Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged.

The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully.

♣ It is most cheering and encouraging for me to know that in the efforts which I have made and am making for the restoration of a righteous peace to our country, I am upheld and sustained by the good wishes and prayers of God's people. No one is more deeply than myself aware that without His favor our highest wisdom is but as

foolishness and that our most strenuous efforts would avail nothing in the shadow of His displeasure. David Martyn Lloyd-Jones

♣ Of all the blessings of Christian salvation none is greater than this, that we have access to God in prayer.

♣ Prayer, in many ways, is the supreme expression of our faith in God.

♣ Prayer is beyond any question the highest activity of the human soul. Man is at his greatest and highest when upon his knees he comes face to face with God.”

♣ We could not pray at all if it were not for the Holy Spirit.

♣ We should go into His presence as a child goes to his father. We do it with reverence and godly fear, of course, but we should go with a childlike confidence and simplicity.

♣ How's Your Prayer Life? What is the place of prayer in your life? What prominence does it have in our lives? It is a question that I address to all. It is as necessary that it should reach the man who is well versed in the Scripture, and who has a knowledge of its doctrine and its theology, as that it should reach anyone else. What part does prayer play in our lives and how essential is it to us? Do we realize that without it we faint? Our ultimate position as Christians is tested by the character of our prayer life. It is more important than knowledge and understanding. Do not imagine that I am detracting from the importance of knowledge. I spend most of my life trying to show the importance of having a knowledge of truth and an understanding of it. That is vitally important. There is only one thing that is more important, and that is prayer. The ultimate test of my understanding of the Scriptural teaching is the amount of time I spend in prayer. As

theology is ultimately the knowledge of God, the more theology I know, the more it should drive me to seek to know God. Not to know about Him, but to know Him. The whole object of salvation is to bring me to a knowledge of

God. I may talk learnedly about regeneration, but what is eternal life? It is that they might know Thee, the only true God in Jesus Christ whom God has sent. (John 17:3) If all my knowledge does not lead me to prayer there is something wrong somewhere. It is meant to do that. The value of the knowledge is that it gives me such an understanding of the value of prayer, that I devote time to prayer and delight in prayer. If it does not produce these results in my life, there is something wrong and spurious about it, or else I am handling it in a wrong manner.

♣ Always respond to every impulse to pray. The impulse to pray may

come when you are reading or when you are battling with a text. I would make an absolute law of this: always obey such an impulse.

♣ There are ideas in our hearts, there are wishes, there are aspirations, there are groanings, there are sighings that the world knows nothing about; but God knows them. So words are not always necessary. When we cannot express our feelings except in wordless groanings, God knows exactly what is happening.

♣ There is nothing that tells the truth about us as Christians so much as our prayer life.

♣ Everything we do in the Christian life is easier than prayer.

♣ You pray and make your requests made known unto God, and God will do something.' It is not your prayer that is going to do it, it is not you who is going to do it, but God. 'The peace of God that passeth all understanding'-He, through it all, 'will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus'.

♣ Is the terrible sin of praying in public in a manner which suggests a desire to have an effect upon people present rather than to approach God with reverence and godly fear.

♣ Ultimately there is no better index of one's spiritual state and condition than one's prayers.

♣ We need less travelling by jet planes from congress to congress ... but more kneeling and praying and pleading to God to have mercy upon us, more crying to God to arise and scatter his enemies and make himself known. Frank Laubach

♣ The trouble with nearly everybody who prays is that he says 'Amen' and runs away before God has a chance to reply. Listening to God is far more important than giving Him our ideas.

Robert Law

♣ Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man's will done in heaven, but for getting God's will done in earth.

♣ The marvellous and supernatural power of prayer consists not in bringing God's will down to us, but in lifting our will up to his. C. S. Lewis

♣ An ordinary simple Christian kneels down to say his prayers. But if

he is a Christian, he knows that what is prompting him to pray is also God: God, so to speak, inside him. But he also knows that all his real knowledge of God comes through Christ, the man who was God—that Christ is standing beside him, helping him to pray, praying for him. You see what is happening. God is the thing to which he is praying—the goal he is trying to reach. God is also the thing inside him which is pushing him on—the motive power. God is also the road or bridge along which he is being pushed to that goal. So that the whole threefold life of the three-personal Being is actually going on in that ordinary little bedroom where an ordinary man is saying his prayers.

♣ It is no use to ask God with factitious earnestness for A when our whole mind is in reality filled with the desire for B. We must lay before him what is in us, not what ought to be in us.

♣ That wisdom must sometimes refuse what ignorance may quite innocently ask seems to be self-evident.

♣ The most blessed result of prayer would be to rise thinking, But I never knew before. I never dreamed . . . I suppose it was at such a moment that Thomas Aquinas said of all his own theology, "It reminds me of straw."

♣ The prayer preceding all prayers is "May it be the real I who speaks."

♣ The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in.

♣ What seem our worst prayers may really be, in God's eyes, our best. Those, I mean, which are least supported by devotional feeling. For these may come from a deeper level than feeling. God sometimes seems to speak to us most intimately when he catches us, as it were, off our guard.

♣ A concentrated mind and a sitting body make for better prayer than a kneeling body and a mind half asleep.

♣ Prayer in the sense of petition, asking for things, is a small part of it; confession and penitence are its threshold, adoration its sanctuary, the presence and vision and enjoyment of God its bread and wine.

♣ I fancy we may sometimes be deterred from small prayers by a sense
of our own dignity rather than of God's.

♣ If God had granted all the silly prayers I've made in my life, where
would I be now?

♣ It is quite useless knocking at the door of heaven for earthly comfort;
it's not the sort of comfort they supply there.

♣ Prayer is request. The essence of request, as distinct from compulsion, is that it may or may not be granted. And if an infinitely wise Being listens to the requests of finite and foolish creatures, of course he will sometimes refuse them. Max Lucado

♣ The greater your cares, the more genuine your prayers

♣ Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.

♣ Don't quit. For if you do, you may miss the answer to your prayers.

♣ God's solution is a prayer away!

♣ What causes us to think of prayer as the last option rather than the first? I can think of two reasons: feelings of independence and feelings of insignificance.

♣ Prayer is the window that God has placed in the walls of our world. Leave it shut and the world is a cold, dark house. But throw back the curtains and see His light. Open the window and hear His voice. Open the window of prayer and invoke the presence of God in your world.

♣ Faithful servants have a way of knowing answered prayer when they see it, and a way of not giving up when they don't.

♣ I would love to have a more earnest prayer life! In my life, prayer is the single most difficult discipline. I love God and there's something in me that would rather do things for God than talk to God. I'm not by nature a mystical, devotional person. I like to do things. And so it's a challenge for me to have a faithful prayer life, but I know God loves me and He's not mad at me. He just wishes I would slow down and turn things over to Him. And that's what I think you achieve through prayer.

♣ Prayer pushes us through life's slumps, propels us over the humps and pulls us out of the dumps. Prayer is the oomph we need to get the answers we seek.

♣ About four days a week, I do pretty good at having a morning prayer time. But even at that, it's a rambling sort of thing. What I have learned to do better is to try to keep my mind turned toward God and ear inclined toward God throughout the day, and I think I'm doing better at that ,but I've got a long way to go.

♣ Prayer lets God do what he does best. Take a pebble & kill a Goliath. Take the common, make it spectacular! Pray & see what He can do.

♣ It seems to me that the prayers of the Bible can be distilled into one. The result is a simple, easy-to-remember, pocket-sized prayer: Father, you are good. I need help. They need help. Thank you. In Jesus' name, amen. Let this prayer punctuate your day.

♣ Waiting is a sustained effort to stay focused on God through prayer and belief. Martin Luther

♣ As it is the business of tailors to make clothes and of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.

♣ As is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to make shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.

♣ Pray hardest when it is hardest to pray. Prayer is a powerful thing, for God has bound and tied himself thereto.

♣ I am so busy now that if I did not spend two or three hours each day in prayer, I would not get through the day.

♣ When thou prayest, rather let thy heart be without words, than thy words without heart.

♣ Martin Luther said prayers should be “brief, frequent, and intense.”

♣ Pray, and let God worry.

♣ No one can believe how powerful prayer is and what it can effect, except those who have learned it by experience. Whenever I have prayed earnestly, I have been heard and have obtained more than I prayed for. God sometimes delays, but He always comes.

♣ In human affairs, we accomplish everything through prayer. What has been properly arranged, we keep in order, what has gone amiss we improve or change, what we cannot change and improve we bear, overcoming all trouble and sustaining all by prayer. Against such

forces there is no help but prayer.

♣ We cannot attain to the understanding of Scripture either by study or by the intellect. Your first duty is to begin by prayer. Entreat the Lord to grant you, of His great mercy, the true understanding of His Word. There is no other interpreter of the Word of God than the Author of this Word, as He Himself has said, "They shall be all taught of God" (John 6:45). Hope for nothing from your own labors, from your own understanding: trust solely in God, and in the influence of His Spirit. Believe this on the word of a man who has experience.

♣ God wants us to pray, and he wants to hear our prayers-not because we are worthy, but because he is merciful.

♣ What are the things we should pray for? First, our personal troubles...The greatest trouble we can ever know is thinking that we have no trouble for we can become hard-hearted and insensible to what is inside of us.

♣ It is a tremendously hard thing to pray aright, yea, it is verily the science of all sciences.

♣ Christians fight best on their knees. Whatever good may be done is done and brought about by prayer.

♣ God delights in our temptations and yet hates them. He delights in them when they drive us to prayer; he hates them when they drive us to despair.

♣ Look to it that you do not try to do all of it, do not try to do too much, lest your spirit grow weary. Besides, a good prayer mustn't be too long. Do not draw it out. Prayer ought to be frequent and fervent.

♣ None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience.

♣ Prayer is a very precious medicine, one that helps and never fails.

♣ Prayer, study, and suffering make a pastor.

♣ God is ready to give more quickly, and to give more than you ask; yea, he offers his treasures if we only take them. It is truly a great shame and a severe chastisement for us Christians that God should still upbraid us for our slothfulness in prayer, and that we fail to let such a rich and excellent promise incite us to pray.

♣ Prayer is a powerful thing; for God has bound and tied himself thereunto.

♣ Brief let me be. The fewer words the better prayer.

♣ Martin Luther prayed on the night preceding his appearance before the Diet of Worms: "Do Thou, my God, stand by me against all the world's wisdom and reason. Oh, do it! Thou must do it. Stand by me, Thou true, eternal God!"

♣ It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business of the morning and the last in the evening. Guard yourself against such false and deceitful thoughts that keep whispering: Wait a while. In an hour or so I will pray. I must first finish this or that. Thinking such thoughts we get away from prayer into other things that will hold us and involve us till the prayer of the day comes to naught.

♣ Prayer is the most important thing in my life. If I should neglect prayer for a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith.

♣ Grant that I may not pray alone with the mouth; help me that I may pray from the depths of my heart

♣ If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning, the devil gets the victory through the day. I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer.

♣ The less I pray, the harder it gets; the more I pray, the better it goes.

♣ To pray well is the better half of study.

♣ To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.

♣ When I cannot pray I always sing.

♣ The fewer the words, the better the prayer. To have prayed well is to have studied well.

♣ Prayer is that mightiest of all weapons that created natures can wield.

♣ As it is the business of tailors to make clothes and of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.

♣ I have to hurry all day to get time to pray.

♣ Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly Christian's weapon.

♣ To pray well is the better half of study.

♣ When Luther's puppy happened to be at the table, he looked for a morsel from his master, and watched with open mouth and motionless eyes; he (Martin Luther) said,

'Oh, if I could only pray the way this dog watches the meat! All his thoughts are concentrated on the piece of meat. Otherwise he has no thought, wish or hope. Erwin

W Lutzer

- ♣ The reason we must ask God for things he already intends to give us is that he wants to teach us dependence, especially our need for himself.

- ♣ Although posture is not important, I find that I am able to express my dependence better on my knees, a sign of our helplessness apart from the divine enablement.

- ♣ The activities we do for God are secondary. Above all else, God is looking for people who long for communication with him.

- ♣ Prayer, desperate prayer, seems so simple, but it's a step rarely taken

by those in family conflict. Thomas Lye

- ♣ I had rather stand against the cannons of the wicked than against the prayers of the righteous.

John MacArthur

- ♣ For the faithful, Spirit-filled Christian, every place becomes a place of prayer.

Daniel McCasland

- ♣ Prayer is a process of recognizing God's power and plan for our lives.

J C Macaulay

- ♣ It is good to pray for the repair of mistakes, but praying earlier would keep us from making so many. When puzzled, go to prayer and listen. George MacDonald

- ♣ Never wait for fitter time or place to talk to him. To wait till you go to church or to your room is to make him wait. He will listen as you walk.

- ♣ There are two doorkeepers to the house of prayer, and Sorrow is more on the alert to open than her grandson Joy.

- ♣ There is a communion with God that asks for nothing, yet asks for everything. . . . He who seeks the Father more

than anything he can give is likely to have what he asks, for he is not likely to ask amiss.

♣ Why pray, if God loves us and knows all we need before we pray? “What if he knows prayer to be the thing we need first and most? What if the main object in God’s idea of prayer be the supplying of our great, our endless need—the need of himself? What if the good of all our smaller and lower needs lies in this, that they help drive us to God? Communion with God is the one need of the soul beyond all other needs; prayer is the beginning of that communion.

♣ There is a vast difference between saying prayers and praying.

♣ What a fearful canopy the prayers that do not get beyond the atmosphere would make if they turned brown with age!

♣ Anything large enough for a wish to light upon is large enough to hang a prayer on.

♣ It is not good that a man should batter day and night at the gate of heaven. Sometimes he can do nothing else, and then nothing else is worth doing; but the very noise of the siege will sometimes drown the still small voice that calls from the open postern (back or side entrance).

♣ He may delay because it would not be safe to give us at once what we ask: we are not ready for it. To give ere we could truly receive, would be to destroy the very heart and hope of prayer, to cease to be our Father. The delay itself may work to bring us nearer to our help, to increase the desire, perfect the prayer, and ripen the receptive condition.

♣ My prayers, my God, flow from what I am not; I think thy answers make me what I am. William Macdonald

♣ God is not mocked. He does not answer prayers if he has already given us the answer and we are not willing to use it. Alexander Maclaren

♣ Is there any place in any of our rooms where there is a little bit of carpet worn white by our knees?

♣ The prayer that begins with trustfulness, and passes on into waiting, will always end in thankfulness, triumph, and praise.

♣ Did any of you, parents, ever hear your child wake from sleep with some panic fear and shriek the mother's name through the darkness? Was not that a more powerful appeal than all words? And, depend upon it, that the soul which cries aloud on God, "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," though it have "no language but a cry," will never call in vain.

♣ As we look upon that agony and those tearful prayers, let us not only look with thankfulness; but let that kneeling Saviour teach us that in prayer alone can we be forearmed against our lesser sorrows; that strength to bear flows into the heart that is opened in supplication; and that a sorrow which we are made able to endure is more truly conquered than a sorrow which we avoid

♣ Our work, abiding, shall bring to us the endless glory with which God at last overpays the toils, even as now He overanswers the poor prayers of His laboring servants.

♣ Turn your confidence and your fears alike into prayer. Catherine Marshall

♣ One can believe intellectually in the efficacy of prayer and never do any praying.

♣ The purpose of all prayer is to find God's will and to make that our prayer

♣ I believe the old cliché, 'God helps those who help themselves,' is not only misleading but often dead wrong. My most spectacular answers to prayers have come when I was so helpless, so out of control as to be able to do nothing at all for myself.

♣ Our prayers must not be efforts to bend God to our will but to yield ourselves to His. Peter Marshall

♣ If you have no prayer life yourself, it is rather a useless gesture to make your child say his prayers every night.

♣ When we are wrong, make us willing to change. And when we are right, make us easy to live with. Henry Martyn

♣ As he knelt on India's coral strands, "Here let me burn out for God. After all, whatever God may appoint, prayer is the great thing. Oh, that I might be a man of prayer! Mary Queen of Scotland

♣ I fear John Knox's prayers more than an army of ten thousand men. William T. McElroy

♣ Nothing can so quickly cancel the frictions of life as prayer. If you find yourself growing angry at someone, pray for him—anger cannot live in an atmosphere of prayer." J Vernon McGee

♣ If you lack wisdom in regard to a problem, you need to go to God in prayer.

♣ There are so many people who want to get together to have a great prayer meeting or other great gatherings. Friend, have you ever tried being alone? That is where God will meet with you. Take the Word of God and go off alone with Him. It will do you a lot of good. William McGill

♣ The value of persistent prayer is not that He will hear us ... but that we will finally hear Him. Henrietta Mears

♣ Let us pray Wesley's (John Wesley, 1703-1791, British, founder of the Methodists) prayer, "Lord, make me an extraordinary Christian."

♣ Prayer is a golden key that, kept bright by constant use, will unlock the treasures of earth and heaven. (1Jn 5:14, 15, James 5:13-16).

♣ Prayer is the surest secret of success in any married life.

♣ To hear God speak to your heart, to understand His Word, to evaluate circumstances and to make certain that these three are in agreement, prayer is essential. Pray

with the sincere desire that the Lord answer in accordance with His will. (1Jn 5:14,15)

♣ Paul lived to intercede for others (Phil. 1:3-4). So should every true Sunday School teacher, Christian friend, father, mother, brother or sister remember others in their prayers without ceasing. Have you a prayer list? Do you talk with the Lord about your friends?

♣ Prayer is the most important privilege of a Christian. (Ed: But remember that privilege always conveys responsibility which begs the question - "Are you faithfully fulfilling your responsibility so that one day you at the Bema Seat you will be rewarded for being a good steward of your high privilege?" - 2 Cor 5:10)

♣ It is through prayer that God wishes to have His will brought to pass.

♣ Prayer moves the hand that moves the world. A devoted woman moved a determined monarch. (Esther 4:14, 16)

♣ Luke speaks more of the prayers of our Lord than any other Gospel writer. Prayer is the expression of human dependence on God. Why is

there so much working and activity in the Church and yet so little result in positive conversions to God? Why so much running hither and thither and so few brought to Christ? The answer is simple: There is not enough private prayer. The cause of Christ does not need less working, but more praying.

♣ Remember there is always access to God through prayer in Christ. We may speak not just three times a day, but whenever the need arises. The Lord Jesus invites us to pray. (Read again John 14:13-15.)

♣ If the Son of God needed to pray before He undertook His work, how much more should we pray. Perhaps if we lack success in life, it is because we fail at

this point. We have not because we ask not (see James 4:2).

♣ Habakkuk, in all his difficulties, went to God in prayer and waited patiently for His answer (Habakkuk 2:1). He went onto the watchtower and listened to God. G. Campbell Morgan says that when Habakkuk looked at his circumstances he was perplexed (Habakkuk 1:3), but when he waited for God and listened to Him, he sang (Habakkuk 3:18- 19).

♣ As we approach God's Word, our prayer should be the words of Psalm 119:18: "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law." Remember, the reason for our study of the Bible is that we may become approved unto God (see 2 Tim. 2:15). There is little use to read and study the Bible if we do not obey its teachings. Do you want to be "approved unto God"? If so, you must study His Word.

♣ Do not be surprised to find hypocrites in every congregation of God's children. Satan comes to do mischief to saints. He distracts our attention. He sets us to criticizing. He sows dissension in the congregation. He excites the pride of preachers and singers, of givers and those who publicly pray. He chills our spirit and freezes our prayers.

♣ "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness" (Psalm 29:2). This is the key verse to the book of Psalms. The door into the temple of praise and prayer is open. Go in with the psalmist to rest and pray. It is a real privilege to go apart

during the rush of earthly things....The Psalms are for the closet of prayer.

♣ Pray for wisdom to behave wisely in time of trial. When you are wronged and insulted, ask God how you shall act. "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5). What a sad lack! What a

mess such a lack can lead us into. Does James say, "If you lack wisdom, sit down and think or study"? No, he says the wisdom we need is from above.

♣ James begins and ends with prayer (James 1:5-8; James 5:13-18). Prayer is one of the easiest subjects to talk upon, but one of the hardest to practice.

♣ Overindulgence in pleasure always affects the prayer life. We stagnate in our Christian life. (James 4:3) Phillip Melancton

♣ Trouble and perplexity drive us to prayer, and prayer driveth away trouble and perplexity. George Meredith

♣ Who rises from prayer a better man, his prayer is answered. John Mott

♣ The men that will change the colleges and seminaries here represented are the men that will spend the most time alone with God. It takes time for the fires to burn. It takes time for God to draw near and for us to know that He is there. It takes time to assimilate His truth. You ask me, How much time? I do not know. I know it means time enough to forget time.

♣ The missionary church is a praying church. The history of missions is a history of prayer. Everything vital to the success of the world's evangelization hinges on prayer. Are thousands of missionaries and tens of thousands of native workers needed? Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He send forth laborers into His harvest.

♣ The Church has not yet touched the fringe of the possibilities of intercessory prayer. Her largest victories will be witnessed when individual Christians everywhere come to recognize their priesthood

unto God and day by day give themselves unto prayer. Robert Murray

M'Cheyne

♣ God will either give you what you ask, or something far better.

♣ What a man is on his knees before God, that he is, and nothing more.

♣ Learn that urgency in prayer does not so much consist in vehement pleading, as in vehement believing. He that believes most the love and power of Jesus will obtain the most in prayer.

♣ Give yourselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word. If you do not pray, God will probably lay you aside from your ministry, as He did me, to teach you to pray.

♣ Study your prayers, a great part of my time is spent getting in tune for prayer.

♣ I ought to pray before seeing any one...Christ arose before day and went into a solitary place. David says: 'Early will I seek thee'...I feel it is far better to begin with God-to see His face first, to get my soul near Him before it is near another.

♣ If the veil of the world's machinery were lifted off, how much we could find is done in answer to the prayers of God's children.

♣ O believing brethren! What an instrument is this which God hath put into your hands! Prayer moves Him that moves the universe

♣ If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me. (cf Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34)

♣ Study universal holiness of life. Your whole usefulness depends on this, for your sermons last but an hour or two, your life preaches all the week. If Satan can only make a covetous minister a lover of praise, of pleasure, of good eating, he has ruined your ministry. Give yourselves to prayer, and get your texts, your thoughts, your words from God. Martin Luther spent his best three hours in prayer.

♣ What a man is on his knees before God, that he is—and nothing more.

♣ Let us see God before man every day.

♣ The worth of a prayer is not gauged by its dimensions.

♣ There is nothing a natural man hates more than prayer.

♣ Turn the Bible into prayer. Thus, if you were reading the First Psalm, spread the Bible on the chair before you, and kneel, and pray, 'O Lord, give me the blessedness of the man'; 'let me not stand in the counsel of the ungodly.' This is the best way of knowing the meaning of the Bible, and of learning to pray."F B Meyer

♣ Our God does not always answer our prayers as we request. But he does for us, as for our Lord in the Garden; he strengthens us.

♣ There is no burden of the spirit but is lighter by kneeling under it.

♣ The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer but unoffered prayer.

♣ Fall on your knees and grow there. There is no burden of the spirit but is lighter by kneeling under it. Prayer means not always talking to Him, but waiting before Him till the dust settles and the stream runs clear.

♣ As we pour out our bitterness, God pours in his peace.

♣ The man who prays grows, and the muscles of the soul swell from this whipcord to iron bands.

♣ Habits of prayer need careful cultivation.

♣ Prayer is an exchange. We leave our burdens, worries and sin in the hands of God. We come away with oil of joy and the garment of praise.D L Moody (full biography)

♣ Next to the wonder of seeing my Savior will be, I think, the wonder that I made so little use of the power of

prayer.

- ♣ Some people's prayers need to be cut off at both ends and set on fire in the middle.

- ♣ Unless the Spirit of God is with us, we cannot expect that our prayers will be answered.

- ♣ We have a great many prayer-meetings, but there is something just as important as prayer, and that is that we read our Bibles, that we have Bible study and Bible lectures and Bible classes, so that we may get hold of the Word of God. When I pray, I talk to God, but when I read the Bible, God is talking to me; and it is really more important that God should speak to me than that I should speak to Him. I believe we should know better how to pray if we knew our Bibles better.

- ♣ Use me, then, my Saviour, for whatever purpose and in whatever way Thou mayest require. Here is my poor heart, an empty vessel; fill it with Thy Grace.

- ♣ Behind every work of God you will always find some kneeling form.

- ♣ He who kneels the most, stands the best.

- ♣ Sometimes when your child talks, your friends cannot understand what he says; but the mother understands very well. So if our prayer comes from the heart, God understands our language.

- ♣ If we do not love one another, we certainly shall not have much power with God in prayer.

- ♣ The world knows little of the works wrought by prayer.

- ♣ In our prayers, we talk to God, in our Bible study, God talks to us, and we had better let God do most of the talking.

♣ Spread out your petition before God, and then say, "Thy will, not mine, be done." The sweetest lesson I have learned in God's school is to let the Lord choose for me.

♣ Every one of our children will be brought into the ark, if we pray and work earnestly for them.

♣ D. L. Moody says of Philippians 4:6: "Be careful for nothing; Be prayerful for everything; Be thankful for anything!"

♣ D L Moody had a practical mind that never let a meeting get out of hand. Long public prayers particularly irritated him. Once he told his song leader, Sankey, "Lead us in a hymn while our brother is finishing his prayer."

♣ Moody's bedtime prayer as he rolled his great bulk into bed on one occasion was, "Lord, I am tired. Amen."

♣ If you pray for bread and bring no basket to carry it, you prove the doubting spirit which may be the only hindrance to the gift you ask.

♣ We are not told that Jesus ever taught His disciples how to preach, but He taught them how to pray. He wanted them to have power with God; then He knew they would have power with man.

♣ A rule I have had for years is: to treat the Lord Jesus Christ as a personal friend. His is not a creed, a mere doctrine, but it is He Himself we have.

♣ Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The only way to trouble God is not to come at all. (Luke 11:9)

♣ Prayer does not mean that I am to bring God down to my thoughts and my purposes, and bend his government according to my foolish, silly, and sometimes sinful notions. Prayer means that I am to be raised up into feeling, into union and design with him; that I am to enter into his counsel and carry out his purpose fully.

♣ Our Master's prayers were short when offered in public; when He was alone with God, He could spend the whole night in communion with His Father. My experience is that those who pray most in their closets generally make

short prayers in public. Long prayers are too often not prayers at all, and they weary the people.

♣ I'd rather be able to pray than be a great preacher; Jesus Christ never taught his disciples how to preach, but only how to pray.

♣ We ought to see the face of God every morning before we see the face of man.

♣ Before we pray that God would fill us, I believe we ought to pray that He would empty us.

♣ Lord, save the elect, and then elect some more!

♣ Christ never preached any funeral sermons.

♣ Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure.

♣ Fervency in prayer by the power of the Holy Spirit is a good preservative against thoughts rushing in. Flies never settle on the boiling pot.

♣ How far away is Heaven? It is not so far as some imagine. It wasn't very far from Daniel. It was not so far off that Elijah's prayer and those of others could not be heard there. Men full of the Spirit can look right into heaven.

♣ My friends, if we are going to do a great work for God, we must spend much time in prayer; we have got to be closeted with God.

♣ There is no true prayer without confession. As long as we have unconfessed sin in our soul, we are not going to have power with God in prayer. He says if we regard iniquity in our hearts, He will not hear us, much less answer. As long as we are living in any known sin, we have no power in prayer. God is not going to hear it.

♣ The impression that a praying mother leaves upon her children is life- long. Perhaps when you are dead and gone your prayer will be answered.

♣ I firmly believe a great many prayers are not answered because we are not willing to forgive someone.

♣ Be careful for nothing, prayerful for everything, thankful for anything. (Php 4:6,7)

♣ Some men's prayers need to be cut short at both ends and set on fire in the middle.

♣ It is said that on one occasion when Caesar gave a very valuable present, the receiver replied that it was too costly a gift. The Emperor answered that it was not too great for Caesar to give. Our God is a great King, and He delights to give gifts to us: so let us delight to ask Him for great things.

♣ Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The way to trouble God is not to come at all.

♣ Grace isn't a little prayer you chant before receiving a meal. It's a way to live. The law tells me how crooked I am. Grace comes along and straightens me out.

♣ Some people's prayers need to be cut off at both ends and set on fire in the middle.

♣ The Christian on his knees sees more than the philosopher on tiptoe.

Thomas Moore

♣ Deep in my soul the still prayer of devotion unheard by the world, rises silent to thee. G Campbell Morgan

♣ The prayer life does not consist of perpetual repetition of petitions. The prayer life consists of life that is always upward and onward and Godward

♣ Prayer is life passionately wanting, wishing, desiring God's triumph. Prayer is life striving and toiling everywhere and always for that ultimate victory.

♣ Prayer is life passionately wanting, wishing, desiring God's triumph.

♣ Oh, how strenuous is life! I know a little of it. Men "ought always to pray, and not to faint." How fierce the battle! I know something of the conflict, but I ought not to faint, because I can pray.

Rob Morgan

♣ When we feel desperate in prayer, we remember Him in Gethsemane. (Luke 22:44)

♣ There is an indisputable, invisible correlation between the purity of your life and the power and effectiveness of your prayers.

♣ Sometime ago I discovered that if you want to pray effectively for someone else--for a child or a spouse or a friend--the most powerful prayers are the ones found in the Bible itself. There's great power in praying the very words of Scripture. And I believe that's one of the reasons why so many of the prayers of Paul the Apostle are recorded. He knew just what to pray.

♣ God's delays are not denials. The Lord never forgets our earnest prayers, and many times there is but a waiting for the right time to come for their answers to be given. (Psalm 27:14, 37:7, 9, 34, 69:6, 130:5, 147:11, Pr 20:22, Isaiah 40:31)Handley C. G. Moule

♣ Intercessory Prayer is a powerful means of grace to the praying man. Martyn observes that at times of inward dryness and depression, he had often found a delightful revival in the act of praying for others for their conversion, or sanctification, or prosperity in the work of the Lord. His dealings with God for them about these gifts and blessings were for himself the divinely natural channel of a renewed insight into his own part and lot in Christ, into Christ as his own rest and power, into the "perfect freedom" of an entire yielding of himself to his Master for His work

♣ The decisive preparation for prayer lies not in the prayer itself, but in the life prior to the prayer.George Mueller

♣ It is not enough for the believer to begin to pray, nor to pray correctly; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray. We must patiently, believingly continue in prayer until we obtain an answer. Further, we have not only to continue in prayer until the end, but we have also to

believe that God does hear us and will answer our prayers. Most frequently we fail in not continuing in prayer until the blessing is obtained, and in not expecting the blessing. Those who are disciples of the Lord Jesus should labor with all their might in the work of God as if everything depended upon their own endeavors. Yet, having done so, they should not in the least trust in their labor and efforts, nor in the means that they use for the spread of the truth, but in God alone; and they should with all earnestness seek the blessing of God in persevering, patient, and believing prayer. Here is the great secret of success, my Christian reader. Work with all your might, but never trust in your work. Pray with all your might for the blessing in God, but work at the same time with all diligence, with all patience, with all perseverance. Pray, then, and work. Work and pray. And still again pray, and then work. And so on, all the days of your life. The result will surely be abundant blessing. Whether you see much fruit or little fruit, such kind of service will be blessed.

♣ On the ground of our own goodness we cannot expect to have our prayers answered. But Jesus is worthy, and for His sake we may have our prayers answered. There is nothing too choice, too costly, or too great for God to give Him. He is worthy. He is the spotless, holy Child, who under all circumstances acted according to the mind of God. And if we trust in Him, if we hide in Him, if we put Him forward and ourselves in the background, depend on Him and plead His name, we may expect to have our prayers answered.

♣ It often astonishes me that I did not see the importance of meditation upon Scripture earlier in my Christian life. As the outward man is not fit for work for any length of time unless he eats, so it is with the inner man. What is the food for the inner man? Not prayer, but the Word of God -not the simple reading of the Word of

God, so that it only passes through our minds, just as water runs through a pipe. No, we must consider what we read, ponder over it, and apply it to our hearts.

♣ The joy which answers to prayer give, cannot be described; and the impetus which they afford to the spiritual life is exceedingly great.

♣ It is a common temptation of Satan to make us give up the reading of the Word and prayer when our enjoyment is gone; as if it were of no use to read the Scriptures when we do not enjoy them, and as if it were

no use to pray when we have no spirit of prayer.

♣ I believe God has heard my prayers. He will make it manifest in His own good time that He has heard me. I have recorded my petitions that when God has answered them, His name will be glorified.

♣ It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must patiently, believingly, continue in prayer until we obtain an answer.

♣ Here is the great secret of success. Work with all your might; but trust not in the least in your work. Pray with all your might for the blessing of God; but work, at the same time, with all diligence, with all patience, with all perseverance. Pray then, and work. Work and pray. And still again pray, and then work. And so on all the days of your life. The result will surely be, abundant blessing. Whether you see much fruit or little fruit, such kind of service will be blessed...

♣ In order to enjoy the Word, we ought to continue to read it, and the way to obtain a spirit of prayer, is, to continue praying; for the less we read the Word of God, the less we desire to read it, and the less we pray, the less we desire to pray.

♣ The greater the difficulty to be overcome, the more will it be seen to the glory of God how much can be done

by prayer and faith.

♣ Only a life of prayer and meditation will render a vessel ready for the Master's use.

♣ I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk about, when I lie down and when I rise up. And the answers are always coming.

♣ I hope in God, I pray on, and look yet for the answer. They are not converted yet, but they will be.

♣ For more than half a century, I have never known one day when I had not more business than I could get through. For 40 years, I have had annually about 30,000 letters, and most of these have passed through my own hands. I have nine assistants always at work corresponding in German, French, English, Danish, Italian, Russian, and other

languages. Then, as pastor of a church with 1200 believers, great has been my care. I have had charge of five orphanages; also at my publishing depot, the printing and circulation of millions of tracts, books, and Bibles. But I have always made it a rule never to begin work till I have had a good season with God.

♣ The point is this: I saw more clearly than ever, that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord. The first thing to be concerned about was not, how much I might serve the Lord, how I might glorify the Lord; but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man might be nourished. For I might seek to set the truth before the unconverted, I might seek to benefit believers, I might seek to relieve the distressed, I might in other ways seek to behave myself as it becomes a child of God in this world; and yet, not being happy in the Lord, and not being nourished and strengthened in my inner man day by day, all this might not be attended to in a right spirit.

Walter A Mueller

♣ Prayer is not merely an occasional impulse to which we respond when we are in trouble: prayer is a life attitude. Malcolm Muggeridge

♣ I have always found praying, in any definite sense, very difficult. Somehow the notion of putting specific requests to God strikes me as unseemly, if not absurd (Ed: I strongly disagree!). I can never find

anything to say to God except: Thy will be done. If it is true, as St. Paul

tells us—and it surely is—that all things work together for good to them that love God, then all that is required of us is that we should love God, and, in loving him, fall in with his purposes.

♣ I wake up in the morning, and I like to begin the day by thinking what life is about, rather than plunging into the sort of things one is going to have to do. So I like to read the Gospels, the Epistles, Augustine, the metaphysical poets like George Herbert, whom I consider to be the most exquisite religious poet in the English language. I read a bit, and then my mind dwells on what I've read, and this I consider to be prayer. (Comment: Interesting thought - pondering the readings of Augustine and Herbert as prayer. At best this sounds more like the discipline of meditation.) Andrew Murray

♣ Time spent in prayer will yield more than that given to work. Prayer alone gives work its worth and its success. Prayer opens the way for God Himself to do His work in us and through us. Let our chief work as God's messengers be intercession; in it we secure the presence and power of God to go with us.

♣ If we do not learn how to pray when we are younger, we will stumble at it all of our lives.

♣ It is to prayer that God has given the right to take hold of Him and His strength. It is on prayer that the promises wait for their fulfillment, the kingdom for its coming, the glory of God for its full revelation. (With Christ in the School of Prayer)

♣ As long as we look on prayer chiefly as the means of maintaining our own Christian life, we shall not know fully

what it is meant to be. But when we learn to regard it as the highest part of the work entrusted to us, the root and strength of all other work, we shall see that there is nothing that we so need to study and practice as the art of praying aright.....There are two kinds of prayer: personal and intercessory.... Christ has opened the school of prayer specially to train intercessors for the great work of bringing down, by their faith, and prayer, the blessings of His work and love on the world around. (With Christ in the School of Prayer)

♣ Ask and you shall receive; everyone that asks, receives. This is the fixed eternal law of the kingdom: if you ask and receive not, it must be because there is something amiss or wanting in the prayer. Hold on; let the Word and Spirit teach you to pray aright, but do not let go the confidence He seeks to waken: Everyone who asks receives.... Let every learner in the school of Christ therefore take the Master's word in all simplicity.... Let us beware of weakening the Word with our human wisdom. (With Christ in the School of Prayer)

♣ "If there is one thing I think the Church needs to learn, it is that God means prayer to have an answer, and that it hath not entered into the heart of man to conceive what God will do for His child who gives himself to believe that his prayer will be heard. (With Christ in the School of Prayer)

♣ O do what Jesus says: Just shut the door, and pray to thy Father which is in secret. Is it not wonderful? To be able to go alone with God, the infinite God. And then to look up and say: My Father! (With Christ in the School of Prayer)

♣ Some people pray just to pray and some people pray to know God.

♣ Moses gave neither command nor regulation with regard to prayer: even the prophets say little directly of the duty of prayer. It is Christ who teaches to pray.

♣ We must begin to believe that God, in the mystery of prayer, has entrusted us with a force that can move the Heavenly world, and can bring its power down to earth.

♣ Reading a book about prayer, listening to lectures and talking about it is very good, but it won't teach you to pray. You get nothing without exercise, without practice. I might listen for a year to a professor of music playing the most beautiful music, but that won't teach me to play an instrument.

♣ Shut the world out, withdraw from all worldly thoughts and occupations, and shut yourself in alone with God, to pray to Him in secret. Let this be your chief object in prayer, to realize the presence of your heavenly Father.

♣ Each time, before you intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things!

♣ God cannot hear the prayers on our lips often because the desires of our heart after the world cry out to Him much more strongly and loudly than the our desires for Him.

♣ Answered prayer is the interchange of love between the Father and His child.

♣ The only humility that is really ours is not that which we try to show before God in prayer, but that which we carry with us, and carry out,

in our ordinary conduct; the insignificances of daily life are the importances and the tests of eternity, because they prove what really is the spirit that possesses us.

♣ The sooner I learn to forget myself in the desire that He may be glorified, the richer will be the blessing that prayer will bring to myself. No one ever loses by what he sacrifices to the Father.

♣ Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.

♣ Beware in your prayer, above everything, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what he can do.

♣ The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history.

♣ When we pray for the Spirit's help ... we will simply fall down at the Lord's feet in our weakness. There we will find the victory and power that comes from His love."

♣ The effective prayer of faith comes from a life given up to the will and the love of God. Not as a result of what I try to be when praying, but because of what I am when I'm not praying, is my prayer answered by God.

♣ May not a single moment of my life be spent outside the light, love, and joy of God's presence and not a moment without the entire surrender of my self as a vessel for Him to fill full of His Spirit and His love.

♣ If the spiritual life be healthy, under the full power of the Holy Spirit, praying without ceasing will be natural.

♣ Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things, above all that we ask or think (Eph 3:20).

♣ Each time, before you Intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things!

♣ Faith in a prayer-hearing God will make a prayer-loving Christian.

♣ Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue. God's voice in response to mine is its most essential part.

♣ God's child can conquer anything by prayer. Is it any wonder that Satan does his utmost to snatch that weapon from the Christian or to hinder him in the use of it?

♣ Prayer is one hand with which we grasp the invisible; fasting the other, with which we let loose and cast away the visible.

♣ As long as we just pour out our hearts in a multitude of petitions without taking time to see whether every petition is sent with the purpose and expectation of getting an answer, not many will reach the mark.

♣ Beware in your prayer above everything of limiting God, not only by unbelief but by fancying that you know what he can do.

♣ How our prayer avails depends upon what we are and what our life is.

♣ Our lives must be as holy as our prayers.

♣ Prayer is the pulse of life.

♣ To know how to speak to God is more important than knowing how to speak to men.

♣ Most churches don't know that God rules the world by the prayers of his saints.

♣ When the Lord is to lead a soul to great faith he leaves its prayers unheard.

♣ Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue; God's voice in response to mine is its most essential part. Listening to

God's voice is the secret of the assurance that he will listen to mine.

♣ Prayer is the pulse of life.

♣ The great thing in prayer is to feel that we are putting our supplications into the bosom of omnipotent love.

♣ Many Christians backslide...They are unable to stand against the temptations of the world, or of their old nature. They strive to do their best to fight against sin, and to serve God, but they have no strength. They have never really grasped the secret: The Lord Jesus will every day from heaven continue His work in me. But on one condition—the soul must give Him time each day to impart His love and his grace. Time alone with the Lord Jesus each day is the indispensable condition of growth and power.

♣ So much of our prayer is vague and pointless. Some cry for mercy, but do not take the trouble to know exactly why they want it. Others ask to be delivered from sin, but do not name any sin from which a deliverance can be claimed. Still others pray for God's blessing...on their land or on the world, and yet have no special field where they can wait and expect to see the answer. To everyone the Lord says, 'What do you really want, and what do you expect Me to do?'

Moody's Today in the Word comments on Andrew Murray's quote

- Vagueness in prayer happens when we fail to put real effort and thought into our prayers. Here's an interesting way to find out if your prayers are too vague. Jot down three or four people or situations you're praying for, then describe exactly what you want God to do in each case. See if you can do it without using the word bless at all!
John

Newton

♣ The brilliant scientist Sir Isaac Newton said that he could take his telescope and look millions of miles into space. Then he added, "But when I lay it aside, go into my room, shut the door, and get down on my knees in earnest

prayer, I see more of Heaven and feel closer to the Lord than if I were assisted by all the telescopes on earth.”

♣ The spirit of prayer is the fruit and token of the Spirit of adoption.

♣ "What Thou wilt, when Thou wilt, how Thou wilt." I had rather speak these three sentences from my heart in my mother tongue than be master of all the languages in Europe.

♣ By affliction prayer is quickened, for our prayers are very apt to grow languid and formal in a time of ease.

♣ I look upon prayer-meetings as the most profitable exercises (excepting the public preaching) in which Christians can engage. They have a direct tendency to kill a worldly, trifling spirit, and to draw down a Divine blessing upon all our concerns, compose differences, and enkindle (at least maintain) the flames of Divine love amongst brethren.

♣ If the Lord be with us, we have no cause of fear. His eye is upon us, His arm over us, His ear open to our prayer - His grace sufficient, His promise unchangeable.

♣ It is better ... that the hearers should wish the prayer had been longer, than spend half or a considerable part of the time in wishing it was over.

♣ Prayer is the great engine to overthrow and rout my spiritual enemies, the great means to procure the graces of which I stand in hourly need.

♣ Thou art coming to a King; Large petitions with thee bring;
For his grace and power are such, None can ever ask too much.

♣ By one hour's intimate access to the throne of grace, where the Lord causes His glory to pass before the soul that seeks Him you may acquire more true spiritual knowledge and comfort than by a day's or a week's

converse with the best of men, or the most studious perusal of many folios. Harold J. Ockenga

♣ It is true. that only those who are thankful for spiritual achievements

of believers can truly intercede for them. Note your own prayers,

whether you thank God for His grace in others and intercede for them that they may know greater blessing, or whether your prayers are entirely confined to yourself. Then you will know something of your spiritual achievement in prayer. Lloyd John Ogilvie

All prayers are answered. We need to distinguish between a prayer unanswered, and one not answered how or when we would like it to be. Stephen Olford

♣ I am only as tall as I am on my knees.

♣ The only prayer a repentant soul can offer is: Nothing in my hands I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling. (Augustus M. Toplady)

♣ Prayer is a sheer necessity to save us from fainting in our spiritual walk. (Luke 18:1)

♣ Praise is both the reality and activity of a life in tune with God The

true test of a thankful heart is a praising life. Only as God's people praise the Lord will revival start and the forces of darkness be defeated....Praise transforms duty into delight. Praise turns service into song God teach us more of such praiseful praying until our very lives are a paean of praise.

♣ A survey indicates that the average layman spends four minutes a day in prayer; the average pastor seven minutes, and only one percent of husbands and wives have any meaningful prayer together" (The Church Around the World, Tyndale House Publishers, Feb. 1981)

♣ Yes, there is only one thing that will save us in this hour of desperation, and that is prayer.

♣ Definitions of prayer are like definitions of a sunset; they don't capture the reality, dynamic, and beauty of the

subject itself. We know also that there are many different aspects and types of prayer, as the Psalms and other biblical examples reveal. So we would be merely scratching the surface to try to present the various dimensions of prayer.

♣ True prayer is indeed relational, being based on the covenant relationship that we have with our Heavenly Father, through His Son,

by the Holy Spirit.

♣ If only we believed that God omnipotent reigneth, and that He causes wars to cease in response to the prevailing prayers of His people, we would see the same miracles happen in our day that were witnessed by Moses and the children of Israel.

♣ Whatever way you slice it, there is a mystery to prayer that is simply beyond us—divine intercession does not replace our own prayer life.

We are told to pray. We must pray. We know that prayer changes us. It is part of our cooperation with the work of God in our lives. At the same time, the witness of Scripture declares that our personal prayer is a vital part of how God works in our world. To ask, "What would be accomplished without prayer?" is parallel to asking, "What would be accomplished without God?" since God uses His prescribed means to bring about His purposes. The Scriptures testify to specific things happening in relation to prayer. Prayer is not just a religious exercise for practical deists who really don't need God or recognize His active involvement in the daily affairs of this world. If we would be biblical leaders, we must believe that the personal activity of prayer actually does make a difference. This is one of the primary reasons we must pray.

♣ On the practical level, we learn to pray as we are alone with God and as we pray with others who know how to pray. We learn more about prayer as we read the scriptural truths concerning prayer and put them into

practice. We learn how to pray as we allow others who know God to share with us their experience in prayer.

- ♣ Prayer admits and voices dependence upon the only One who is the ultimate source of help and strength.

- ♣ A ministry without prayer is futile. A soul-winning ministry without prayer is fruitless. Only victorious prayer will overcome temptation, seduction, the allurements of the world, and one's own inertia.

- ♣ There is never a moment in our lives when we are not in urgent danger. The devil is ever ready to attack when we stop praying. Without prayer we are utterly defenseless. "Put on the whole armor

of God.... Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,

and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Eph. 6:11, 18). Oh, that God would write on our hearts those two little words constancy and urgency in prayer!

- ♣ Prayer opens heaven to us. Prayer brings us into the dimension of reality, as against the artificiality of the world outside. Prayer gives us a sense of "at-homeness," for remember, we are first of all citizens of heaven (see Phil. 3:20-21). Prayer revitalizes us with the atmosphere of God's presence. If we want to know what God is like let us spend

more time in prayer. It is in prayer and in the light of His Word that God unveils Himself to those who take time to be holy.

- ♣ God always answers prayer. Sometimes the answer may be "No, My child"; on other occasions the answer may be "Yes, My child." Not infrequently the answer may be "Wait, My child." But whether it is "No," "Yes," or "Wait," it is an answer; there is no such thing as a denied answer.

- ♣ When Jesus said "... men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1), He was speaking of the sheer necessity of prayer, the serious activity of prayer, and the

simple reality of prayer. There is nothing more important in all the world than to "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). William Orr

♣ No great spiritual awakening has begun anywhere in the world apart from united prayer. John Owen

♣ He who prays as he ought will endeavor to live as he prays.

♣ If we do not abide in prayer, we will abide in temptation. Let this be one aspect of our daily intercession: "God, preserve my soul, and keep my heart and all its ways so that I will not be entangled." When this is true in our lives, a passing temptation will not overcome us. We will remain free while others lie in bondage.

♣ A minister may fill his pews, his communion roll, the mouths of the public, but what that minister is on his knees in secret before God Almighty, that he is and no more.

♣ If we would talk less and pray more about them, things would be better than they are in the world: at least, we should be better enabled to bear them.

♣ He who prays as he ought will endeavor to live as he prays.

♣ We ought as much to pray for a blessing upon our daily rod as upon our daily bread.

♣ If we do not abide in prayer, we will abide in temptation. Let this be one aspect of our daily intercession: "God, preserve my soul, and keep my heart and all its ways so that I will not be entangled." When this is true in our lives, a passing temptation will not overcome us. We will remain free while others lie in bondage.

♣ Our great Pattern hath showed us what our deportment ought to be in all suggestions and temptations. When the devil showed Him "all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them," to tempt Him withal, He did not stand and look upon them, viewing their glory, and pondering their empire.... but instantly, without stay, He

cries, "Get thee hence, Satan." Meet thy temptation in its entrance with thoughts of faith concerning Christ on the cross; this will make it sink before thee. Entertain no parley, no dispute with it, if thou wouldst not enter into it. J I Packer

♣ Men who know their God are before anything else men who pray.

♣ The efficacy of prayer depends on uprightness of life and motive, wholehearted and sustained earnestness in the person praying, and how far it conforms to God's revealed purposes and ways.

♣ If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.

♣ We must learn to measure ourselves, not by our knowledge about God, not by our gifts and responsibilities in the church, but by how we pray and what goes on in our hearts. Many of us, I suspect, have no

idea how impoverished we are at this level. Let us ask the Lord to show us.

♣ How can we turn our knowledge about God into knowledge of God? The rule for doing this is simple but demanding. It is that we turn each Truth that we learn about God into matter for meditation before God, leading to prayer and praise to God.

♣ Jesus' pattern prayer, which is both crutch, road, and walking lesson for the spiritually lame like ourselves, tells us to start with God: for God matters infinitely more than we do.

♣ I must ask the Lord to direct the Holy Spirit within me to drain the life out of sin and in prayer.

♣ The more you praise, the more vigor you will have for prayer; and the more you pray, the more matter you will have for praise.

♣ God answers the prayer we ought to have made rather than the prayer we did make.

♣ Underlying the preaching of the Puritans are three basic axioms: 1. The unique place of preaching is to convert, feed and sustain, 2. The life of the preacher must radiate the reality of what he preaches, 3. Prayer and solid Bible study are basic to effective preaching.

♣ Men who know their God are before anything else men who pray, and the first point where their zeal and energy for God's glory come to expression is in their prayers. If there is little energy for such prayer, and little consequent practice of it, this is a sure sign that as yet we scarcely know our God. Joseph Parker

♣ You can tell whether a man has been keeping up his life of prayer. His witness is in his face. There is an invisible sculptor that chisels the face into the upper attitude of the soul.

♣ Prayers are battles!

St. Patrick (see how God used prayer and Patrick to transform a nation).

♣ Below are words of an ancient prayer by the famous British missionary to Ireland:

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me; Christ to comfort and restore me; Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me,

Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. Edward Payson

♣ Prayer is the first thing, the second thing, the third thing necessary to a minister. Pray, then, my dear brother; pray, pray, pray. Austin Phelps

♣ The Scriptures make prayer a reality and not a reverie.

♣ We are never more like Christ than in prayers of intercession.

♣ An intrepid faith in prayer will always give it unction.

♣ Are you living for the things you are praying for?

♣ Good prayers never come weeping home. I am sure I shall receive either what I ask or what I should ask.

♣ Prayer is the preface to the book of Christian living; the text of the new life sermon; the girding on of the armor for battle; the pilgrim's preparation for his journey. It must be supplemented by action or it amounts to nothing. A.T. Pierson

♣ There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.

♣ The Word of God represents all the possibilities of God as at the disposal of true prayer.

♣ To go as I am led, to go when I am led, to go where I am led... it is that which has been for twenty years the one prayer of my life

♣ Closet communion needs time for the revelation of God's presence. It is vain to say, 'I have too much work to do to find time.' You must find time or forfeit blessing. God knows how to save for you the time you sacredly keep for communion with Him.

♣ Every step in the progress of missions is directly traceable to prayer. It has been the preparation for every new triumph and the secret for all success.

♣ The peace of God is that eternal calm which lies too deep in the praying, trusting soul to be reached by any external disturbances.

♣ A marble cutter, with chisel and hammer, was changing a stone into a statue. A preacher looking on said: "I wish I could deal such changing blows on stony hearts."

The workman answered: "Maybe you could, if you worked like me, upon your knees. A W Pink

- ♣ Prayer is not so much an act as it is an attitude - an attitude of dependency, dependency upon God.

- ♣ Prayer is not appointed for the furnishing of God with the knowledge of what we need, but it is designed as a confession to Him of our sense of the need. In this, as in everything, God's thoughts are not as ours. God requires that His gifts should be sought for. He designs to be honoured by our asking, just as He is to be thanked by us after He has bestowed His blessing.

- ♣ Most Christians expect little from God, ask little, and therefore receive little, and are content with little.

- ♣ The measure of our love for others can largely be determined by the frequency and earnestness of our prayers for them.

- ♣ Real prayer is communion with God, so that there will be common thoughts between His mind and ours. What is needed is for Him to fill our hearts with His thoughts, and then His desires will become our desires flowing back to Him.

- ♣ In praying for His enemies not only did Christ set before us a perfect example of how we should treat those who wrong us and hate us, but

He also taught us never to regard any as beyond the reach of prayer.

- ♣ To ask in the name of Christ is ... to set aside our own will and bow to the perfect will of God.

- ♣ It's true that (many) are praying for a worldwide revival. But it would be more timely, and more scriptural, for prayer to be made to the Lord of the harvest, that He would raise up and thrust forth laborers who would fearlessly and faithfully preach those truths which are calculated to bring about a revival.

♣ The prevailing idea seems to be, that I come to God and ask Him for something that I want, and that I expect Him to give me that which I have asked. But this is a most dishonouring and degrading conception. The popular belief reduces God to a servant, our servant: doing our bidding, performing our pleasure, granting our desires. No, prayer is a coming to God, telling Him my need, committing my way unto the Lord, and leaving Him to deal with it as seemeth Him best. John Piper

♣ What is the food for the inner man: not prayer, but the Word of God. (Ed: But "food" energizes prayer.)....George Mueller adds "Now what is the food for the inner man: not prayer, but the Word of God: and here again not the simple reading of the Word of God, so that it only passes through our minds, just as water runs through a pipe, but considering what we read, pondering over it, and applying it to our hearts...."

♣ One of the great uses of Twitter and Facebook will be to prove at the Last Day that prayerlessness was not from lack of time.

♣ It is not surprising that prayer malfunctions when we try to make it a domestic intercom to call upstairs for more comforts in the den.

♣ Life is war. That's not all it is. But it is always that. Our weakness in prayer is owing largely to our neglect of this truth. Prayer is primarily a wartime walkie-talkie for the mission of the church as it advances against the powers of darkness and unbelief.

♣ God has given us prayer as a wartime walkie-talkie so that we can call headquarters for everything we need as the kingdom of Christ advances in the world. Prayer gives us the significance of front-line forces, and gives God the glory of a limitless Provider. The one who gives the power gets the glory. Thus prayer safeguards the supremacy of God in missions while linking us with endless grace for every need.

♣ Could it be that many of our problems with prayer and much of our weakness in prayer come from the fact that we are not all on active duty, and yet we still try to use the transmitter? We have taken a wartime walkie-talkie and tried to turn it into a civilian intercom to call the servants for another cushion in the den.”

♣ The key to praying with power is to become the kind of persons who do not use God for our ends but are utterly devoted to being used for His ends.

♣ We ought not speak too long about God with our minds before we turn and speak to God from our heart. We must stir a lot of prayer into the stew of our theology.

♣ Without extended, concentrated prayer, the ministry of the Word withers. And when the ministry of the Word declines, faith (Rom. 10:17; Gal. 3:2, 5) and holiness (John 17:17) decline. Activity may continue, but life and power and fruitfulness fade away. Therefore, whatever opposes prayer opposes the whole work of ministry.

♣ Prayer as a relationship is probably your best indicator about the health of your love relationship with God. If your prayer life has been slack, your love relationship has grown cold.

♣ Nothing is more vital than prayer in Christian existence, and few things are more vulnerable to neglect.

♣ Prayer causes things to happen that wouldn't happen if you didn't pray.

♣ I recall hearing one of my professors in seminary say that one of the best tests of a person's theology was the effect it has on one's prayers.

♣ Whatever opposes prayer opposes the whole work of ministry.

♣ The importance of prayer rises in proportion to the importance of the things we should give up in order to pray

♣ Prayer pursues joy in fellowship with Jesus and in the power to share His life with others. And prayer pursues God's glory by treating Him as the inexhaustible reservoir of hope and help. In prayer we admit our poverty and God's prosperity, our bankruptcy and His bounty, our misery and His mercy. Therefore, prayer highly exalts and glorifies God precisely by pursuing everything we long for in Him, and not in ourselves. "Ask, and you will receive... that the Father may be glorified in the Son and...that your joy may be full." (John 14:13, 16:24)–

Desiring God - John Piper - page 182

♣ Prayer prevents service from being an expression of pride there is

no good service without prayer.

♣ Prayer is the open admission that without Christ we can do nothing. And prayer is the turning away from ourselves to God in the confidence that He will provide the help we need. Prayer humbles us as needy and exalts God as wealthy. –Desiring God - John Piper - page 161

♣ Jesus says to the woman, "If you just knew the gift of God and who I am, you would ask Me—you would pray to Me!" There is a direct correlation between not knowing Jesus well and not asking much from Him. A failure in our prayer life is generally a failure to know Jesus. "If you knew who was talking to you, you would ask Me!" A prayerless Christian is like a bus driver trying alone to push his bus out of a rut because he doesn't know Clark Kent is on board. "If you knew, you would ask." A prayerless Christian is like having your room wallpapered with Saks Fifth Avenue gift certificates but always shopping at Goodwill because you can't read. "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that speaks to you, you would ask—you would ask!" (John 4:10)

♣ Prayer is the essential activity of waiting for God—acknowledging our helplessness and His power, calling upon Him for help, seeking His counsel....Prayer is the antidote for the disease of self-confidence,

which opposes God's goal of getting glory by working for those who wait for Him....The Gospel commands us to give up and hang out a help-wanted sign (this is the basic meaning of prayer). Then the Gospel promises that God will work for us if we do. He will not surrender the glory of being the Giver. (cp 2 Chr 16:9) (Italics added)— Desiring God - John Piper - page 171

♣ Christianity is fundamentally convalescence ('Pray without ceasing' = Keep buzzing the nurse).

♣ Unless I'm badly mistaken, one of the main reasons so many of God's children don't have a significant prayer life is not so much that we don't want to, but that we don't plan to. If you want to take a four- week vacation, you don't just get up one summer morning and say, "Hey, let's go today!" You won't have anything ready. You won't know where to go. Nothing has been planned. But that is how many of us treat prayer. We get up day after day and realize that significant times of prayer should be a part of our life, but nothing's ever ready. We don't know where to go. Nothing has been planned. No time. No place. No procedure. And we all know that the opposite of planning is not a wonderful flow of deep, spontaneous experiences in prayer. The opposite of planning is the rut. If you don't plan a vacation you will probably stay home and watch TV. The natural, unplanned flow of spiritual life sinks to the lowest ebb of vitality. There is a race to be run and a fight to be fought. If you want renewal in your life of prayer you must plan to see it. Therefore, my simple exhortation is this: Let us take time this very day to rethink our priorities and how prayer fits in. Make some new resolve. Try some new venture with God. Set a time. Set a place. Choose a portion of Scripture to guide you. Don't be tyrannized by the press of busy days. We all need mid-course corrections. Make this a day of turning to prayer—for the glory of God and for the fullness of your joy. David Platt

♣ The primary purpose of prayer is not to get something, but to know Someone.

♣ Should it concern us that the bible never calls us to ask Jesus into our hearts. Should it concern us that the

bible never mentions such a superstitious sinners prayer and yet that is exactly what we have sold

to so many as salvation.

♣ My prayer is that people will see that following Jesus costs you everything you are and everything you have. And my prayer is that people will see that Jesus is worth it. Ray Pritchard

♣ Pray that God will give you "Missionary Eyes." Those are eyes that see the real needs of the people you meet. Pray that God will bring at least one person across your path who needs the help only you can give. That's a prayer God will answer, for there are folks all around you who are just barely making it. Leonard Ravenhill

♣ The law of prayer is the law of harvest: sow sparingly in prayer, reap sparingly; sow bountifully in prayer, reap bountifully. The trouble is we are trying to get from our efforts what we never put into them.

♣ This much is sure in all churches, forgetting party labels; the smallest meeting numerically is the prayer-meeting. If weak in prayer we are weak everywhere.

♣ You can't live wrong and pray right.

♣ The church has many organizers, but few agonizers; many who pay, but few who pray; many resters, but few wrestlers; many who are enterprising, but few who are interceding. A worldly Christian will stop praying and a praying Christian will stop worldliness. Tithes may build a church, but tears will give it life. That is the difference between the modern church and the early church. In the matter of effective praying, never have so many left so much to so few. Brethren, let us pray"

♣ Can any deny that in the modern church setup the main cause of anxiety is money? Yet that which troubles the modern churches the most, troubled the New Testament Church the least. Our emphasis is on paying; theirs was on praying. When we have paid, the place is taken; when they had prayed, the place was shaken!

♣ Books on prayer are good, but not good enough. As books on cooking are good but hopeless unless there is food to work on, so with prayer.

One can read a library of prayer books and not be one whit more powerful in prayer. We must learn to pray, and we must pray to learn to pray.

♣ Let the fires go out in the boiler room of the church and the place will still look smart and clean, but it will be cold. The Prayer Room is the boiler room for its spiritual life.

♣ The Cinderella of the church of today is the prayer meeting.

♣ The most fervent prayer meetings are in hell.

♣ It may be that Satan has little cause to fear most preaching. Yet past experiences sting him to rally all his infernal army to fight against God's people praying.

♣ Our spiritual immutability never shows up more than in our lack of praying, be it alone or in a church prayer meeting. Let 20% of the chior members fail to turn up for rehearsal and the chior master is offended. Let 20% of the church members turn up for a prayer meeting, and the pastor is elated.

♣ Prayer is no substitute for work; equally true is it that work is no substitute for prayer.

♣ Preaching affects men; prayer affects God. Preaching affects time; prayer affects eternity

♣ The sinner's prayer has sent more people to Hell than all the bars in America.

♣ Prayer in its highest form is agonizing soul sweat.

♣ By our attitude to prayer we tell God that what was begun in the Spirit we can finish in the flesh.

♣ The Sunday morning service shows how popular your church is. The evening services show how popular your pastor is. Your private prayer time shows you how popular God is!

♣ The self-sufficient does not pray, the self-satisfied will not pray, the self-righteous cannot pray. No man is greater than his prayer life.

♣ Prayer is not a preparation for the battle; it is the battle!

♣ Quit playing, start praying. Quit feasting, start fasting. Talk less with men, talk more with God. Listen less to men, listen to the words of God. Skip travel, start travail.

♣ Surely revival delays because prayer decays.

♣ How do you learn to pray? Well how do you learn to swim? Do you sit in a chair with your feet up drinking coke learning to swim? You get down and you struggle. That's how you learn to pray.

♣ Most Christians pray to be blessed. Few pray to be broken.

♣ The secret of praying is praying in secret.

♣ The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Power helpeth our infirmity in prayer. The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Life ends our deadness in prayer. The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Wisdom delivers us from ignorance in this holy art of prayer. The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Fire delivers us from coldness in prayer. The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Might comes to our aid in our weakness as we pray.

♣ Prayer is not an argument with God to persuade him to move things our way, but an exercise by which we are enabled by his Spirit to move ourselves his way.

♣ If we had more sleepless nights in prayer, there would be far fewer souls to have a sleepless eternal night

in hell.

♣ Prayer is preoccupation with our needs. Praise is preoccupation with our blessings. Worship is preoccupation with GOD Himself.

♣ I believe the place of prayer is not only a place where I lose my burdens, but also a place where I get a burden. He shares my burden and I share His burden. ... To know that burden, we must hear the voice of the Spirit. To hear that voice, we must be still and know that

He is God.

♣ A man may study because his brain is hungry for knowledge, even Bible knowledge. But he prays because his soul is hungry for God.

♣ To be much for God, we must be much with God. Jesus, that lone figure in the wilderness, knew strong crying, along with tears. Can one be moved with compassion and not know tears? Jeremiah was a sobbing saint. Jesus wept! So did Paul. So did John. Though there are some tearful intercessors behind the scenes, I grant you that to our modern Christianity, praying is foreign.

♣ The more men pray, the less worldly they become. The less they pray, the more worldly they become. I am, of course, speaking of professing Christians at this point.

♣ No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere.

♣ The true man of God is heartsick, grieved at the worldliness of the Church, grieved at the toleration of sin in the Church, grieved at the prayerlessness in the Church.

He is disturbed that the corporate prayer of the Church no longer pulls down the strongholds of the devil.

♣ Someone asked me, 'Do you pray for the dead?' I said, 'No, I preach to them! I think every pew in every church is death row. Think about that! They're dead! They sing about God; they talk about God, but they're dead! They have no living relationship (with God).

♣ Prayer is conditioned by one thing alone and that is spirituality.

♣ Prayer is as mighty as God, because He has committed Himself to answer it.

♣ Notice, we never pray for folks we gossip about, and we never gossip about the folk for whom we pray! For prayer is a great deterrent.

♣ A man who is intimate with God will never be intimidated by men.

♣ The true church lives and moves and has its being in prayer.

♣ Men of prayer must be men of steel, for they will be assaulted by Satan even before they attempt to assault his kingdom.

♣ To stand before men on behalf of God is one thing. To stand before God on behalf of men is something entirely different.

♣ Ministers who do not spend two hours a day in prayer are not worth a dime a dozen - degrees or no degrees. (Woe!)

♣ A man may study because his brain is hungry for knowledge, even Bible knowledge. But he prays because his soul is hungry for God.

♣ Prayer is not an argument with God to persuade him to move things our way, but an exercise by which we are

enabled by his Spirit to move ourselves his way.

♣ The self-sufficient do not pray, the self-satisfied will not pray, the self-righteous cannot pray. Alan Redpath

♣ Much of our praying is just asking God to bless some folks that are ill and to keep us plugging along. But prayer is not merely prattle: it is warfare.

♣ We are fit for the work of God only when we have wept over it, prayed about it, and then we are enabled by Him to tackle the job that needs to be done

♣ Let's keep our chins up and our knees down—we're on the victory side!

♣ Before we can pray, "Thy Kingdom come," we must be willing to pray, "My kingdom go.

♣ We will only advance in our evangelistic work as fast and as far as we advance on our knees. Prayer opens the channel between a soul and God; prayerlessness closes it. Prayer releases the grip of Satan's power; prayerlessness increases it. That is why prayer is so exhausting and so vital. If we believed it, the prayer meeting would be as full as the church. C. W. Renwick

♣ The only footprints on the sands of time, that will really last, are the ones made after knee-prints! John R Rice

♣ What a compelling motive we have for prayer, for preaching, for soul winning when we learn that every responsible human being who leaves this world without a definite change in heart immediately lifts his eyes in Hell, tormented in flame!

♣ If you surrender yourself, and do not rush, but meditate on the Word of God, you will find prayer forming in your heart. It is a prayer inspired by the Holy Spirit, a prayer that God will be pleased to hear.

♣ The normal Christian life is a life of regular, daily answer to prayer. In the model prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray daily for bread, and expect to get it, and

to ask daily for forgiveness, for deliverance from the evil one, and for other needs, and daily to get the answers they sought. Herman Ridderbos

♣ Since the presence of other people can so easily compromise the purity of this motive, prayer should always be as inconspicuous as possible. Evan Roberts

♣ Prayer is the secret of power.

♣ For years, Evan Roberts prayed, “Bend me! Bend me!” and when God answered, the great Welsh Revival resulted.

♣ Prayer is buried, and lost and Heaven weeps. If all prayed the wicked would flee from our midst or to the Refuge. F W Robertson

♣ The divine wisdom has given us prayer, not as a means whereby to obtain the good things of earth, but as a means whereby we learn to do without them; not as a means whereby we escape evil, but as a

means whereby we become strong to meet it.

♣ Pray till prayer makes you forget your own wish, and leave it or merge it in God's will.

♣ A life of prayer is a life whose litanies are ever fresh acts of self-devoting love.

♣ That prayer which does not succeed in moderating our wishes--in changing the passionate desire into still submission, the anxious, tumultuous expectation into silent surrender--is no true prayer, and proves that we have not the spirit of true prayer. Adrian Rogers

♣ Adrian Rogers knew how to talk with God, and that is exactly why he was able to talk so powerfully for God! He was a prayerful preacher!"

♣ What a great God we pray to! And what (great) fools we are if we don't.

♣ Now, you ought to have in your heart—or in your Bible—a list of prayer requests with dates (a prayer record of when you entered it). And, when God answers it, you

can give Him the glory and give Him the praise. So, get specific and focused in your prayer, because prayer that is channeled is prayer that is powerful. Prayer was made for people.

♣ Our prayer needs to be listening as well as talking. Have you had a conversation with someone who does all the talking? Sometimes our prayer is, "Listen, Lord, Your servant is speaking," not "Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening."

♣ Many Christians would confess that the major failure in their life is not learning to pray well. That's because there is no sin in life that proper prayer could not help you avoid. There is no need in life that proper prayer could not supply. Nothing lies outside the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God. What fools we are if we

do not learn to pray! So there is not a more important subject in all

the world for a Christian—not only to learn how to pray, but how to pray with power. Prayer can do anything God can do, and God can do anything!

♣ One of the sweetest lessons I ever learned about prayer is this: the prayer that gets to heaven is the prayer that starts in heaven. Our job is just to close the circuit. God lays something on our hearts to pray for, we pray for it, and it goes right back to heaven. Prayer is the Holy Spirit finding a desire in the heart of the Father, putting that desire into our hearts, then sending it back to heaven in the power of the cross.

♣ How often in my sermon preparations have I put down my pencil and bowed my head to say, "O, my God, help me to understand this. Lord, give me Your understanding." When we pray like this, our hearts are moved and our minds are enlightened to grasp, apply, and understand the Word of God.

♣ Prayer has one purpose and one purpose only. Its goal is that God's will be done. Prayer is not an exercise where we bend God's will and try to make it fit ours. Too many people have the notion that prayer is how we make

impassioned appeals in the hopes of talking God into doing something for us, even if it is something He would not ordinarily want to do. But this is not true. Prayer is seeking the will of God and following it. Prayer is the way of getting God's will done on earth.

♣ Successful prayer is finding the will of God and getting in on it. You are not hemmed in by the will of God; rather, you are freed up by it.

♣ The most powerful prayers are always filled with worship, knowing that He is "enthroned on the praises of His people" (Ps. 22:3)

♣ It is not the eloquence and form of our prayers that gets them delivered but the stamp of faith. Like they say, "Pray, believe, and you'll receive. Pray and doubt; you'll do without."

♣ We tend to think we are capable of handling it ourselves. We think we can go through the day and overcome the devil in our own strength. Prayerlessness and pride always go together. But it's time to pray for protection—to get off the defensive and go on the offensive.

♣ I can't repeat this point enough, because it is where so many people struggle: if you are praying with unrepented sin in your life, you are wasting your breath! Your prayers are getting no higher than the

ceiling lights.

♣ Now, one of the greatest privileges that we have is the privilege of prayer. One of the greatest failures that we have, however, is in the area of prayer. God can do anything, because prayer brings God into action. I don't have a failure in my life but what somehow it's a prayer failure. There's not a sin in my life but what somehow proper prayer would have helped me to avoid it. There's not a need in my life but what if I learned how to pray and knew how to pray that need would be met.

♣ The prayer offered to God in the morning during your quiet time is the key that unlocks the door of the day. Any athlete knows that it is the start that ensures a good finish.

♣ If you find a reluctance to go into the presence of God, there may be unconfessed, unrepented sin in your life. Part of your quiet time is to get your heart clean and pure. Each of us needs to take ourselves by the nap of our necks and confess and repent before we come into God's holy presence to fellowship.

♣ There is no promise God cannot keep, no prayer God will not answer, and no problem too hard for Him to solve.

♣ Satan can't keep God from answering our prayers, but he will keep us from asking.

♣ Prayer is not just getting ready for Christian service. Prayer is Christian service. Samuel Rutherford

♣ Words are but the body, the garment, the outside of prayer; sighs are nearer the heart work. A dumb beggar getteth an alms at Christ's gates, even by making signs, when his tongue cannot plead for him...Tears have a tongue, and grammar, and language that our Father knoweth. Babes have no prayer for the breast, but weeping: the mother can read hunger in weeping.

♣ I have been benefited by praying for others; for by making an errand to God for them I have gotten something for myself. J. C. Ryle

♣ A man's state before God may always be measured by his prayers.

♣ Never, never may we forget that if we would do good to the world, our first duty is to pray!

♣ No time is so well spent in every day as that which we spend upon our knees.

♣ Prayer is the very life-breath of true Christianity.

♣ No prayers can be heard which do not come from a forgiving heart.

♣ Backsliding, generally first begins with neglect of private prayer

♣ Whatever else you make a business of, make a business of prayer.

♣ If you want to find out how much someone loves you, find out how much they pray for you.

♣ Walk more closely with God. Get nearer to Christ. Seek to exchange hope for assurance. Seek to feel the witness of the Spirit more closely and distinctly every year. Lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily threatens you. Press towards the mark more earnestly. Fight a better fight, and war a better warfare every year you live. Pray more. Read more. Subdue self more. Love the brethren more. Oh that you may endeavor to grow in grace every year, that the end of your Christian course may be better than the beginning!

♣ There are few professing Christians, it may be feared, who strive to imitate Christ in the matter of private devotion. There is abundance of hearing, reading, talking, professing, visiting, contributing to the poor and teaching at schools. But is there, together with all this, a due proportion of private prayer? Are believing men and women sufficiently careful to be frequently alone with God?

♣ Faith is to the soul what life is to the body. Prayer is to faith what breath is to the body. How a person can live and not breathe is past my comprehension, and how a person can believe and not pray is past my comprehension too.

♣ Fear not because your prayer is stammering, your words feeble, and your language poor. Jesus can understand you.

♣ To be prayerless is to be without God, without Christ, without grace, without hope, and without heaven.

♣ Prayer needs neither learning, wisdom or book knowledge to begin it. It needs nothing but heart and will.

♣ What is the cause of most backsliding? (discussion) I believe, as a general rule, one of the chief causes is neglect of private prayer.

♣ Praying and sinning will never live together in the same heart. Prayer will consume sin, or sin will choke prayer.

♣ Prayer is the surest remedy against the devil and besetting sins.

♣ It is not always those who have the most eminent gifts who are the most successful laborers for God. It is generally those who keep up closest communion with Christ and are most constant in prayer.

♣ If we would have good ministers, we must remember our Lord's example, and pray for them. Their work is heavy. Their responsibility is enormous. Their strength is small. Let us see that we support them, and hold up their hands by our prayers.

♣ Do you wish to grow in grace and be a holy Christian? Then never forget the value of prayer.

♣ What is the reason that some believers are so much brighter and holier than others? I believe the difference, in nineteen cases out of twenty, arises from different habits about private prayer. I believe that those who are not eminently holy pray little, and those who are eminently holy pray much.

♣ Without the blessing of the Lord, your best endeavors will do no good. He has the hearts of all men in His hands, and except He touch the hearts of your children by His Spirit, you will weary yourself to no purpose. Water, therefore, the seed you sow on their minds with

unceasing prayer.

♣ Let us seek friends that will stir up our prayers, our Bible reading, our use of time, and our salvation.

♣ Jesus hears us, and in His own good time will give an answer... He may sometimes keep us long waiting...but He will never send us empty away.

♣ If you train your children to anything, train them, at least, to a habit of prayer.

♣ I should as soon expect a farmer to prosper in business who contented himself with sowing his fields and never looking at them till harvest, as expect a believer to attain much holiness who was not diligent about his Bible reading, his prayers, and the use of his Sundays. Richard Sibbes

♣ God can pick sense out of a confused prayer.

♣ When we shoot an arrow, we look to the fall of it; when we send a ship to sea, we look for its return; and when we sow seed, we look for a harvest; so likewise when we sow our prayers, through Christ, in God's bosom, shall we not look for an answer and observe how we speed? It is a seed of atheism to pray and not to look how we speed. But a sincere Christian will pray and wait, and strengthen his heart with promises out of the Word, and never leave praying and looking up till God gives him a gracious answer.

♣ When we go to God by prayer, the devil knows we go to fetch strength against him, and therefore he opposes us all he can. Mary Slessor

♣ If you are ever inclined to pray for a missionary, do it at once, wherever you are.

♣ My life is one long daily, hourly record of answered prayer. For physical health, for mental overstrain, for guidance given marvelously, for errors and dangers averted, for enmity to the Gospel subdued, for food provided at the exact hour needed, for everything that

goes to make up life and my poor service. I can testify, with a full and often

wonder-stricken awe, that I believe God answers prayer.

♣ Prayer is the greatest power God has put into our hands for service - praying is harder than doing, at least I find it so, but the dynamic lies that way to advance the Kingdom.

Read more at: .azquotes.com Mary_SlessorOswald J Smith

♣ Oh, how few find time for prayer! There is time for everything else, time to sleep and time to eat, time to read the newspaper and the novel, time to visit friends, time for everything else under the sun, but- no time for prayer, the most important of all things, the one great essential!

♣ I am perfectly confident that the man who does not spend hours alone with God will never know the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The world must be left outside until God alone fills the vision...God has promised to answer prayer. It is not that He is unwilling, for the fact is, He is more willing to give than we are to receive. But the trouble is, we are not ready...

♣ There can be no prevailing in prayer without travailing in prayer.J Oswald Sanders

♣ It is not without its comfort that the two men who conversed with the Lord on the Mount of Transfiguration both broke under the strain of their ministry and prayed that they might die.

♣ It is possible to move men through God by prayer alone.

♣ An analysis of our prayers might afford the disconcerting discovery that many of them are not the prayer of faith at all, only the prayer of hope, or even of despair. We earnestly hope they will be answered, but have no unshakable assurance to that effect. God has, however, undertaken to answer only the prayer of

faith. "Whatever you pray for and ask, believe that you have got it, and you shall have it" (Mark 11:24, Moffatt).

♣ It is easy to become a fatalist in reference to prayer. It is easier to regard unanswered prayer as the will of God than to... reason out the causes of the defeat."W. E. Sangster

♣ Many people pray for things that can only come by work and work for things that can only come by prayer.

♣ Prayer without love has no suction. It does not draw the blessing down.

♣ If you are too busy to pray then you are too busy.

♣ One cannot get deep into religion until one gets deep into prayer. Graham Scroggie

♣ Without time for prayer, nothing can be accomplished.

♣ Pray when you feel like it, pray when you don't feel like it, and pray until you do feel like it! Sadhu Sundar Singh

♣ The essence of prayer does not consist in asking God for something but in opening our hearts to God, in speaking with Him, and living with Him in perpetual communion. Prayer is continual abandonment to God. Prayer does not mean asking God for all kinds of things we want; it is rather the desire for God Himself, the only Giver of Life, Prayer is not asking, but union with God. Prayer is not a painful effort to gain from God help in the varying needs of our lives. Prayer is the desire to possess God Himself, the Source of all life. The true spirit of prayer does not consist in asking for blessings, but in receiving Him who is the giver of all blessings, and in living a life of fellowship with

Him. William Shakespeare, Antony and Cleopatra

♣ We, ignorant of ourselves,
Beg often our own harms, which the wise powers Deny
us for our good; so find we profit
By losing of our prayers. A B Simpson

♣ All earth-born hopes with time must pass away; prayer grasps eternal things; pray, always pray.

♣ Prayer is the mighty engine that is to move the missionary work.

♣ Prayer is the link that connects us with God.

♣ There is no wonder more supernatural and divine in the life of a believer than the mystery and ministry of prayer...the hand of the child touching the arm of the Father and moving the wheel of the universe.

♣ Pray, always pray; beneath sins heaviest load, Prayer claims the blood from Jesus' side that flowed. Pray, always pray; though weary, faint, and lone, Prayer nestles by the Father's sheltering throne. Mary Slessor, missionary pioneer

♣ My life is one long daily, hourly record of answered prayer. For physical health, for mental overstrain, for guidance given marvelously, for errors and dangers averted, for enmity to the Gospel subdued, for food provided at the exact hour needed, for everything that goes to make up life and my poor service. I can testify, with a full and often wonder-stricken awe, that I believe God answers prayer. I know God answers prayer. Chuck Smith

♣ The most important thing a born again Christian can do is to pray.

♣ Prayer is the most important activity a born-again Christian can perform. It should head your list of priorities, for certainly the world around us desperately needs prayer. Prayer will open the door for God to do a glorious work in these last days. Prayer will stem the tide of evil.

♣ So live for the kingdom of God. Seek to bring glory to Jesus Christ and the Lord will use you. It is my prayer, my constant and daily prayer, that God would keep me useable.

♣ Though prayer doesn't change God's mind or God's purposes, prayer does change something- It changes us.

♣ Prayer is not an agency by which my will is to be accomplished upon the earth. The purpose of prayer is to get God's will to be accomplished upon the earth, and so many times we ask and receive not because the motive behind our asking is really that of accomplishing my will rather than God's will.

♣ There are more battles won through prayer than by any other means.

♣ Prayer doesn't change the purpose of God, but prayer can change the action of God. C H Spurgeon

♣ See also Spurgeon Gems on Prayer

♣ Some brethren pray by the yard; but true prayer is measured by weight, and not by length.

♣ The more spiritual the duty, the sooner the soul wearies of it. An illustration of this is seen in the case of Moses, whose hands grew weary in prayer, while we never read that Joshua's hands hung down in fight..

♣ No doubt by praying we learn to pray, and the more we pray the oftener we can pray, and the better we can pray.

♣ Saints of the early church reaped great harvests in the field of prayer and found the mercy seat to be a mine of untold treasures.

♣ Mighty prayer has often been produced by mighty trial.

♣ For a successful season of prayer, the best beginning is confession.

♣ Perseverance in prayer is necessary to prevalence in prayer.

♣ It is well said that neglected prayer is the birth-place of all evil.

♣ The motive is this, 'Oh! that God could be glorified, that Jesus might see the reward of his sufferings! Oh! that sinners might be saved, so that God might have new tongues to praise him, new hearts to love him! Oh! that sin were put an end to, that the holiness, righteousness, mercy, and power of God might be magnified!' This is the

way to pray; when thy prayers seek God's glory, it is God's glory to answer thy prayers.

♣ A church should be a camp of soldiers, not an hospital of invalids. But there is exceedingly much difference between what ought be and what is, and consequently many of God's people are in so sad a state that the very fittest prayer for them is for revival.

♣ Prayer is an ever open door.

♣ There should be a parallel between our supplications and our thanksgivings. We ought not to leap in prayer, and limp in praise.

♣ A true prayer is an inventory of needs, a catalog of necessities, an exposure of secret wounds, a revelation of hidden poverty.

♣ Beloved, there are heights in experimental knowledge of the things of God that the eagles discerning eye and philosophical thought have never seen...God alone can take us there, but the chariot in which He takes us up and the fiery steeds that pull the chariot, are prevailing prayers.

♣ If you are very busy, think and pray all the more, or your work will wear and weary you, and drag you away from God. For your work's sake, break away from it, and give the soul a breathing time.

♣ Accept His rule, and He will except thy prayer.

♣ Prayer is an art which only the Spirit can teach us. He is the giver of all prayer.

♣ Unless our profession is a lie we love each other, and we must therefore show that love by our prayers for one another.

♣ Let us seek grace to become importunate pleaders of a sort that cannot be denied, since their faith overcomes heaven by prayer.

♣ The best worship that we ever render to God is far from perfect. Our praises, how faint and feeble they are! Our prayers, how wandering, how wavering they are! When we get nearest to God, how far off we are! When we are most like Him, how greatly unlike Him we are!

♣ It is the habit of faith, when she is praying, to use pleas. Mere prayer sayers, who do not pray at all, forget to argue with God; but those who prevail bring forth their reasons and their strong arguments

♣ Prayer is good, the habit of prayer is better, but the spirit of prayer is the best of all.

♣ Neglect of prayer makes prayer become hard work.

♣ Prayer and praise are the oars by which a man may row his boat into the deep waters of the knowledge of Christ.

♣ God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart. When you are so weak that you cannot do much more than cry, you coin diamonds with both your eyes. The sweetest prayers God ever hears are the groans and sighs of those who have no hope in anything but his love.

♣ In all states of dilemma or of difficulty, prayer is an available source. The ship of prayer may sail through all temptations, doubts and fears, straight up to the throne of God; and though she may be outward

bound with only griefs, and groans, and sighs, she shall return freighted with a wealth of blessings!

♣ If you cannot trust God for the temporal, how dare you trust him for the eternal?

♣ We declare that among the most potent means in all the world is prayer.

♣ Oh! yes, (the prayer meeting) is the place to meet with the Holy Ghost, and this is the way to get His mighty power. If we would have Him, we must meet in greater numbers; we must pray with greater fervency, we must watch with greater earnestness, and believe with firmer steadfastness. The prayer meeting...is the appointed place for the reception of power.

♣ Men do not pray and supplicate unless they have greater need than this world can satisfy

♣ Let your cares drive you to God. I shall not mind if you have many of them if each one leads you to prayer. If every fret makes you lean more on the Beloved, it will be a benefit.

♣ God prefers the prayer of a broken heart to the finest service that ever was performed by priests and choirs.

♣ No man hears his pastor preach without deriving some benefit from him, if he has earnestly prayed for him.

♣ Prayer is the rustling of the wings of the angels that are on their way bringing us the boons of heaven. Have you heard prayer in your heart? You shall see the angel in your house. When the chariots that bring us blessings rumble, their wheels sound with prayer. We hear the prayer in our own spirits; and that prayer becomes the token of the coming blessings. Even as the cloud foreshadoweth rain, so prayer foreshadoweth the blessing; even as the green blade is the beginning of the harvest, so is prayer the prophecy of the blessing that is about to come.

♣ When thou art wrestling, like Jacob with the angel, and art nearly thrown down, ask the Holy Spirit to nerve thine arm. Consider how the Holy Spirit is the chariot-wheel of prayer. Prayer may be the chariot, the desire may draw it forth; but the Spirit is the very wheel whereby it moveth.

♣ I have now concentrated all my prayers into one, and that one prayer is this, that I may die to self, and live wholly to Him.

♣ Not to pray because you do not feel fit to pray is like saying, 'I will not take medicine because I am too ill.' Pray for prayer! Pray yourself, by the Spirit's assistance, into a praying frame! It is good to strike when the iron is hot, but some make cold iron hot by striking. We have sometimes eaten till we have gained an appetite, so let us pray till we pray. God will help you in the pursuit of duty, not in the neglect of it.

♣ Intercessory prayer is exceedingly prevalent. What wonders it has wrought! The Word of God teems with its marvelous deeds. Believer, thou hast a mighty engine in thy hand, use it well, use it constantly, use it with faith, and thou shalt surely be a benefactor to thy brethren.

♣ My own soul's conviction is that prayer is the grandest power in the entire universe, that it has a more omnipotent force than electricity, attraction, gravitation, or any other of those other secret forces which men have called by name, but which they do not understand.

♣ Our growth in prayer may be to us the test of our growth in all other respects. "Lord, teach us to pray," is a

prayer for the young beginner and for the more advanced disciple; it is a suitable petition for us all, for we have none of us yet learned to the full the sacred art of supplication.

♣ Keep the altar of private prayer burning. This is the very life of all piety.

♣ So deep are our necessities that until we are in heaven we must not cease to pray.

♣ I am sometimes startled at the power of a feeble prayer to win a speedy answer.

♣ He that has prayed for his breakfast values the providence which sent it.

♣ Delayed answers to prayer are not only trials of faith; they also give us opportunities to honor God through our steadfast confidence in Him, even when facing the apparent denial of our request.

♣ It is enough for a praying heart that it has a hearing God.

♣ If thou be a child of God thou wilt as surely pray as a man breathes or as a child cries; thou canst not help it.

♣ What a breath of peace cools the forehead of the man who remembers that he may pray, and that prayer is heard in heaven.

♣ If, in God's sense of the term, a man really prays we may know of a surety that he has passed from death unto life.

♣ Prayer is the lisping of the believing infant, the shout of the fighting believer, the requiem of the dying saint falling asleep in Jesus. It is the breath, the watchword, the comfort, the strength, and honor of a Christian.

♣ Sinner, tell God your misery even now, and he will hear your story. He is willing to listen, even to that sad and wretched tale of yours about your multiplied transgressions, your hardness of heart, your rejections of Christ. Tell him all, for he will hear it. Tell him what it is you want,—what large mercy,—what great forgiveness; just lay your whole case before him. Do not hesitate for a single moment; he will hear it, he will be attentive to the voice of your cry. (Israel's Cry and

God's Answer)

♣ If any man thinks that his prayers have any merit in them, every prayer that he presents is an insult to the Lord Jesus Christ. If you think that your prayers help to put away sin, you make an antichrist of your prayers, and the more you pile them up, the more you multiply your sin

♣ If I neglect prayer for never so short a time, I lose all the spirituality to which I had attained; if I draw no fresh supplies from heaven, the old corn in my granary is soon consumed by the famine which rages in my soul.

♣ Groanings which cannot be uttered are often prayers which cannot be refused.

♣ A true prayer is an inventory of wants, a catalogue of necessities, a revelation of hidden poverty.

♣ The habit of private prayer and the constant practice of heart-fellowship with the Most High are the surest indicators of the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart.

♣ Our prayer is the shadow of a coming blessing. As "Coming events cast their shadows before them," so, when God is about to bless us, He moves us to pray for that very blessing.

♣ When a man does not pray in the Lord's appointed way, nor through Jesus Christ, nor in dependence upon the Holy Spirit, he does not pray at all. However fine his prayer, it is only a splendid sin.

♣ If you want power in prayer you must have purity in life. To day the world's one and only remedy is the cross.

♣ You can never pray an inch beyond the tether of the promise with any assurance of being heard. For my own part, I always feel on sure ground with God when I can quote His own words.

♣ He who prays trusts, and thus reveals the faith which saves.

♣ I reckon that those prayers which cannot be expressed in language are often the most deep and fervent.

♣ Persistence in known sin, and especially indulgence in enmity and hatred, are so destructive to prayer that till we are free from them we do not pray.

♣ If you feel quite content with your own prayers, permit me to suggest that you do not pray, for few who

pray aright are ever content with their own petitions.

- ♣ It is necessary to draw near unto God, but it is not required of you to

- prolong your speech till everyone is longing to hear the word 'Amen'.

- ♣ All our perils are nothing, so long as we have prayer. (Phil 4:6).

- ♣ The confession of sin, the longing for mercy, the groaning for grace— these are the soul and spirit of prayer.

- ♣ Praying will make you leave off sinning, or sinning will make you leave off praying.

- ♣ One of the surest evidences of a living faith is prayer.

- ♣ Much of what is called prayer is the husk, and not the kernel, of prayer.

- ♣ All our perils are as nothing, so long as we have prayer.

- ♣ Prayer is not a hard requirement - it is the natural duty of a creature to its creator, the simplest homage that human need can pay to divine liberality.

- ♣ Children of prayer will grow up to be children of praise; mothers who have wept before God for their sons will one day sing a new song over them.

- ♣ Two little words are good for every Christian to learn and to practice— pray and stay. Waiting on the Lord implies both praying and staying.

- ♣ Prayer is the outcome of that sense of need which arises from the new life; a man would not pray to God if he did not feel that he had urgent need of blessings which only the Lord can bestow.

- ♣ I could no more doubt the efficacy of prayer than I could disbelieve in the law of gravity.

- ♣ Real prayer cannot come from men whose characters are contrary to the mind of God.

- ♣ Every prayer is an inverted promise ... If God teaches us to pray for any good thing, we may gather by implication the assurance that he means to give it.

- ♣ Unbelieving prayers! Shall I call them prayers? Prayers without faith! They are birds without wings, ships without sails, beasts without legs. Prayers that have no faith in Christ are prayers without the blood on them. They are deeds without the signature, without the seal, without the stamp. They are impotent, illegal documents.

♣ The Need for Enlarged Expectations: if it be a throne, it ought to be approached with enlarged expectations. Well does our hymn put it: Thou art coming to a king, large petitions with thee bring.

♣ The commentators are good instructors, but the Author Himself is far better, and prayer makes a direct appeal to Him and enlists Him in our cause.

♣ However, brethren, whether we like it or not, remember, asking is the rule of the kingdom....It is a rule that never will be altered in anybody's case. (James 4:2)

♣ Even as the moon influences the tides of the sea, even so does prayer—which is the reflection of the sunlight of heaven, and is God's moon in the sky—influence the tides of godliness.

♣ I always give all the glory to God, but I do not forget that He gave me the privilege of ministering from the first to a praying people. We had prayer meetings that moved our very souls, each one appeared determined to storm the Celestial City by the might of intercession.

♣ We should pray when we are in a praying mood, for it would be sinful to neglect so fair an opportunity. We should pray when we are not in a proper mood, for it would be dangerous to remain in so unhealthy

a condition."

♣ True prayers are like carrier pigeons: from heaven they came, they are only going home.

♣ If any of you should ask me for an epitome of the Christian religion, I should say it is in that one word—prayer.

♣ He who prays without fervency does not pray at all. We cannot commune with God, who is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:29), if there is no fire in our prayers.

♣ It is the burning lava of the soul that has a furnace within—a very volcano of grief and sorrow—it is that burning lava of prayer that finds its way to God. No prayer ever reaches God's heart which does not come from our hearts.

♣ If we begin by doubting, our prayer will limp. Faith is the tendon of Achilles and if that is cut, it is not possible for us to wrestle with God.

♣ Some mercies are not given to us except in answer to importunate prayer. There are blessings which, like ripe fruit, drop into your hand the moment you touch the bough. But there are others which require you to shake the tree again and again, until you make it rock with the vehemence of your exercise, for only then will the fruit fall down.

♣ The Lord give me a dozen importunate pleaders and lovers of souls, and by his grace we will shake all London from end-to-end yet.

♣ I know of no better thermometer to your spiritual temperature than this, the measure of the intensity of your prayer.

♣ If you are sure it is a right thing for which you are asking, plead now, plead at noon, plead at night, plead on. With cries and tears spread out your case. Order your arguments. Back up your pleas with reasons. Urge the precious blood of Jesus. Set the wounds of Christ before the Father's eyes. Bring out the atoning sacrifice. Point to Calvary. Enlist the crowned Prince, the Priest who stands at the right hand of God. And resolve in your very soul that if souls be not saved, if your family be not blessed, if your own zeal be not revived, yet you

will die with the plea on your lips, and with the importunate wish on your spirits.

♣ The Lord does not play at promising. Jesus did not sport at confirming the word by his blood, and we must not

make a jest of prayer by going about it in a listless, unexpected spirit.

♣ We must get rid of the icicles that hang about our lips. We must ask the Lord to thaw the ice caves of our soul and to make our hearts like a furnace of fire heated seven times hotter. If our hearts do not burn within us, we may well question whether Jesus is with us. Those who are neither cold nor hot he has threatened to spew out of his mouth (Rev. 3:16). How can we expect his favor if we fall into a condition so obnoxious to him?

♣ Even as the moon influences the tides of the sea, even so does prayer—which is the reflection of the sunlight of heaven, and is God's moon in the sky—influence the tides of godliness.

♣ There is many a mother's son whose heart will be turned to God long after his mother's bones have been laid in the churchyard. The vision is for an appointed time—though it tarry, wait for it. Your son will yet be brought to Glory through your prayers. Pray on, Brothers and Sisters, pray on for those whose sins and sorrows lay heavily on your heart! Pray on, and God will hear you!

♣ As artists give themselves to their models, and poets to their classical pursuits, so must we addict ourselves to prayer.

♣ There are many prayers that it would not be right to pray in public, but they are very dear to God's ear in private.

♣ The power of prayer can never be overrated. They who cannot serve God by preaching need not regret. If a man can but pray he can do anything. He who knows how to overcome with God in prayer has Heaven and earth at his disposal.

♣ Shall I give you yet another reason why you should pray? I have preached my very heart out. I could not say any more than I have said. Will not your prayers accomplish that which my preaching fails to do?

Is it not likely that the Church has been putting forth its preaching hand but not its praying hand? Oh dear friends! Let us agonize in prayer.

♣ If you want that splendid power in prayer, you must remain in loving, living, lasting, conscious, practical, abiding union with the Lord Jesus Christ.

♣ True prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length.

♣ I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach.

♣ Prayer can never be in excess.

♣ We shall never sing, “Gloria in excelsis” except we pray to God de profundis: out of the depths must we cry, or we shall never behold glory in the highest.

♣ Believing supplications are forecasts of the future.

♣ Only the prayer which comes from God can go to God.

♣ Could you read the story of Abraham’s interceding for Sodom and say that you have interceded for London like that? Can you read of Jacob at the brook Jabbok and say that you ever spent an hour, much less a night, in wrestling with the angel? The prayerlessness of this age is one of its worst signs.

♣ It has been truly said that if you have a very hard thing, you can cut it with something harder. And if any heart is especially hard, God can use the hard, strong, persistent vehemence of other mighty, passionate souls to pray the blessing of eternal life into that stubborn, rebellious heart.

♣ True prayers are like those carrier pigeons which find their way so well; they cannot fail to go to heaven, for it is

from heaven they came; they are only going home.

♣ Live and die without prayer, and you will pray long enough when you get to hell.

♣ Preaching is sowing, prayer is watering, but praise is the harvest.

♣ He that is never on his knees on earth shall never stand upon his feet in heaven.

♣ Prayer is the stalk of the wheat, but praise is the ear of the wheat. It is the harvest itself. When God is praised, we have come to the ultimatum. This is the thing for which all other things are designed.

♣ You can be omnipotent if you know how to pray, omnipotent in all things which glorify God.

♣ I commend intercessory prayer, because it opens man's soul, gives a healthy play to his sympathies, constrains him to feel that he is not everybody, and that this wide world was not, after all, made that he might be its petty lord. It does him good to make him know that the cross was not uplifted alone for him, for its far-reaching arms were meant to drop with benedictions on millions of the human race.

♣ All other passions build upon or flow from your passion for Jesus. A passion for souls grows out of a passion for Christ. A passion for missions builds upon a passion for Christ. The most crucial danger to a Christian, whatever his role, is to lack a passion of Christ. The most direct route to personal renewal and new effectiveness is a new all-consuming passion for Jesus. Lord, give us this passion, whatever the cost!

♣ When you pray in public, as a rule, the shorter the better.

♣ The best prayers have usually been the shortest. An arrow may easily be too long, and prayers should be like arrows shot from the bow of faith. If they are short, it does

not matter so long as they are sharp and sent on their way with a good pull of the bowstring.

♣ You have no time for the prayer meeting, but you have time enough to be brushing your hair to all eternity; you have no time to bend your

knee, but plenty of time to make yourselves look smart and grand.

♣ There is a general kind of praying which fails for lack of precision. It is as if a regiment of soldiers should all fire off their guns anywhere. Possibly some-body would be killed, but the majority of the enemy would be missed.

♣ God will bless Elijah and send rain on Israel, but Elijah must pray for it. If the chosen nation is to prosper, Samuel must plead for it. If the Jews are to be delivered, Daniel must intercede. God will bless Paul, and the nations shall be converted through him, but Paul must pray. Pray he did without ceasing; his epistles show that he expected nothing except by asking for it.

♣ There is no force in nature that is equal to the power of prayer. The law of gravitation holds the planets in their orbits, and links the sun to all the spheres that circle round him. But prayer has now made gravitation itself cease to exert its energy: "Sun, stand thou still upon Gib-eon," said Joshua, who had first spoken to the Lord about the matter (Josh 10:12).

♣ The condition of the church may be very accurately gauged by its prayer meetings. So is the prayer meeting a grace-ometer, and from it we may judge of the amount of divine working among a people. If God be near a church, it must pray. And if he be not there, one of the first tokens of his absence will be slothfulness in prayer.

♣ Prayer is the thermometer of grace.

♣ Only that prayer which comes from our heart can get to God's heart.

♣ My heart has no deeper conviction than this, that prayer is the most efficient spiritual agency in the universe, next to the Holy Ghost.

♣ The best style of prayer is that which cannot be called anything else but a cry.

♣ In prayer the heart of man empties itself before God, and then Christ empties his heart out to supply the needs of his poor believing child. In prayer we confess to Christ our deficiencies, and he reveals to us

his fulness. We tell him our sorrows, he tells us his joys. We tell him our sins, he shows to us his righteousness. We tell him the dangers that lie before us, he tells us of the shield of omnipotence with which he can and will guard us. Prayer talks with God; it walks with him. And he who is much in prayer will hold very much fellowship with Jesus Christ.

♣ I would rather be Master of the Art of Prayer than M.A. of both universities (Oxford and Cambridge). He who knows how to pray has his hand on the leverage which moves the universe.

♣ Prayer may be salted with confession or perfumed with thanksgiving; it may be sung to music or wept out with groanings. As many as are the flowers of summer, so many are the varieties of prayer.

♣ To me it is a boundless solace that I live in the prayers of thousands. We can do better without the voice that preaches than without the heart that prays. The petitions of our bedridden sisters are the wealth of the church.

♣ When a poor man was breaking granite by the roadside, he was down on his knees while he gave his blows. A minister passing by said, "Your work is just like mine. You have to break stones, and so do I. "Yes," said the man, "and if you manage to break stony hearts, you will have to do it as I do, down on your knees."

The man was right. The gospel hammer soon splits flinty hearts when a man knows how to pray.

♣ I believe that when we cannot pray, it is time that we prayed more than ever. And if you answer, "But how can that be?" I would say, pray to pray. Pray for prayer. Pray for the spirit of supplication. Do not be content to say, "I would pray if I could." No, but if you cannot pray, pray till you can.

♣ The sinew of the minister's strength under God is the supplication of his church. We can do anything and everything if we have a praying people around us. But when our dear friends and fellow helpers cease to pray, the Holy Ghost hastens to depart, and "Ichabod" is written on the place of assembly.

♣ I could as soon think of living without eating or living without breathing, as living without prayer

♣ No prayer will ever prevail with God more surely than a liquid petition, which, being distilled from the heart, trickles from the eye and waters the cheek. Then is God won when he hears the voice of your weeping.

♣ You can draw near to God even though you cannot say a word. A prayer may be crystallized in a tear. A tear is enough water to float a desire to God.

♣ How can a man be a believer in Jesus Christ, and yet have a cold and hard heart in the things of the kingdom toward his children? I have heard of ministers who have despised family prayer, who have laughed at family godliness and thought nothing of it. I cannot understand how the men can know as much as they do about the gospel, and yet have so little of the spirit of it.

♣ Never account prayer second to preaching. No doubt prayer in the Christian church is as precious as the utterance of the gospel. To speak to God for men is a part of the Christian priesthood that should never be despised.

♣ If ten thousand saints were burned tomorrow, their dying prayers would make the church rise like a phoenix from her ashes.

♣ I remember in the hour of overwhelming anguish, when I feared that my beloved wife was about to be taken from me, how I was comforted by the loving prayers of my two dear sons. We had communion not only in our grief, but also in our confidence in the living God.

♣ Remember that prayer is your best means of study.

♣ When my father was absent preaching the gospel, my mother always filled his place at the family altar. And in my own family, if I have been absent, and my dear wife has been ill, my sons, while yet boys, would not hesitate to read the Scriptures and pray. We could not have a house without prayer. That would be heathenish or atheistical.

♣ Oh, without prayer what are the church's agencies, but the stretching out of a dead man's arm, or the lifting up of the lid of a blind man's eye? Only when the Holy Spirit comes is there any life and force and power.

♣ If there be anything I know, anything that I am quite assured of beyond all question, it is that praying breath is never spent in vain.

♣ I know that the words of my father with me alone, when he prayed for me and bade me to pray for myself—not to use any form of prayer, but to pray just as I felt, and to ask from God what I felt that I really wanted—left an impression on my mind that will never be erased.

♣ Do not reckon you have prayed unless you have pleaded, for pleading is the very marrow of prayer.

♣ The more we pray, the more we shall want to pray. The more we pray, the more we can pray. The more we pray, the more we shall pray. He who prays little will pray less, but he who prays much will pray more. And he who prays more, will desire to pray more abundantly.

♣ I usually feel more dissatisfied with my prayers than with anything else I do.

♣ The Christian should work as if all depended on him, and pray as if it all depended on God.

♣ We heard of a certain clergy-man, who was said to have given forth "the finest prayer ever offered to a Boston audience." Just so! The Boston audience received the prayer, and there it ended. The tail feathers of pride should be pulled out of our prayers, for they need only the wing feathers of faith. The peacock feathers of poetical expression are out of place before the throne of God.

♣ Every prayer is an inverted promise. That is to say, God promises us such a blessing, and therefore we pray for it. If God teaches us to pray for any good thing, we may gather by implication the assurance that he means to give it.

♣ Neglect of private prayer is the locust which devours the strength of the church. (Ed: And also the strength of one's soul!)

♣ A prayerless church member is a hindrance. He is in the body like a rotting bone or a decayed tooth. Before long, since he does not contribute to the benefit of his brethren, he will become a danger and a sorrow to them. Neglect of private prayer is the locust which devours the strength of the church.

♣ It is the usual rule with God to make us pray before he gives the blessing.

♣ Prayer is the autograph of the Holy Ghost upon the renewed heart.

♣ Prayer is the breath of faith. Prayer meetings are the lungs of the church.

♣ I have not preached this morning half as much as I have prayed. For every word that I have spoken, I have prayed two words silently to God.

♣ I always feel that there is something wrong if I go without prayer for even half an hour in the day.

♣ I cannot help praying. If I were not allowed to utter a word all day long, that would not affect my praying. If I could not have five minutes that I might spend in prayer by myself, I should pray all the same. Minute by minute, moment by moment, somehow or other, my heart must commune with my God. Prayer has become as essential to me as the heaving of my lungs and the beating of my pulse.

♣ God the Holy Ghost writes our prayers, God the Son presents our prayers, and God the Father accepts our prayers. And with the whole Trinity to help us in it, what cannot prayer perform?

♣ Watch for answers to your prayers. When you mail a letter to a friend, requesting a favor, you watch for an answer. When you pray to God for a favor, you do not expect him to hear you, some of you. If the Lord were to hear some of your prayers, you would be surprised. Sometimes when I have met with a special answer to prayer and have

told it, some have said, "Is it not wonderful?" No, not at all! It would be wonderful if it were not so!

♣ Prayer talks with God; it walks with him. And he who is much in prayer will hold very much fellowship with Jesus Christ.

♣ I am persuaded we only want more prayer, and there is no limit to the blessing. You may Christianize the world, if you but know how to pray. Prayer can get anything of God, prayer can get everything. God denies nothing to the man who knows how to ask. The Lord never shuts his storehouse till you shut your mouth. God will never stop his arm till you stop your tongue.

♣ When God does not answer his children according to the letter, he does so according to the spirit. If you ask for silver, will you be angry if he gives you gold? If you seek

bodily health, should you complain if instead he makes your sickness turn to the healing of spiritual maladies? Is it not better to have the cross sanctified than to have the cross removed? Was not the apostle more enriched when God allowed him still to endure the thorn in the flesh, and yet said to him, “My grace is sufficient for thee” (2 Cor. 12:9)?

♣ I am sure we cannot expect our children to grow up a godly seed if there is no family prayer.

♣ A certain preacher whose sermons converted many souls received a revelation from God that it was not his sermons or works by all means but the prayers of an illiterate lay brother who sat on the pulpit steps pleading for the success of the sermon. It may be in the all-revealing day so with us. We may believe after laboring long and wearily that all honor belongs to another builder whose prayers were gold, silver, and precious stones, while our sermonizings being apart from prayer are but hay and stubble.

♣ I should find it difficult to discover a season in which I have cried unto God and not received deliverance during the whole run and tenor of my life. In hundreds of instances I have had as distinct answers to prayer as if God had thrust his right hand through the blue sky and given right into my lap the bounty which I had sought from him.

♣ I cannot make out how you Christians live who have not family prayer in your houses. You will find that where sons and daughters have turned out a curse to their parents, and those parents have been Christians, it might have been set down to this, that while the parents have been Christians, they were not Christians at home. They had not family prayer. They never reared a family altar. I believe nine out of ten such cases can be explained that way.

♣ If you cannot find that God has promised a blessing, you have no right to ask for it, and no reason to expect it. There is no use in asking money from a banker without a check. Christians take their arrows from God’s quiver and

shoot them with this on their lips: “Do as thou hast said. Remember thy word unto thy servant upon which thou hast caused me to hope.” True prayers are like those carrier pigeons which find their way so well. They cannot fail to go to heaven, for it is from heaven that they came. They are only going home.

♣ Prayer without faith! What sort of prayer is it? It is the prayer of a man who does not believe in God.

♣ I have seen enough in my own lifetime to fill a volume concerning the goodness of the Lord in answer to his children’s prayers

♣ Public prayer is no evidence of piety. It is practised by an abundance of hypocrites. But private prayer is a thing for which the hypocrite has no heart.

♣ May our prayers spring out of our Scriptural studies—may our acquaintance with the Word be such that we shall be qualified to pray a Daniel prayer!

♣ I cannot imagine any one of you tantalizing your child by exciting in him a desire that you do not intend to gratify. It were a very ungenerous thing to offer alms to the poor, and then when they hold out their hand for it, to mock their poverty with a denial. It were a cruel addition to the miseries of the sick if they were taken to the hospital and there left to die untended and uncared for. Where God leads you to pray, he means you to receive.

♣ I am constantly witnessing the most unmistakable instances of answers to prayer. My whole life is made up of them. To me they are so familiar as to cease to excite my surprise, but to many they would seem marvelous, no doubt. Why, I could no more doubt the efficacy of prayer than I could disbelieve in the law of gravitation. The one is as much a fact as the other, constantly verified every day of my life.

♣ It is neither desirable nor possible that all things should be left to our choice. So much do I feel this, that if my Lord should say to me, “From this hour I will always

answer your prayer just as you pray it,” the first petition I would offer would be, “Lord, do nothing of the sort.” That would be putting the responsibility of my life on myself, instead of allowing it to remain on God.

♣ What, give us the new birth, and then not hear us? Did he bless us when we did not seek him, and will he not hear us when we do seek him? What, look after us when we were like stray sheep, deaf to all his calls; seek after us till he restored us, and then not hear us when we become the sheep of his pasture? Impossible!

♣ The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much,’ but they who do not hear God’s voice cannot effectually pray, for God will not hear their voice if they will not hear His. If we have been deaf to Him, He will be deaf to us. The communion necessary to prevailing prayer render it absolutely essential that we should first set ourselves to hear the voice of God and then, again, it shall be said that the Lord listened to the voice of a man, for the man first listened to the voice of the Lord.

♣ If you realized your true condition in God’s sight, you would find time for prayer somehow or other, for you would feel that you must pray! It never occurred to Peter, as he was beginning to sink, that he had no time for prayer. He felt that he must pray—his sense of danger forced him to cry to Christ, ‘Lord, save me.’ And if you feel as you should feel, your sense of need will drive you to prayer and you will never again say, ‘I have no time for prayer.’ It is not a matter of time so much as a matter of heart—if you have the heart to pray, you will find the time.

♣ It is delightful to see these exquisite prayers come from holy men in times of extreme distress. As the sick oyster makes the pearl, and not the healthy one, so does it seem as if the child of God brought forth

gems of prayer in affliction more pure, brilliant and sparkling than any that he produces in times of joy and exultation.

♣ I do not think our prayers would ever be heard in Heaven if it were not for Jesus Christ. He is the great Mediator by whom our prayers must be presented.

♣ There is joy in Hell when a saint grows idle! There is gladness among devils when we cease to pray, when we become slack in faith and feeble in communion with God.

♣ Prayer is refreshing, but praise is even more so, for there may be and there often is, in prayer, the element of selfishness—but praise rises to a yet higher level. Prayer and praise together make up spiritual respiration—we breathe in the air of Heaven when we pray—and we breathe it out again when we praise. ‘It is good to sing praises unto our God.’”

♣ The best thermometer of your spiritual temperature is the intensity of your prayer.

♣ If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. If they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees. Let no one go there unwarned and unprayed for.

♣ Lord, help us who cannot preach to pray for the man who does! Have you, dear Friend, who cannot preach, made a point of praying for the pastor of the Church to which you belong? It is a great sin on the part of Church members if they do not daily sustain their pastor by their prayers!

♣ It often happens that there is very little power in those prayers that leap out of our lips without premeditation—born in a minute, like gnats, and dying just as soon. But the prayer that lies in the soul, like eggs in a nest, and that has to be sat upon, as it were, and hatched, and brought forth—there is life in such supplication as that and that is the kind of prayer which prevails with God! Such was the prayer of Daniel.

♣ What wonders it has wrought! Intercessory prayer has stayed plagues (Ex 7-11). Intercessory prayer has healed diseases. We know it did in the early church. It has

restored withered limbs. Intercessory prayer has raised the dead (1 Kings 17). As to how many souls intercessory prayer has instrumentally saved, recording angel, you can tell! Eternity, you shall reveal! There is nothing which intercessory prayer cannot do.

- ♣ All the Christian virtues are locked up in the word prayer.

- ♣ Anything is a blessing which makes us pray.

- ♣ As artists give themselves to their models, and poets to their classical pursuits, so must we addict ourselves to prayer.

- ♣ God has no dumb children.

- ♣ Perhaps you hear a sinner swear. What does that say to you, but "Pray for that sinner"? All the sins we see other men commit ought to be so many jogs to our memory to pray for the coming of Christ and the salvation of souls.

- ♣ Until the gate of hell is shut upon a man we must not cease to pray for him. And if we see him hugging the very doorposts of damnation, we must go to the prayer. Surely God has an eye of love on those whom he has encompassed with his own dear servants who day and night are praying for them.

- ♣ Let me have your prayers, and I can do anything! Let me be without my people's prayers, and I can do nothing.

- ♣ Earnest intercession will be sure to bring love with it. I do not believe you can hate a man for whom you habitually pray. If you dislike any brother Christian, pray for him doubly, not only for his sake, but for your own, that you may be cured of prejudice and saved from all unkind feeling.

- ♣ Do you say you have nothing to pray for? What, no children unconverted, no friends unsaved, no neighbors who are still in

darkness? What! Live in London and not pray for sinners?

♣ He that is never on his knees on earth shall never stand upon his feet in heaven.

♣ I always feel that there is something wrong if I go without prayer for even half an hour in the day.

♣ If you cannot go to the house of the Lord, go to the Lord of the house.

♣ It is a good rule never to look into the face of man in the morning till you have looked into the face of God.

♣ Neglect of private prayer is the locust which devours the strength of the church.

♣ How often have I said, "All our strength lies in prayer!"

♣ You see the men in the belfry sometimes down below with the ropes. They pull them, and if you have no ears, that is all you know about it. But the bells are ringing up there. They are talking and discoursing sweet music up aloft in the tower. And our prayers do, as it were, ring the bells of heaven. They are sweet music in God's ear.

♣ Prayer has become as essential to me as the heaving of my lungs and the beating of my pulse.

♣ Prayer is the breath of faith. Prayer meetings are the lungs of the church.

♣ Prayer meetings are the throbbing machinery of the church.

♣ There is no secret of my heart which I would not pour into his ear. There is no wish that might be deemed foolish or ambitious by others, which I would not communicate to him. For surely if "the secret of the Lord is with them that fear him" (Ps. 25:14), the secrets of them that fear him ought to be, and must be, with their Lord.

♣ Remember that prayer is your best means of study.

♣ Sometimes we think we are too busy to pray. That is a great mistake, for praying is a saving of time. You remember Luther's remark, "I have so much to do today that I shall never get through it with less than three hours' prayer."

♣ We shall never see much change for the better in our churches in general till the prayer meeting occupies a higher place in the esteem of Christians.

♣ Whether we like it or not, asking is the rule of the Kingdom. If you may have everything by asking in His Name, and nothing without asking, I beg you to see how absolutely vital prayer is.

♣ No man can do me a truer kindness in this world than to pray for me.

♣ Those who were in Christ before me prayed for me; should I not pray for others? The treasury of the church's prayers has been expended on us in bringing us to Christ's feet. Let us now contribute to the common stock, casting in our prayers for the conversion of others.

♣ What can we do without your prayers? They link us with the omnipotence of God. Like the lightning rod, they pierce the clouds and bring down the mighty and mysterious power from on high.

♣ Prayer may not make you eloquent after the human mode, but it will make you truly so, for you will speak out of the heart; and is not that the meaning of the word eloquence? It will bring fire from heaven upon your sacrifice, and thus prove it to be accepted of the Lord (The Preacher's Private Prayer)

♣ Those who are short of breath in soul winning will never be successful. If they are not saved after twenty years of prayer, follow them up to the gates of hell! If they once pass those gates, your prayers are unallowable and

unavailing, but to the very verge of the infernal pit follow them with your prayers. If they will not hear you speak, they cannot prevent your praying. Do they jest at your exhortations? They cannot disturb you at your prayers. Are they far away so that you cannot reach them? Your prayers can reach them. Have they declared that they will never listen to you again, nor see your face? Never mind, God has a voice which they must hear. Speak to him, and he will make

them feel. Though they now treat you despitefully, rendering evil for your good, follow them with your prayers. Never let them perish for lack of your supplications.

♣ There is no need for us to go beating about the bush, and not telling the Lord distinctly what it is that we crave at His hands. Nor will it be seemly for us to make any attempt to use fine language; but let us ask God in the simplest and most direct manner for just the things we want...I believe in business prayers. I mean prayers in which you take to God one of the many promises which He has given us in His Work, and expect it to be fulfilled as certainly as we look for the money to be given us when we go to the bank to cash a check. We should not think of going there, lolling over the counter chattering with the clerks on every conceivable subject except the one thing for which we had gone to the bank, and then coming away without the coin we needed; but we should lay before the clerk the promise to pay the bearer a certain sum, tell him in what form we wish to take the amount, count the cash after him, and then go on our way to attend to other business. That is just an illustration of the method in which we should draw supplies from the Bank of Heaven.

♣ We may expect answers to prayer, and should not be easy without them any more than we should be if we had written a letter to a friend upon important business, and had received no reply.

♣ Prayer girds human weakness with divine strength, turns human folly into heavenly wisdom, and gives to

troubled mortals the peace of God. We know not what prayer can do.

♣ Methinks every true Christian should be exceedingly earnest in prayer concerning the souls of the ungodly; and when they are so, how abundantly God blesses them and how the church prospers!

♣ Remember, Christ's scholars must study upon their knees.

♣ I trust there are none here present, who profess to be followers of Christ who do not also practice prayer in their families. We may have no positive commandment for it, but we believe that it is so much in accord with the genius and spirit of the gospel, and that it is so commended by the example of the saints, that the neglect thereof is

a strange inconsistency.

♣ Oh! men and brethren, what would this heart feel if I could but believe that there were some among you who would go home and pray for a revival men whose faith is large enough, and their love fiery enough to lead them from this moment to exercise unceasing intercessions that God would appear among us and do wondrous things here, as in the times of former generations.

♣ Beware, I pray thee, of presuming that thou art saved. If thy heart be renewed, if thou shalt hate the things that thou didst once love, and love the things that thou didst once hate; if thou hast really repented; if there be a thorough change of mind in thee; if thou be born again, then hast thou reason to rejoice: but if there be no vital change, no inward godliness; if there be no love to God, no prayer, no work of the Holy Spirit, then thy saying "I am saved" is but thine own assertion, and it may delude, but it will not deliver thee.

♣ Watch constantly against those things which are thought to be no temptations. The most poisonous serpents are found where the sweetest flowers grow. Cleopatra was

poisoned by an asp that was brought to her in a basket of fair flowers. Sharp-edged tools, long handled, wound at last.

♣ Mind how you pray. Make real business of it. Let it never be a dead formality...plead the promise in a truthful, business-like way...Ask for what you want, because the Lord has promised it. Believe that you have the blessing, and go forth to your work in full assurance of it. Go from your knees singing, because the promise is fulfilled: thus will your prayer be answered...the strength [not length] of your prayer...wins...God; and the strength of prayer lies in your faith in the promise which you pleaded before the Lord.

♣ Oh, for five hundred Elijahs, each one upon his Carmel, crying unto God, and we should soon have the clouds bursting into showers. Oh, for more prayer, more constant, incessant prayer! Then the blessing would rain upon us.

♣ Sometimes a fog will settle over a vessel's deck and yet leave the topmast clear. Then a sailor goes up aloft and gets a lookout which

the helmsman on deck cannot get. So prayer sends the soul aloft; lifts it above the clouds in which our selfishness and egotism befog us, and gives us a chance to see which way to steer.

♣ Prayer bends omnipotence of heaven to your desire. Prayer moves the hand that moves the world.

♣ A prayer less soul is a Christ less soul..

♣ Prayer irrigates the fields of life with the waters which are stored up in the reservoirs of promise.

♣ We shall never find happiness by looking at our prayers, our doings, or our feelings; it is what Jesus is, not what we are, that gives rest to the soul.

♣ Our prayers are the shadows of mercy.

♣ So the preacher of the gospel asks your prayers: and it is a part of the duties arising out of the relationship between Christian men that those who are taught should pray for those who teach God's Word.

♣ Prayer is the forerunner of mercy. Turn to sacred history, and you will find that scarcely ever did a great mercy come to this world unheralded by supplication.

♣ There is no other place where the heart should be so free as before the mercy seat. There, you can talk out your very soul, for that is the best prayer that you can present. Do not ask for what some tell you that you should ask for, but for that which you feel the need of, that which the Holy Spirit has made you to hunger and to thirst for, you ask for that.

♣ All good is born in prayer, and all good springs from it.

♣ Nine times out of ten, declension from God begins in the neglect of private prayer.

♣ Prayer must not be our chance work but our daily business, our habit and vocation.

♣ Unless you have forgiven others you read your own death warrant when you repeat the Lord's Prayer

♣ Prayerless souls are Christless souls, Christless souls are Graceless souls and Graceless souls shall soon be damned souls. See your peril, you that neglect altogether the blessed privilege of prayer! You are in the bonds of iniquity, you are in the gall of bitterness. God deliver you, for Hisname's sake!

♣ Prayer is doubts destroyer, ruin's remedy, the antidote to all anxieties.

♣ Make the most of prayer. Prayer is the master-weapon. We should

be wise if we used it more, and did so with a more specific purpose.

♣ Prayer gives a channel to the pent-up sorrows of the soul, they flow away, and in their stead streams of sacred delight pour into the heart.

♣ Prayer sweeps the battlefield, slays the enemy, and buries the bones.

♣ One night alone in prayer might make us new men, changed from poverty of soul to spiritual wealth, from trembling to triumphing.

♣ The delightful study of the Psalms has yielded me boundless profit and ever-growing pleasure; common gratitude constrains me to communicate to others a portion of the benefit, with the prayer that it may induce them to search further for themselves.

♣ Prayer plumes the wings of God's young eaglets so that they may learn to mount above the clouds. Prayer brings inner strength to God's warriors and sends them forth to spiritual battle with their muscles firm and their armor in place.

♣ Prayer is the best response to hatred.

♣ Lord Jesus, cause me to know in my daily experience the glory and sweetness of Thy name, and then teach me how to use it in my prayer,

so that I may be a prince prevailing with God.

♣ It would be very difficult to draw a line between holy wonder and real worship; for when the soul is overwhelmed with the majesty of God's glory, though it may not express itself in song, or even utter its voice with bowed head and humble prayer, yet it silently adores.

♣ The cry of a young raven is nothing but the natural cry of a creature, but your cry, if it be sincere, is the result of a work of grace in your heart.

♣ Every growth of spiritual life, from the first tender shoot until now, has been the work of the Holy Spirit. The only way to more life is the Holy

Spirit. You will not even know that you want more unless He works in you to desire it.... The Spirit of God must come and make the letter alive, transfer it to your heart, set it on fire, and make it burn within you, or else its divine force and majesty will be hid from your eyes.... Prayer is the creation of the Holy Spirit. We cannot do without prayer, and we cannot pray without the Holy Spirit.

♣ True prayer is an approach of the soul by the Spirit of God to the throne of God.

♣ Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of omnipotence.

♣ What manner of men should ministers be? They should thunder in preaching, and lighten in conversation; they should be flaming in prayer, shining in life, and burning in spirit.

♣ We ought not to tolerate for a minute the ghastly and grievous thought that God will not answer prayer.

♣ True prayer is the trading of the heart with God, and the heart never comes into spiritual commerce with the ports of heaven until God the Holy Ghost puts wind into the sails and speeds the ship into its haven.

♣ True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is a spiritual commerce with the Creator of heaven and earth.

♣ We cannot all ARGUE, but we can all PRAY; We cannot all be LEADERS, but we can all be PLEADERS; We cannot all be mighty in RHETORIC, but we can all be prevalent in PRAYER.

♣ We must remember that the GOAL of prayer is the ear of God. Unless that is gained, the prayer has utterly

failed. The uttering of it may have kindled devotional feeling in our minds, the hearing of it may have comforted and strengthened the hearts of those with whom we have prayed, but if the prayer has not gained the heart of God, it has failed in its essential purpose.

♣ Christian, take good care of thy faith; for recollect faith is the only way whereby thou canst obtain blessings. If we want blessings from God, nothing can fetch them down but faith. Prayer cannot draw down answers from God's throne except it be the earnest prayer of a man who believes. Faith is the angelic messenger between the soul and the Lord Jesus in glory.

♣ Let your thoughts be psalms, your prayers incense, and your breath praise.

♣ Prayers are heard in heaven in proportion to our faith. Little faith gets very great mercies, but great faith still greater.

♣ Prayer is the breath, the watchword, the comfort, the strength, the honor of a Christian.

♣ The granting of prayer, when offered in the name of Jesus, reveals the Father's love to him, and the honor which he has put upon him.

♣ God will hear His people at the beginning of their prayers if the condition of their heart is ready for it.

♣ If He has said much about prayer, it is because He knows we have much need of it. Ray Stedman

♣ Although God certainly knows all our needs, praying for them changes our attitude from complaint to praise and enables us to participate in God's personal plan for our lives.

♣ True prayer is an awareness of our helpless need and an acknowledgment of divine adequacy.

♣ It is significant that this word on prayer from the lips of Jesus immediately follows Luke's account of his second

coming, the parallel passage to the Olivet Discourse in the Gospel of Matthew. Our Lord moves immediately from his word concerning his coming to this word concerning prayer, indicating the direct correlation between watchfulness and prayer. (Lk 18:1ff)

♣ Now, says Jesus, prayer is the countering principle which is the key to the Father-heart of God. Persistent pressure was the key to this unrighteous judge, perpetual prayer is the key to the activity of God.... Prayer, He says, always stirs the heart of God, always moves God to act.

♣ It is sometimes taught that Jesus is here encouraging what is called "prevailing prayer," which is often another way of describing an attempt to belabor God, to give him no peace, to picket the throne of heaven until we get the request we want. This is an absolutely un-Biblical and totally un-Christian attitude in prayer. Rodney Stortz

♣ (Romans 8:26, 27) assures us that the Holy Spirit takes whatever we ask for and molds it into the will of God. So we know that his answer is what is best for us, though it is not always what we ask for. John Stott

♣ It is only when Christ's words abide in us that our prayers will be answered. Then we can ask what we will and it shall be done, because we shall will only what he wills.

♣ The purpose of prayer is emphatically not to bend God's will to ours, but rather to align our will to his.

♣ Prayer is the very way God Himself has chosen for us to express our conscious need of Him and our humble dependence on Him.

♣ It is impossible to pray for someone without loving him, and impossible to go on praying for him without discovering that our love for him grows and matures.

♣ Prayer is not a convenient device for imposing our will upon God, or bending his will to ours, but the prescribed way of subordinating our will to his.

♣ Every true prayer is a variation on the theme 'Thy will be done.' C. T. Studd

♣ We Christians too often substitute prayer for playing the game. Prayer is good; but when used as a substitute for obedience, it is nothing but a blatant hypocrisy, a despicable Pharisaism... To your knees, man! and to your Bible! Decide at once! Don't hedge! Time flies! Cease your insults to God, quit consulting flesh and blood. Stop your lame, lying, and cowardly excuses. Enlist!

♣ Funds are low again, hallelujah! That means God trusts us and is willing to leave His reputation in our hands.

♣ Prayer is good, but when used as a substitute for obedience, it is naught but a blatant hypocrisy, a despicable Pharisaism. Billy Sunday

♣ Yank some of the groans out of your prayers, and shove in some shouts.

♣ If you are a stranger to prayer, you are a stranger to the greatest source of power known to human beings. Charles Swindoll

♣ Christians who want a productive prayer life must keep a pure heart.

♣ Prayer is an investment. The time you dedicate to prayer isn't lost; it will return dividends far greater than what a few moments spent on a task ever could. If we fail to cultivate this discipline, prayer winds up being our last resort rather than our first response.

♣ Trouble in our prayer life is usually a symptom of a deeper problem in our spiritual life—disobedience. A light on the dashboard of our car may indicate we have engine trouble, but we cannot cure our engine problem by cutting the wire to the dashboard light. That only cures the symptom. We need to find and treat the real cause of the engine problem. The root cause of ineffective prayer is some form of disobedience. The cure for disobedience is to confess and forsake our

disobedience so that God will forgive it. And the prayer of confession is the only prayer God will hear when

believers have knowingly disobeyed. (1Jn 3:22)

♣ In place of our exhaustion and spiritual fatigue, God will give us rest. All He asks is that we come to Him...that we spend a while thinking about Him, meditating on Him, talking to Him, listening in silence, occupying ourselves with Him - totally and thoroughly lost in the hiding place of His presence.

♣ If you are having difficulty loving or relating to an individual, take him to God. Bother the Lord with this person. Don't you be bothered with him - leave him at the throne.

♣ To be used of God. Is there anything more encouraging, more fulfilling? Perhaps not, but there is something more basic: to meet with God. To linger in His presence, to shut out the noise of the city and, in quietness, give Him the praise He deserves. Before we engage ourselves in His work, let's meet Him in His Word... in prayer... in worship.

♣ Our minds can be kept free of anxiety as we dump the load of our cares on the Lord in prayer.

♣ Noise and crowds have a way of siphoning our energy and distracting our attention, making prayer an added chore rather than a comforting relief
Joni Eareckson Tada

♣ Like art, like music, like so many other disciplines, prayer can only be appreciated when you actually spend time in it. Spending time with the Master will elevate your thinking. The more you pray, the more will be revealed. You will understand. You will smile and nod your head as you identify with others who fight long battles and find great joy on their knees.

♣ My longings are best met when, in prayer, I simply let my heart beat in time with the Lord's.

♣ Amazing, isn't it, that our prayers...can move the very heart of God who created the universe?

♣ Yes, I pray that my pain might be removed, that it might cease; but more so, I pray for the strength to bear it, the grace to benefit from it, and the devotion to offer it up to God as a sacrifice of praise.

Jack Taylor

♣ Our infirmities are the trumpets which call us to prayer. No miracle was performed in the Bible that did not begin in a problem.... The greater the problem, the greater the solution. (Prayer: Life's Limitless Reach)J. Hudson Taylor

♣ Do not work so hard for Christ that you have no strength to pray, for prayer requires strength.

♣ Whatever is your best time in the day, give that to communion with God.

♣ In Shansi I found Chinese Christians who were accustomed to spend time in fasting and prayer. They recognized that this fasting, which so many dislike, which requires faith in God, since it makes one feel weak and poorly, is really a Divinely appointed means of grace. Perhaps the greatest hindrance to our work is our own imagined strength; and in fasting we learn what poor, weak creatures we are-dependent on a meal of meat for the little strength which we are so apt to lean upon.

♣ Prayer is a time of refreshment. Howard Taylor says of his father, Hudson Taylor, "For forty years the sun never rose on China that God didn't find him on his knees." (Swindoll's Ultimate Book of

Illustrations) quoting Howard Taylor in "Hudson Taylor and the

China Inland Mission")

♣ Since the days of Pentecost, has the whole church ever put aside every other work and waited upon Him for ten days, that the Spirit's power might be manifested? We give too much attention to method and machinery and resources, and too little to the source of power.

♣ I have seen many men work without praying, though I have never seen any good come out of it; but I have never seen a man pray without working.

♣ Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him.

♣ The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity. If we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let us answer God's standing challenge, 'Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not!

♣ When I get to China, I will have no claim on any one for anything. My claim will be alone in God and I must learn before I leave England to move men through God by prayer alone.

♣ When I cannot read, when I cannot think, when I cannot even pray, I can trust.

♣ All God's giants have been weak men and women who have gotten hold of God's faithfulness.

♣ As a rule, prayer is answered and funds come in, but if we are kept waiting, the spiritual blessing that is the outcome is far more precious than exemption from the trial.

♣ Learn to move man, through God, by prayer alone

♣ Believing prayer will lead to whole-hearted action. Corrie Ten Boom

♣ Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees.

♣ Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?

♣ To pray only when in peril is to use safety belts only in heavy traffic.

♣ Prayerlessness is a sin.

♣ As a camel kneels before his master to have him remove his burden, so kneel and let the Master take your burden.

♣ I prayed to dispel my fear, until suddenly, and I do not know how the idea came to me, I began to pray for others. I prayed for everyone who came into my thoughts - - people with whom I had traveled, those who had been in prison with me, my school friends of years ago. I do not know how long I continued my prayer, but this I do know - - my fear was gone! Interceding for others had released me!

♣ What wings are to a bird, and sails to a ship, so is prayer to the soul.

♣ Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden.

♣ We never know how God will answer our prayers, but we can expect that He will get us involved in His plan for the answer. If we are true intercessors, we must be ready to take part in God's work on behalf of the people for whom we pray.

♣ When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles, When he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs. When he stops praying, the devils shouts for joy.

♣ When you want to work for God start a committee. When you want to work with God start a prayer group

♣ and here I felt a strange leaping of my heart-God did! My job was to simply follow His leading one step at a time, holding every decision up to him in prayer.Gerhard Tersteegen

♣ Prayer brings to us blessings which we need, and which only God can give, and which prayer can alone convey to us...Prayer is simply asking God to do for us what he has promised us he will do if we ask him...

♣ Prayer brings to us blessings which we need, and which only God can give, and which prayer can alone

convey to us..This service of prayer is not a mere rite, a ceremony through which we go, a sort of

performance. Prayer is going to God for something needed and desired. Prayer is simply asking God to do for us what he has promised us he will do if we ask him...Asking is man's part. Giving is God's part. The praying belongs to us. The answer belongs to God.

Cameron Thompson

♣ No one can in this life pass beyond the kindergarten of prayer.

Augustus M. Toplady

♣ I enjoy heaven already in my soul. My prayers are all converted into praises.

♣ The Christian on his knees sees more than the philosopher on tiptoe.R. A. Torrey

♣ We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little; many services but few conversions; much machinery but few results.

♣ A prayer for self is not by any means necessarily a selfish prayer.

♣ How little time the average Christian spends in prayer! We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little... the power of God is lacking in our lives and in our work. We have not because we ask not.

♣ We should never utter one syllable of prayer either in public or in private until we are definitely conscious that we have come into the presence of God and are actually praying to Him.

♣ Those persons who know the deep peace of God, the unfathomable peace that passeth all understanding, are always men and women of much prayer.

♣ I prayed fifteen years for the conversion of my oldest brother. When he seemed to be getting further and further away from any hope of conversion, I prayed on.

♣ Pray for great things, expect great things, work for great things, but above all, pray.

♣ If we would pray aright, the first thing we should do is to see to it that we really get an audience with God, that we really get into His very presence. Before a word of petition is offered, we should have the definite consciousness that we are talking to God, and should believe that He is listening and is going to grant the thing that we ask of Him.

♣ All that God is, and all that God has, is at the disposal of prayer. Prayer can do anything that God can do, and as God can do everything, prayer is omnipotent.

♣ Prayer that is born of meditation upon the Word of God is the prayer that soars upward most easily to God's listening ears.

♣ Oh, men and women, pray through; pray through! Do not just begin to pray and pray a little while and throw up your hands and quit; but pray and pray and pray until God bends the heavens and comes down.

♣ I prayed fifteen years for the conversion of my oldest brother. When he seemed to be getting further and further away from any hope of conversion, I prayed on.

♣ When the devil sees a man or woman who really believes in prayer, who knows how to pray, and who really does pray, and, above all, when he sees a whole church on its face before God in prayer, he trembles as much as he ever did, for he knows that his day in that church or community is at an end.

♣ The chief purpose of prayer is that God may be glorified in the answer.

♣ Prayer can do anything that God can do.

♣ Every true revival . . . has had its earthly origin in prayer.

♣ The Spirit, when He prays through us, or helps us to meet the mighty "oughtness" of right praying, trims our praying down to the will of God...

♣ When the perceptive child of God stops to weigh the meaning of these words, then notes the connection in which they are found, he or she is driven to say, I must pray, pray, pray. I must put all my energy and heart into prayer. Whatever else I do, I must pray.

♣ Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God's. . . grace and power.

♣ We must know the power of the Blood if we are to know the power of God. Our knowing experimentally the power of the Word, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the power of prayer is dependent upon our knowing the power of the Blood of Christ.

♣ God has not changed; and His ear is just as quick to hear the voice of real prayer, and His hand is just as long and strong to save; as it ever was

♣ The devil is perfectly willing that the Church should multiply its organization and its deftly contrived machinery for the conquest of the world for Christ, if it will only give up praying...The Devil is not afraid of machinery; he is only afraid of God. And machinery without prayer is machinery without God Satan laughs softly, as he looks at the Church today, and says under his breath: "You can have your Sunday schools, your YMCAs...your grand choirs, and your fine organs, and your brilliant preachers. as long as you do not bring into them the power of Almighty God, sought and obtained by earnest, persistent, believing, mighty prayers."

♣ Prayer will promote our personal holiness as nothing else, except the study of the Word of God.

♣ The reason why many fail in battle is because they wait until the hour of battle. The reason why others succeed is because they have gained their victory on their knees long before the battle came Anticipate

your battles; fight them on your knees before temptation comes, and you will always have victory.

♣ Out of a very intimate acquaintance with D. L. Moody, I wish to testify that he was a far greater pray-er than he was preacher. Time and time again, he was confronted by obstacles that seemed insurmountable,

but he always knew the way to overcome all difficulties. He knew the way to bring to pass anything that needed to be brought to pass. He knew and believed in the deepest depths of his soul that nothing was too hard for the Lord, and that prayer could do anything that God could do.

♣ Triumphant prayer is almost impossible where there is neglect of the study of the Word of God.

♣ If we then let the words of Christ abide in us, they will stir us up in prayer. (John 15:7)

♣ Prayer is the hand that takes to ourselves the blessings that God has already provided in His Son.

♣ Up in a little town in Maine, things were pretty dead some years ago. The churches were not accomplishing anything. There were a few Godly men in the churches, and they said: 'Here we are, only uneducated laymen; but something must be done in this town. Let us form a praying band. We will all center our prayers on one man. Who shall it be?' They picked out one of the hardest men in town, a hopeless drunkard, and centered all their prayers upon him. In a week, he was converted. They centered their prayers upon the next hardest man in town, and soon he was converted. Then they took up another and another, until within a year, two or three hundred were brought to God, and the fire spread out into all the surrounding country. Definite prayer for those in the prison house of sin is the need of the

hour."William Temple

♣ When I pray coincidences happen, and when I do not, they don't.

♣ God is perfect love and perfect wisdom. We do not pray in order to change his will, but to bring our wills into harmony with his. William Tiptaft

♣ How hard it is to pray against besetting sins! Paul Tournier

♣ Our own personal experience can never be taken as the norm for other people. What matters is that our prayers should be living and sincere. Each of us has his own temperament; one is more intuitive,

another more logical; one is more intellectual, another more emotional. The relationship of each with God will be marked with the stamp of his own particular temperament.

♣ People often say to me: "I don't seem to be able to say my prayers; what ought I to do?" I reply: "Talk to God as you are talking to me; even more simply, in fact." St. Paul writes that the truest prayer is sometimes a sigh. A sigh can say more than could be contained in many words.

♣ Prayer constantly enlarges our horizon and our person. It draws us out of the narrow limits within which our habits, our past, and our whole personage confine us. A. W. Tozer

♣ When we become too glib in prayer we are most surely talking to ourselves.

♣ Yes, worship of the loving God is man's whole reason for existence.

♣ All things else being equal, our prayers are only as powerful as our lives. In the long pull we pray only as well as we live.

♣ God does not keep office hours.

♣ Pray; and as you pray, surrender; and as you surrender, believe.

♣ To pray without expectation is to misunderstand the whole concept of prayer and relationship with God.

♣ To pray effectively we must want what God wants—that and that only is to pray in the will of God.

♣ The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts.

♣ Communion with God is one thing; familiarity with God is quite another thing. I don't even like (and this may hurt some of your

feelings—but they'll heal) I don't even like to hear God called "you." You is a colloquial expression. I can call a man you, but I would call God thou and thee. Now I know these are old Elizabethan words, but I also know that there are some things too precious to cast lightly away, and I think that when we talk to God, we ought to use the pure, respectful pronouns.

♣ It is because of the hasty and superficial conversation with God that the sense of sin is so weak and that no motives have power to help you to hate and flee from sin as you should.

♣ Even the most devout seem to think they must storm heaven with loud outcries and mighty bellowings or their prayers are of no avail.

♣ In our private prayers and in our public services we are forever asking God to do things that he either has already done or cannot do because of our unbelief. We plead for him to speak when he has already spoken and is at that very moment speaking. We ask him to come when he is already present and waiting for us to recognize him. We beg the Holy Spirit to fill us while all the time we are preventing him by our doubts.

♣ In the average church we hear the same prayers repeated each Sunday year in and year out with, one would suspect, not the remotest expectation that they will

be answered. It is enough, it seems, that they have been uttered. The familiar phrase, the religious tone, the emotionally loaded words have their superficial and temporary effect, but the worshiper is no nearer to God, no better morally, and no surer of heaven than he was before.

♣ The neglected heart will soon be a heart overrun with worldly thoughts; the neglected life will soon become a moral chaos; the church that is not jealously protected by mighty intercession and sacrificial labors will before long become the abode of every evil bird and the hiding place for unsuspected corruption. The creeping wilderness will soon take over that church that trusts in its own strength and forgets to watch and pray.

♣ Prayer at its best is the expression of the total life, for all things else being equal, our prayers are only as powerful as our lives. In the long

pull we pray only as well as we live.

♣ We pour out millions of words and never notice that the prayers are not answered.

♣ When our requests are such as honor God, we may ask as largely as we will. The more daring the request, the more glory accrues to God when the answer comes.

♣ Prayer is often conceived to be little more than a technique for self- advancement, a heavenly method for achieving earthly success.

♣ Selfishness is never so exquisitely selfish as when it is on its knees ... Self turns what would otherwise be a pure and powerful prayer into a weak and ineffective one.

♣ Have you noticed how much praying for revival has been going on of late - and how little revival has resulted? I believe the problem is that we have been trying to substitute praying for obeying, and it simply will not work. To pray for revival while ignoring the plain precept laid down in Scripture is to waste a lot of words and get

nothing for our trouble. Prayer will become effective when we stop using it as a substitute for obedience.

- ♣ Prayer is not so much the cause of a revival as the human preparation for one.

- ♣ Prayer is never an acceptable substitute for obedience. The sovereign Lord accepts no offering from His creatures that is not accompanied by obedience. To pray for revival while ignoring or actually flouting the plain precept laid down in the Scriptures is to waste a lot of words and get nothing for our trouble.

- ♣ When we become too glib in prayer we are most surely talking to ourselves.

- ♣ The church that is not jealously protected by mighty intercession and sacrificial labors will before long become the abode of every evil bird and the hiding place for unsuspected corruption. The creeping wilderness will soon take over that church that trusts in its own

strength and forgets to watch and pray.

- ♣ Selfishness is never so exquisitely selfish as when it is on its knees. ... Self turns what would otherwise be a pure and powerful prayer into a weak and ineffective one.

- ♣ To desire revival...and at the same time to neglect(personal) prayer and devotion is to wish one way and walk another.

- ♣ All things else being equal, our prayers are only as powerful as our lives. In the long pull we only pray as well as we live.

- ♣ A satisfying prayer life elevates and purifies every act of body and mind and integrates the entire personality into a single spiritual unit.

- ♣ Nobody ever got anything from God on the grounds that he deserved it. Haven fallen, man deserves only punishment and death. So if God answers prayer it's

because God is good. From His goodness, His lovingkindness, His good-natured benevolence, God does it! That's the source of everything.

- ♣ Prayer is the most sacred occupation a person could engage in.

- ♣ The Christian's heart must be soaked in prayer before the true spiritual fruits begin to grow.

- ♣ You can delegate many things, but prayer is not one of them.

- ♣ Leadership requires vision, and whence will vision come except from hours spent in the presence of God in humble and fervent prayer?

- ♣ The key to prayer is simply praying.

- ♣ Whatever God can do faith can do, and whatever faith can do prayer can do when it is offered in faith. An invitation to prayer is, therefore, an invitation to omnipotence, for prayer engages the Omnipotent God and brings Him into our human affairs. Nothing is impossible to the man who prays in faith, just as nothing is impossible with God. This generation has yet to prove all that prayer can do for believing men

and women.

- ♣ Any sermon that is not birthed in prayer is not a message from God no matter how learned the preacher.

- ♣ Prayer for revival will prevail when it is accompanied by radical amendment of life; not before.

- ♣ It's not my business to try and make God think like me... but to try, in prayer and penitence, to think like God. John Trapp

- ♣ He that cannot pray, let him go to sea, and there he will learn.

- ♣ It is foolish to pray against sin and then sin against prayer.

♣ God never denied that soul anything that went as far as heaven to ask for it. Bishop Richard Trench

♣ Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold of his highest willingness. (also attributed to Martin Luther)

♣ If we with earnest effort could succeed To make our life one long, connected prayer, As lives of some, perhaps, have been and are; If, never leaving Thee, we have no need Our wandering spirits back again to lead Into Thy presence, but continued there Like angels standing on the highest stair Of the Sapphire Throne: this were to pray indeed!

♣ We kneel, how weak; we rise, how full of power! Why, therefore, should we do ourselves this wrong, Or others – that we are not always strong, That we are ever overborne with care, That we should ever weak or heartless be, Anxious or troubled, when with us is prayer, And joy and strength and courage are with Thee? D. Elton Trueblood

♣ At the profoundest depths in life, men talk not about God but with him. Rick Warren

♣ Character is both developed and revealed by tests, and all of life is a test... You will be tested by major changes, delayed promises, impossible problems, unanswered prayers, undeserved criticism, and even senseless tragedies.

♣ People may refuse our love or reject our message, but they are defenseless against our prayers.

♣ God is looking for people to use, and if you can get usable, he will wear you out. The most dangerous prayer you can pray is this: 'Use me.'

♣ Never use prayer as an excuse to procrastinate doing what you already know is the right thing to do.

♣ When pressure builds up, don't panic. Pray! Prayer is a tremendous stress reliever. It can be your safety valve.

♣ Start today by practicing constant conversation with God and continual mediation on his Word. Prayer lets you speak to God; mediation lets God speak to you.

♣ The greatest use of your words is prayer. Talk to God about EVERYTHING, all the time. Maintain a running conversation.

♣ Delays are as much a part of God plan as answered prayers. God wants you to trust him. Paul Washer

♣ In modern day evangelism, this precious doctrine [of regeneration] has been reduced to nothing more than a human decision to raise one's hand, walk an aisle, or pray a 'sinner's prayer.' As a result, the majority of Americans believe that they've been 'born again' even though their thoughts, words, and deeds are a continual contradiction to the nature and will of God.

♣ All my weak days have a common cause - I have neglected communion with God through my neglect of the Scriptures & prayer. When will I learn?

♣ What can not be overcome in prayer? Answer me! What cannot be done by the hand of the Almighty? Answer me! What can be done by your feeble arms!? ANSWER ME! He can take down the iron curtain in a day, He CAN convert a nation in an hour. Call upon Him, believe Him.

♣ I have never met an old saint who regretted having spent too much time in prayer, but I have met many who regretted having spent too

little!

♣ There are endless treasures of grace waiting for those who will make even the most feeble attempts to pray. The weakest prayers yield grace.

♣ [The 4 spiritual laws and sinner's prayer] is not the gospel of Jesus Christ, and that methodology and evangelism has done more to hurt this country than every heresy introduced by every cult combined. Millions of people in this country whose lives have never been

changed believed themselves born again because we have so reduced the gospel of Jesus Christ that it means now nothing more than simple decision that will only take five minutes of your time. Thomas Watson

♣ Do with your hearts as you do with your watches, wind them up every morning by prayer, and at night examine whether your hearts have gone true all that day.

♣ Prayer is the soul's breathing itself into the bosom of its heavenly Father.

♣ Make up your spiritual accounts daily; see how matters stand between God and your souls (Psalm 77:6). Often reckonings keep God and conscience friends. Do with your hearts as you do with your watches, wind them up every morning by prayer, and at night examine whether your hearts have gone true all that day, whether the wheels of your affections have moved swiftly toward heaven.

♣ The Ediles among the Romans had their doors always standing open, that all who had petitions might have free access to them. The door of heaven is always open for the prayers of God's people.

♣ A spiritual prayer is a humble prayer. Prayer is the asking of an alms, which requires humility... The lower the heart descends, the higher the prayer ascends.

♣ Prayer is the offering up of our desires to God in the name of Christ, for such things as are agreeable to his will. It is an offering of our desires. Desires are the soul and life of prayer; words are but the body; now as the body without the soul is dead, so are prayers unless they

are animated with our desires.

♣ Those prayers God likes best which come seething hot from the heart.

♣ Prayer as it comes from the saint is weak and languid; but when the arrow of a saint's prayer is put into

the bow of Christ's intercession it pierces the throne of grace.

♣ Praising God is one of the highest and purest acts of religion. In prayer we act like men; in praise we act like angels.

♣ Thus it is in hell; they would die, but they cannot. The wicked shall be always dying but never dead; the smoke of the furnace ascends for ever and ever. Oh! who can endure thus to be ever upon the rack? This word "ever" breaks the heart. Wicked men do now think the Sabbaths long, and think a prayer long; but oh! how long will it be to lie in hell for ever and ever?

♣ Faith is to prayer what the feather is to the arrow; it feathers the arrow of prayer, and makes it fly swifter, and pierce the throne of grace.

♣ God will fill the hungry because He Himself has stirred up the hunger. As in the case of prayer, when God prepares the heart to pray, He prepares His ear to hear (Ps. 10:17). So in the case of spiritual hunger, when God prepares the heart to hunger, He will prepare His hand to fill.

♣ Wind up thy heart towards heaven in the beginning of the day, and it will go the better all the day after. He that loseth his heart in the morning in the world, will hardly find it again all the day. O! Christians, let God have your morning meditations.

♣ God's promises are the cork to keep faith from sinking in prayer.

♣ Patience in prayer is nothing but faith spun out.

♣ When faith sets prayer on work, prayer sets God on work.

♣ A wicked man in prayer may lift up his hands, but he cannot lift up his face.

♣ Lifeless prayer is no more prayer than the picture of a man is a man.

♣ The angel fetched Peter out of prison, but it was prayer fetched the angel. (Acts 12:5)

♣ Christ went more readily ad crucem (to the cross), than we do to the throne of grace.

♣ The prayer that is faithless is fruitless.

♣ Prayer delights God's ear; it melts His heart; and opens His hand. God cannot deny a praying soullsaac Watts

♣ Abandon the secret chamber and the spiritual life will decay. John Wesley

♣ Bear up the hands that hang down, by faith and prayer; support the tottering knees. Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down.

♣ Prayer is where the action is.

♣ I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

♣ The neglect of prayer is a grand hindrance to holiness.

♣ God does nothing but in answer to prayer.

♣ Wesley's thoughts on continual prayer speaking in the third person - [H]is heart is ever lifted up to God, at all times and in all places. In this he is never hindered, much less interrupted, by any person or thing. In retirement or company, in leisure, business, or conversation, his

heart is ever with the Lord. Whether he lie down or rise up, God is in all his thoughts; he walks with God

continually, having the loving eye of his mind still fixed upon Him, and everywhere "seeing Him that is invisible."

♣ The man of prayer: "...his heart is ever lifted up to God, at all times and in all places. In this he is never hindered, much less interrupted, by any person or thing. In retirement or company, in leisure, business, or conversation, his heart is ever with the Lord. Whether he lie down or rise up, God is in all his thoughts; he walks with God continually, having the loving eye of his mind still fixed upon him, and everywhere 'seeing Him that is invisible.

♣ Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it. One who always prays is ever giving praise, whether in ease or pain, both for prosperity and for the greatest adversity. He blesses God for all things, looks on them as coming from Him, and receives them for His sake- not choosing nor refusing, liking or disliking, anything, but only as it is agreeable or disagreeable to His perfect will.

♣ with all prayer (Eph. 6:18)" All sorts of prayer- public, private, mental, vocal. Do not be diligent in one kind of prayer and negligent in others... let us use all.

♣ Proceed with much prayer, and your way will be made plain.

♣ On every occasion of uneasiness, we should retire to prayer, that we may give place to the grace and light of God and then form our resolutions, without being in any pain about what success they may have. In the greatest temptations, a single look to Christ, and the barely pronouncing his name, suffices to overcome the wicked one, so it be done with confidence and calmness of spirit.

♣ I have so much to do that I spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it. Warren Wiersbe

♣ The greatest argument for the priority of prayer is the fact that our Lord was a Man of prayer.

♣ It has well been said that Christ's life in heaven is His prayer for us. It is what He is that determines what He does. (Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34)

♣ True prayer lays hold of God's Word (John 15:7) and seeks to accomplish God's purposes.

♣ The fact that Jesus (Ed: When on earth as the God-Man) prayed is evidence that He lived by faith.

♣ (In 1Ti 2:8) "holy hands" obviously this means a holy life. "Clean hands" was symbolic of a blameless life (2Sa 22:21; Ps. 24:4). If we have sin in our lives, we cannot pray and expect God to answer (Ps. 66:18).

♣ A good prayer for all of us is Psalm 139:23-24.

♣ The greatest enemy to answered prayer is unbelief.

♣ Is prayer to you a matter of life and death? It was to Daniel! (Daniel 6:10)

♣ If we are doing the will of God, prayer has tremendous power.

♣ When we sin, it affects our prayer life.

♣ Until we pray and get right with God, He will not reveal His power (2 Chron. 7:14).

♣ If we spent more time preparing to pray and getting our hearts right before God, our prayers would be more effective.

♣ A person who is constantly having trouble with other believers, who is a troublemaker rather than a peacemaker, cannot pray and get answers from God. (1Ti 2:8 "without wrath and dissension")

♣ Prayer is based on sonship ("Our Father"), not on friendship.

♣ Martin Luther once said that prayer, study, and suffering make a pastor; and this is true. We cannot be approved unless we are tested.

♣ Boldness in prayer is the result of faithfulness in life and service.

♣ “Pray without ceasing” (1Th 5:17) does not mean we must always be mumbling prayers. The word means “constantly recurring,” not continuously occurring. We are to “keep the receiver off the hook” and be in touch with God so that our praying is part of a long conversation that is not broken.

♣ Prayer is an act of worship, not just an expression of our wants and needs. There should be reverence in our hearts as we pray to God.

♣ We should not simply add our thanksgiving to the end of a selfish prayer! Thanksgiving should be an important ingredient in all of our prayers. In fact, sometimes we need to imitate David and present to God only thanksgiving with no petitions at all! (see Ps. 103:1-22)

♣ The late Peter Deyneka, Sr., my good friend and founder of the Slavic Gospel Association, often reminded me: “Much prayer, much power! No prayer, no power!”....Paul repeatedly asked the churches to pray for him, because gifts and training without prayer have no power to
accomplish God’s will.

♣ Never underestimate the power of a praying church!
(Ed: Here is the antithetical corollary - Never overestimate the facade of power by a non-praying church!)

♣ Believing prayer releases God’s power and enables God’s hand to
move (Isa. 50:2; 64:1-8).

♣ Division in the church always hinders prayer and robs the church of spiritual power.

♣ I ministered for several weeks in Kenya and Zaire, and when I arrived home, I was more convinced than ever that the greatest need of missionaries and national churches is prayer.

♣ God works when churches pray, and Satan still trembles “when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.”

♣ The glory of God, not the needs of men, is the highest purpose of answered prayer.

♣ When I was a lad in Sunday school, we occasionally sang a little chorus that I haven't heard in decades: Whisper a prayer in the morning, Whisper a prayer at noon, Whisper a prayer in the evening, To keep your heart in tune. (cp Da 6:10, Ps 55:17)

♣ If persistence finally paid off as a man beat on the door of a reluctant friend, how much more would persistence bring blessing as we pray to a loving Heavenly Father! After all, we are the children in the house with Him! (Luke 18:1-8)

♣ Persistence in prayer is not an attempt to change God's mind (“Thy will be done”) but to get ourselves to the place where He can trust us with the answer.

♣ The Word of God and prayer must always go together (John 15:7). In His Word, God speaks to us and tells us what He wants to do. In prayer, we speak to Him and make ourselves available to accomplish His will. True prayer is not telling God what to do, but asking God to do His will in us and through us (1 John 5:14-15). It means getting God's will done on earth, not man's will done in heaven.

♣ Prayer is not an escape from responsibility; it is our response to God's ability.

♣ True prayer energizes us for service and battle.

♣ Prayer and worship are perhaps the highest uses of the gift of speech.

♣ It is possible to pray in our hearts and never use the gift of speech (1 Sam. 1:13); but we are using words even if we don't say them audibly. True prayer must first come from the heart, whether the words are spoken or not.

♣ Perhaps the deepest Christian fellowship and joy we can experience in this life is at the throne of grace, praying with and for one another.

♣ Perseverance in prayer does not mean we are trying to twist God's arm, but rather that we are deeply concerned and burdened and

cannot rest until we get God's answer. (Eph 6:18b). Keep on praying until the Spirit stops you or the Father answers you. Just about the time you feel like quitting, God will give the answer.

♣ The Bible formula is that we pray to the Father, through the Son, and in the Spirit.

♣ When we are praying in the Spirit, he will remind us of verses we know and give us promises to claim.

♣ One of the secrets of an effective prayer life is to lay hold of God's purposes by faith (Acts 4:23-31).

♣ "Keep on asking ... keep on seeking ... keep on knocking." In other words, don't come to God only in the midnight emergencies, but keep in constant communion with your Father. Jesus called this "abiding" (John 15:1ff), and Paul exhorted, "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17). As we pray, God will either answer or show us why He cannot answer. Then it is up to us to do whatever is necessary in our lives so that the Father can trust us with the answer.

♣ (There are) four obstacles to answered prayer: unbelief, willful disobedience (Ps 66:18), neglect of God's Word, and hypocrisy masked by religion.

♣ When we pray in the will of God, we participate in a miracle, because prayer transcends both time and space. If we stop thinking of prayer

as a miracle, our prayer life will start to falter and then cease. We will end up praying so timidly that we're just talking to ourselves instead of to the Lord.

♣ Prayer is not limited by time, because we are linked to the eternal God who knows the end from the beginning.
King

♣ If Christians would go to the Lord in prayer instead of going to their brother with criticism, there would be stronger fellowship in our churches.

♣ We surrender our wills to God through disciplined prayer. As we spend time in prayer, we surrender our will to God and pray, with the Lord,

“Not my will, but Thy will be done.” We must pray about everything,
and let God have His way in everything.

♣ I once heard the late Jacob Stam pray, “Lord, the only thing we know about sacrifice is how to spell the word.” I wonder if today some of us can even spell the word!

♣ We must pray in secret before we pray in public (Mt 6:6)...it is wrong to pray in public if we are not in the habit of praying in private.

♣ Our public praying is only as good as our private praying, and our private praying should be secret.

♣ Believing prayer is one of the secrets of a fruitful Christian life.

♣ True prayer should humble us and make us love others more. We should be like children coming to a Father and not like attorneys bringing an indictment. If prayer doesn't bless the one praying, it isn't likely to help anybody else.

♣ If you start to pray for laborers (Mt 9:38), beware: you may become an answer to your own prayer! You pray, and then you are sent out!

♣ I think it was George Müller who said that true prayer was not overcoming God's reluctance, but overcoming God's willingness.

♣ We can ask in His name as we pray (John 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-26). When we ask the Father for something "in the name of Jesus Christ," it is as though Jesus Himself were asking it. If we remember this, it will help to keep us from asking for things unworthy of His name.

♣ Too many times we fail to get what God promises because we stop praying. It is true that we are not heard "for our much praying" (Matt. 6:7); but there is a difference between vain repetitions and true believing persistence in prayer.

♣ You cannot separate the Word of God and prayer, for in His Word He gives us the promises that we claim when we pray.

♣ God's promises should become our prayers.

♣ Prayer means reminding God of His promises and claiming them for ourselves.

♣ God has ordained that His work is accomplished through believing prayer. But we will not be able to pray effectively if we do not claim our position as conquerors in Jesus Christ.

♣ Many people do not pray in their prayers. They just lazily say religious words, and their hearts are not in their prayers.

♣ The purpose of prayer is to glorify God.....Any request that does not glorify God's name should not be asked in His name. (Ps 99:9)

♣ The better we know the Word, the more effectively we will pray (John 15:7), and the more effectively we pray, the better we will learn the Word.

♣ God's hand is unable to work when our hands are defiled with sin. Our prayers accomplish nothing (Ps. 66:18), and His power is absent from our lives and ministries.

♣ God sometimes waits in answering prayer so that He might strengthen our patience (James 1:2-8).

♣ Do you find delight in prayer, or is prayer only an "emergency exercise" to get you out of trouble?

♣ The "prayer of faith" is a prayer offered when you know the will of God.
(1Jn 5:14, 15)

♣ Prayer can remove affliction, if that is God's will. But prayer can also give us the grace we need to endure troubles and use them to accomplish God's perfect will. God can transform troubles into triumphs. (cp 2Cor 12:8, 9, 10).

♣ Many Christians pray that God will make them more fruitful, but they do not enjoy the pruning process that follows!

♣ If we don't pray, we will faint; it's as simple as that! (Luke 18:1). But
when we pray, we draw on the "pure air" of heaven,
and this keeps us

from fainting.

♣ When you pray, it's an evidence of faith. The world says that seeing is believing but Jesus says, "Believing is seeing."

♣ Your prayers for your loved ones will do more good than you realize, so keep praying.

♣ Obedience is important to answered prayer. If we're abiding in Christ, we will obey His Word, and then we will be able to call upon Him. (John 15:7)

♣ The Word and prayer must always go together. Prayer without the Word is heat without light, and the Word without prayer is light without heat! Jesus said that we need both. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7).

♣ When you pray, be honest with God and tell Him how you really feel. Remember that Jesus knows exactly how you feel, and He understands every experience of life.

♣ He answers our prayers so that we might become an answer to

someone else's prayer. How wonderful it is to receive an answer to prayer. But there is something even more wonderful—to be an answer to prayer. Have you been an answer to prayer lately?

♣ The Christian life is the joy of answered prayer—to be able to say to someone, "God answered my prayer today," or to hear someone say, "Thank you for praying—let me tell you what God did."

♣ When an Old Testament Jew prayed, he didn't fold his hands. He lifted them up to God in praise and in expectancy that He was going to do something. (Psalm 28:2)

♣ Perhaps you've seen the plaque that says, "Prayer changes things," and that's true. I've also seen a plaque that says, "Praise changes things," and that also is true. It's amazing how our whole attitude and whole outlook can be transformed by praising God.

♣ Lock up each day with prayer and unlock each day with praise. Praise is great medicine and will take all bitterness, envy, jealousy, and unrest out of your life. Try closing each day in prayer and opening each day with

praise. Give God an opportunity to accomplish His purposes in your life.

♣ Too often we are content to enjoy the gift but we forget the Giver. We are quick to pray but slow to praise. When He answers your prayers, sing His praises!

♣ People who pray are people who praise. People who pray for God's will in their lives are those who rejoice in His work.

♣ Have you learned that there can be blessing in unanswered prayer? (Ed: That is not giving us that for which we asked!)

♣ Pray Without Ceasing (1Th 5:17). means to make prayer as natural to us as our regular breathing.....Prayer. should be the natural habit of our lives, the "atmosphere" in which we constantly live.

♣ Prayer is not always a quiet, joyful conversation with God. Sometimes it is a battle against the principalities arrayed against us.

♣ To get God's ear, we must pray honestly, fervently, and submissively. We must prepare our hearts for prayer.

♣ If our praying doesn't make us more like our Lord, our praying is in vain.

♣ (The) mark of the mature Christian: he is prayerful in troubles. Instead of giving up when troubles come, the mature believer turns to God in prayer and seeks divine help. "Taking it to the Lord in prayer" is certainly a mark of spiritual maturity.

♣ When we pray, we are like priests who bring acceptable sacrifices to God (Ps. 141:2); and there had better be some "fire" in our hearts to help "consume" our offering The Old Testament priest who burned

the incense on the golden altar—a picture of prayer (Ps. 141:2)— carried the fragrance with him all day, and so should we.

♣ James S. Stewart used Acts 27:29 to preach about the “four anchors” that sustain the believer in the storms of life: hope, duty, prayer, and the cross of Christ.

♣ Each morning, pray your way through that day’s schedule and tell him what you need. The day will go better. (Lam 3:25)

♣ Like Nehemiah, we must “keep the receiver off the hook” and send frequent messages to the Lord as we labor with the people in building the wall. There are twelve instances of prayer in the Book of Nehemiah: 1:5-10; 2:4; 4:4, 9; 5:19; 6:9, 14; 9:5-37; 13:14, 22, 29, 31.

♣ If all you have in the church is prayer and no Bible, you end up with lots of heat but no light, zeal without knowledge. But plenty of Bible without prayer gives you light without heat. You don’t have a church; you have a Bible school. Bible knowledge without prayer has a way of puffing people up. It takes both the Word of God and prayer to make balanced Christians and to build a balanced church.

♣ Prayerlessness doesn’t simply make us weak or handicapped so that our ministry is difficult. Lack of prayer paralyzes us so that we’re not able to do anything that will produce lasting fruit to the glory of God.

♣ The better we understand God’s Word, the better we’re able to pray; the more we pray, the more the Holy Spirit can teach us from the Word and help us obey it.

♣ Studying the Word for truth and praying to God for blessing on service are not competitive activities; they’re the best of friends.

♣ God wants prayer among His people (1 Ti 2:1ff), for true prayer is an evidence of our dependence on God and our faith in His Word.

♣ As the perfect Son of man, Jesus depended on His Father to meet His needs, and that was why He prayed. (Ed: Could the corollary be "Paucity of prayer reflects paltry dependence on God!")

♣ Jesus prayed early in the morning and he labored all the day and into the night hours—and he is our example.

♣ Every servant of God should follow His (Jesus') example and take time away from people in order to meet the Father and be refreshed and revitalized through prayer. (Matthew 14:23, Mark 1:35, 6:46, Luke 6:12)...It was in prayer that He found His strength and power for service, and so must we. If Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God, had

to depend on prayer during "the days of His flesh" (Heb. 5:7), then how much more do you and I need to pray! Effective prayer is the provision for every need and the solution for every problem.

♣ My friend Dr. Robert A. Cook has often said, "All of us have one routine prayer in our system; and once we get rid of it, then we can really start to pray!" I have noticed this, not only in my own praying, but often when I have conducted prayer meetings. With some people, praying is like putting the needle on a phonograph record and then forgetting about it. But God does not answer insincere prayers.

♣ Jesus' High Priestly Prayer in John 17:1-26 - The Scottish Reformer John Knox had this prayer read to him daily during his last illness. But you would benefit by starting now to read it and meditate on it. What a treasury of truth it is!

♣ When we forgive each other, we are not earning the right to prayer; for the privilege of prayer is a part of our sonship (Rom. 8:15-16). Forgiveness belongs to the matter of fellowship: If I am not in fellowship with God, I cannot pray effectively. But fellowship with my brother helps to determine my fellowship with God; hence, forgiveness is important to prayer.

♣ John 17 is certainly the “holy of holies” of the Gospel record, and we must approach this chapter in a spirit of humility and worship. To think that we are privileged to listen in as God the Son converses with His Father just as He is about to give His life as a ransom for sinners!

♣ Harvesting is hard work, even when there are many people helping you, but these men were sent into a vast field with very few workers to help them reap a great harvest. Instead of praying for an easier job, they were to pray for more laborers to join them, and we today need to pray that same prayer. (Please note that it is laborers, not spectators, who pray for more laborers! Too many Christians are praying for somebody else to do a job they are unwilling to do

themselves.) (Luke 10:2)

♣ Demons even believe in prayer, for they begged Jesus not to send them into the abyss, the place of torment (Mark 5:7; Luke 8:31). It is encouraging to note that the demons did not know what Jesus planned to do. This suggests that Satan can know God’s plans only if God reveals them.

♣ The important thing about prayer is not simply getting an answer, but being the kind of person whom God can trust with an answer.

♣ What “tools” does God use, by His Spirit, to work in our lives? There are three “tools”: the Word of God, prayer, and suffering.

♣ It is not necessary for you to pray for “an anointing of the Spirit”; if you are a Christian, you have already received this special anointing (1Jn 2:27). This anointing “abides in us” and therefore does not need to be imparted to us.

♣ If our prayer life is confused, it is because the mind is confused.

♣ Prayer is not only the utterance of the lips; it is also the desire of the heart.

♣ God leads us into His will through prayer and the working of His Spirit in our hearts. As we pray about a decision, the Spirit speaks to us. An “inner voice” may agree with the leading of circumstances. We are never to follow this “inner voice” alone: we must always test it by the Bible, for it is possible for the flesh (or for Satan) to use circumstances—or “feelings”—to lead us completely astray.

♣ There is no place in the Christian life for lazy, listless routine praying. We must have an alert attitude and be on guard, just like the workers in Nehemiah’s day (Neh. 4:9).

♣ When the believer is yielded to the Spirit, then the Spirit will assist him in his prayer life, and God will answer prayer.

♣ A Christian who has his heart fixed on Christ and is trying to glorify Him is praying constantly even when he is not conscious of it.

♣ In view of television (Ed: And Internet), perhaps every Christian’s prayer ought to be, “Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity” (Ps. 119:37).

♣ Sometimes we try to make our gossip sound “spiritual” by telling people things “so they might pray more intelligently.” (Ed: Or even worse sometimes we simply pray our gossip!)

♣ The Jews looked on the temple primarily as a place of sacrifice, but Jesus saw it as a place of prayer. True prayer is in itself a sacrifice to God (Ps. 141:1-2). Jesus had a spiritual view of the Jewish religion, while the leaders promoted a traditional view that was cluttered with rules and regulations.

♣ In our public praying, we sometimes get so familiar that other people wonder whether we are trying to express

our requests or impress the listeners with our nearness to God!

♣ In the Bible and in church history, the people God used were people who prayed.

♣ Our prayers should always include thanksgiving (Col. 4:2). The Christian who is filled with the Spirit, filled with the Word, and watching in prayer will prove it by his attitude of appreciation and thanksgiving to God.

♣ Prayer is not our trying to change God's mind. It is learning what is the mind of God and asking accordingly (1 John 5:14-15).

♣ Supplication (is) an earnest sharing of our needs and problems. There is no place for halfhearted, insincere prayer! Supplication is not a matter of carnal energy but of spiritual intensity (Rom. 15:30; Col. 4:12).

♣ I believe that earnest prayer is the greatest need in our churches today.

♣ Prayer is not telling God what we want and then selfishly enjoying it. Prayer is asking God to use us to accomplish what He wants so that His name is glorified, His kingdom is extended and strengthened, and His will is done. I must test all of my personal requests by these overruling concerns if I expect God to hear and answer my prayers.

♣ Selfish praying erodes our character, but praying in the will of God builds our character.

♣ Sometimes we hear a believer pray, "O Lord, humble me!" That is a dangerous thing to pray. Far better that we humble ourselves before God, confess our sins, weep over them, and turn from them. (Isa 66:2, Ps 34:18)

♣ Sometimes we use prayer as a cloak to hide our true desires. "But I prayed about it!" can be one of the biggest excuses a Christian can use. Instead of seeking God's will,

we tell God what He is supposed to do; and we get angry at Him if He does not obey.

♣ Lyndon Johnson's press secretary, Bill Moyers, was saying grace at a staff lunch, and the President shouted, "Speak up, Bill! I can't hear a thing!" Moyers quietly replied, "I wasn't addressing you, Mr. President." It is good to remind ourselves that when we pray, we talk to God.

♣ I heard about a church member who prayed long at each prayer meeting and always closed by saying, "And, Lord, take the cobwebs out of my life." One of the men in the group had gotten weary of hearing this and one night called out, "And, Lord, while you're at it, kill the spider!" Alexander Whyte

♣ The greatest and best talent that God gives to any man or woman in the world is the talent of prayer.

♣ Every kind of prayer, not intercessory prayer only, which is the highest kind of prayer, but all prayer, from the lowest kind to the highest, is impossible in a life of known and allowed sin

♣ "I have known men," says Goodwin—it must have been himself—"who came to God for nothing else but just to come to Him, they so loved

Him. They scorned to soil Him and themselves with any other errand than just purely to be alone with Him in His presence. Friendship is best kept up, even among men, by frequent visits; and the more free and defecate those frequent visits are, and the less occasioned by business, or necessity, or custom they are, the more friendly and welcome they are."

♣ No prayer!--No faith!--No Christ in the heart. Little prayer!--Little faith!--

-Little Christ in the heart. Increasing prayer!--Increasing faith!-- Increasing Christ in the heart! Much prayer!--Much faith!--Much Christ in the heart! Praying always!--Faith always!--Christ always!

♣ We are tempted to pray before preaching, because we are afraid at the people and at our work; but prayer for ourselves and the people after preaching is much neglected.

♣ You preached today as though you came from the throne of heaven,” a church officer said to Alexander Whyte one Lord’s Day. Whyte quietly replied, “Maybe I did.”

♣ Prayer is the only way to amend your life: and without prayer, it will never be mended.

♣ The greatest and best talent that God gives to any man or woman in this world is the talent of prayer.

♣ If you find your life of prayer to be always so short, and so easy, and so spiritual, as to be without cost and strain and sweat to you, you may depend upon it, you have not yet begun to pray.

♣ Admit sin, and you banish prayer. But, on the other hand, entertain, and encourage, and practice prayer, and sin will sooner or later flee before it.

♣ Prayer is a rising up and a drawing near to God in mind and in heart, and in spirit.

♣ If you would move me with your preaching, or with your praying, or with your singing, first be moved yourself.

♣ No man's prayer is acceptable with God whose life is not well pleasing before God.

♣ I am as certain as I am standing here, that the secret of much mischief to our own souls, and to the souls of others, lies in the way that we stint, and starve, and scamp our prayers, by hurrying over them.

♣ Prayer worth calling prayer, prayer that God will call true prayer and will treat as true prayer, takes for more time by the clock than one man in a thousand thinks. William Wilberforce

♣ Surely the experience of all good men confirms the proposition that without a due measure of private devotions the soul will grow lean.

♣ Of all things, guard against neglecting God in the secret place of prayer.

♣ I must secure more time for private devotions. I have been living far too public for me. The shortening of devotions starves the soul, it grows lean and faint. I have been keeping too late hours. Kenneth L Wilson

♣ To pray “in Jesus’ name” means to pray in his spirit, in his compassion, in his love, in his outrage, in his concern. In other words, it means to pray a prayer that Jesus himself might pray. George Whitefield

♣ Whole days and weeks have I spent prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer.

♣ Be humble, talk little, think and pray much.

♣ My prayer today is that God would make me an extraordinary Christian.

♣ The true believer can no more live without prayer, than without food day by day.

♣ You might as reasonably expect to find a living man without breath, as a true Christian without the spirit of prayer and supplication.

♣ Believers keep up and maintain their walk with God by secret prayer. The spirit of grace is always accompanied with the spirit of supplication. It is the very breath of the new creature, the fan of the divine life, whereby the spark of holy fire, kindled in the soul by God, is not only kept in, but raised into a flame. John Greenleaf Whittier

♣ Every chain that spirits wear
Crumbles in the breath of prayer. David Wilkerson

♣ Blessed are those who believe when there is no evidence of an answer to prayer. Octavius Winslow

♣ Prayer is the pulse of the renewed soul; and the constancy of its beat is the test and measure of the spiritual life.

♣ God is near at hand when you do approach Him in prayer. Oh, comforting truth! A God at hand to hear the softest breath of prayer- to listen to every confession of sin-to every cry of need-to every utterance of sorrow-to every wail of woe-to every appeal for counsel, strength, and support. Arise, O my soul! and give yourself to prayer; for God is near at hand to hear and answer you.Samuel Marinus Zwemer

♣ The history of missions is the history of answered prayer. From Pentecost to the Haystack meeting in New England and from the days when Robert Morrison landed in China to the martyrdom of John and Betty Stam, prayer has been the source of power and the secret of spiritual triumph.

♣ Prayer is the gymnasium of the soul.

♣ Prayer is self-discipline. The effort to realize the presence and power of God stretches the sinews of the soul and hardens its muscles. To pray is to grow in grace. To tarry in the presence of the King leads to new loyalty and devotion on the part of the faithful subjects. Christian character grows in the secret-place of prayer.Huldrych Zwingli

♣ If we grow wiser and more learned in our intercourse with wise and learned persons, how much more will we gain in our inner life by communing with God in prayer.

God bestows many things on us out of his liberality, even without our asking for them. But that he wishes to bestow certain things on us at our asking is for the sake of our good, that we may acquire confidence in having recourse to God, and that we may recognize in him the Author of our goods.

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

1. God puts his ear so closely down to your lips that he can hear your faintest whisper. It is not God away off up

yonder; it is God away down here, close up—so close up that when you pray to him, it is more a whisper than a kiss.

THOMAS DE WITT TALMAGE

God's way of answering the Christian's prayer for more patience, experience, hope, and love often is to put him into the furnace of affliction. RICHARD CECIL

He who does not pray when the sun shines will not know how to pray when the clouds roll in.

He who fails to pray does not cheat God. He cheats himself.

GEORGE FAILING

He who labors as he prays, lifts his heart to God with his hands.

BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

I don't want to keep a prayer list but to pray, nor agonize to find your will but to obey.

JOSEPH BAYLY

Good prayers never come creeping home. I am sure I shall receive either what I ask or what I should ask.

JOSEPH HALL

I have not placed reading before praying because I regard it more important, but because, in order to pray aright, we must understand what

we are praying for.

ANGELINA GRIMKÉ

God fills our heart with peace when we pour out our heart to Him.

If you can beat the devil in the matter of regular daily prayer, you can beat him anywhere. If he can beat you there, he can possibly beat you anywhere.

PAUL DANIEL RADER

In the morning prayer is the key that opens to us the treasures of God's mercies and blessings; in the evening, it is the key that shuts us up under his protection and safeguard.

Anonymous

It is not that prayer changes God, or awakens in him purposes of love and compassion that he has not already felt. No, it changes us, and therein lies its glory and its purpose.

HANNAH HURNARD

Jesus often retired to deserted places to pray. We see him spending nights in prayer. When you visit the Holy Land and see the places he prayed, you realize that it took a significant effort for him to get there. He had to leave the crowds that were beginning to inundate him. And it was work to climb a mountain to pray. The Mount of Transfiguration is a difficult mountain to climb.

JOHN MICHAEL TALBOT

More things are wrought by prayer Than this world dreams of.

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

Most of us have much trouble praying when we are in little trouble, but we have little trouble praying when we are in much trouble.

RICHARD P. COOK

Neglect of prayer is a guarantee that we will not be victors. RICHARD OWEN ROBERTS

No one can say his prayers are poor prayers when he is using the language of love.

JOHN MAILLARD

No prayer of adoration will ever soar higher than a simple cry: "I love you, God."

LOUIS CASSELS

In the life of Jesus, prayer was the work and ministry was the prize. For me, prayer serves as preparation for the battle, but for Jesus, it was the battle itself. Having prayed, He went about His ministry as an honor student might go to receive a reward, or as a marathon runner, having run the race, might accept the gold medal.

HADDON ROBINSON

Our prayer and God's mercy are like two buckets in a well; while the one

ascends the other descends.

MARK HOPKINS

Ponder for a moment what great crises would face you if tomorrow all your prayers were answered.

FRANCES J. ROBERTS

Pray devoutly, but hammer stoutly. Pray not for lighter burdens but for stronger backs.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Prayer is battering the gates of heaven with storms of prayer.

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

Prayer is not a lazy substitute for work. It is not a shortcut to skill or knowledge. And sometimes God delays the answer to our prayer in final form until we have time to build up the strength, accumulate the knowledge, or fashion the character that would make it possible for him to say yes to what we ask.

SAMUEL PEPYS

Prayer is not something we do at a specific time, but something we do all the time.

RICHARD OWEN ROBERTS

Prayer is putting oneself under God's influence.
HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK

Prayer is the breath of the newborn soul, and there can be no Christian life without it.
Rowland Hill

Prayer is the link between finite man and the infinite purposes of God To pray in the truest sense means to put our lives into total conformity with what God desires.
Pat Robertson

In my thinking, the "prayer of faith" cannot be prayed simply at will. It is given of God in certain cases to serve His purpose and to accomplish His sovereign will.
George Sweeting.

Prayer is weakness leaning on omnipotence.
W. S. Bowden

Prayer moves the arm which moves the world, And brings salvation down.
James Montgomery

Prayer requires more of the heart than of the tongue.
Adam Clarke

Prayer serves as an edge and border to preserve the web of life from unraveling.
Robert Hall

Quiet waiting before the Lord in prayer will give him a chance to change your mood. The situation may not change, but you will have changed for the better in spite of the situation.
ROBERT A. COOK

Some of our shortest prayers are our most effectual ones. V R Edman

Some people are greedy even when they pray: they expect a thousand-dollar answer to a one-minute prayer.

Take prayer out of the world, and it is as if you had torn asunder the bond that binds humanity to God and had struck dumb the tongue of the child in the presence of his Father.

Gustav T Fechner

The good unask'd, in mercy grant;
The ill, though ask'd, deny.

James Merrick

The holy time is quiet Breathless with adoration
The gentleness of heaven broods o'er the sea;
Listen!

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

The immediate person thinks and imagines that when he prays, the important thing, the thing he must concentrate upon, is that God should hear what he is praying for. And yet in the true, eternal sense it is just the reverse: the true relation in prayer is not when God hears what is prayed for, but when the person praying continues to pray until he is the one who hears, who hears what God wills. The immediate person uses many words and makes demands in his prayer; the true man of prayer only attends.

SØREN AABYE KIERKEGAARD

The man who says his prayers in the evening is a captain posting his sentries. After that, he can sleep.

CHARLES BAUDELAIRE

More like Jesus when I pray, More like Jesus day by day
May I rest me by His side,

Where the tranquil waters glide

Fanny Crosby

No greater help and care is given To others in their
need

Than when we bear them up in prayer

And for them intercede.

- Dennis J. De Haan

There is a divine principle in regard to prayer which runs all through the Scriptures. It is that God is pleased to unite His people with Himself in whatever He is about to do. He first of all leads them to pray, and then does what He intends in answer to their prayers.

RUSSELL ELLIOTT

David Watson notes that “Prayer has always been a primary mark of the saints of God in every generation of the church. George Whitefield, who retired punctually at ten p.m. every night, rose equally promptly at four a.m. in order to pray.

The world is full of faces, black with anger, green with envy, and red with shame, which could be made radiantly white with holiness and spirituality, aglow by the transfiguring power of prayer.

SAMUEL HENRY PRICE

To God we use the simplest, shortest words we can find because eloquence is only air and noise to him.

FREDERICK WILLIAM ROBERTSON

To pray is to expose the shores of the mind to the incoming tide of God.

RALPH WASHINGTON SOCKMAN

Nothing can so quickly cancel the frictions of life as prayer. If you find yourself growing angry at someone, pray for him—anger cannot live in an atmosphere of prayer.

WILLIAM T MCELROY

To spend an hour worrying on our knees is not prayer. Indeed, there are times when it is our duty, having committed a problem to God in prayer, to stop praying and to trust and to do the necessary work to arrive at a solution.

OLIVER BARCLAY

To suppose that God could not care for each of us because there are so many people in the world is to place upon him human limitations; but, let us remember, he is God, not man! If he knows our need and seeks to help

us, we do not have to give him information, but we do need through prayer to place ourselves in an attitude to be helped.

GEORGIA HARKNESS

God may turn his ears from prattling prayers, or preaching prayers, but never from penitent, believing prayers.

William S. Plumer

True prayer is born out of brokenness.

Frances J Roberts

"Give to the winds thy fears, and be thou undismayed;
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears—God shall lift up thy head." Paul Gerhardt

When I can neither see, nor hear, nor speak, still I can pray so that God can hear. When I finally pass through the valley of the shadow of death, I expect to pass through it in conversation with him.

SIR WILFRED THOMASON GRENFELL

When you cannot pray as you would, pray as you can.

EDWARD MEYRICK GOULBURN

You will find in your "closet of prayer" what you frequently lose when you are out in the world. The more you visit it, the more you will want to return. If you are faithful to your secret place, it will become your closest friend and bring you much comfort. The tears shed there bring cleansing.

Thomas A Kempis

Praying without faith is like shooting without a bullet; it makes a noise but does no execution.

Francis Burkitt

The man who prays without faith has a radical defect in his character.

H. W. Fulford

The prayer of faith is the only power in the universe to which the great Jehovah yields.

Robert Hall

Many a person is praying for rain with his tub the wrong side up. Sam Jones

We lie to God in prayer if we do not rely on him afterwards. Robert Leighton

Faith is the fountain of prayer, and prayer should be nothing else but faith exercised.

Thomas Manton

What an excellent ground of hope and confidence we have when we reflect upon these three things in prayer—the Father's love, the Son's merit and the Spirit's power!

Thomas Manton

All the storehouses of God are open to the voice of faith in prayer.

D. M. McIntyre

Large asking and large expectation on our part honor God.

A. L. Stone

More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

By fasting, the body learns to obey the soul; by praying the soul learns to obey the body.

William Secker

Fasting is calculated to bring a note of urgency and importance into our praying, and to give force to our pleading in the court of heaven. The man who prays with

fasting is giving heaven notice that he is truly in earnest.
Arthur Wallis

Few disciplines go against the flesh and the mainstream of culture as this one.

Donald S. Whitney

Prayer comes from God and ... all the time God is training us to pray.

Iain H. Murray

Ten minutes spent in the presence of Christ every day, aye, two minutes, will make the whole day different."

Henry Drummond

One can form a habit of study until the will seems to be at rest and only the intellect is engaged, the will having retired altogether from exercise. This is not true of real praying. If the affections are laggard, cold, indifferent, if the intellect is furnishing no material to clothe the petition with imagery and fervor, the prayer is a mere vamping of intellectual exercise, nothing being accomplished worth while.

Homer W. Hodge

Never tell me of a humble heart where I see a stubborn knee. Thomas Adams

The life of prayer shapes the unity of Christian morality. Carl F H Henry

Before the Great War there were many signs of a new interest in PRAYER and new hope from its exercise. How these signs have multiplied is known to every one. This one thing at least that is good the War has done for us already. Let us not miss our opportunity. Prayer is not an easy exercise. It requires encouragement, exposition, and training. There never was a time when men and women were more sincerely anxious to be told how to pray. Prayer is the mightiest instrument in our armory, and if we are to use it as God has given the encouragement, we must do everything in our power to bring it into exercise.

James Hastings.

The secret of all failure is our failure in secret prayer.
The Kneeling Christian

Most of modern man's troubles stem from too much time on his hands and not enough on his knees.

Ivern Boyett

Whoever only speaks of God, but never or seldom to God, easily leases body and soul to idols. The Christian thus places his whole future in jeopardy by a stunted prayer life.

CARL F. H. HENRY

Prayer as a means to effect a private end is theft and meanness. Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dealing in generalities is the death of prayer.

J. H. Evans

Leave not off praying to God; for either praying will make thee leave off sinning, or continuing in sin will make thee desist from praying.

Thomas Fuller

Prayer is never an excuse for laziness. Gerald B. Griffiths

Satan rocks the cradle when we sleep at our devotions.
Joseph Hall

A heap of unmeaning words only smothers the words of devotion.

J. Hamilton

The sin of failing to come to God in prayer is one of the most common offences a Christian commits.

Simon J. Kistemaker

Knowing that intercessory prayer is our mightiest weapon and the supreme call for all Christians today, I pleadingly urge our people everywhere to pray. Believing that prayer is the greatest contribution that our people can make in this critical hour, I humbly urge that we take time to pray—to really pray. Let there be prayer at sunup,

at noonday, at sundown, at midnight—all through the day. Let us all pray for our children, our youth, our aged, our pastors, our homes. Let us pray for our churches. Let us pray for ourselves, that we may not lose the word 'concern' out of our Christian vocabulary. Let us pray for our nation. Let us pray for those who have never known Jesus Christ and redeeming love, for moral forces everywhere, for our national leaders. Let prayer be our passion. Let prayer be our practice.

Robert E. Lee

If we be empty and poor, it is not because God's hand is straitened, but ours is not opened. Thomas Manton

When we make self the end of prayer, it is not worship but self-seeking. Thomas Manton

Prayer is not a way to get what we want but the way to become what God wants.

Means without prayer is presumption. Prayer without means is tempting God.

Al Martin

Saying prayers without praying is blasphemy. Brownlow North

The very breath of prayer sustains the Christian life. Carl F H Henry

We may as well not pray at all as offer our prayers in a lifeless manner. William S. Plumer

Satan is far more anxious to keep us off our knees than he is to keep us off our feet!

Ivor Powell

Sincerity is the prime requisite in every approach to the God who requires 'truth in the inward parts' and who hates all hypocrisy, falsehood and deceit.

Geoffrey B. Wilson

Pray, and then start answering your prayer. Deane Edwards

None can pray well but he that lives well. Thomas Fuller

If you find yourself loving any pleasure better than your prayers, any book better than the Bible, any persons better than Christ, or any indulgence better than the hope of heaven--take alarm.

Thomas Guthrie

The Book of Common Prayer is a guide to intercession and worship which contains a marvelous prayer for internalizing the Bible: "Blessed Lord, Who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we

may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them (cp meditate on), that, by patience and comfort of Thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which Thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." (Ref)

Honest dealing becomes us when we kneel in God's pure presence.

David McIntyre

He who prays as he ought will endeavour to live as he prays. John Owen

If we are not right, our prayers cannot be. James Philip
It is what we are when we pray our prayers that counts with God. James Philip

The cardinal element in true prayer is no mere outward ritual but the inward, moral state of the one who prays.

James Philip

Where there is no vision of eternity, there is no prayer for the perishing. David Smithers

Every prayer should begin with the confession that our lips are unclean. Friedrich Tholuck

Philipp Melancthon

Trouble and perplexity drive us to prayer, and prayer driveth away trouble and perplexity.

Many of us cannot reach the mission fields on our feet, but we can reach them on our knees.

T. J. Bach

To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the spirit of the world.

Karl Barth

The highest attitude in prayer is not desire nor aspiration nor praise. It is surrender. In surrender we open our whole being to God as a flower opens itself to the sun, and we are filled, up to our measure, with His divine energy. It is because man can be filled with the fullness of God that he has been chosen of God as His instrument in the world.

W M Clow

The principal cause of my leanness and unfruitfulness is owing to an unaccountable backwardness to pray. I can write or read or converse or hear with a ready heart; but prayer is more spiritual and inward than any of these, and the more spiritual any duty is the more my carnal heart is apt to start from it.

RICHARD NEWTON

Prayer is not something to be added after other approaches in our search for the will of God have been tried and have failed. No, we should pray as we use the personal resources God has given us.

T. B. MASTON

Did any of you, parents, ever hear your child wake from sleep with some panic fear and shriek the mother's name through the darkness? Was not that a more powerful appeal than all words? And, depend upon it, that the soul which cries aloud on God, "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," though it have "no language but a cry," will never call in vain.

ALEXANDER MACLAREN

What is the life of a Christian but a life of prayer? David Brown

The Christian will find his parentheses for prayer even in the busiest hours of life.

Richard Cecil

Our prayer and God's mercy are like two buckets in a well; while one ascends, the other descends.

Arthur Hopkins

To speak for God to men is a sacred and responsible task. To speak for men to God is not less responsible and is more solemn.

Robert Dabney

Let us advance upon our knees. JOHN HARDY NEESIMA

Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night. Thomas Fuller

Prayer is the breath of the new-born soul, and there can be no Christian life without it.

Rowland Hill

Since the Holy Spirit makes intercession for the infirmed saints according to God's will, who are we to pray any other way? (Ro 8:22-27).

George Sweeting.

Men of God are always men of prayer. Henry T. Mahan

Prayer is not manipulating God to get what we want but discovering what He wants us to do, and then asking the Holy Spirit to enable us to do His will.

V C Grounds

Prayer is to religion what thinking is to philosophy. Novalis

I had rather learn what some men really judge about their own justification from their prayers than their writings.

John Owen

The function of prayer is to set God at the center of attention. Albert Edward Day

If we can bring our woes before God in prayer we have done the best possible thing.

William S. Plumer

Satan is far more anxious to keep us off our knees than he is to keep us off our feet.

Ivor Powell

What is the reason that some believers are so much brighter and holier than others? I believe the difference, in nineteen cases out of twenty, arises

from different habits about private prayer. I believe that those who are not eminently holy pray little, and those who are eminently holy pray much.

Sir Walter Raleigh one day asking a favor from Queen Elizabeth, the latter said to him, 'Raleigh, when will you leave off begging?' To which he answered, 'When your Majesty leaves off giving.' Ask great things of God. Expect great things from God. Let his past goodness make us 'instant in prayer.'" (Ro 12:12KJV)

Prayer is the world in tune. Henry Vaughan

If we ever forget our basic charter—'My house is a house of prayer'—we might as well shut the church doors.

James S. Stewart

A prayerless man is a careless man. William W. Tiptaft

I want to be begging mercy every hour. William Tiptaft

A prayerless Christian should be a nonexistent species. Geoff Treasure

It is significant that there is no record of the Lord teaching his disciples how to preach; but he took time to teach them how to pray and how not to pray.

L A T Van Dooren

The language of prayer is forged in the crucible of trouble. When we can't help ourselves and call for help, when we don't like where we are and want out, when we don't like who we are and want a change, we use primal language, and this language becomes the root language of prayer.

Eugene Peterson

Prayer should be fundamental, not supplemental.
William J. C. White

Lay no weight on the quantity of your prayers; that is to say, how long or how many they are. These things avail nothing with God, by whom prayers are not measured, but weighed.

Thomas Boston

God does not, it seems to us, frequently yield up his blessing to us till we have spent a reasonable length of time in his presence.

Maurice Roberts

Time spent with God in the secret place is never the cause of spiritual inefficiency.

Maurice Roberts

Humanity is never so beautiful as when praying for forgiveness or else forgiving another.

JEAN PAUL RICHTER

Prayer is the rope up in the belfry; we pull it, and it rings the bell up in heaven.

Christmas Evans

The man who kneels to God can stand up to anything.
Louis H. Evans

Prayer moves the Hand which moves the world. JOHN A. WALLACE

Prayer is the key to heaven's treasures.

John Gerhard

Prayer is the sovereign remedy. Robert Hall

Within God's limitations prayer is unlimited.
E. F. Hallock

Prayer is the slender sinew that moves the muscle of omnipotence.
J. Edwin Hartill

Depend upon it, if you are bent on prayer, the devil will not leave you alone. He will molest you, tantalize you, block you, and will surely find some hindrances, big or little or both. And we sometimes fail because we are

ignorant of his devices...I do not think he minds our praying about things if we leave it at that. What he minds, and opposes steadily, is the prayer that prays on until it is prayed through, assured of the answer.
Mary Warburton Booth

I had rather stand against the cannons of the wicked than against the prayers of the righteous.
Thomas Lye

I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth.
Isaac Newton

When prayers are strongest, mercies are nearest.
Edward Reynolds

The prayers of the Christian are secret, but their effect cannot be hidden. Howard Chandler Robbins

I know no blessing so small as to be reasonably expected without prayer, nor any so great but may be obtained by it.
Robert South

Time spent on the knees in prayer will do more to remedy heart strain and nerve worry than anything else.

George D. Stewart

God's timing - God does not depend on our time. Our time is chronological and linear but God is timeless. He will act at the fullness of His time. Our

prayer....may not necessarily rush God into action, but places us before

Him in fellowship. Samuel Enyia

The power of prayer consists in the knowledge that God is our God. Friedrich Tholuck

The strongest knees are those which bend most easily. Mary S. Wood

Theology and prayer are inextricably intertwined. Richard Bewes

God loves to be consulted. Charles Bridges

Prayer is the barometer of the church. Thomas V. Moore

All the prayers in the Scripture you will find to be reasoning with God, not a multitude of words heaped together. Stephen Charnock

True prayer is rooted in the promises and covenants of God, in his past achievements, in his ability to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

Bob Cotton

Prayer is receiving what God has promised.

E. F. Hallock

Intercession is truly universal work for the Christian. No place is closed to intercessory prayer. No continent - no nation - no organization - no city - no office. There is no power on earth that can keep intercession out.

Richard Halverson

We are to pray only for what God has promised, and for the communication of it unto us in that way whereby he will work it and effect it.

John Owen

Believing prayer never asks more than is promised. William S. Plumer

The reason why we obtain no more in prayer is because we expect no more. God usually answers us according to our own hearts.

Richard Alleine

Prayer's perplexities are most often camouflaged discoveries, there for the making.

Donald Cranefield

I have learned that God's silence to my questions is not a door slammed in

my face. I may not have the answers—but I do have him.
Dave Dravecky

Prayer is warfare. Just getting there is half the battle. Staying there is the other half.

God is not a cosmic bellboy for whom we can press a button to get things. Harry Emerson Fosdick

All my life I have risen regularly at four o'clock and have gone into the woods and talked to God. There He gives me my orders for the day.

George Washington Carver

God has not always answered my prayers. If he had, I would have married the wrong man—several times!

Ruth Bell Graham

I have lived to thank God that all my prayers have not been answered. Jean Ingelow

How good is God to deny us mercies in mercy! William Jenkyn

If you can't pray a door open, don't pry it open.

Lyell Rader

What God sovereignly decrees in eternity, men will always demand in time. Anon.

Prayer is the preface to the book of Christian living, the text of the new life sermon, the girding on of the armor for battle, the pilgrim's preparation for his journey; and it must be supplemented by action or it amounts to nothing.

Anon

[About Praying (John) Hyde] He prayed as if God were at his elbow. Anon

God's sovereignty does not negate our responsibility to pray, but rather makes it possible to pray with confidence. Jerry Bridges

We ask what we think to be best; God gives what he knows to be best. William Burkitt

God answers only the requests which he inspires. Ralph A. Herring

Did not God sometimes withhold in mercy what we ask, we should be ruined at our own request. Hannah More

In prayer, while we seek in appearance to bend God's will to ours, we are in reality bringing our will to his. J. M. Neale

Don't pray to escape trouble. Don't pray to be comfortable in your emotions. Pray to do the will of God in every situation. Nothing else is worth praying for. Samuel Shoemaker