

**Pray
in this manner
for Revival Camps...**

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It is customary to hold fasting prayers and intercessions before Revival Camps and Conventions. And it is right in these preparatory meetings to acknowledge our absolute dependence on God. However we spend an inordinate time, in these sessions, praying for the mundane than the most important matters. Praying for temporal needs like the hall or *pandal* arrangements, audiovisual equipments, food requirements, safe travel and comfortable stay of participants, climatic condition, etc, are surely okay, but the Lord would rather have us correct our focus of prayer to “seek **first** His Kingdom and His Righteousness.” In His perception it is the “pagans” who seek after these material and financial needs (Mt 6:31-33). Note how the Lord gives us this correction and emphasis **after** teaching earlier in the same chapter the model Prayer (vv 9-13). Only one out of the seven things

in the Lord’s model Prayer pertains to our physical needs. The first three are about “His” things—His Name, His Kingdom and His Will. The last three are about our “spiritual” needs— forgiveness, victory over temptation and deliverance from evil. So let us here meditate on what we ought to “primarily” pray for in the preparatory prayer gatherings we hold prior to our Conferences.

Prayer Point-1

Expectation of the Delegates

To a large extent among God's children today there is no hunger and thirst for God and things pertaining to His Kingdom. Instead, there prevails—what the Scripture refers to as “lukewarm” state—a worldly mentality, a spiritual dullness and stagnation. Except there be a hunger and an expectation among the delegates nothing would really happen.

Jesus said, “Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be filled” (Mt 5:6). Are our desires and dreams not about riches, all day and night?

God's promise in Isaiah 44:3 is, “I will pour water on him who is thirsty and floods on dry ground...My Spirit on your descendants...My blessing on your offspring.” Pray that the heartcry of every delegate would be, “O Lord, won't You please enrich

my heart that is so dry and my life so barren?” Let us not forget that the Lord will send away empty the rich and the self-satisfied, who say to themselves, “I'm alright!”

We may invite many to our meetings, but the Lord's call is only to those who are thirsty. The Scriptures close with the words, “He who thirsts, let him come; he who desires, let him take freely the waters of Life” (Rev 22:17). So our prayer should be, “Lord, create in all delegates a heart of hunger and thirst for You. In the same way, may no one with such a yearning be left uninvited by oversight. May our meeting halls overflow with such delegates.”

Jerusalem was crowded; for the annual eight-day Feast of Tabernacles was on full swing with great festivity and rituals. But the spiritual hunger of the multitude was unrequited. So on the final day of the Feast, Jesus “shouted out” His call: John 7:37-39, “Let him who thirsts come unto Me and drink.” The situation must change that obtains today, where only a hundred or so of a thousand who come to the Camp have any hunger. Pray fervently that every delegate may cry out, “O Lord, please, change me to be like You.”

Cornelius was a Gentile and not a Jew, yet the spiritual thirst he had puts us to shame. Regular family prayer, generous giving to the poor and constant personal prayers added to his innate godly fear (Acts 10:2). Yet none of that satisfied him. It is satisfaction that leads to complacency. Cornelius would have oft sung,

*Draw me nearer, nearer,
Nearer blessed Lord!*

Hear him say to the Preacher, "It is good that you have come. We are all gathered here in God's presence to listen to all that He has commanded you to tell us" (v33). We must pray: "Lord, may all the delegates echo a similar desire in their lips and hearts before each session."

Jeremiah 4:3 describes the how of preparation prior to the ministry of God's Word: "Thus says the Lord: Do not sow among thorns; break up your fallow ground." We may think it is only natural that some seed will fall among thorns during the sowing. The Parable of the Sower that Jesus spoke is with reference to "evangelism." But we are here meditating on what is relevant to "revival" camps. Not about evangelism among unbelievers but the ministry of edification among believers. True that the messages in these meetings should break,

melt and mould the hearts; but it is essential that even before coming to the programme the hearts of the hearers should to an extent be tilled and readied for the seed of the Word.

God who anoints the lips of the speakers must open the ears of the listeners too (Psa 40:6). As much as the Camp organizers need to pray for the participants, the participants themselves must be encouraged to prepare and pray for a softening of their hearts well before coming to the Camp. If travel readiness takes 3-month preparation, is not heart readiness more important?

We pointed out, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness." Whatever might be "our" part in this longing, it's the Lord who creates in us an appetite. "It is **God** who works in you **to will and to do...**" (Phil 2:13). So there is no go except to prostrate ourselves before the Throne of Grace and plead for this need of expectation in the hearts of the delegates.

Prayer Point-2

Exposition of the Word

In the foregoing we noted the essential need to pray for the delegates. Next, we need to pray for the servants of God who would bring forth God's message. When we pray for them, we often limit ourselves with 'an umbrella' request—"Anoint them, O Lord, and use them mightily." Let us look at what should be our specific requests in prayer for the speakers.

God used Ezra the Priest and Scribe to rebuild the Temple and the lives of God's people. Every revival preacher can learn much from how Ezra prepared himself for this task. Ezra had prepared his heart first "to study" the Scriptures, secondly, "to do" accordingly, and thirdly "to teach" the same to others (Ezra 7:10). Anyone who presumes to preach without such careful self-preparation will not benefit, but rather bring ruin to himself and his audience. Preaching is no simple matter of style and eloquence with a smattering of Bible verses scattered

in here and there. The preacher has to take time and trouble to "search out" the Scriptures, accept its corrections in himself, obeying its commands and counsel; if he does not do so, it would be a crime to climb the pulpit. Sandwiched between searching the Scriptures and preaching it lies the need for personal application. Neglect of this will lead to rampant hypocrisy. We need to pray with tears that the speakers may come so prepared in themselves as Ezra was.

See how Apostle Paul by an illustration explains this need to first practise before preaching: 2 Timothy 2:6, "The hardworking farmer must be **first** to partake of the crop." The "first" to benefit of the harvest should be the farmer.

As an old adage goes, "Only what's in the pot will get spooned out." The servant of God can bless people only as much as he himself is blessed in his thought and deed. Jeremiah 31:14 says it beautifully: "I will satiate the souls of the priests with abundance, and (then) My people will be satisfied with My goodness, says the Lord." The inner man of the speaker should be flourished as he gets ready to preach. Commensurate to the measure he is immersed in the meditation of the Word, may he firmly expound it before men. See how important this point of prayer is.

God's servants must first "know and understand" the blessings the Lord has purposed for His people. Note the witness of the early Apostles: 1 Corinthians 2:12, "We have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God that we might **know** the things freely given to us by God." Pursuant to such experience of knowing, "these things we also **speak**, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (v13). O the essentiality of the man of God to be prepared before the wisdom of God may manifest in his preaching! Pray that the speaker would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring fresh insights and new revelations; or else, he will go over the same old grind repeatedly.

You can bet that the devil will not spare the servant of God so intent to equip himself to preach the Word. Isn't it the devil's strategy always to "strike the shepherd and scatter the sheep?" The devil will try all his tricks to intrude and interfere. The Lord in His wisdom does at times allow Satan to afflict the servant of God both physically and mentally. Listen to the witness of Apostle Paul—

"I was with you in weakness, in fear and much trembling" (1 Cor 2:3).

"When we came to Macedonia, our flesh had no rest; we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears"

(2 Cor 7:5)

What? Can the servant of God confess to having fears? Yes, for indeed that is the plain truth; there is no place for "positive" nor "negative." Speak in a "true" confession!

Whenever I am to deliver messages in important Seminars and Conferences, I take a 3 to 6 monthlong prior preparation over it. As the date of the event approaches, my anxiety increases as I wonder, "What trouble is brewing for me?" Because, in over 40 years of the ministry of the Word that I have been in since 1971, I have almost always had to face, before the actual meeting, some acute problem in my body or in the family or in the society or in the ministry. Invariably then the song of victory I sing which sees me through the period has been,

Pressed about, yet not crushed;

The Lord preserves me;

He is mighty, He is gracious;

His mercy endures forever!

But the toll taken is heavy; singing is singing, suffering is suffering! Singing does not strip the sting of suffering. O dear brothers and sisters, do you realize how

much we need you to battle tearfully on your knees in prayer for us! We are but earthlings, men of clay, not angels!

The very mention of the name 'Paul' conjures for us a man bold as a lion who roars out everywhere, the Word. After he exhorts the listeners graphically to put on the full armour of God in Ephesians 6:10-17, he writes, "Pray for me that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth **boldly** to make known the mystery of the Gospel." If Paul himself needed believers to pray for him to gain the "boldness" to preach...!

The Scripture passage in Numbers 24:3,4,15,16 describes beautifully the kind of preparation needed by the speakers: "The utterance of one whose eyes are opened, the utterance of one who hears the words of God, who sees visions of the Almighty, who falls down with eyes opened wide." He who does not fall down before God will fall flat before men! The one who lies prostrate in God's presence will stand tall before men! This is an unchanging law. "O Lord, may no one come to preach to us without such preparation!"

We need to pray for not only the speakers but also for the singers, the musicians and

the prayer leaders fervently. They too must be filled the Spirit and be saturated with the Word, and only then they will be able to serve others "in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs" and exalt the Lord "making melody unto Him" (Eph 5:18-20; Col 3:16,17).

Prayer Point-3

Enlightenment of the Delegates

Though the speakers may come well prepared to deliver the messages, unless the ears and eyes of the listeners be opened, it will benefit no one. Paul was a prayer warrior. One of his long prayers is recorded in Ephesians 1:16-19: "I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him...that the eyes of your understanding be enlightened." We would do well to use the very words of this passage to pray powerfully. This is praying according to the Scriptures. Jesus put it this way: "If My words abide in you and you abide in Me,...ask what you desire and it shall be done for you" (Jn 15:7). If our prayers must reflect and resonate with the will of God, we must use the very words of the Scriptures in prayer whenever and

wherever possible. Memorizing the prayer passages in the Bible will come in handy.

Note the description apostle Paul gives about the hearers of the Word: 1 Corinthians 2:14,15, "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God...nor can he know them as they are spiritually discerned... but he who is spiritual judges all things." The distinction here is made not between the saved and the unsaved; the two groups differentiated here are among the saved; one of a carnal nature predominantly and the other of a spiritual mind. The unsaved person is 100% of carnal nature; the saved person is one in whom carnal nature and spiritual mind are together present. One in whom spiritual inclination prevails carnal desires is called a "spiritual" person. It was among the saved and anointed believers at Corinth that carnal desires and corrupt behaviour abounded (1 Cor 1:7; 3:1,2). Only as the scales fall off and the cataract removed from the eyes of believers can they have clear vision of spiritual truths. On the Road to Damascus, Paul was struck physically blind but his spiritual eyes were opened wide. We need to pray specifically for the delegates that the Lord would erase from their hearts what need to be erased and write what needs to be written anew.

If sound doctrine should enter people's hearts and stay there, all the wrong things they have already learnt must be flushed out. There will be a constant battle between the truths of God and the lies of Satan. When "Paul" is preaching "Jesus" to Sergius "Paulus," the sorcerer by name "Bar-Jesus" will only be opposing it, isn't it? (Acts 13:6-10). Pray that the Word of God should prevail in this battle.

As a group of apostles habitually gathered at the riverbed to pray, so did another group of women come there to chit-chat(?). The one group saw the other; the apostles preached to the women. They must have earnestly prayed for them. The Lord then opened the heart of one of the women, Lydia, to receive the gospel (Acts 16:13,14). Let us pray, "Lord, remove the veils from the hearts of the delegates." The delegates too have to listen to the messages with a prayer in their hearts and lips, "Open my eyes, O Lord, to see the wonders of Your Word" (Psa 119:18). One may read the Bible with the help of spectacles; but we would need to apply eye salve to see the wonders thereof (Rev 3:18b).

The two disciples on their way to Emmaus had many a time read through the Old

Testament books (Lk 24: 25); but when the risen Lord explained the Scriptures to them, their "eyes were opened" (vv 31,32). Again when He appeared to the eleven disciples and others and explained the Scriptures, their "hearts were opened" (vv 44,45). Let us knock at the gates of Heaven and implore that the hearers' hearts and eyes be opened too. Otherwise they would be physically present there but mentally absent!

The following prophetic passage from Isaiah cites the manner in which Christ, as the supreme example, showed how to be a listener and learner. Isaiah 50:4,5, "He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. The Lord God has opened My ear; I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away." Unless and until the Lord opens the ears, people will oppose sound doctrine or they will avoid them. Not just he who has "ears," but only he who has "ears to hear" can listen! We must pray that the dull state of hearing among believers must change.

The words of Jesus amply prove that it is only the Lord who can open the ears and hearts of the people: "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him... they shall all be taught by God" (Jn 6:44,45). May we beg the Lord that He shows us His mercy and does so for us!

Prayer Point-4

Empowerment of the Delegates

It is not enough that the delegates be enriched with Bible knowledge in these meetings. They should rather receive abundant “showers of blessing” poured out on them. In fact, we are commanded to plead for such a rain of blessing from God (Zech 10:1).

We should expectantly ask for the kind of outpouring that was witnessed in the house of the Centurion Cornelius: “While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the Word” (Acts 10:44). The Holy Spirit “fell” on them! We may take it to mean the unstoppable blessing of God that no one could oppose or prevent. “O God, how so wonderfully You did honour Peter’s message that You show no partiality! Won’t You so drench our congregations that are dry and dreary, with heavenly downpour of Your Spirit?” (v34). “Please, Lord!”

We read that on the Day of Pentecost when Peter preached, people were “cut to the heart” (Acts 2:37). Is not the Word of God a two-edged sword? (Heb 4:12). We have so become used to seeing people stirred up a little but not being moved to action. What is the use of dry bones only shaking up and down a bit and that’s it? So much more has to yet take place (Ezek 37). “We have seen much show, song and dance. O God, won’t You do amongst us Your works of lasting depth and value?”

When the risen Lord expounded the Scriptures to the disciples on the Road to Emmaus, their hearts “burned within them.” If that was before Pentecost, we ought to expect now after Pentecost, that much more would happen if the Word is preached fearlessly with the fire of the Spirit. We expect less and we receive less; our expectations are low and our experiences are shallow. The Lord has promised, “Behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire and this people wood” (Jer 5:14). May this be the experience of all who come to hear the Word.

*Kindle the flames, O Spirit,
That self may burn to cinder;
Grant Thy grace, O God,
That flesh may die
And the spirit live victorious!*

Many delegates come to Revival Camps with unresolved internal tensions and depressions. The teaching of the Word should give them release from pressures and refresh them. For this, we have Scriptural promises that can be rightfully claimed: Deuteronomy 32:1,2, "Give ear, O heavens and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of My mouth. Let My teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, as raindrops on the tender grass." Another such passage: 2 Samuel 23:2,4, "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His Word was in my tongue... And He shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises, a morning without clouds, like the tender grass springing out of the earth, by clear shining after rain." Ah, how refreshing is the reading of these verses! Like bathing in waterfalls! May we ask the Lord to let such be the personal experience of all the delegates! Everyone should go back refreshed and renewed to their homestead and workplaces.

So many of God's children are perplexed and stunned by the strange events and struggles of life with difficult questions they bring. Many would have come to the meeting with more questions than answers in their hearts and minds. Patriarch Job speaking from his life could well give them this sermon: "Men listened to me and waited and

kept silence for my counsel; my speech settled on them as dew. They waited for me as for the rain, and they opened their mouth wide as for the spring rain" (Job 29:21-23). May we cling to the feet of our Lord and beg of Him that no one must return from the Camp with their doubts and fears unallayed. Even if all the queries are not answered in the way we would like, turbulence is quelled and quietness and confidence are born only in God's presence. This was the experience of the Psalmist who had gone through a season of utter confusion: Psalms 73:16,17, "When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me—**until** I went into the sanctuary of God; **then** I understood their end."

The Lord delights to bless His people; He does that primarily through His Word. See it described in His promise: Isaiah 55:10,11, "As the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it." So what is the outcome? "You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace" (v12). "Be it so, dear Lord, Amen!"

There is no one who has no problem in life; every household has its threshold! The same thing happens to the righteous and the wicked. Those who laugh today weep tomorrow; those who weep today laugh tomorrow; all these are repetitive cyclical events. There is no satisfactory explanation why this is so. One may ask: Does the Word of God break the people who come already burdened and broken? The work of God's Word is twofold: It breaks the hardhearted; it binds up the brokenhearted. Paul refers to this as the "comfort of the Scriptures" (Rom 15:4). The experience of the Psalmist is also similar: "Unless Your Law had been my delight, then I would have died in my affliction" (Psa 119:92).

On the whole, every one who comes to the Camp must obtain a refreshing experience. Let us make it our plea, which the Psalmist makes not once but thrice in a single Psalm: "Revive me, O Lord, according to Your Word" (Psa 119: 25,107,154).

Prayer Point-5

Enforcement by the Delegates

We noted first in this study that we must develop a hunger and thirst for God and His Word without which Lord will not grant anything to us. Today our spiritual appetite is limited to simply "tasting the sermons." Yearning to walk according to the truth of the Word has reached an abysmal low. Right in the first century, Apostle James warned against such complacency and deception: James 1:21-25, "Receive with meekness the Word... moreover, be doers of the Word and not hearers only deceiving yourselves." He warns that the longer we fail to apply the truths we receive from the Word, the sooner we will "forget" them (v24). Paul too emphasizes it saying it is not enough to be hearers but be doers of the Word which is the "right way of living" (Rom 2:13). We must pray that all who come and hear the Word may respond to the Word in a sincere and fervent spirit of obedience.

Obedience to the Word is not optional. God cannot and will not overlook our disobedience. We read in Hebrews 6:7,8 what the result of continued disobedience is: “The earth that drinks in the rain that often comes upon it and bears herbs useful to those by whom it is cultivated receives a blessing from God; but if it bears thorns and briars, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burnt.” Let us then plead and pray, “O God, grant us the rain and the repentance lest we reap such an end in our lives.” For it is God who “grants” repentance whether it is to unbelievers or believers (2 Tim 2:25; Acts 11:18).

Often we do listen to the Word with enthusiasm, but we fail to implant it in our hearts and set our lives aright. It is only to those who already had “believed” in Him that the Lord said, “If you abide in My Word, then truly you will be My disciples” (Jn 8:30,31). So it is clear that, to “believe” in the Word is one thing and to “abide” in it, another. It is only as we abide in the truth, we are delivered of many obvious and hidden bondages in our lives (v32). “You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free”— is a text constantly quoted to unbelievers in evangelism. Note however that this saying was given by the Lord to those who had already believed, calling them to disciple-

ship. Only as the Word of Christ “dwells” in us, we can and please the Lord in word and deed (Col 3:16,17). Let us pray that obedience will flow like a river amongst us.

It is an old fact that many of those who come to hear the preaching comprise of the fan club of the speaker! Distributing pamphlets, putting up banners and wall posters, bringing people to the Camps by the droves, etc., etc., have not availed much. See what the Lord points out to Prophet Ezekiel: “The children of your people talk about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses, speaking to one another, each saying to his brother, ‘Please come and hear the word that comes from the Lord;’ they come to you as people do, sit before you as My people and hear your words but do not do them... Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words but do not do them” (Ezek 33:30-32). So let us kneel before the Lord and beg of Him, “Lord, do not let our meetings be such meaningless non-events.”

Prayer Point-6

Expansion of the Kingdom

Those who return from the Camp must spread the truths and share the blessings with others. They must endeavour to explain to others clearly and gently the corrections they received for themselves in the Camp and exhort them also. See how challenging and enthusing is the testimony that Paul gives about the believers at Thessalonica: "...having received the Word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, you became followers of us and of the Lord... you became examples to all who believe in Macedonia (locally) and in Achaia (regionally)" (1 Thess 1:6-8). Soon after the Camp, if any one asks, "How was the **Camp?**" we usually respond with, "Brother, it was such a blessing!" After a week, if any one asks "Brother, how are **you?**" will our answer be, "O brother, we are now a blessing to others?" Let us ask the Lord that things would happen in the Camp that such a

transformational change will be the outcome and testimony of the delegates.

We sing so often, "*There shall be showers of blessing*" and we print it in the handbills. Have we noticed the backdrop against which such showers of blessing are promised and why they are granted? We read the part that says: "I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing...I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing" (Ezek 34:26). We stop here and do not read further. To know why the Lord sends down His rain, read on: "Then the trees of the **field** yield their fruit; the **earth** shall yield her increase" (v27). It is in order to be a blessing to those without the fold that the Lord blesses those within. Pray that the Holy Spirit may so constrain and direct the organizers and the participants to do everything with such a sense of responsibility.

His own brothers pressed on Jesus to do His miracles and mighty works, not in the obscurity of rural Galilee but in the urban capital of Jerusalem amidst the multitudes who come for the Feast. The Lord who refused to accept their strategy, on the last day of the Feast, called out with a loud voice His invitation to receive the miracle of

miracles. Do you know what that miracle par excellence was? (Read John 7:3,4,37-39). “Rivers that never dry up will flow out of the heart of one who himself is parched!” “O Lord, won’t you so turn our Camps into such Miracle Meetings?”

Jesus teaches clearly that only by reading, meditating and living out the Word of God in daily obedience can we yield “much” fruit (Jn 15:1-8). Only as much as the Word of Christ fills our heart and does its work within us, can we serve to enhance the faith of other fellow believers (Col 3:16). Those who participate in these special Camps—not all are privileged to attend them; to whom much is given, of him much will be required—they must take responsibility to “instruct and encourage” the faith of other believers. Jesus spent much ‘quality’ time with a rather small group of men and taught them many many truths. Finally, He gave them His Great Commission: “Teach them to observe all that I commanded you” (Mt 26:20).

If we do not pass on to others the great and glorious truths we are taught by His servants we ourselves will forget them as time goes by. After the Lord expounded His teaching about six types of soil He said, “Whoever has, to him more will be given and

he will have abundance, but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.” (Mt 13:12). Today there is no dearth of preaching. Yet there is a poverty and starvation amidst believers because of this reason: We do not act upon truths received nor pass them on, thus losing them. “O God, please alleviate this condition!”

If the expansion of God’s Kingdom is not our one and only aim, we will become builders of our own empires. Many indeed are the Churches and Para-church Organizations so inexorably caught up in this net. We might continue to believe that we are doing all for the Kingdom; but we would unawares have taken a wrong turn and gone off tangent. That is called deception. “Lord, help us to have no ulterior or secondary motive in our ministries.” What we are doing might in our sight loom larger than life. But, seen against the backdrop of the whole History of the Church, all our work will be less than a comma. If only we get this realisation of realisations, we will not be making noises like a half-filled water pot.

Prayer Point-7

Exaltation of the Lord

All our meetings must be conducted with the one and only focus and finality: That the Lord alone will be glorified! Jesus fulfilled a multifold ministry on earth: He preached truth and demonstrated grace; performed signs, wonders and miracles; forgave sins and iniquities; succoured and strengthened the suffering; bore our sorrows and shame; taught and trained up nextlevel leadership. Note what He said when He finally submitted to the Father the summary of His mission: "I have **glorified** You on earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do" (Jn 17:4). Similarly, at the end of every Camp, should the leaders and organizers be able to submit their account prayerfully to the Lord. To give an exaggerated report of the number of participants and the events that transpired in the Camp will bring no glory and honour to God, but only disgrace and dishonour.

"If you have two aims, you have one too many," thundered the man of God George Verwer in an International Youth Conference I attended years ago, and that has sunk deep in my heart. Apostle Paul is an excellent example and model to all of us. If you were to ask him, "Why do you take the Gospel to the Gentiles?" his answer would be "...that the Gentiles might **glorify** God for His mercy" (Rom 15:9). "Father, guard us from having any other motive for any of our activities."

Every tongue shall confess and every knee shall bow before Him. To what purpose? "To the **glory** of God the Father" (Phil 2:9-11).

The famous Evangelist D.L. Moody finished preaching to a large crowd in Chicago. As he left the pulpit, a gentleman shook hands with him and said in great appreciation, "What a wonderful preacher you are!" All through that night D.L. Moody could not sleep but spent it in prayer saying, "Where, O where, did I go wrong?" The next evening, D. L. Moody preached with a deeper commitment and dedication. As he left the dais, that same man came and said, "O what a wonderful Saviour we have!" and dedicated his life to the Lord. Unto the last breath of

his life the prayer of D.L. Moody was: “O Lord, Let me never touch Your glory!” May that be our humble prayer too.

We read that God struck Herod, even an unbeliever, and he was eaten by worms and died because he did not give God the glory due to Him (Acts 12:21–24). How jealous God is for His glory! The Father gave away His only begotten Son; the Son gave away His own life; but His eternal decree is, “I will never give My glory to another.” That’s why the Prayer the Lord Jesus taught us ends with the acknowledgment: “For Yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory forever! Amen!”

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