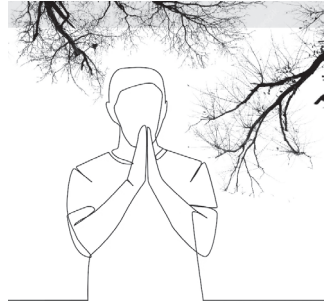


I have read the story of John Hyde or Praying Hyde as he was called. Certainly you cannot read such a life story and not be challenged to a deeper prayer life. I have of late been challenged by God to deepen my prayer life because it is the only way to see consistent victory over the world, the flesh and the devil.

As I was reading through the book of Exodus, chapter 17 seemed to highlight so many important aspects of prayer. As the nation of Israel is entering into the district of Rephidim they are confronted with one of the many trials they faced. Their response provides us with an important contrast between themselves and Moses.

Israel, when faced with a trial, responded by first complaining or murmuring against God. Moses, however, turned to God in prayer. And most of us KNOW that this should be our response. However, many of us are more like the nation of Israel. When we are faced with a trial we can only see our problem, and so we complain to God.



I find prayer is a wonderful way of remembering what God has done in the past. In fact, a number of the feasts Israel were instructed to keep, were specifically designed to help the nation of Israel remember the faithfulness of God. Why? Because we are fickle and appear to forget so quickly the many blessings of the Lord.

Israel, it seems, had an incredible ability to forget the most amazing miracles of God's deliverance and provision. I think that part of the problem lay in the shallow relationship they had with Jehovah God. This was born out in their response to trials.

#### **PRAISE the Lord for:**

- The opportunity to share the gospel through the paper with our various partners around the world
- Our prayer warriors who are a great blessing and asset to the work we are doing in Australia and overseas
- A faithful team of staff who do an outstanding job in each of their areas

Again, and again, we read of Moses communing with God and in particular praying to God. It would seem in today's spiritual climate that prayer has become something of an after-thought rather than a vital ingredient of a dynamic Christian life. For Moses it appeared that prayer was such an important part of his walk with God; it was all but a reflex action no matter what the circumstances.

How do you respond when beset by a trial of some kind or another. Are you inclined to complain or pray?

**CONTINUED  
OVER**

Why then is prayer so vital to our Christian walk? There are a number of reasons we can see from Exodus 17.

1. ***Prayer transforms the person.*** Remember when Moses went up onto Mt Sinai. He came down with his face shining; so much so that he had to cover it up with a veil.
2. ***Prayer transforms our relationship with God.*** As we pray God is pleased to reveal to us more of His character and power.
3. ***Prayer transforms our relationship with other believers.*** I am absolutely convinced that the majority of the problems we are seeing in our churches can be attributed primarily to a lack of prayer, corporately and individually.
4. ***Prayer transforms our desire and power for service.*** When we pray God is able to work in our lives to remove whatever it is that hinders our desire and power for service.
5. ***Prayer transforms our effectiveness in service.*** We begin to see God do things in and through us that we never dreamed were possible.

***... prayer  
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#### **PRAYER needed for:**

- Orders coming in from the recent trip to South Australia. Pray they will take the paper on to reach out to their communities
- The health of the Challenge team, especially during the winter months
- A new mission concept - Impact WA. Designed to give exposure to local and remote churches and communities with an emphasis on evangelism. Our next trip is being finalized for a visit to Broome in August

It is my heart's desire that we regain a fresh passion and willingness to pray, because, as we do, God will do things far beyond what we could think or imagine.

As we pray God is able to impart His willingness and ability to effectively serve Him.

Somehow we have lost sight of the fact that we worship a supernatural God. Prayer brings this back into sharp focus.

Exodus 17 also heavily underlines the fact that Christian victory is won in the prayer closet, not in the heat of battle.

{ CARL CARMODY  
EDITOR CHALLENGE }

### **Ongoing supply of testimonies**

If you would like to share your testimony through the printed page please email [carl@challengenews.org](mailto:carl@challengenews.org) for further information

#### Challenge Direct Deposit details :

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