

# **In Everything by Prayer**

*A.W. Tozer*

## I. Introduction. (Ephesians 4:6)

- A. Supplication, thanksgiving, and making requests known are all a form of prayer.
- B. We are not enjoying all that God has because we are not practicing everything “by prayer.”
- C. The phrase “everything by prayer” ought to be posted everywhere for the church to see.

## II. Why everything ought to be done by prayer.

### A. There coexists two kingdoms-the kingdom of God and the kingdom of man.

- 1. We are born into the kingdom of man-fallen man. The human race believes in its own self-sufficiency, in the soundness of moral judgments, that man is right and good, and that there is a basic badness to the human race, however.
- 2. There is another kingdom-the kingdom of God. The members are born anew by Jesus Christ. They trust in God alone and know that they have no strength in the flesh. It is a different kingdom altogether than the kingdom of man.

### B. There is probably no church anywhere that is totally committed to the kingdom of God, but there are churches that have totally given themselves to the kingdom of man.

- 1. A real effort needs to be made by the church to be in the business of God.
- 2. The church needs to attempt to keep the kingdom of man out of itself.

### C. There is nothing in human nature nor any thought in man that can do the work of God.

- 1. We are not to hide away from the kingdom of man.
- 2. On the contrary, we are to do everything by power-by the power of God.
- 3. While the world says everything by money, the church says everything by prayer.
  - a. In the kingdom of God, God uses money.
  - b. But God only uses money by prayer.
  - c. Money without prayer is a curse.
- 4. The world says everything by prestige-public relations.
  - a. The church does not need a bureau of public relations.
  - b. The church needs the power of God-let the world think what it will.

- 5. The world says everything by committee.
  - a. A committee is a company of the “incompetent.”
  - b. The Holy Spirit upon one man can accomplish far more than any committee.
  - c. Committees may be a necessity, but the point is that a committee’s time can be cut down by more prayer.
- 6. The world says everything by business technique.
- 7. The world says everything by education.
- 8. The world says everything by compromise.
  - a. It is a good thing to make compromises where you can.
  - b. But compromising is a deadly business in the kingdom of God.
  - c. The church is not to be used, it is to serve.

D. It is a deadly snare to have others doing the praying for you.

- 1. Prayer gives power to all other things.
- 2. No one ought to serve in the church at all unless that person is a praying person.
- 3. Service is stubble without prayer.

**Application questions.**

1. What is the distinction between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of man? What means do each employ? What means do each exclude?

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2. Are money, public relations, business techniques, education, and compromise bad things? What is it about prayer that makes or breaks these things? What does a lack of prayer reveal about a church?

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3. What place does prayer take in your life? What will you do to make your life a life empowered by God?

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