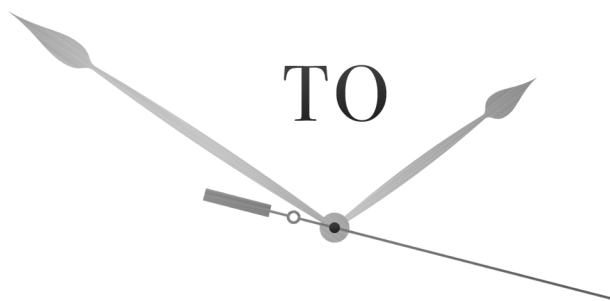


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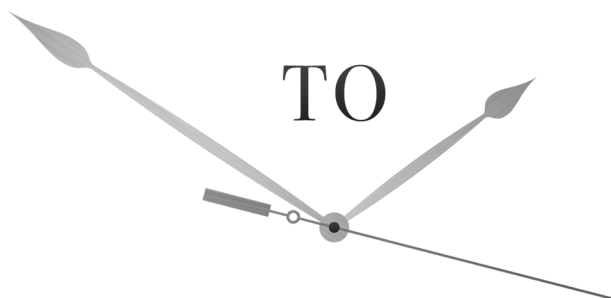
TO



PRAY

MEN
OUGHT
ALWAYS

TO



PRAY

DR. JACK TRIEBER



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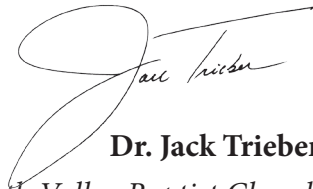
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DEDICATION

It is my privilege to dedicate this book to my father-in-law, Dr. Melvin G. Swanson. Throughout his life, he has been a faithful prayer warrior and intercessor for his family, his church, and the people of God. He pastored the great Berean Baptist Church of Rockford, Illinois, from 1953 to 2010. His influence helped shape my life and ministry. I love you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jack Trieber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Dr. Jack Trieber
Pastor, North Valley Baptist Church

MEN OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY

LUKE 18:1

JACK TRIEBER

Men ought al - ways to pray,

The first system of music features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody in the treble clef consists of a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4, and a final half note D4. The bass line consists of a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a final half note D3. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

Men ought al - ways to pray, —

The second system continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The treble staff ends with a half note D4 tied to the next system. The bass line ends with a half note D3 tied to the next system. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

And not to faint; and not to faint;

The third system continues the melody and bass line. The treble staff has a half note D4, followed by quarter notes E4, F4, and G4, and a final half note A4. The bass line has a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a final half note D3. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

Men ought al - ways to pray.

The fourth system concludes the hymn. The treble staff has a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4, and a final half note D4. The bass line has a half note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, and a final half note D3. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff. The system ends with a double bar line.

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FORWARD

I have just looked on my library shelf at all the different books about prayer and noticed that I own thirty-seven different books that have been written on this subject. There is the classic by Dr. John R. Rice, *Prayer, Asking and Receiving*. I have the series by E. M. Bounds on the subject of prayer. The one that has especially been a blessing to me is *The Power of Prayer* by R.A. Torrey. There is Spurgeon's great work, *The Pastor and Prayer*. There is the book, *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, by Andrew Murray. With all these books, you might ask, "Why another book on prayer?"

Quite frankly, there may not be a need for another book on prayer. However, the following lessons on prayer are the result of the Wednesday night Bible studies that I gave to my church family over a period of several months. Personally, these studies were a tremendous help to me. Therefore, I thought another voice might provoke God's people to read once again about the subject of prayer and perhaps develop a walk with Christ in prayer that they have never before enjoyed.

It is obvious that I don't have anything new to say about prayer, nor am I trying to imply that I am expressing my thoughts any better than the great heroes of the faith who have written before me. However, I am quite confident that our Lord has much more available to us than that of which we presently avail ourselves—because of a lack of prayer. Thus, it is my intent to encourage you to develop a walk with Christ in prayer and then rejoice as He answers those prayers. May God bless you as you read these pages. It is certainly my prayer that these chapters will provoke each of us to pray.

1

Chapter One

THE PATTERN IN PRAYER

“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.”

-Luke 18:1

“Pray without ceasing.”

-1 Thessalonians 5:17

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

-Hebrews 4:15-16

Do you have a need that just won't be met if God doesn't intervene? I believe almost all Christians could say that is true of some aspect of their lives.

I remember the days when the city of Santa Clara wanted North Valley Baptist Church here in our city. That's no longer true. This world doesn't mind the homosexuals or the feminists or the ACLU crowd or the humanists or the evolutionists or the whore-mongers or the pornographers, but they don't want Christians. Therefore, in my ministry and in my personal life, if God doesn't come through, I am dead in the water.

My prayer book is full of requests for my ministry. If God doesn't answer them, there is no way my ministry will continue. I have people on my prayer list who are backslidden and away from God; if God doesn't work on their hearts, I hate to think what is going to take place in their lives. I believe they are saved, but they are away from God; they don't love God. If God doesn't intervene, it is sad to contemplate what the results will be in their lives and the lives of their families.

I am praying so much in these days for our missionaries in Hong Kong and China. Hong Kong fell to the Communists on July 1, 1997, and David Homer and Dick Baucum are both in China. I fear for these men and pray for them. The Communist

government has said they can stay there for now, and there is supposed to be a period of peaceful coexistence between capitalism and communism, but the situation won't be good for our missionaries if God doesn't intervene.

Great needs have we! In light of that, we must know how to pray. The truth of the matter is that prayer is my job! I have been employed by my church to be a professional "pray-er." Churches have deacons to care for the widows of the church and the needs of the church family so pastors are able to give themselves continually to the Word of God and prayer as the Bible instructs. Church members are supposed to be able to give their pastors prayer requests, and we are to bring them to God on behalf of our members.

Prayer, for me, is the hardest and most difficult aspect of my Christian life. Maybe it's something else for you, but I believe most of us do not pray as we should.

Some things in the Christian life are easy for me. I don't find it difficult to give money to the work of the Lord and to individuals. I just like living that way. I have been tithing for almost thirty years; that's easy for me. It's easy for me to give to missions and the Gideon fund (my church's building and debt retirement account) and special offerings here at my church. That is hard for others. People will even leave churches over tithing

or giving. However, those things are not difficult for me personally.

Reading the Bible isn't hard for me. I have a goal of reading the Bible through many times this year. That is pleasurable for me.

I enjoy going soul winning. It is refreshing and fun for me. I love it!

To me, church attendance is easy. I am like an ant on a hot rock on Wednesdays. Wednesday is one of the highlights of the week for me. I begin by preaching in high school chapel. Then I preach in college chapel and teach a class. I have calls and hospital visits and appointments in the afternoon. I go to the teachers' meeting at church before the evening service. That service is a wonderful end to a great day for me. I don't have to make myself come to church. I love it! I love Sundays and revivals. I look forward to the November missions conference at my church months before it ever gets here.

However, though all these areas are easy for me regarding my service for the Lord, prayer is not. I have to walk a lot when I pray to keep from falling asleep. I'm not proud of that, but it happens. My mind wanders when I'm praying. I get sidetracked; the phone rings,