

May 13<sup>th</sup> 2020

## Mid-Week Message

I hope that this message finds you healthy and happy. I was reflecting on my mother the last few days . I was thinking of sharing some wild and hilarious memories of her with you as Mother's Day has come and gone. Strangely enough I decided to keep things pastoral. However, do ask me about the time she told my best men she was not my mother.

I have always found prayer to be an amazing topic with many deep layers of understanding. On many occasions I have had my jaw drop at the power and energy of prayer. Only to shake my head and walk away in complete disbelief. Prayer has that power to suspend logic and our understanding of our world. Similar to how God works. Yet prayer is something we all do. At its basic level it is still a conversation with the All Mighty. I was fortunate to have made prayer a strong and routine practice in my personal life. As I said earlier, I have witnessed things that can only be explained by prayer and people's strong and deep faith.

In the past few years I have been awakened between 3:30 AM and 4 AM. Not completely understanding why I am awoken. I have been keeping track of what I am eating for supper and what I am watching on the TV, but nothing seems to set it off. So I use this time to pray. I do not know who or why I am praying. I know deep in my soul that I should pray. So I do. However during the week I learn who and why I was praying for on those mornings. I admit it is strange and I am coming to understand it better, but isn't that what the spiritual life is all about? Trusting in God while journeying on Earth.

While I was reading more of Hallesby, he shared a story about his aunt that resonated with me. It is unusual and I'll share it with you. " Some people called her a witch, a crazy woman because she walked the rocky shore and prayed for

the sailors. She kept a prayer notebook with dates in it, and often the sailors would return and talk with her about the influence of her prayers on their lives. One night she had a vision, a prisoner in a prison cell. She saw plainly his face and his whole form. And a voice said to her, “ This man will share the same fate as other criminals if no one takes up the work of praying for him. Pray for him and I will send him out to proclaim my praises among the heathens.” She was obedient unto the heavenly vision; she suffered and prayed and fought for this prisoner, although she did not know him. She waited longingly, too, to hear of a convict who had become converted and called to missionary work. Finally, during a visit to Stavanger, Norway, she heard that an ex-convict who had been converted was to preach in that city that evening. When Lars Olsen Skrefsrud stepped up to the speakers stand, she recognized him immediately as the one she had seen in her vision.”

This is one of the ways that we pray for the gifts of grace. So that the right person is in the right place at the right time. This is a very important aspect of prayer. It is a labour of prayer that more people need to undertake. So rethink those nights you cannot sleep and repurpose the time for prayer. If more of us took this on we may experience the type of miracles Paul speaks of in Acts and understand the last words in that book. “ Paul was preaching the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus quite openly and unhindered” Acts 28-31. God Bless, peace and sunshine, Pastor D