

THE **ACTS** OF FAITH

PIONEERS

WHATEVER, WHENEVER, HOWEVER... I'M IN



MY WITNESSES

THE TWELVE APOSTLES

PETER Influential Leader

JAMES Passionate Fighter

JOHN Man of Conviction

ANDREW Servant Leader

PHILIP Detail Guy

BARTHOLOMEW The Scholar

MATTHEW Recovering Rebel

THOMAS Faithful Follower

JAMES Obscure One

THADDAEUS Hype Guy

SIMON An Activist

MATTHIAS The Replacement



PIONEERS

WHATEVER

(I WILL SURRENDER MY COMFORTS)

WHENEVER

(I WILL SURRENDER MY PLANS)

HOWEVER

(I WILL SURRENDER MY WAYS)



WHATEVER

(I WILL SURRENDER MY COMFORTS)

WHENEVER

(I WILL SURRENDER MY PLANS)

HOWEVER

(I WILL SURRENDER MY WAYS)





PIONEERS

Practice

WHAT YOU PREACH

AMY CARMICHAEL
1867-1951



Amy Carmichael
ON SLANDER

“LET NOTHING BE SAID
ABOUT ANYONE UNLESS
IT PASSES THROUGH
THE THREE SIEVES:
IS IT TRUE?
IS IT KIND?
IS IT NECESSARY?”



Amy Carmichael
ON SUFFERING

“LET US NOT BE SURPRISED WHEN
WE HAVE TO FACE DIFFICULTIES.

WHEN THE WIND BLOWS
HARD ON A TREE, THE ROOTS
STRETCH AND GROW STRONGER,
LET IT BE SO WITH US.

LET US NOT BE WEAKLINGS,
YIELDING TO EVERY
WIND THAT BLOWS,
BUT STRONG IN SPIRIT TO RESIST.”



**"WE ARE SO AFRAID TO OFFEND,
SO AFRAID OF STARK TRUTH,
THAT WE WRITE DELICATELY,
NOT HONESTLY."**

Amy Carmichael
ON TRUTH



Amy Carmichael
ON OBSTACLES

"IT IS GREAT TO BE FACED
WITH THE IMPOSSIBLE,
FOR NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE
IF ONE IS MEANT TO DO IT.
WISDOM WILL BE GIVEN, AND
STRENGTH. WHEN THE LORD
LEADS, HE ALWAYS
STRENGTHENS."



Amy Carmichael
ON FAITH

"ALL ALONG,
LET US REMEMBER
**WE ARE NOT ASKED
TO UNDERSTAND,
BUT TO OBEY."**



Amy Carmichael
ON HOPE

"JOYS ARE ALWAYS ON THEIR WAY TO US, THEY ARE ALWAYS TRAVELING TO US THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT. THERE IS NEVER A NIGHT WHEN THEY ARE NOT COMING."



"I WOULD RATHER **BURN OUT**
THAN RUST OUT."

Amy Carmichael
ON HARD WORK



Amy Carmichael
ON FORGIVENESS

"IF I SAY, "YES I FORGIVE, BUT
CANNOT FORGIVE," AS THOUGH
GOD, WHO TWICE A DAY
WASHES ALL THE SANDS ON ALL
THE SHORES OF THE WORLD,
COULD NOT WASH SUCH
MEMORIES FROM MY MIND,
**THEN I KNOW NOTHING OF
CALVARY LOVE."**

A pair of hands, one larger and one smaller, are shown holding a scroll. The scroll is unrolled and has the word "Hypocrisy" written on it in a white, cursive font. The hands are positioned as if presenting the scroll. The background is dark and textured, possibly wood or stone.

PIONEERS

Hypocrisy

WOE TO YOU

MATTHEW 23: 1-12



Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples. "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do."
For they preach, but do not practice.

MATTHEW 23:1-12 **ESV**



They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.
They do all their deeds to be seen by others.

MATTHEW 23:1-12 **ESV**



For they make their **phylacteries** broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others.

MATTHEW 23:1-12 **ESV**



But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called instructors, **for you have one instructor, the Christ.**

MATTHEW 23:1-12 **ESV**



The greatest among you shall be your servant.
Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and
whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

MATTHEW 23:1-12 **ESV**



"THE SIXTH WOE"

MATTHEW 23:27-28 *ESV*



Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!
For you are like whitewashed tombs,
Which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full
of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.

MATTHEW 23:27-28 **ESV**



So you also outwardly appear righteous to others,
but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

MATTHEW 23:27-28 **ESV**



YOU
Preach
WHAT YOU PRACTICE

**4 GLARING HABITS OF A
HYPOCRITICAL SPIRIT**

JUDGMENTAL SPIRIT

GLARING HABIT OF POINTING OUT OTHERS INCONSISTENCIES

SUPERIORITY COMPLEX

GLARING HABIT OF DECLARING ALL VIEWS AS INFERIOR

JUSTIFICATION DISORDER

GLARING HABIT OF EXCUSING THEIR APPROACH TO LIFE

VICTIM FIXATION

GLARING HABIT OF IGNORING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Prayer

OF THE CHURCH

ACTS 4:23-24 **ESV**

UNIFY US in Prayer

They lifted their voices together.

REMIND US to Trust

Whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place.

PREPARE US for Opposition

The rulers were gathered together, against the Lord

STRENGTHEN US to be Bold

Grant to your servants to continue to speak Your word with boldness.

EMPOWER US for the Mission

While you stretch out your hand to heal,

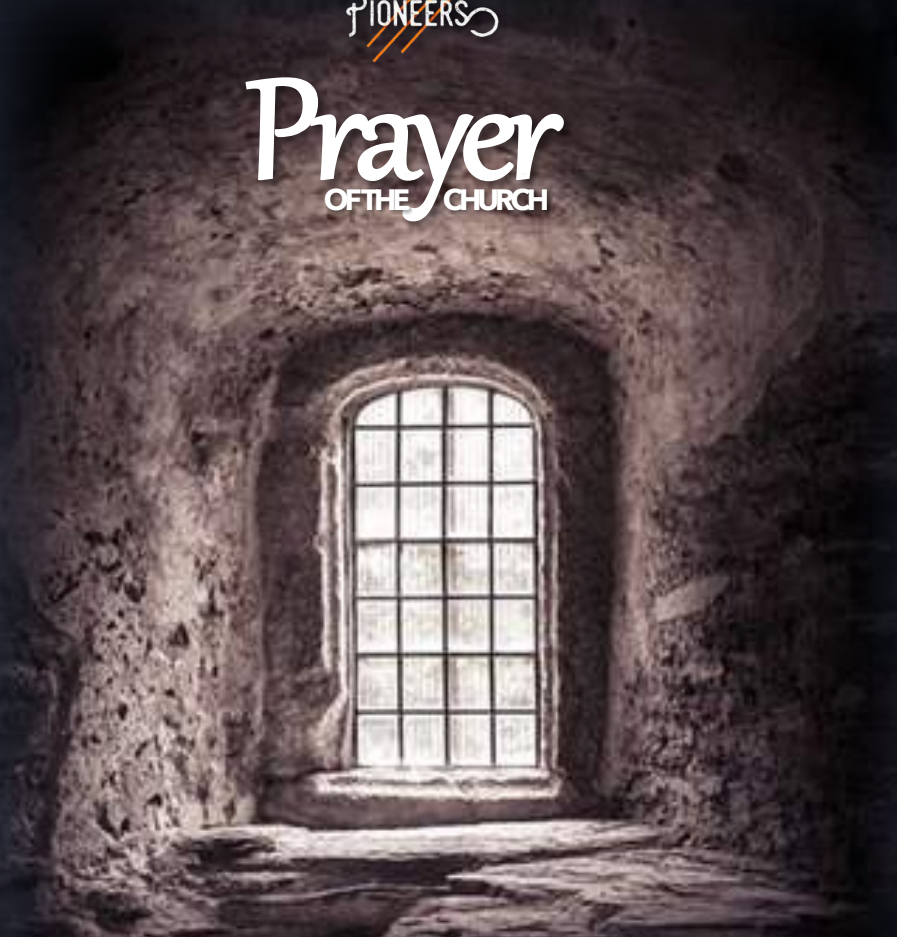
When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, **they lifted their voices together to God.**



PIONEERS

Prayer

OF THE CHURCH



And when they had prayed,
**the place in which they
were gathered together
was shaken,** and they were
all filled with the Holy Spirit
and continued to speak the
word of God with boldness.

AMID AN ALARMING
AND UNCERTAIN FUTURE

ACTS 4:31 **ESV**



PIONEERS

THE DAWN OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and **no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own,** but they had everything in common.



And with great power the apostles
were giving their testimony to the
resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and
great grace was upon them all.



There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostle's feet, **and it was distributed to each as any had need.**



Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles **BARNABAS** (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.



ANANIAS & SAPPHIRE

ACTS 5:1-11 **ESV**

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

But Peter said, **ANANIAS**, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?



While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to man but to God.**



When **ANANIAS** heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. **And great fear came upon all who heard it.** The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And **PETER** said to her, **“Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.”** And she said, “Yes, for so much.”

But **PETER** said to her, “**How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?** Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.”

Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.





PIONEERS

WHY SO HARSH?

LESSONS FROM **ANANIAS** AND **SAPPHIRA**



Bride OF CHRIST

"Just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her."

EPHESIANS 5:25



SINS AGAINST THE
CHURCH



**"Just as Christ loved the church
and gave himself up for her."**

EPHESIANS 5:25

EXPLOITING HER FOR GAIN

2 PETER 2:3 "In their greed they will exploit the church."

SLANDERING HER REPUTATION

TITUS 3:2 "Speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, be gentle..."

MOCKING HER ORDERS

GALATIANS 6:7 "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap."

DEFYING HER LEADERSHIP

HEBREWS 13:17 "Obey your leaders and submit to them..."

CONDEMNING HER FAILURES

EPHESIANS 5:25 "As Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."

HURTING HER WITH DIVISION

1 COR. 1:10 ...That there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.



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Practice

WHAT YOU PREACH

PIONEERS



Practice
WHAT YOU PREACH

CONFRONTING HYPOCRISY

Understand the Threat

1 COR. 10:12 "LET HIM WHO THINKS HE STANDS TAKE HEED LEST HE FALL"

Ask the Lord to Search

PSALM 139: 23-24 SEARCH ME O GOD AND KNOW MY HEART, TRY ME AND KNOW MY THOUGHTS, AND SEE IF THERE BE ANY WICKED WAY IN ME.

Confess your need for Mercy

PROV. 28:13 WHOEVER CONCEALS HIS SIN WILL NOT PROSPER, BUT HE WHO CONFESSES AND FORSAKES THEM WILL OBTAIN MERCY.

Share it with a FRIEND

JAMES 5:16 THEREFORE, CONFESS YOUR SINS TO ONE ANOTHER AND PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER, THAT YOU MAY BE HEALED. THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS PERSON HAS GREAT POWER AS IT IS WORKING.