

*January 14, 2018*

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**TIME OF REFLECTION**

“[History] underscores that the darkest hour is often just before the dawn, so we should always be people of hope and prayer, not gloom and defeatism. God the Holy Spirit can turn the situation around in five minutes.”

~Os Guinness, English author and social critic

“For me, in my Christian belief, prayer is not an opportunity to manipulate God into doing what you want him to. Prayer is an opportunity to have a conversation with God to try to get in tune with what his will is.”

~Francis Collins, scientist, director of the National Institute of Health

“It is clear that he does not pray, who, far from uplifting himself to God, requires that God shall lower Himself to him, and who resorts to prayer not to stir the man in us to will what God wills, but only to persuade God to will what the man in us wills.”

~Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), Italian friar, philosopher and theologian

“When the gods wish to punish us they answer our prayers.”

~Oscar Wilde (1854-1900), Anglo-Irish playwright, author

“Prayer is aligning ourselves with the purposes of God.”

~E. Stanley Jones (1884-1973), Methodist missionary and theologian

“We must not sit still and look for miracles; up and doing, and the Lord will be with thee. Prayer and pains, through faith in Christ Jesus, will do anything.”

~George Eliot (1819-1880), aka Mary Ann Evans, English writer

“Prayer is where the action is.”

~John Wesley (1703-1791), English theologian and founder of Methodism

“God’s law is our pleasure when the God of the law is our God.”

~C.H. Spurgeon (1834-1892), famed London preacher

“Repentance...is not so much to endear us to Christ as to endear Christ to us. Till sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet.”

~Thomas Watson (c. 1620-1686), English preacher and author

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## Worship through the Word

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**SERMON** – “The Alignment of Prayer” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

**SERMON PASSAGE** – *John 14:1-24 (NASB)*

<sup>1</sup>“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup>In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

<sup>7</sup>If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. <sup>11</sup>Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.

<sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.”

<sup>15</sup>“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

<sup>16</sup>I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; <sup>17</sup>that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.” <sup>22</sup>Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?” <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. <sup>24</sup>He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.”