

## I Cannot Pray

I cannot say "Our" if my religion has no room for others and their needs.

I cannot say "Father" if I do not demonstrate this relationship in my daily life.

I cannot say "Who Art In Heaven" if all my interests and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot say "Hallowed Be Thy Name" if I, who am called by his name, am not holy.

I cannot say "Thy Kingdom Come" if I am unwilling to give up my own sovereignty and accept the righteous reign of God.

I cannot say "Thy Will Be Done" if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot say "On Earth As It Is In Heaven" unless I am truly ready to give myself to his service here and now.

I cannot say "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread" without expending honest effort for it or by ignoring the genuine needs of my fellowmen.

I cannot say "Forgive Us Our Trespases As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us" if I continue to harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot say "Lead Us Not Into Temptation" if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot say "Deliver Us From Evil" if I am not prepared to fight in the spiritual realm with the weapon of prayer.

I cannot say "Thine Is The Kingdom" if I do not give the King the disciplined obedience of a loyal subject.

I cannot say "Thine Is The Power" if I fear what my neighbors and friends may say or do.

I cannot say "Thine Is The Glory" if I am seeking my own glory first.

I cannot say "Forever" if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

I cannot say "Amen" unless I honestly say, "cost what it may, this is my prayer."

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## **A Story from a missionary:**

While serving at a small field hospital in Africa, I travelled every two weeks by bicycle through the jungle to a nearby city for supplies. This required camping overnight halfway. On one of these trips, I saw two men fighting in the city. One was seriously hurt so I treated him and witnessed to him about the Lord Jesus Christ. I then returned home without incident. Upon arriving in the city several weeks later, I was approached by the man I had treated earlier. He told me he had known that I carried money and medicine. He said, "Some friends and I followed you into the jungle, knowing you would camp overnight. We waited for you to go to sleep and planned to kill you and take your money and drugs. Just as we were about to move into your campsite, we saw that you were surrounded by 26 armed guards. I laughed at this and said, "I was certainly all alone out in the jungle campsite." The young man pressed the point, "No sir, I was not the only one to see the guards. My five friends also saw them, and we all counted them. It was because of those guards that we were afraid and left you alone." At this point of my church presentation in Michigan, one of the men in the church stood up and interrupted me. He asked, "Can you tell me the exact date when this happened?" I thought for a while and recalled the date. The man in the congregation then gave his side of the story. He stated, "On that night in Africa it was day here. I was preparing to play golf. As I put my bags in the car, I felt the Lord leading me to pray for you. In fact, the urging was so great that I called the men of this church together to pray for you. Will all those men who met to pray please stand?" The men who had met that day to pray together stood. . . there were 26 of them!