

**A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracted World**  
**Week 4: April 10 – April 16**  
**Chapters 18-19**



My mind kept coming back to this poem as I read chapters 18 and 19.....

**My Life is But A Weaving**

By Benjamin Malachi Franklin

My life is but a weaving  
Between my God and me  
I cannot choose the colors  
He weaveth skillfully.

Oft times He weaveth sorrow;  
And I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper  
And I the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Will God unroll the canvas  
And reveal the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful  
In the weavers skillful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned

He knows, He loves, He cares;  
Nothing this truth can dim  
He gives the very best to those  
Who leave the choice to Him.

These are some of the statements from Paul E. Miller in chapters 18-19 that were takeaways for me. What about you? "Because they were praying, they could see

God's larger picture weaving in and through their daughter's disappointments. God permitted mild pain in her life in order to grow her soul into his. No one works like him. Prayer doesn't exist in some rarified spiritual world; it is part of the warp and woof of our lives. Praying itself becomes a story. God wants to do something bigger than simply answer our prayers. The act of praying draws God into our life and begins to change us, the pray-er, in subtle ways. Prayer is the positive side of the surrendered will. As we stop doing our own will and wait for God we enter into his mind. We begin to remain in him.....to abide. This is the praying life.

I heard it said, "God's still writing your story, stop trying to steal the pen." Let His story be written through you.

### -----Daily Reflections-----

- Sunday, April 10: As you begin this week's chapters from *A Praying Life*, Paul Miller writes in chapter 18, "Self-will and prayer are both ways of getting things done. At the center of self-will is me, carving a world in my image, but at the center of prayer is God, carving me in his Son's image. When we shift from self-will to prayer fellowship, we are leaving the unstable foundation of our self-will and entering the stability of God. We are living out the prayer, YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE."
- Monday – Friday, April 11– April 15: [Chapter 18](#)- Take a couple of days to read Matthew 5-7. In chapter 5, how does Jesus close the door to self-will when it comes to relationships? What is he calling us to give up? In Matthew 6, how does Jesus challenge self-will? What does he call people to let go of? Of the different doors Jesus closes, which one "hurts" you the most? How are prayer and self-will at odds? What is the fruit of each (pp. 141-143)? As you think about your life, where are you resorting to self-will instead of prayer? Paul says, "Prayer is the positive side of the surrendered will" (p.141). How is prayer an antidote to self-will? What can God do for us when we abide that he can't do for us when we're spinning our wheels in self-will? [Chapter 19](#) – On page 151, Paul writes, "Until you are convinced that you can't change your child's (or any person's heart, you will not take prayer seriously)." What does prayer do that all other methods can't do? At some point, we give up our ability to change others. When this happens what is the difference between giving up while on the road of Good Asking and giving up off the cliff of Despair (p.152)? Paul writes, "If a ship is off a few degrees, it is imperceptible at first, but over time it becomes a vast distance. I was praying to prevent the distance of a heart gone astray" (p.148). Think about one of your kids or someone close to you who you love. What bend in his/her heart troubles or frazzles you? What can you pray for him/her in response to this?
- Saturday, April 16: It's Easter eve, tomorrow many people will celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord. We celebrate Him every day as His children. But dying to self so that we can completely surrender our lives to Him is a daily process. One of the questions this week was, which door that Jesus closes "hurts" you most. Invite Jesus to close the door that "hurts" the most admitting to him the silliness of insisting the door stay open. Celebrate this Easter with freedom from this hurt. Celebrate that you desire for His will be done in your life.

Daily reflections are adapted from Paul E Miller's *A Praying Life Discussion Guide*.



WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS FOR April 10 – April 16

**A**DORATION: praising God for who He is and what He has done.

Precious Lord, this week we are reminded with freshness what Your death and resurrection mean to us, Your blood-bought children. We have Forgiveness...Freedom... Abundant Life...and the ability to walk with You through this fallen world into eternity. You arose from the dead triumphantly and seated Yourself at the right-hand of the Father, Your special place of honor affirming equal status within the God-head. Your redemptive work is done. Salvation is ours because of You. Praises and Honor to You, and You alone. Amen!

*Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship.*

**C**ONFESSION: stating our sins and asking forgiveness!

Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught by the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious, Forgive us for not sharing the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray.

*Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Acknowledge these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.*

**T**HANKSGIVING: thanking God for specific things that He has done.

Father God, thank you for your willingness to make a way across the separation so that we could have fellowship with You. You left behind all the treasures of heaven to build it here, inside our hearts. There at the cross you paid the debt we owed, broke the chains of our sin, freed our souls and gave us everlasting hope.

Thank you, Jesus, for Your blood that's been applied to our hearts and has washed us whiter than snow. Thank you for bringing us salvation. Thank you for saving our lives. You brought us out of darkness into glorious light. Hallelujah! Glory to Your name. You took our place. Laid inside our tomb of sin. You were buried for three days and then walked right out of that grave triumphantly. Now death has no sting and life has no end because we've been transformed by Your blood, our spotless Lamb. Thank You, Jesus!

Praises to God for God's goodness through EE:

- Lester Vogler taught a SYFW in Blanchard, OK with 18 people, 2 pastors were trained, 2 churches attended.
- David Todd taught a SYFW in Macon, GA on April 3 with 20 people, 2 pastors were trained, 2 churches attended.
- Charles and Casey McCurry taught an EV2 lab in Mooresville, NC with 4 pastors attending all from different churches. During OJT, 8 people heard the gospel, 1 person making a profession of faith.
- Miguel Lioren taught a SYFW in Avon Park with 20 people, 2 pastors, 2 churches represented.
- Gina Burns/Art Hallett taught a SYFW in Avon Park with 19 people, 4 pastors from 4 different churches on April 2.
- Beth Workman taught a HFK Lab in Statesville, NC with 10 people, 1 pastor. 6 people heard the gospel. This church plans to use HFK on a mission trip in May.
- Tim Nguyen taught at SYFW in Portland, OR with 10 people attending 2 of them were pastors. There was 1 profession of faith.
- Randall Wood taught a SYFW in Pittsboro, NC with 31 people, 2 pastors, 6 people heard the gospel. Praise God for the spirit and excitement of this church from this training. Someone said, "this training has changed me, I'm not the same. God has returned me to my first love."

*Pause to offer your own expressions of thanksgiving.*

**SUPPLICATION:** asking God for our needs and our wants.

Father God, help us to always find our satisfaction in You and in Your willingness to offer Yourself to us. Lord God, we wait this week for the resurrection of Sunday. Sometimes our lives seem a succession of waiting and we cannot see

You. Teach us to call your name as Jesus did. Make us to be trusting in you like little children. Jesus, You cried out on the cross, “why have you forsaken me?” You seemed so far from his cry and from his distress. Those who stood at the foot of the cross wondered where you were as they saw You mocked and shamed and killed. But God, You, were always there! Sometimes we ask where you are when there is trouble and suffering and death and we cry out to you for help. Be near to us and save us so that we may praise you for your deliverance.

- Pray that First Baptist Church of Cole in OK will begin EV2 implementation.
- Pray for Safe Harbor Baptist in GA to begin EV2 implementation, even with their youth.
- Pray for all 4 churches in Mooresville, NC to begin implementation. And pray for the new believer to get involved in church with her children.
- Pray for the churches in Avon Park, FL to begin EV2 implementation.
- Pray for the church in Pittsboro, NC as they launch a EV2 semester and for the 6 people who heard the gospel that they would come to faith in Jesus.
- Pray for the Christian Alliance Church in Portland to be strong evangelically after the SYFW on March 19.
  
- Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Ukraine. EE has staff and missionaries in the Ukraine that need our prayers daily.
- Pray for local churches, relief workers, and humanitarian aid organizations to care for what could be a massive wave of displaced people in Ukraine.
- Pray for churches, God’s people to have peace and remain strong.
- Pray for believers as they seek to be a light in the darkness.
- .Pray for Ukrainians who have never heard the gospel to have an opportunity to experience the hope of Jesus and receive Jesus as Lord.
- Pray for our next Equip America on April 23 in the following locations:
  1. Pueblo, CO
  2. Tallahassee, FL
  3. Las Vegas, NV
  4. North Providence, RI (Spanish Version)
- **The 71st National Day of Prayer** will be celebrated on Thursday, May, 5, 2022. The theme this year is a call to praise in prayer. *‘EXALT THE LORD, WHO HAS ESTABLISHED US’ based on Colossians 2:6-7.*
- For plans and preparations for Congress Of Nations in 2023
- Pray for “TOGETHER 22” happening in the Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas, TX, June 24-25! EE is partnering with Pulse to help the spread of the gospel and equip others to share. Pray for an outpouring of God’s Spirit as entire generations gather to meet with Jesus and be equipped to share Him with the world. We’re praying that a new Jesus movement will be unleashed.
- Pray for churches throughout America as Easter Sunday approaches. Pray that Easter 2022 will be the year when churches are bursting with people (like never before) coming to church to see Jesus and hear the Good News that JESUS SAVES and HE’S COMING AGAIN. Pray that households will be saved. Pray that pastors will preach with an anointing of God’s Spirit like never before.

**(Ministries of EE: Share Your Faith Workshop, Everyday Evangelism, Hope for Kids)**

<b>SYFW</b>	<b>4/10</b>	<b>The Assembly</b>	<b>Evansville, IN</b>
<b>SYFW</b>	<b>4/24</b>	<b>North Macon Presbyterian Church</b>	<b>Macon, GA</b>
<b>SYFW</b>	<b>4/29 – 4/30</b>	<b>Calvary Arlington</b>	<b>Arlington, WA</b>

<b>SYFW</b>	4/30	Broadway Baptist Church	Maryville, TN
<b>SYFW</b>	4/30	Grace Baptist Church	Salem, OR
<b>SYFW</b>	4/30	Calvary Arlington	Arlington, WA
<b>SYFW</b>	4/30	Polk Baptist Association	Columbus, NC
<b>SYFW</b>	4/30	Faith Family Fellowship	Purdy, MO
<b>SYFW</b>	4/30	Philema Road Baptist Church	Leesburg, GA
<b>SYFW</b>	4/30	Taller Manos a la Obra a Rio Life Community Church (Spanish)	Mercedes, TX
<b>SYFW</b>	4/30	Rio Life Community Church (English )	Mercedes, TX
<b>SYFW</b>	5/1	Maumee General Baptist Church	Owensville, IN
<b>SYFW</b>	5/7	Emmanuel Baptist	The Dalles, OR
<b>SYFW</b>	5/7	Faith Presbyterian Church	Wilmington, DE
<b>SYFW</b>	5/14	Taller Manos a la Obra a Iglesia ACyM Casa de Jennings	Bronx, NY
<b>SYFW</b>	5/14	The Redeemed Christian Church	Erie, PA
<b>SYFW</b>	5/15	Mt. Pleasant Church of God	Evansville, IN
<b>SYFW</b>	5/14	Callahan Baptist Church	Callahan, FL
<b>SYFW</b>	5/21	First Baptist Church	Effingham, IL
<b>SYFW</b>	5/22	Oak Hill Christian Center	Evansville, IN
<b>SYFW</b>	6/4	Trinity Bible Fellowship	Blanton, PA
<b>SYFW</b>	6/11	Life Bible Church	Harrisburg, OR
<b>SYFW</b>	6/25	The Church of the Apostles	Atlanta, GA
<b>SYFW</b>	8/27	Martha Road Baptist Church	Altus, OK
<b>EV2 Launch</b>	4/21 – 4/23	Eficaz a Iglesia Un Nuevo Comienzo	El Paso, TX
<b>EV2 Launch</b>	4/21 – 4/23	New Vision Church	El Paso, TX
<b>EV2 Launch</b>	4/21 – 4/23	Lanzamiento Evangelismo Eficaz a New Vision Church	El Paso, TX
<b>EV2 Launch</b>	5/13 – 5/14	Northside Baptist Church	Lawton, OK
<b>EV2 Launch</b>	5/19 – 5/21	Lanzamiento Evangelismo Eficaz a Iglesia ACyM de Virginia	Manassas, VA
<b>EV2 Launch</b>	6/10 – 6/11	New Generation Baptist Church	Norman, OK
<b>EV2 Launch</b>	8/4 – 8/5	First Baptist Rogers	Rogers, AR
<b>EV2 Launch</b>	8/25 – 8/27	Lanzamiento Evangelismo Eficaz a ACyM Casa de Oracion	Brandon, FL
<b>Classic Clinic</b>	10/24-10/28	Chinese Community Church of Indiana	Carmel, IN

As you head into Holy Week – the week spanning from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday-recall all the events that led to Jesus death, burial, and resurrection. Retrace the full, intentional purpose of Jesus perfect plan for God’s glory and for our salvation. Recall your personal salvation experience and spend some time thanking Jesus for the price He paid for us to have eternal life.