## **Notes from Lead With Prayer**

The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders

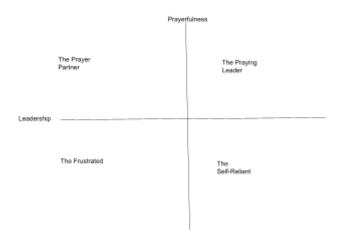
Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle

Skoog, Ryan, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle. Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders. New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023.

Introduction: Leaders Have a Prayer Problem

"When leadership scholar J. Robert Clinton studied biblical leaders, he found that only 30 percent "finished well." He believes even fewer are finishing well today, and the connection to prayer is causal and clear: "In later ministry, the tendency is to rely on competency, one's ability to do things, rather than primarily on God." For competent leaders, Clinton suggests, their "very strength becomes a weakness." Neglecting prayer is not just disastrous for leaders; it is disastrous for organizations, too. Just as plants eventually wilt without water, an organization that is not refreshed and nourished by prayer will grow lifeless and lose its vitality. Divisions grow. Staff members become disgruntled and disengaged. Organizations increase in busyness, but decrease in effectiveness. An organization that neglects prayer is actively decaying."<sup>1</sup>

"Our research revealed four main approaches to prayer and leadership, which can be represented by a two-by-two grid with one axis for prayerfulness and the other for leadership."<sup>2</sup>



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), xvi-xviii.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), xxi.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), xxi.

"The Frustrated...We found these leaders sought to grow neither in their leadership nor in prayer. They tended to be apathetic toward God or blamed others rather than taking initiative."

"The Prayer Partner...The people in this second category might be thought of as prayer warriors or prayer partners. These individuals play an essential role in an organization, though they are often outside formal positions of leadership...Those who faithfully model prayer can empower everyone they influence to become people of prayer, regardless of position or job title."

"The Self-Reliant...that well-educated, well-trained, experienced leaders are often less likely to value prayer, model prayer, or invest in prayer than their less self-reliant counterparts. As we gain our footing as leaders, we risk losing our dependence on God."

"The Praying Leader...We need to discover the beautiful balance of prayer and leadership that the late Scottish theologian John Murray termed "intelligent mysticism," which values both strategic leadership and fervent prayer...Prayerful leadership invites us to pursue God's priorities over leadership best practices...Too often, we can become obsessed with fruit to the point that we neglect our roots. It's madness from an eternal perspective."

#### Part I: How Leaders Prioritize Prayer

Chapter 1: Leaders "Waste Time" with God

"If we operate under the illusion that we are in control of our schedule, day, or organization, then why pray? If we believe we are in control, then we will struggle to see how prayer could be the best, most effective use of our limited time...Slowing down does not come easily, even when there are dedicated times and places for prayer."

"A privately commissioned study conducted by the Barna Group revealed encouraging results. Among organizations that prioritize prayer:

- 91 percent of respondents feel more aligned to the mission of the organization;
- 85 percent believe God is more clearly accomplishing His work through the ministry;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), xxi.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), xxii.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), xxii.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), xxv.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 4.

- 78 percent agree that they feel "less stressed in [their] day to day responsibilities" due to corporate prayer; and
- 70 percent agree that their "productivity has increased."

"It's one of the great mysteries of the Christian faith that God traveled through time and space to come among us and sit around a campfire in the desert making friends with a bunch of regular people. Through these friendships. Jesus turned the world upside down without ever leaving a handful of towns." <sup>10</sup>

"Every time leaders "waste time" with God in friendship, we are restoring paradise on Earth. The Kingdom refreshes us, flows through us, and refreshes others. And the end result is joy: the kind of joy that helps us lead through a literal or figurative war zone."

# Chapter 2: Leaders Train Their Soul

"Most Christians learn how to pray fast. We learn to pray fast when we bless a friend or a meal, ask for help, give quick praise, or continually remind ourselves of the presence of Jesus. However, the fast prayers gain great strength and power from our seasons of "praying slow," just as fast thinking is informed by our slow thinking. Praying slow is what we call a "prayer time" in the morning, evening, or—like many of the leaders we interviewed—both morning and evening." 12

"We fill the well of our hearts when we slow down with a time of international prayer each day; we draw from that well in our quick prayers throughout the day."<sup>13</sup>

"The more we practice slowing-down types of prayer, the more connected we feel to God in the fast-thinking mode of our days as we're tapping into our intuition to solve problems and move initiatives forward."<sup>14</sup>

"Noon prayer...many praying leaders pause at midday or set reminders throughout the day to reorient themselves back to God." 15

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 14-15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 26.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 26.

"Morning Prayer...The morning practices are designed to lift our heart, eyes, and soul to heaven; to remind ourselves of the love of God that can flow through us to impact others throughout the day." <sup>16</sup>

Evening prayer...Many leaders we encountered had practices and traditions for evening prayer as well. Some of the most common were:

- The Examen–a prayer practice of reflecting, repenting, and receiving.
- Cleansing Prayer—a prayer cleansing the soul of all that built up during the day nad releasing everything to the Lord
- Evensong–evening praise and gratitude"<sup>17</sup>

"There is a three-step journey we observed in praying leaders who have moved beyond merely paying lip service to prayer." <sup>18</sup>

- 1. "Prioritize prayer and being to build a consistent set of prayer practices as part of a Rule of Life, guarding prayer time and learning to enjoy it.
- 2. Engage in a variety of prayer practices to grow in relationship with God and begin to model a life of prayer.
- 3. Invest in building a culture of prayer, multiplying prayer in your organization."19

# Chapter 3: Leaders Practice the Presence of God

"When Paul says, "Pray continually," he uses the word *adialeiptos*, from the Greek verb dialeipo, which means to leave an interval or gap between something. The prefix a in adialeiptos negates the meaning of adialeipo, so Paul is saying literally that there should be no intervals or gaps in your prayer time."<sup>20</sup>

"In the same way that Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed at meals, all the leaders with whom we spoke use meals as a prayer prompt." <sup>21</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 30-31.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 31.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 32.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 33.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 42.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 45.

"We've seen many ministries that pray before meetings. This is quite common. But our interviewees tended to also pray during meetings, pausing to listen to God when they lacked clarity or needed wisdom."<sup>22</sup>

Feeling a big or deep emotion is a prayer prompt, both for praying leaders and in Scripture."<sup>23</sup>

"Leaders use particular moments to prompt themselves to pray." <sup>24</sup>

"Saying in tune with the Spirit os often not about doing different things but just doing them with God."<sup>25</sup>

"Some say that "Our Father in heaven" puts the wrong image in our minds because it sounds distant. But "heaven" is more like "in the air," and the air is all around us. Our Father in heaven isn't there. He's here. So near. He's present and waiting for us to turn toward Him."

## Chapter 4: Leaders Kneel Before the Lord

"The great lie for leaders is the illusion of our self-sufficiency. We can act as if we have sufficient intelligence and knowledge to solve the problems we face and our lead our families, churches, or organizations in our own strength. But it's hard to be arrogant on our knees, where our hearts are reminded that we are first followers, not leaders."<sup>27</sup>

#### Part II: How Leaders Grow in Their Praer Life

### Chapter 5: Leaders Pray Through Tough Times

"Sometimes God answers with miracles, but many times His answer is a moment in His presence. Either way, Jesus hears and answers when we seek Him in tough times." 28

# Chapter 6: Leaders Pray Scripture

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 45.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 46.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 47.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 48.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 49.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 57.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 72.

"To make our prayer life more like Jesus' prayer life, we need to be immersed in Scripture and let its words shape us." <sup>29</sup>

"One obvious motivation for praying Scripture might be that it has the words we lack, but beyond that, praying Scripture ensures that we are praying in line with God's will and helps us to pray prayers that are both strong and specific. Strong...make bold requests and pray for miracles. Specific. Ask, "What would need to happen to us so that it was God who acted?...In asking God for help in a situation, we can ask Him to help us imagine and pray for the "answer state," in which we will have no doubt as to whether God has acted....These "three S's"-srong, specific, and scriptural-have begun to inform our prayer habits." "30"

#### Chapter 7: Leaders Learn to Listen

"God's voice could not be heard in any of these things but rather only in a "gentle whisper" (1 Kings 19:11-13). Surrender quiets our desires so we can hear God's whisper."<sup>31</sup>

# Chapter 8: Leaders Repent

"Jesus drew a connection between prayer and falling when He said, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation" (Matthew 26:41 NKJV). The wording is significant; it did not say watch and pray so that you will not be tempted. Temptation is assumed. Jesus said watch and pray so that when we are tempted, we don't "enter." There is a sense that watchful, prayerful living empowers us to resist temptation when the moment comes."<sup>32</sup>

"The general outline and goal of the *Examen* have remained unchanged for centuries, and the practice still impacts leaders today...The five steps below come directly from Ignatius...

- 1. Give thanks to God our Lord for the favors received.
- 2. Ask for grace to know my sins and to rid myself of them.
- 3. Demand an account of my soul from the time of rising up to the present examination. I should go over one hour after another, one period after another. The thoughts should be examined first, then the words, and finally, the deeds.
- 4. Ask pardon of God our Lord for my faults.

<sup>29</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 85.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 85-86

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 97.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 110.

5. Resolve to amend with the grace of God. Close with an Our Father!"33

# Chapter 9: Leaders Seek God Through Fasting

"Fasting was an assumed practice for Jesus. He said in the Sermon on the Mount: "When you fast" (Matthew 6:16, emphasis added). He expected His followers to fast, and He made certain taht they would fast after He left."<sup>34</sup>

"Jesus modeled fasting, and fasting strengthened Him." 35

"St. John Chrysostom (347-407), agreed, arguing that fasting "enlightened the soul, gives wing to, and makes even the scaling of the mountain with ease. The fast is food for thes oil." 36

# Chapter 10: Leaders Make Space to Retreat

"Infulence, like money, is something to steward for God's glory if it comes. But, like money, it's deadly when it becomes an ultimate pursuit. What's even more deceptive is that we can grow more influential while becoming less prayerful and less Christ-like." <sup>37</sup>

"Month 1: Half day

Month 2: Full day

Month 3: Two full days and one overnight away from home."38

"Most leaders spend a lot of time talking, but retreat invites us to exercise a different muscle: silence." 39

#### Part III: How Leaders Multiply Prayer Within Their Organizations

# Chapter 11: Leaders Create a Culture of Prayer

<sup>33</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 114.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 122.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 122.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 123.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 132.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 135.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 136.

"We cannot create *cultures* of prayer without first becoming *people* of prayer. We must model before we multiply."<sup>40</sup>

"Become a praying leader...Pray for those you lead...Build teams to pray with and for you...Model pray for and with other believers in the organization....support staff prayer...Gather consistently in prayer...Devote people and places to prayer...Make prayer a line item in your budget."

### Chapter 12: Leaders Pray for Those They Lead

"Many talks, articles, and sermons have established the need to pray for those in authority, but few have emphasized the need for leaders to pray with those we lead."<sup>42</sup>

"Paul's letters—each of which was written to people he led—prominently feature prayers for the early church and specific members of those churches. Though Paul famously instructed prayers for those in leadership, he modled praying for those he led."<sup>43</sup>

"By our own count, we found that Paul mentioned praying, or just prayed in the text of his letters, thirty-six times; sometimes in the present tense and sometimes in past tense."

"As leaders, let's start by being joyfully grateful for those we lead." 45

"One way we've begun to implement praying for those we lead has been to print our organizational chart and pray for each individually specifically. Some we know well, and others we interact with less directly, but we're committed to praying for evey staff member within our organization."

"Here are four ways to pray with specificity for those you lead:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 144.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 155-156.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 161.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 162.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 162.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 162.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 164.

- 1. Pray for the children of those you lead....
- 2. Pray blessings on those you lead....
- 3. Emphathize in prayer for those you lead...
- 4. Pray Scripture over those you lead..."47

#### Chapter 13: Leaders Build Teams to Pray With and for Them

"Author and former pastor John Onwuchekwa observes that all the pronouns in the Sermon on the Mount are singular in form ("You are the salt of the earth," "If you love those who love you," "When you give to the needy") except when Jesus is talking about prayer. Then He uses plural forms. In the southern United States, Jesus' words on prayer would be translated "When y'all pray" and "This then is how y'all should pray" (Matthew 6:5-9)."

(note, you also implies y'all, or you all, in the Sermon. The context is plural so a nice preaching point but not reality).

"In *more than half* of Paul's thirteen letters, he asks for pray in these same categories: himself, his ministry, and those to whom he ministers. Paul doesn't wait for everyone to become spiritually mature in order to invite their prayers. He wants *everyone* to pray, so he is not shy in asking others to intercede."

### Chapter 14: Leaders Invest in Prayer

"There is a real financial cost to the way praying leaders supported personal and organizational prayer, but they see it as a worthwhile investment. Mysteriously and miraculously, God turns this "loss" into a gain." <sup>50</sup>

"Physical Space...dedicated buildings, dedicated rooms, or renovated multi-purpose rooms, leaders dedicated space in their offices, homes, churches, and buildings to prayer...People....Leaders invested in dedicated prayer roles in their organization in two ways...a prayer coordinator....pay intercessors to pray part-time for the organization...Systems...To gather and share prayer requests...Schedules...Allowing your

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 169.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 162.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 177.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 193.

employees to pray "on company time....prayer meetings, quarterly days of prayers, or daily prayer times..."51

Case Study

N/A

Conclusion

"Sometimes the answers to our prayer is a *miracle*, other times it is a *moment* in His presence...A common leadership axiom says, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing and expecting different results." By this definition, permistent prayer is insane.

But so is cutting down a ptree: swinging an ax again and again with the expectation that the tree will eventually fall. If one feels crazier than the other, that's only because the results of swinging an ax are visible, while outcomes achieved in prayer are often not. Even when we see no results, God commands us to pray persistently, chipping away at the fallen world, chipping away at our own stubborn self-sufficiency, and ushering in a new Kingdom in our lives, our leadership, and beyond as we "fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18)."<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 196-197.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer, and Cameron Doolittle, *Lead With Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders* (New York, NY: FaithWords, 2023), 204.