

SERMON BY DOROTHY FIET
SEPTEMBER 4, 1994

Prayer: Lord, I too become perplexed. Fear crowds out of faith. In these moments stand with us and give us courage. Renew our faith and make all things new. Amen

I feel just very, very humble speaking today.

Do you know why I'm doing this? Because I was asked. Because I love God Almighty who does so very much for me, and everyone, so I like to do what I can in thanks for God's goodness.

I am here because I love my church. It does so much for me, it believes in prayer and our people pray for me. It makes me feel good to know that my church is always here for me.

PSALM 56: verses 3 and 4

"When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?"

When prayer really started to mean everything to me was when I realized, by reading books on prayer, I didn't need to wait for a certain time or a certain place to pray. We can pray all the time. When we are working, driving our car or often when we meet someone on the street or see someone on television I say a prayer for them. God bless them and keep them in your care. Prayer has strength.

Like the night Delbert became very ill in the middle of the night and I called 911. Grandson Ron and wife were visiting us that night and as soon as we left for the hospital Ron called each of our youngsters. I knew each one would be praying for us. For God to give us strength and it helped. Then the Prayer Chain started, and when our church joined in prayer wonderful things happened. The feeling of strength from God no matter what happens. God's love and strength are with us. That is why my church means so much to me.

Haven't we all had prayers answered so wonderfully- and not at all like we prayed? God does know what's best for us.

I have been asked to repeat this next article. My friend said, "Bread has meant so much more to me since you have given your meaning of bread dough."

Jan and Marie were visiting us and I mentioned I had consented to do a talk and that I wanted it to be about prayer. Marie's comment was, "You know Mother prayer is like yeast, when you bake bread yeast rises from the bread dough, the same as a prayer does for us."

Prayer makes life worthwhile and meaningful. The more often we bake bread, the easier it is to go at it, also a better product, same as with prayer the more we pray the more the power is increased and the easier it is to pray.

When we have worries it's like when you punch the bread down, if it has good yeast and it raises again, same as our lives. When we have faith through prayer it helps us rise again, even if we have difficulties, disappointments like the yeast to the bread. Even if we are punched down we receive strength with God's help.

What can lift ones spirit more than to come into a home and smell baking bread? Bread the good staple of life. What joy of slicing fresh bread and the delicious flavor. Sometimes the smell of baking bread would go out in the field if the wind was right and I'd come home from country school to fresh bread. I would have the heel which we call the end crust. Prayer is just as important and refreshing as the yeast that is so important and necessary to make good bread.

What a privilege it is to be able to pray for those we love, in good times and in bad. We must not deprive our families of that blessing.

Prayer is the greatest power available to any one of us in solving personal problems. Its power astonishes us.

PRAYER: Bless each person who is in church today and those who aren't able to attend. Squeeze each one with Thy love and guidance. Amen

Portraits by James J. Metcalfe

Going to church is not enough
Our prayers must be sincere
And we should pay attention to
The sermon we hear
Attending church on Sunday is
A Duty to fulfill
But let us not regard it as
A spiritual pill
A pill that we can swallow and
Go blithely on our way
The soul quite safe for one more week
Of labor and of play
Going to church means nothing if
We merely show our face
While pleasure-minded, we prefer
To be some other place
God does not bless the hypocrite
Nor does He care to hear
A prayer that has no meaning or
Is only half sincere'