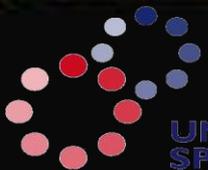
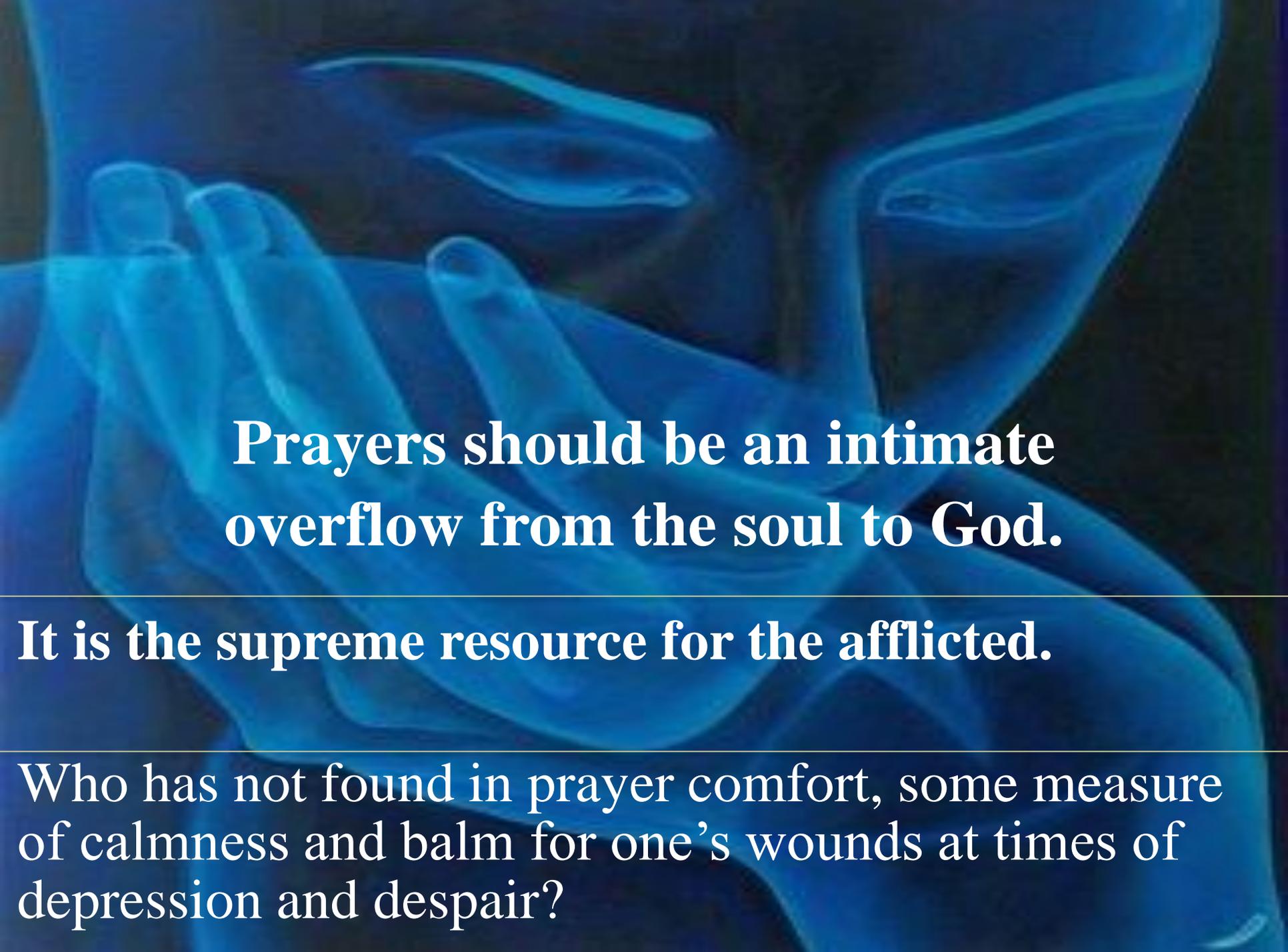


Prayer

Introduction to Spiritism - Lesson 10



UNITED STATES
SPIRITIST FEDERATION



**Prayers should be an intimate
overflow from the soul to God.**

It is the supreme resource for the afflicted.

Who has not found in prayer comfort, some measure of calmness and balm for one's wounds at times of depression and despair?

Types of Prayer

Prayer is an invocation: by means of prayer we communicate through thought with the being to whom the prayer is addressed.

Its purpose can be a request, an acknowledgement, or a glorification.

One may pray for oneself or for someone else, for the living or for the dead.



Types of Prayer

- Asking Prayer
- Thanksgiving Prayers
- Prayers of Praise.



Prayer



When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners **to be seen by men**. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, **go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father**, who is unseen.

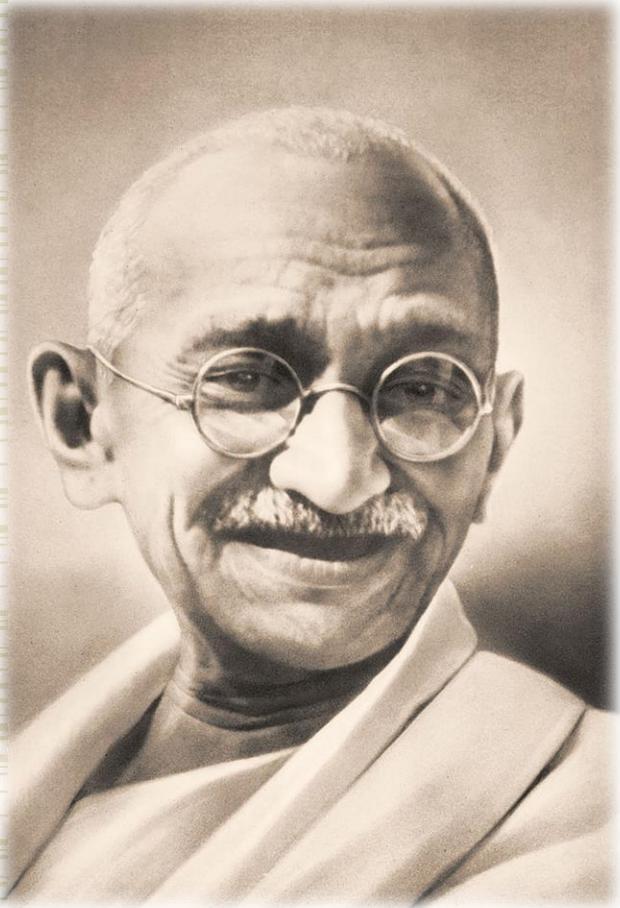
Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. (Matthew, 6: 5-8).

Quality of Prayer

- Pray in secret
- Do not prolong your prayers
- If you have anything against another, forgive them before your pray.
- Pray with humility



Quality of Prayer



Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness.

In prayer, it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)
Preeminent leader of Indian nationalism.

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.



The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself:

“God, I thank you that I am not like other men robbers, evildoers, adulterers or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.”

(Luke 18:11-12)

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector



But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, **“God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”**

I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke, 18: 13-14).



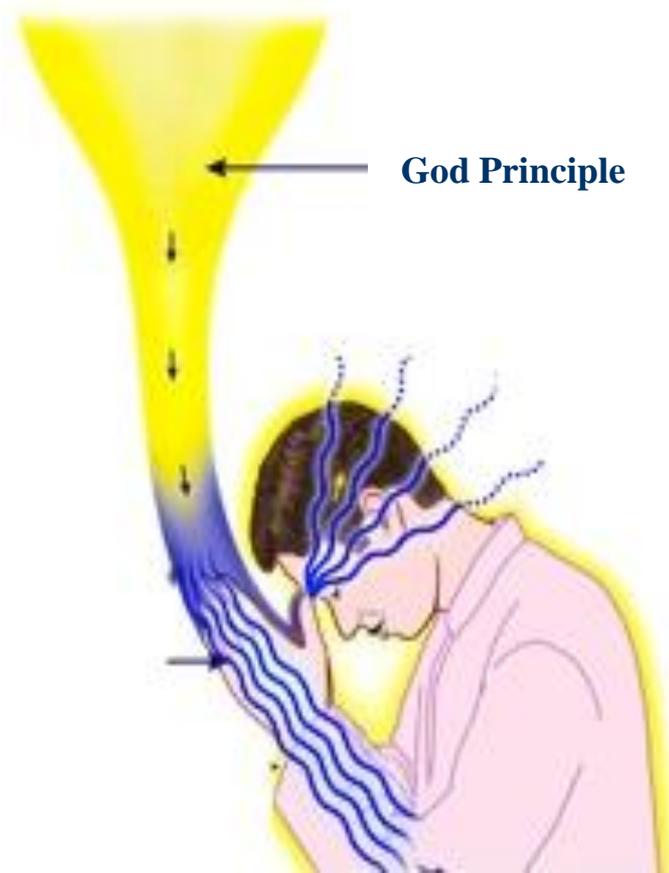
The Effectiveness of Prayer

The effectiveness of prayer has been proven in all areas; its power is in the thoughts and love that we use to formulate them; love for others and ourselves.

Prayers addressed to God are heard by spirits in charge of carrying out God's will; those that are addressed to good Spirits are taken to God.

(GAS Chap. 27 Item 9)

Praying with spiritual emotion



The Effectiveness of Prayer

There are those who contest the effectiveness of prayer saying that:

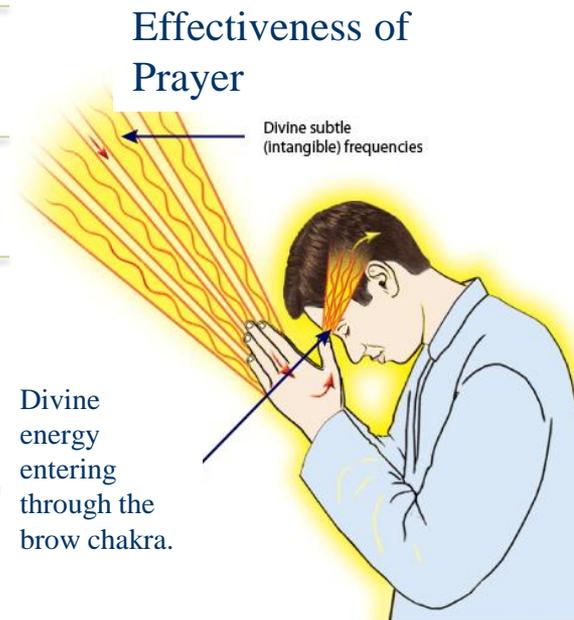
- God knows all our needs, it is useless to enumerate them to Him
- Our petitions cannot change God's decrees.

What God concedes is:

Courage, patience and resignation.

The means to resolve situations with the help of ideas suggested by good Spirits at God's command;

We retain the merit for the decisions we make.



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

Oscar Wilde

How could God satisfy all the desires that the human beings pray for? Most people are unable to discern what would be suitable, and most profitable to them. God alone knows what is best for us, and failing to satisfy our demands, He will at least send us fluidic assistance and resignation.

(Here and Hereafter, Chapter 51, Leon Denis)



The Effectiveness of Prayer

A man is lost in a desert and suffers from terrible thirst. He feels faint and falls to the ground. He prays to God to help him and waits; but no angels come to bring him something to drink.



Meanwhile, a good Spirit suggests to him the thought to get up and follow one of the paths before him. In a purely mechanical motion, he gathers his strength, gets up and walks erratically. When he arrives at an elevated area he spots a brook not far away.

The Effectiveness of Prayer

Upon seeing it he regains his courage, and if he has faith he will exclaim: "Thank you my God for the thought you inspired in me and for the strength you have given me."

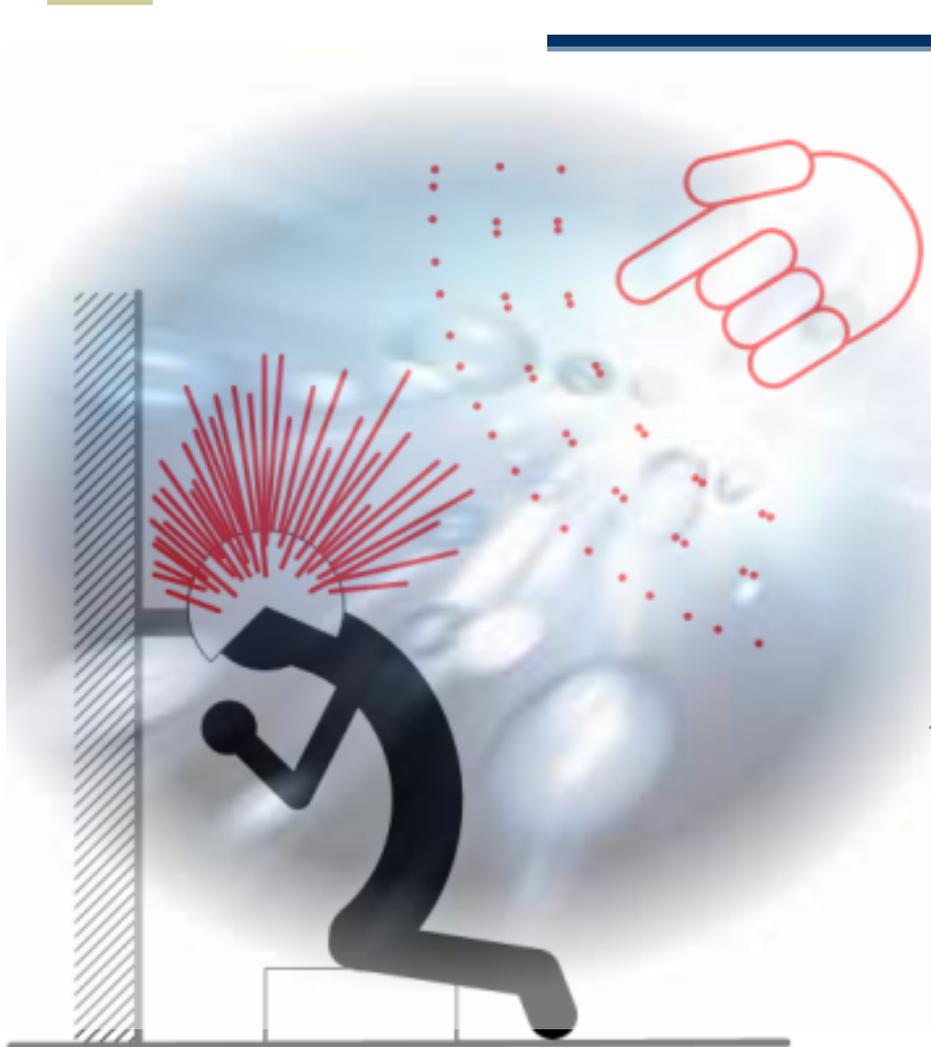
If he does not have faith, he will say: "What a good thought I had! What good luck I had by taking the path to the right instead of the one to the left! Sometimes chance really does serve us well! I must congratulate myself for my courage and for not having given up!"

The Action of Prayer

When a stone strikes the water, its surface vibrates in concentric undulations. Likewise, the universal fluid is set to vibrate by our thoughts and prayers; but with this difference: the vibrations of the water are limited, whereas those of the universal fluid follow one another ad infinitum.

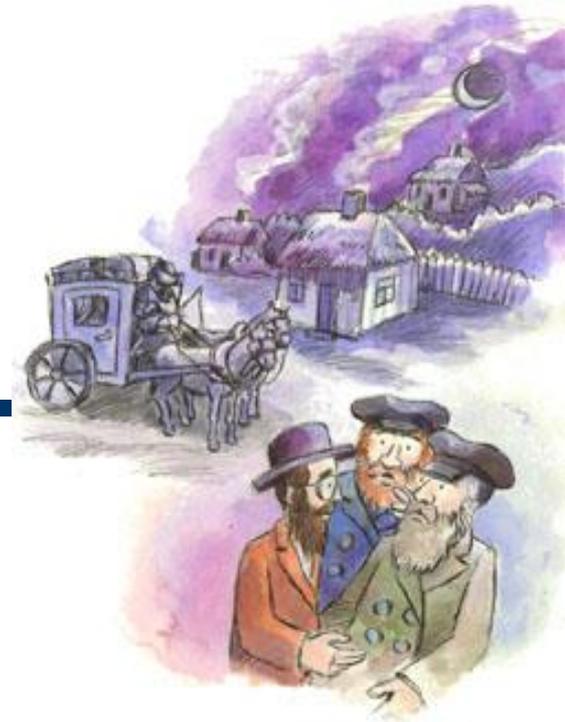


The Action of Prayer



Thus, a fluidic current is established which enables advanced spirits to influence us and to answer our summons, even from the far depths of space.

The Power of Prayer



Although a sick man saw one doctor after another, no one could help. In desperation, he traveled to the great sage Reb Mordechai of Neshchiz and asked for advice.

"I suggest you consult the Master of Anipola," Reb Mordechai said. **"I'm sure He can help!"**

So the sick man hired a wagon and a driver. When he finally reached the little village of Anipola, he asked for the Master of Anipola. **"There are no doctor or master here!"** the villagers replied.

The Power of Prayer



Shocked and confused, the sick man traveled all the way back to Neshchiz, and told Reb Mordechai what happened. The great sage wasn't surprised.

"With no doctor, how do you think the people get help?" he asked.

"They must ask God to heal them," the man replied.
"That's the Master I was talking about!" Reb Mordechai said. "Ask Him, and He will help you, too."

The sick man followed Reb Mordechai's advice. A short time later, he was cured.

The Action of Prayer

All Spirits
recommend prayer.

To reject it means to
ignore God's
benevolence.



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

-We recognize and praise the importance of God in our lives.

Thy kingdom come.

-We accept God's providence.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

-We submit ourselves to the laws of God.

Give us this day our daily bread,

-God provides us with both physical and spiritual nourishment.

And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us;

- It is vital to forgive ourselves and others.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

- We recognize our limitations and the protection of God.

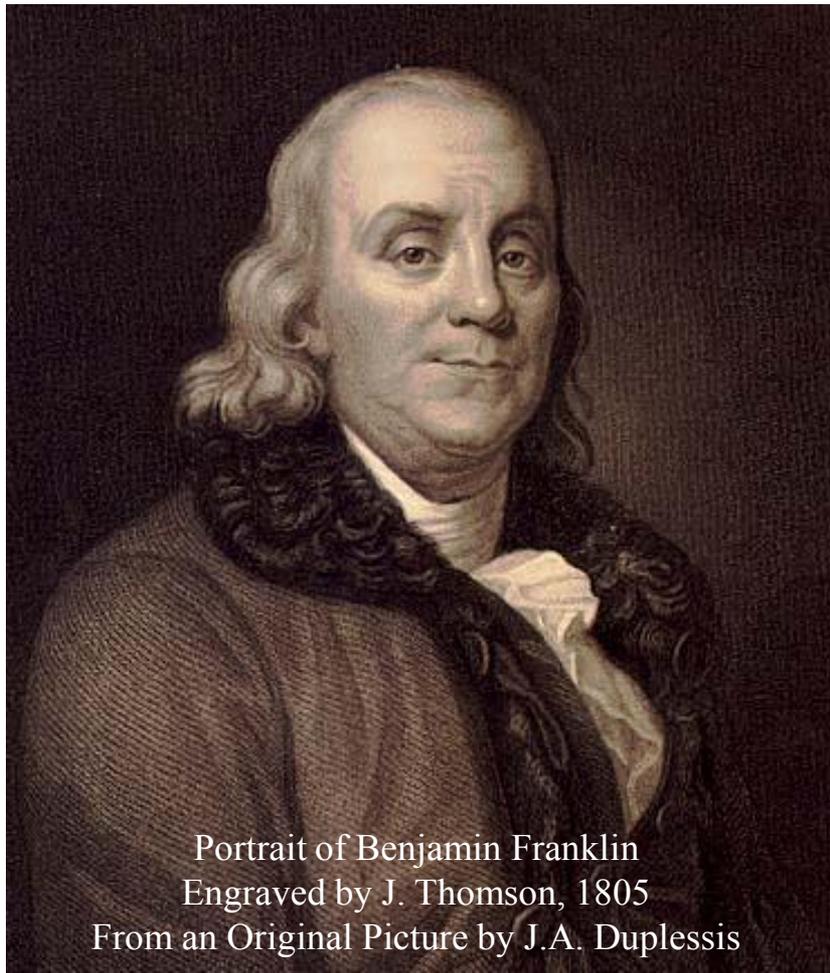
So be it.

- We acknowledge and worship the wisdom of God.

Work as if you were to live a hundred years. Pray as if you were to die tomorrow.

Benjamin Franklin

(1706-1790) American statesman, scientist and philosopher.



Portrait of Benjamin Franklin
Engraved by J. Thomson, 1805
From an Original Picture by J.A. Duplessis

***Do you need Me? I am there.
You cannot see Me, yet I am the light you see by
You cannot hear Me, yet I speak through your voice.
You cannot feel Me, Yet I am the power at work in your hands
I am at work, though you do not understand My ways.
I am at work, though you do not recognize My works
I am not strange visions. I am not mysteries.
Only in absolute stillness, beyond self,
Can you know Me as I am,
And then but as a feeling and a faith.
Yet I am there. Yet I am here. Yet I answer.
When you need Me, I am there.
Even if you deny Me, I am there.
Even when you feel most alone, I am there.
Even in your fears, I am there.
Even in your pain, I am there.
I am there when you pray and when you do not pray
Though your faith In Me is unsure,
My faith in you never wavers,
Because I know you, because I love you.***

