

"Can't Lead A Prayer In Public"

by C. R. Nichol

How often have you heard it said by someone: "I cannot lead the public prayer"? Is it possible that those who think they cannot pray in public, do not pray in secret?

Remember, brother, when you pray you are speaking to Jehovah, your Father. Remember, He is not a cold, austere, hard to approach Being. He is your Father, He loves you beyond human conception, He seeks to do you good, and good only. If you talk with Him in secret (pray) often, even in secret, you will not be embarrassed to talk to Him in public.

Is there a fear in your heart that some one in the audience will criticize your prayer? We are taught: "Add to your faith COURAGE." You are not ashamed of Christ, and no one is more ready than the Lord to forgive you a mistake, when you ask Him.

It is possible some study to use high-sounding words when they pray, thinking that thereby they will make an impression on the audience — and likely they DO!

If you pray often in secret, or with the family, will it not be easier for you to word a prayer publicly? When I was a boy often I went out among the amber and made speeches; and when called on to talk in public I was not afraid of my own "voice." Pray with your family, and you will find no difficulty in praying in the congregation. Study the prayer you will word in public on Sunday, or at the mid-week Bible study period. "He can who thinks he can!"

— via *The Lord's Supper, Prayers, Thanksgivings*
pages 163-164

325001