

Spiritual Leftovers

God demands our passionate best. Instead, we often bring spiritual leftovers to the throne of grace.

In Malachi 1, God addressed the attitude of spiritual leftovers, which had become acceptable in the worship routines of Israel. Three times a year the nation came to Jerusalem to worship, offering their grains and animals. This was an expression of thanksgiving for God's goodness following a harvest. It was for the atonement of their sins. The Lord did not require great quantities—but He did ask for their first and best. Their offerings indicated their reverence for the Sovereign God as the source of all blessing. Instead, they were bringing leftovers. They offered blind, lame, and sick animals at the temple.

The Lord speaks to them in Malachi 1:6, "Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence? ... you priests who despise My name." He reiterates His ultimate concern: "I have no pleasure in you ... nor will I accept an offering from your hands. For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; in every place incense shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering; for My name shall be great among the nations ... for I am a great King ... and My name is to be feared among the nations" (Mal.1:10-14).

God is not looking for a dutiful contribution of time or energy in the spirit of religious observance. He is looking for a hungry heart that seeks after Him in praise, gratitude, and loving surrender, with a readiness to pray, think, and live like Jesus.

From Transforming Prayer, by Daniel Henderson pgs. 70-72

How to Start a *Cords of Three* Prayer Ministry

Step 1 – Commit yourself to God as His servant to begin this new prayer ministry. Ask Him to help you identify one or two (max.) other believers and invite them to join you each week for a 10-15 minute phone prayer meeting. Don't expect everyone to say "yes."

Write the names below of those you are going to invite to join you.

Step 2 – Organize an initial phone meeting to decide on the logistics (day, time, who will initiate the call, etc.). Put it on your calendar and don't let anything supplant it.

Step 3 – Resolve to begin on a specific date and to be committed to the Lord, to each other, and the weekly prayer meeting.

Step 4 – Deploy. Get started. It may seem a bit awkward at first, but your *Cords of Three* prayer ministry will quickly become a powerful spiritual influence in your life and the lives of those you meet with each week.



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