

When Dudley Walden Prayed

Mrs. John R. Rice

One late summer day in 1972, two people were praying at the same time. On Franklin Road in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, a man (my husband, Dr. John R. Rice) was praying for rain: "Dear Lord, it's so dry! The fields are parched, and the grass is dry. Lord, we need rain. Please send us rain today!"

He prayed confidently. As he left the house to go to work, he saw the sky was cloudy and gloomy and rain seemed imminent.

A few miles away, the little seven-year-old boy was fighting a battle. His folks had promised him that on this Saturday they would take him to the Tennessee State Fair in Nashville. And now, at time to go, it was about to rain!

His parents said, "We just can't go! There is going to be a big rainstorm."

The little boy was so eager to go to the fair that he slipped into his bedroom and prayed: "Dear Jesus, don't let it rain today – so we can go to the fair!"

His prayer was soon over; and he came out to report triumphantly that it was not going to rain, that they could go to the fair! He was sure! He had prayed and he knew it was not going to rain.

His parents protested: "It is just about to rain now!" But they had promised to take him to the fair, so they gathered umbrellas and got ready to go. "Take your raincoats!" Mother said, looking doubtfully at the sky.

To the fair they went, carrying raincoats and umbrellas. All day long they carried them, for it did not rain at all. They enjoyed the day at the fair, dry and comfortable.

But what about Dr. Rice's prayer? Could the Lord answer a conflicting prayer? The Lord would have to see about that too.

As soon as the Walden family was safely home from the fair, the Lord sent a great refreshing rain to the countryside around Murfreesboro.

Dr. Rice had asked for rain that day for the fields and pastures and the Lord answered with rain. But not until He had answered Dudley Walden's prayer for a rainless trip to the State Fair!

I kept reminding my husband that the Lord had to answer the little boy's prayer first.

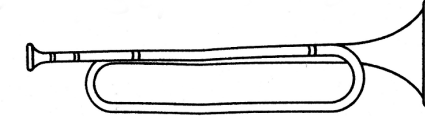
I could have called this story "When John R. Rice Prayed," but somehow it is appropriate to call it "When Dudley Walden Prayed." God likes to hear and answer the prayers of little boys as well as notable preacher!"

God does answer prayer! "Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, and according to all that he promised: There hath not failed one word of all his good promise" (I Kings 8:56). "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

THE BAPTIST BIBLE TRUMPET

FROM
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

*Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet
and show my people their transgression...*
Isa. 58:1



*For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound,
who shall prepare himself to the battle?*
1 Cor. 14:8

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The Pastor's Paragraph

Dear Friends,

Well, here we are on the threshold of a brand-new year. God has given us a new opportunity to do something important; a new frontier to explore; and a new possibility for improvement. Let's take advantage of this new horizon. Let's get really close to God this year. The Faith Baptist Church can help you with that. Come out and visit with us this Sunday. We will save you a good seat.

Pastor Cole

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FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH LAURENS, SC

Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take twelve fine, full-grown months, see that these are thoroughly free from all old memories of bitterness, rancor, hate and jealousy; cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past – have them as fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time.

Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. This batch will keep for just one year. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot in this way) but prepare one day at a time, as follows:

Into each day put twelve parts of faith, eleven of patience, ten of courage, nine of work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), eight of hope, seven of fidelity, six of liberality, five of kindness, four of rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad – don't do it), three of prayer, two of meditation, and one well-selected resolution. If you have no conscientious scruples, put in about a teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

Pour into the whole love ad libitum and mix with a vim. Cook thoroughly in a fervent heat; garnish with a few smiles and a sprig of joy; then serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness, and a Happy New Year will be a certainty. - H.M.S.

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William M. Cole, Pastor

www.thefaithbaptistchurch.com • williamcole1215@gmail.com

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