

29/08/10 (am)

# **Know your weaknesses ... and pray!**

Proverbs 30:7-9

*Theme: The person of God knows his  
or her weaknesses and petitions the  
Lord accordingly.*

# Agur's Prayer and its Three Parts

## (30:7-9)

### 1. The General Request (30:7).

Two observations:

Agur knew the Lord.

Agur knew himself.

He asks two things for the remainder  
of his life.

*Before I die means for the rest of my  
life.*

Agur knew his weaknesses.

He petitioned Lord concerning them.

*Do you know the Lord?*

*If so, do you know your weaknesses?*

*Are you bringing them to the Lord?*

## 2. The Specific Requests (30:8).

Keep falsehood and lies from me  
(30:8a).

*Falsehood* - Agur may be speaking here of spiritual deception.

*Lies* may then refer to falsehoods uttered in ordinary conversation.

Agur may simply be asking the Lord to keep him truthful in all his dealings with people.

*We must be people of integrity and be truthful in all our dealings.*

Give me neither poverty or riches but  
only my daily bread (8b).

Agur asked to be kept from financial  
extremes and to be content with what  
God, in His providence, had given him,  
*cf.* Philippians 4:11b-12.

*Often the more we receive from God  
the less He receives from us.*

*Why?*

### **3. The Reason for the Request (30:9).**

If he has too much wealth he may  
disown the Lord.

Material blessing may breed  
independence from the Lord.

This particular danger is what the population of the western world faces, and we (including Christians) are not coping with it well.

This is one big reason why the Church in general is declining numerically and qualitatively in the rich, materialistic west.

## Numerically:

Christians are a decreasing percentage of the population. People are too comfortable. They are arrogant and independent, and do not see the need for the Lord.

*Does that describe you?*

May God give you eyes to see your need of Him.

## **Qualitatively:**

Christians in the west are too comfortable. We are not persecuted.

We are well-off. When we are too comfortable our eyes can drift from the Lord. Comfort intoxicates us. When this happens our quality of service to the Lord degenerates.

*How is the quality of your service to  
Lord?*

*Is it what it should be?*

If he has too little he may steal and  
dishonour the Lord.

Agur knows that if he finds himself in  
poverty he may be tempted to steal,  
show lack of trust in the Lord and  
dishonour Him.

*Are you in financial need?*

*Are you tempted to steal to survive?*

*Do not yield!*

*Look to the Lord and He will provide!*

Often poor Christians are better off  
spiritually than we are.

Their condition keeps their eyes on the  
Lord.

Christianity is flourishing in the global  
south where poverty and persecution  
abound: Africa, Asia, South America,  
China.

It is estimated that, by 2050, 60% of Christians will be in Africa and Latin America.

The Christianity of the 21st century will be Christianity of the poor and the persecuted.

# Conclusion—Know Yourself!

*Christian do you know your weaknesses?*

*What you most need the Lord to guard you from for the rest of your life?*

*Ask Him to guard you and live intentionally for His glory!*

*If you are not a Christian, is the Holy Spirit showing you your need of salvation?*

*Is it your desire to ask God for it?*

*Follow Christ and live intentionally for His glory!*