Putting "Prayer Eggs" in Psalm 91 (under His wings)

Many are the devices I have resorted to for helping folks "let go." One is to open the Bible and say, "Lay your problems on the promises of God, but don't lay them there if you are going to take them up again." Amazing answers have come when people have laid their problems in perfect trust upon the precious promises in that Book, and gone off and left them. When you take a pair of shoes to the shoemaker to be half-soled you go off and leave them, don't you? How otherwise would the shoemaker be able to mend them? Likewise, how can God get at our problems if we continue to hug them to ourselves? Yes, the biggest problem in prayer is how to "let go and let God."

A friend of mine, George V. McCausland, when faced with a particularly difficult problem, writes it down and closes it between the pages of his immense old family Bible, and leaves it there. That gave me a brilliant idea. Listen to it carefully, for I believe if you follow the directions faithfully you will get some wonderful results.

When I was a boy raising chickens I had one old hen whom I called "Mrs. Speckle," whose batting average when it came to hatching eggs was better than Babe Ruth's in knocking home runs. I would place thirteen eggs under her, and twenty-one days later, twelve would be transformed into lively, happy little chirping chickens. I didn't have to do anything about it. I turned the entire job over to Mrs. Speckle. Here is where my brilliant idea came in: Why can't we put as much trust in God as I put in an old hen?

Now to elaborate the idea. Take a sheet of paper and draw thirteen eggs and write upon each one the name of some person you want to pray for, or some problem you want to pray about. Then open your old family Bible to chapter ninety-one of the Psalms and lay the entire setting of "prayer eggs" between its pages. Then place the Bible back upon the shelf and leave it there for twenty-one days. Mark the date on the calendar to which you can look forward expectantly and joyously for the hatching of your brood.

Don't strain your ears to listen for a peep until the twenty-one days are completely up. Put as much trust in God and His assuring promises as you do in the old hen and her sheltering wings.

When the twenty-one days are up at last, then, and not till then, start counting the answers to your prayers. You may find one or two are not answered. The reason for these failures may be traced back to the same two causes that prevented eggs from being hatched. One is that the egg was rotten in the first place. When a prayer has a taint of ego, vanity, jealousy, greed, or escape from reality, it is not a sound prayer. The other reason eggs don't hatch is that they slip out from under the wings and become exposed to the cold air outside. When a person keeps pulling his prayers out from the Secret Place of the Most High and worries about them, he is preventing the warm love of a Heavenly Father from getting in its full work.

Finally, when the downy little creatures do appear, don't be disappointed if they don't crow and cackle and lay eggs the very first day. Give them time to grow and mature and feel their wings. When a prayer is answered, it often requires years of growth before it is experienced in all its power and beauty.

When the three weeks are up, place the list in the thirteenth chapter of Luke for a month or more and let Jesus brood over the little fledglings in His loving way.