



Prayer: The Key to Real Spiritual Power

Text:

“Is anyone among you sick? He must call for the elders (spiritual leaders) of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another [your false steps, your offenses], and pray for one another, that you may be healed and restored. The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) is able to accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power]. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours [with the same physical, mental, and spiritual limitations and shortcomings], and he prayed intensely for it not to rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its crops [as usual].”
James 5:14-18 AMP

Introduction:

Prayer is powerful!

Illustration: Power tool and gas can

Prayer produces wonderful results

1. When suffering hardship, PRAY
2. When experiencing sickness, PRAY.
3. When dealing with relational issues, PRAY

Prayer is God’s plan to supply man’s great and continuous need with God’s great and continuous abundance.” – E. M. Bounds

I) Everybody ought to pray!

“I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;”

I Timothy 2:8 NKJV

- Jesus has opened up a way for us to pray!

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

Hebrews 10:19-22 NIV

- A. If you are a believer you can pray.
- B. You don't have to be perfect, Elijah wasn't!

II) What is Prayer

- It is not limited to CRISIS
- It is a discipline vital to your development and growth
- Primarily, it is COMMUNICATION

Prayer is communication mental or oral with God the FATHER in the name of Jesus the SON with the assistance of the HOLY SPIRIT! -

Tony Evans

- Your prayer becomes more effective when you understand how the Trinity functions in your prayers.

III) How do you see God?

- When Jesus trained the disciples in learning to pray the first thing He dealt with was their concept of God. “Father”

“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.”

Matthew 6:6-9 NKJV

- A right conception of God is basic not only to Systematic Theology but to practical Christian Living
- How you perceive God determines how and what you receive from God

A. Common Misconceptions of God

1. God is Tyrant

- This misconception says that God is cruel, mean, oppressive, angry and punitive. He doesn't want you to enjoy your life.
- This will cause you to become distant from God.
- Can't receive His Love and Acceptance.
- If you see Him as Tyrant, it is difficult for you to receive: Love and Acctenance.

2. God is Transactional

- This misconception says that God is conditional, relates to us like a businessman, "if this then that".
- This will cause you to have a Works mentality.
- Can't receive His Wisdom and Mercy.

3. God is On Demand

- This misconception says that God shows up when we want, to do what we want. He is here to fulfill all of our wishes and desires and shield us from pain and suffering.
- This will cause you to be frustrated and disappointed with God.
- Can't receive His Sovereignty and Grace.

B. God is Our Father

- How would your prayer life change if you saw God as a father who desires to be present with you, not just someone to produce for you?

The goal of prayer is the ear of God, a goal that can only be reached by patience and continued and continuous waiting upon Him, pouring out our heart to Him and permitting Him to speak to us. Only by so doing can we expect to know Him, and as we come to know Him better we shall spend more time in His presence and find that presence a constant and ever-increasing delight.” – E. M. Bounds

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don’t recognize that we are God’s children because they don’t know him.”

1 John 3:1 NLT

“He came into the very world he created, but the world didn’t recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.”

John 1:10-13 NLT

“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

Romans 8:14-17 NIV

OUR CONFESSION

In 2021 I am moving forward. My future is bright, and my tomorrow is great. I refuse to let my past behind me, or people around me, or problems that face me, keep me from moving forward. My pathway ahead is filled with potential and possibility. New doors are opening, new relationships are forming. I’m getting wiser and stronger everyday. This year by the grace of God I am moving forward.

