

Reactivating Your Prayer Life

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Prayer causes our spirit to be energized, blesses our circumstances and results in real changes in the world as more people experience Jesus' salvation and deliverance from sin and injustice.
- B. What is prayer? It is talking to God. It is a great privilege, fierce struggle and a powerful miracle. The Spirit helping us in our weakness in prayer is a beautiful reality. The only way the Spirit will conquer our soul is as we talk to God. If we will talk to the Spirit, then we will walk in the Spirit. Prayer is the best way out of a life of despair and the only way into the life of the overcomer.
- C. Why does God want us to pray? He wants us to connect with His heart in deep partnership. It is amazing that God pleads with us to pray instead of us pleading with Him to listen.

II. WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO PRAY?

- A. There are blessings that God has chosen to give, but only as His people ask Him in faith. Most of God's promises for increased blessing are not guarantees, but invitations to partner with Him in holy, believing, persevering prayer (Isa. 59:2; Mk. 11:23; Lk. 18:7-8, Jas. 1:6-7).

² *You do not have because you do not ask. (Jas 4:2)*

- B. One foundational principle of the kingdom is that we ask God for everything, both the increase of good things and the decrease of bad things. Prayer does not earn us God's favor, but positions us to receive more by relationship that is in active intimacy with God.

⁶ *In everything by prayer...let your requests be made known to God... (Phil. 4:6)*

- C. God withholds blessing until we ask to "starve us out" of prayerlessness. Why? He is jealously protecting His relationship with us by not answering us until we connect with Him by asking.

¹⁸ *The Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you...¹⁹ He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. (Isa. 30:18-19)*

- D. We must offer specific prayers, not just think about our need with frustration and desperation. God knows all of our needs (Mt. 6:32), but requires that we ask for them because it causes us to interact with His heart. To ask implies that we verbalize our prayers not just think on them. Verbalizing our prayers helps us to control our thoughts in prayer.

- E. We must articulate our love, gratitude and requests to Jesus in simple phrases. This is used by the Spirit to change our life as we often say, "Jesus, I love You, I thank and I trust You, etc."

² *Take words with you, and return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity; receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips. (Hos. 14:2)*

III. PRACTICAL ISSUES IN DEVELOPING A CONSISTENT PRAYER LIFE

- A. Three ways to strengthen our prayer life are to set a **schedule** for regular prayer times, make a **prayer list**, and have a **right view** of God. A schedule establishes “***when***” we will pray. A prayer list gives us focus on “***what***” to pray. And a right view of God causes us to “***want***” to pray.
- B. Most will pray ten times more with the simplicity of developing a schedule and prayer lists. Many who love God never develop a consistent prayer life because they lack these. I take liberty to deviate from my prayer list or ***omit parts*** of it as the “winds of inspiration” touch me.
- C. Three main prayer themes: Most prayer requests fit into one of these 3 themes:
 - 1). **Gifts** of the Spirit: God’s power and favor being released
 - 2). **Fruit** of the Spirit: God’s character formed in us or others
 - 3). **Wisdom** of the Spirit: God’s mind or the spirit of revelation imparted

IV. THREE PRAYER FOCUSES:

- 1. **Intimacy**: Focuses on giving my love and devotion to God. This type of prayer includes worship, meditation on the Word (prayer-reading it) and fellowshiping with the Spirit.
- 2. **Petition**: Asks for God’s blessing on my **personal life** (heart, circumstances, ministry).
- 3. **Intercession**: Asks for God’s power or justice **for others** (people, places, strategic issues)

V. THREE PRAYER LISTS:

- 1. **Prayer for our personal life**: Breakthrough on our **inner man** (heart), **circumstances** (physical, financial, relational) and **ministry** that God’s power may be released through our hands and words (singing/speaking) as we receive prophetic revelation to help others. Disciplining and balancing our lives to be more effective.
- 2. **Prayer for others (people and places)**: Individuals, ministries, marketplace and governmental authorities, and the destiny of cities or nations (Israel, Turkey, missionaries, etc.)
- 3. **Prayer for others (strategic issues in society and world)**: Government (elections, abortion, civil unrest,), oppression (human trafficking, persecution of the church in Russia and China, Turkey), natural disasters (hurricanes, tsunamis, drought), disease (Virus’ with no cure), social crisis (famine, genocide, ISIS, terrorist attacks etc.) or economic crisis, etc.