



Applied Faith Men's Bible Study

South Hills Baptist Church

7350 Granbury Rd.

Fort Worth, TX 76123

Prayer, How to Develop a Dynamic Prayer Life

(Lesson #1)

Lesson #23

"To the average Christian the command 'pray without ceasing' is simply a needless and impossible life of perfection. Who can do it? We can get to heaven without it. To the true believer, on the contrary, it holds out the promise of the highest happiness, of a life crowned by all the blessings that can be brought down on souls through His intercession. And as he perseveres, it becomes increasingly his highest aim upon earth, his highest joy, his highest experience of the wonderful fellowship with the holy God." - Andrew Murray

Did you know that God passionately desires that we partner with Him in prayer?

We have a dynamic role in determining the measure of the quality of our life, because God opens doors of blessing when we pray. But we must rise up in prayer and partner with Him, or we will not see these blessings. It is wise to develop a dynamic prayer life. God seeks for those who will stand in the gap and pray - (Ezekiel 22:30).

Why does God love our prayers?

It seems to be a mystery, doesn't it? Prayer and intercession draws us into intimacy and at the same time, humbles and transforms us. When we bring our needs to God in prayer, we interact with His heart. He loves when we verbalize our prayers. He wants us to ask in order to receive (James 4:2). He even withholds blessing if we do not ask. *God will answer and be gracious to us if we pray and ask (Isaiah 30:18-19).*

When we pray we are in governmental partnership with God, and we are changed on the inside as His Word abides in us. We are filled with His heart, and our effectiveness in prayer increases. We then decree His decrees with power from on high (Job 22:27-28). Wrong things are made right, the sick are healed, those bound in sin are freed, and revival is released in geographical areas. It's marvelous!

God initiates prayer by declaring His will in His Word. We respond by praying His Word. Then He answers us by releasing His blessing because of our prayers. Our prayers are actually powerful even during those days when we feel they are very weak. Prayer and intercession cause us to internalize God's Word because when we speak His ideas back to Him, our minds are illuminated and our hearts are touched. His Words impart life (John 6:63). His Word builds us up and delivers us (1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 4:12; Acts 20:32; James 1:21). God's mind then dominates and saturates ours, renewing us as we pursue Him in prayer.

I love to hear stories about Charles Finney. Charles Finney was a lawyer from New York in the 1800's who the Lord used greatly to bring about revival. He soon quit his law practice and went into times of prayer and fasting. Over 100,000 were considered converted during his meetings with 80% continuing on with the Lord. That was a large number of people in those days.

What was the main secret of his spiritual success?

He had two faithful intercessors, Daniel Nash and Abel Clary, who believed in fervent prayer. They would go ahead of Finney to the cities where he was going to preach, and they would cry out to God and weep in prayer for those cities.

Sometimes they would writhe and groan in agony over souls. God honored their prevailing prayers and sent revival.

These amazing results were because of prayer!

In the parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8, Jesus exhorts us to cry night and day. We must learn to be steadfast in prayer with great endurance. Satan's warfare against us is to undermine our faith by tempting us to lose heart and confidence in prayer. The Bible promises us that we will reap if we do not grow weary (Galatians 6:7-9). Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1). They saw that everything that happened in Jesus' ministry was because of His prayer life. Throughout the Bible we see that those who God used greatly were men and women of prayer. E. M. Bounds says:

"Christ, who in this as well as in other things is our example, spent many whole nights in prayer. His custom was to pray much. He had His habitual place to pray. Many long seasons of praying made up His history and character. Paul prayed day and night. Daniel's three daily prayers took time away from other important interests. David's morning, noon, and night praying was doubtless on many occasions very long and involved. While we have no specific account of the time these Bible saints spent in prayer, the indications are that they devoted much time to prayer, and on some occasions long seasons of praying were their custom."

Action Plan for Your Prayer Time

It's good to have an action plan in prayer. This will help you stay focused and engaged. A prayer action plan will keep your mind from wandering. Realize that you are speaking to a real person who loves you. Be attentive, and focus your mind on the Father who sits on His throne (Revelation 4). Let's look at some ways we can develop a dynamic prayer life:

Have a personal Bible plan - Daily read several chapters in the Bible or whole books of the Bible. There are several Bible plans. Find one that is helpful for you. YouVerizon and BibleGateway are ones I like.

Pray the Bible - Pray the apostolic prayers and other Biblical prayers. Pray the Psalms. As you read the Bible, pray it back to God.

Have a prayer list for others - Include specific places (cities, nations) and people (friends, ministries, unsaved, governmental authorities, etc.).

Pray for strategic social issues - Pray about current disasters and social crises.

Have a personal prayer list - Pray for your personal circumstances such as your physical, financial, and relational situations.

Pray for your own heart (intimacy, fear of God, purity, speech, a spirit of prayer).

Pray for your mind (your understanding of God's purposes, a spirit of revelation of God's emotions, will for your life, your end-time purpose).

Pray for your ministry (anointed hands and words, contending for God's purposes, authority and conviction in your words, insight into the secrets of God's heart, fruitfulness).

Pray for wisdom - Mike Bickle at the International House of Prayer, encourages everyone to pray for the following:

Revelation of God's personality - Knowledge of God's personal love for me (Ephesians 3:17-19; 1 John 3:1).

Revelation of God's will for my life (Colossians 1:9).

Revelation of God's end-time purposes (Daniel 11:35; 12:10).

Personal revelation of eternity (Psalm 39:4-6; 90:12).

Prayer rooms strengthen our personal and corporate prayer life. When we draw near to God together in a prayer meeting, He draws near to us (James 4:8). In the prayer room we get to know God's love for us in a deeper way. We grow in confidence that God loves us and discover His heart for us corporately. God's light drives out darkness and energizes our spirits (Luke 11:36). Our spiritual capacity is enlarged. We experience the supernatural impact of God's light in our lives. We then turn away from sin.

As we grow in prayer, we delight in God and His Words, and He delivers us (Romans 7:22-25). He washes us with His Word. The devil can't get us with his accusations and condemnations (Revelation 12:10) as we spend time in prayer. The prayer room seems to be the place where we can learn to live in victory and wisdom.

Let's pray and ask God for His light to enter our hearts (Psalm 43:3). Let's pray for His Word to grip our minds (Psalm 119:18, 105, 130; Colossians 3:1-3) and help us to make quality decisions to walk in righteousness daily (Psalm 24:3-6; 119:11, 32). May His Word empower us to obey His commands and daily set our hearts on wholehearted obedience.

God's end-time strategy is day and night prayer. He is calling us to believe and develop a dynamic prayer life. It will be costly and sacrificial, but it will be well worth the effort (Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 1 John 3:16-18). We are celebrating the life of Jesus in prayer. We are standing for justice and freedom for mankind. This end-time prayer movement will be full of the Spirit and the Word of God. Our prayers will not be lifeless, but they will have power to change nations and cities. As you come to Him in prayer:

Picture what God wants to do in and through your life.

Picture with the eyes of faith what He wants to do in your city.

Picture the answer in your mind, and pray towards that vision.

Your prayers will influence those around you in a powerful way. **Developing a dynamic prayer life is the wisest thing we can do with our life.** Nothing will happen without it.

"They may start from different points, and travel by different roads, but they converge to one point: they are one in prayer. To them, God is the center of attraction, and prayer is the path that leads to God. These men do not pray occasionally—not a little or at odd times. But they pray in such a way that their prayers enter into and shape their very characters. They pray so as to affect their own lives and the lives of others, and to cause the history of the church to influence the current of the times. **They spend much time in prayer, not because they watch the shadow of the dial or the hands on the clock, but because it is to them so momentous and engaging a business that they can scarcely quit.**" E. M. Bounds

Authored by Debbie Przybylski

Application/Activity

1. Identify a place in your residence that is quite and where you can get on your knees and pray.
2. Make a list, according to this lesson, of items, topics, and people that you feel led to pray for.
3. If need be, break this list, if it is long, into sections to be prayed over at different times or days.
4. Go into prayer. Begin a stopwatch and/or clock app.
5. Under no circumstances should you ever sneak a peek at this clock while praying.
6. Stop the clock when your prayer session is through.
7. DO NOT CLEAR THE CLOCK!!!
8. Begin your clock where you left off at your next prayer session.
9. Accumulate as much time as possible in prayer throughout the week.
10. We will ALL give an accounting of our prayer time at our next meeting.