

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Pastor's Bible Hour – December 28, 2008
Tabernacle of Praise – Pastor G. Richardson
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Luk 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that **men ought always to pray**, and not to faint;

That men ought always to pray. This is opposed to them, who pray not at all, or have left off prayer before God, or who pray only in distress; and suggests, that a man should pray as often as he has an opportunity; should be **constant** and **diligent** at the throne of grace, and continue putting up his requests to God, though he does not presently return an answer:

Luk 21:36 **Watch ye therefore, and pray always,....** Watch against every sin, snare, and temptation; particularly, against the above things, surfeiting (*properly a headache; as a seizure of pain from drunkenness. Self indulgence*), drunkenness (*intoxication*), and worldly cares; pray continually, for fresh supplies of grace:

Luk 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and **pray always**, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Eph 6:18 **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit**, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

THE EARLY CHURCH

1. **Overcame and existed with the power of prayer and survived the onslaught of persecution because they knew how to pray.**

Act 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Act 1:14

Continued with one accord — knit by a bond stronger than death.

Act 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Act 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Act 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

Act 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

1. **It is the fuel of an apostolic revival.** It is offering up our desires in the name of Jesus for the things that are agreeable to his will.
2. **Oxygen of the Soul:** Prayer is as vital to our Christian walk and existence as breathing is to our physical existence. Prayer is retuning to the soul's habitat.
3. **It is a two way communication with God:** You speak to him and then he will speak to you.
4. **The oral expression of our desires:** The deeper our desires the stronger the prayer. Prayer helps cultivate new desires for a deeper relationship with God.

LEONARD RAVENHILL'S BOOK **"REVIVAL GOD'S WAY"**

1. Prayer is the most unexplored area of the Christian life.
2. Prayer is the most powerful weapon of the Christian life.
3. Prayer is the most hell-feared battle in the Christian life.
4. Prayer is the most underestimated power in the Christian life.
5. Prayer is the most untaught truth in the Christian life.
6. Prayer is the most demanding exercise in the Christian life.
7. Prayer is the most neglected responsibility in the Christian life.

JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE IN PRAYER

1. At Mount Transfiguration:

Luk 9:29 **And as he prayed**, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment *was* white *and* glistering.

Luk 9:30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elijah:

Luk 9:31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

Luk 9:32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

- a. **Moses represented the law and Elijah the prophets;** both together represented the whole testimony of the Old Testament Scriptures, and the Old Testament Saints.

2. Jesus offered up Prayers and Supplications:

Heb 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

With strong crying - This word does not mean "weeping," as the word "crying" does familiarly with us. It rather means an outcry, the voice of wailing and lamentation. It is the cry for help of one who is deeply distressed, or in danger; and refers here to the

“earnest petition” of the Saviour when in the agony of Gethsemane or when on the cross. It is the “intensity of the voice” which is referred to when it is raised by an agony of suffering.

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Rom 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

THREE REASONS FOR PRAYER

1. **Prayer creates Fellowship**: Relationships are built by quality time together. Prayer alone with God creates special fellowship together.
2. **Prayer renews us Spiritually**: Prayer refreshes us in the presence of the Lover of our soul. “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day (2 Cor. 4:156).
3. **Prayer makes us co-laborers with God**: Before the fall of mankind, man was given the rule over this present world (Gen 1:28). Jesus Christ, as the Second man Adam, reclaimed this authority (Matt. 28:18). Through prayer, we share in the burdens and concerns of our Lord Jesus and become co-laborers with God during this present age to see His redemptive will accomplished in the earth (1 Cor 3:19).

STEPS IN BUILDING OR REBUILDING YOUR PRAYER LIFE

1Ki 18:30 And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And **he repaired the altar of the LORD *that was broken down***.

1Ki 18:31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

1Ki 18:32 And with the stones **he built an altar in the name of the LORD:** and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

1Ki 18:33 **And he put the wood in order,** and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid *him* on the wood..."

Lord Teach Us to Pray:

Luk 11:1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Luk 11:2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

Luk 11:3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

Luk 11:4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

1. **Our Father which art in Heaven:** Acknowledging our need for His strength and personal relationship with God. And a power greater than us.

Gal 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Gal 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Crying, Abba, Father - Enabling you to call upon God both with the confidence, and the attitude, of a submissive child.

2. **Starting with Worship:** (Hollowed be thy name)

Psa 18:46 The LORD liveth; and blessed *be* my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

Psa 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name.

3. **Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done:** We must have a surrendered heart and pliable spirit to follow His leading. When we are doing our own will and not the will of God are lives become marred in the hand of the potter.

Jer 18:2 Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.

Jer 18:3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.

Jer 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make *it*.

4. **Repentance and Forgiveness:**

Mat 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Mat 18:22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Mar 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mar 11:26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Mat 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee;

Mat 5:24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

5. **Petition:** (Request or an appeal)

Php 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Psa 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.

6. **Intercession:**

Isa 53:12 Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

7. **Thanksgiving:**

Heb 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

8. **Meditation:** (Contemplation, Reflection)

Psa 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psa 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

9. **Praying the Word:**

Joh 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

Joh 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Joh 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Psa 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Mat 15:27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.