

The Power of Prayer



Matthew 18:18:20;
Romans 8:26-27

- If you want to know how to grow in prayer and your relationship with God, then you must spend time in prayer communing with God.
- Purpose: To teach us the significance of prayer, but also help us understand the Holy Spirit's role regarding prayer.
- Goal: That every person will have an effective prayer life.
- Objective: (1) The Role of the Holy Spirit regarding Prayer. (2) The Benefits of Praying in the Spirit (Prayer Language) (3) Believer's Role and Responsibility Regarding Prayer
- Spiritual Principles: Authority, Agreement, Obedience, Grace, Stewardship, Faith

A. Statements Regarding the Power of Prayer.

1. Prayer is the most powerful weapon given to a true believer.
2. Without an effective prayer life, it will be impossible to maximize your growth and fulfill your God-given purpose. (John 5:19, Matthew 14:23, Luke 6:12)
 - Jesus, who is our perfect example, knew how significant spending time in prayer with God was.
3. Prayer is the one thing that some believers either sometimes do, forget to do or neglect to do all together.
4. Prayer is like a time machine. You can be in one place and impact the world around you through a vehicle called prayer.
5. When a believer prays effectively, they position themselves to witness God's presence and supernatural power in action. (James 5:17-18)
6. Prayer should always be a priority in a believer's life.
7. Prayer is vital for the Christian believer.
 - It is one of the most valuable vehicles we have to communicate with our Heavenly Father.
8. All believers are called to a lifestyle of prayer.

- Prayer is the responsibility of every believer.
- Prayer is a privilege. God's Word tells us to pray. (Matthew 6:5-6)
 - a. Prayer is a privilege for every believer because it allows us to talk to God, but more importantly it allows God to talk to us.
 - b. Prayer is a privilege for every believer because it allows us to commune with our Heavenly Father daily.
 - c. Prayer is a privilege for every believer because it allows us to strengthen our relationship with God.
 - d. Prayer is a privilege for every believer because it allows us hear God's heart to determine His will and pray His will into existence in the earth.

B. The Role of the Holy Spirit regarding prayer. (Romans 8:26-27)

1. The Holy Spirit will lead us to pray, but will never force a believer to pray.
 2. The Holy Spirit will help us with our weaknesses (mental and emotional distractions, heavy burdens, or sufferings of life that grip us).
 3. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray effectively because He knows the will of God.
 - a. The Holy Spirit intercedes both in and through the spirit of a believer which is now alive and alert to the will of God.
 - (vs. 26) – “but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”
 - The word “groaning” wordless groan, or a sigh too deep for words.
 - b. Paul reveals Four things about God that are significant. (vs. 27)
 - (vs. 27) – “Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to will of God.”
1. God searches the heart of all mankind. (Psalm 44:21, Jeremiah 17:10, 1 Chronicles 28:9)
 2. God knows the mind of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:10-12)

3. God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit will always be in perfect agreement. (John 14:11-17, 26-27, 16:13-15)
 - a. The Holy Spirit is our only connection to both God and Jesus Christ.
 - The believer must stay connected to the power source which is Jesus Christ.
 - The believer's prayer life will suffer severely if disconnected from Jesus Christ.
 - The believer's prayer life will become more selfish, no longer effective, and receive no response from God. (1 John 5:14-15)
4. God is Infinite. (Psalm 147:5, 145:3, 135:5-6, Revelation 1:8)
 - a. God is limitless. God's greatness can never be denied. God has unlimited power and wisdom.
 - b. We as human beings are finite, which means we are very limited in what we know and what we can do. (James 1:5, Philippians 4:13, John 15:5)
 - We need God's help and that's good news for every believer in that Jesus Christ has sent us a Helper called the Holy Spirit. (John 16:7)
- C. There are Eight Benefits of Praying in the Spirit (Holy Spirit) – Prayer language. (James 4:3)
 1. There are two ways that a believer can choose to pray.
 - Pray with your understanding (self-dependent, limited).
 - Pray in the Spirit (God-dependent, unlimited).
 2. The believer's prayers are guided and directed by the Holy Spirit. He helps us to pray effectively and according to God's will.
 - There is no one more powerful, more knowledgeable, wiser and more capable than the Holy Spirit. Put your faith and confidence in Him always.
 3. The believer is communicating directly with God. (1 Corinthians 14:2)

4. The believer's faith is strengthened and renewed. (Isaiah 41:10, Lamentations 3:22-23)
5. The believer is strengthened spiritually. (Isaiah 40:29, 2Corinthians 12:9-10, Ephesians 3:16)
6. The believer is strengthened spiritually. (Isaiah 40:29, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Ephesians 3:16, Zechariah 4:6)
7. The believer is empowered with boldness and confidence. (Hebrews 13:6, 4:16, 1 John 5:14-15)
8. The believer is able to win every spiritual battle over the enemy. (2 Corinthians 10:4, Ephesians 6:10-12, Isaiah 54:17)

D. Statements about The Power and Principle of Prayer. (Genesis 1:26-27)

1. To understand the power and principle of prayer, it is necessary to understand the mind and purpose of our Heavenly Father Himself.
2. God's mandate for man to dominate the earth was established in the declaration, "Let them."
 - By these words, the Lord defined the boundaries of His right to legally influence and interfere in the earth realm.
 - This is based on the principle of God's integrity and His commitment to His Word.
3. There are Five things we should know about God and prayer.
 - 1) God has chosen us and given us, as His children, dominion (stewardship) over the works of His hand. (Psalms 8:4-6, 115:16)
 - 2) God's plan and purposes is important than our will being done in the earth.
 - 3) God has placed His Word above Himself. (Psalm 138:2-3)
 - 4) God will never violate or break His Word. (Isaiah 55:11-12)
 - 5) God is faithful to His Word and His promises. (Matthew 5:18-29)
 - a. God's Word is His will and His will is His Word, He will fulfill in His perfect season and timing.

- b. God is committed to fulfilling His purpose and will in the earth, but never at the expense of violating His spoken or written Word.
- c. God is the most powerful being in all the universe. Nothing or no one can compare to the greatness of His power. (Psalm 145:1-21)
 - Yet God will never violate a law that He has established in the earth realm.
 - If God is going to do anything great in the earth, somebody must pray it into the earth realm.

E. God has established Seven primary laws for mankind in the earth. (Genesis 1:26-28)

1. The legal authority to dominate earth was given to mankind only.
2. God did not include Himself in the legal authority structure over the earth.
3. Man became the legal steward of the earth domain.
4. Man is spirit with a physical body; therefore, only spirits with physical bodies can legally function in the earth realm. (Psalm 8:1-9)
5. Any spirit without a body is illegal on earth. (Matthew 8:28-32)
6. Any influence or interference from the supernatural realm on earth is only legal through mankind.
7. God Himself, who is spirit without a physical body, made Himself subject to this law. (John 14:16-17)
 - a. Nothing will happen in the earth realm without the active or passive permission of man, who is its legal authority.
 - b. Neither God or His angelic host will ever interfere in earth affairs without the cooperation or permission of mankind.

F. The Believer's Role and Responsibility Regarding Prayer.

- Understanding these principles of God, teaches us the nature, power, and the purpose of prayer.
- What is Prayer?
 1. Prayer is man giving God the legal right and permission to interfere in earth's affairs. (2Chronicles 7:14)
 2. Prayer is man giving heaven earthly license to influence earth. (Matthew 18:18-20)
 3. Prayer is a terrestrial (earthly) license for celestial (heavenly) interference. (1 Corinthians 11:10)
 4. Prayer is man exercising his legal authority on earth to invoke heaven's influence on the planet. (Ephesians 6:17-18)
 5. Prayer is communing with God, to become one with God. (John 17:20-22)
 6. Prayer is exercising the authority of dominion. (Philippians 2:9-11, Luke 10:19, Luke 18:1; Matthew 16:19)
- The believer's authority and power come through Jesus Christ.
- 7. The believer should always pray the Word of God. God responds to His Word.
- 8. Prayer is listening and obeying. (Eccles. 5:1-2)