

Power of Prayer-1

Main Point: God has given us the ministry of prayer.

1. Prayer is not some human development—it is the anointed strategy of God.
 - a. Matthew 7:7-8 (Jesus taught us) *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives."*
 - b. When early believers run into a problem, they called a prayer meeting.
 - c. **Acts 4:31 (NKJV)** *And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*
2. Prayer sometimes includes a waiting period.
 - a. **Acts 2:1-4** *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
 - b. **Acts 2:38-39** *...“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”*
3. Prayer is to become a priority in our daily life.
 - a. Acts 1:14 *“They all joined together constantly in prayer...”*
 - b. Prayer is the key to an outpouring of His Spirit.
 - c. **Acts 8:15-17** *When they arrived, **they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit,***

16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **17** Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

- d. Prayer does not need **distraction**.
- e. **Acts 9:40** But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.

4. Prayer in **faith** releases the **power** of God in our life.

- a. **Romans 1:16**... For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for **it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.**
- b. James 5:16-19 The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.
- c. The **gateway** to everything God wants to do in your life is found in **faith-filled** prayer.

Quote:

You and I can help decide which of these two things... blessing or cursing happens on earth. We determine whether God's Goodness is released toward a specific situation or whether the sower of sin and Satan is permitted to prevail. Prayer is the determining factor. If we don't, He won't.

—Jack Hayford

5. Prayer focus for our life brings **clarity** to life's **purpose**.

- a. 2 Kings 2:9 And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

- b. Acts 1:4-5 *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me;⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*
- c. What are you **asking** God for?