

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Select Passages • October 7, 2007 • Pastor Mike Newman

October 7, 2007..... "The Power of Prayer"
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rethink
PRAYER
let's talk about it

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NLT) ¹⁶Always be joyful. ¹⁷Never stop praying. ¹⁸Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

Romans 12:12 (NLT) ¹²Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT) ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Philippians 4:6 (NLT) ⁶Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

John 14:15 (NLT) ¹⁵If you love me, obey my commandments.

John 15:1-7 (NLT) ¹I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. ³You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. ⁵"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT) ⁶Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Four Reasons Prayer is Important:

1) Prayer _____ that we love Him.

- ✓ See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Romans 12:12, Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6 and John 14:15

When you pray, you are obeying God's command to pray and your obedience communicates to God that you love Him.

2) Prayer _____ us to God and _____ our relationship with Him.

- ✓ See John 15:1-7

3) Prayer _____ and gives us a different perspective about the things happening in our lives.

- ✓ See Philippians 4:6-7 and 1 Peter 5:7



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1 Peter 5:7 (NLT) ⁷Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

Joshua 10:12-14 (NLT) ¹²On the day the LORD gave the Israelites victory over the Amorites, Joshua prayed to the LORD in front of all the people of Israel. He said, "Let the sun stand still over Gibeon, and the moon over the valley of Aijalon." ¹³So the sun stood still and the moon stayed in place until the nation of Israel had defeated its enemies. Is this event not recorded in *The Book of Jashar*? The sun stayed in the middle of the sky, and it did not set as on a normal day. ¹⁴There has never been a day like this one before or since, when the LORD answered such a prayer. Surely the LORD fought for Israel that day!

Acts 12:5-12 (NLT) ⁵But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him. ⁶The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate. ⁷Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, "Quick! Get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸Then the angel told him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." And he did. "Now put on your coat and follow me," the angel ordered. ⁹So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a vision. He didn't realize it was actually happening. ¹⁰They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, and this opened for them all by itself. So they passed through and started walking down the street, and then the angel suddenly left him. ¹¹Peter finally came to his senses. "It's really true!" he said. "The Lord has sent his angel and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish leaders had planned to do to me!" ¹²When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer.

When we pray, our thoughts begin to align with God's thoughts and we get more and more connected with God which results in us experiencing greater peace.

4) Prayer unleashes the _____ and accomplishes things beyond our human ability.

✓ See Joshua 10:12-14, Acts 12:5-12, and 1 Kings 18 for examples

While God is all-powerful and can do great things anytime He wants, it seems like the catalyst for God unleashing His power in most circumstances are the prayers of His children.

People who don't pray seldom if ever experience God's amazing power. But when God's children pray, it makes a difference. At the very least it will change your life and your perspective about what is happening. Beyond that, God often reveals Himself in ways we could have never experienced in our own power or ability had we not prayed.

How to Begin a Relationship with Jesus

Believe that Jesus is who He said He was, that He came and died on the cross, and that He arose from the dead three days later.

Acknowledge your sins and ask God to forgive you.

Submit yourself to follow God's teachings for life.

Express your desire to have this kind of relationship to God.

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the elders or pastors following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office (717-762-7147) to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website by clicking on the "Beginning Your Journey" link.

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