**Prayer**

**Review**: Prayer **changes** things. You should live in **atmosphere** of prayer, which is an **awareness of the presence** of God. When we pray we pray **to the Father in the name of Jesus**.

James told us if we are afflicted (or have **trouble) WE should pray**. Not expect someone else to pray for us.

Prayer is **Communion** with God. We discussed developing a **fellowship** with the Lord and not just a **relationship**.

If we **want true power in prayer**, we must cultivate deep hunger through spending time in His Word and spending time in communion with Him.

Prayer is not what you do, it is who you are. **You are NOW GOD’S HOUSE OF PRAYER**.

Effective prayer comes from **the heart not the mind**. **The Holy Spirit will teach you all things**.

We learned that we **ought always to pray**, to pray without **ceasing,** and that it **benefits us** to pray.

Prayer is a **way of life**. We pray without stopping because we pray as a matter of lifestyle.

We are to pray with **all** prayer, with **all** perseverance and for **all** saints.

Prayer should be focused. **Don’t be distracted**. Guard your house of prayer. Guard your time of prayer.

Jesus is our example and he had a daily **practice of praying**.

Jesus **prayed with purpose**, and he got **answers and results**. He **sought the Father every day** on what to do each day.

**It is GOOD TO KNOW**. **Why** do so many good church going Christians **not know**? They don’t **pray**.

Jesus summed up His entire ministry by saying **I only do what I see Him do and I only say what I hear Him say.**

**As you continue** in the Word, you **grow** in faith, and as you grow in faith, your **ability to pray** increases as well.

He uses many ways to **speak to us**, he may bring the Word to our **remembrance;** he will **declare things** through a **knowing heart**; or a **glimpse of a new truth** through **an image in our spirit** or a **change in your perception**; he may **transmit His thoughts to your thoughts**; it may float up from your heart;

**It’s Critical to spend Daily Time in the Word**

God’s Word is the **fuel behind every effective prayer**. When your Word gets low, your prayers **spit and sputter** along instead of **roaring ahead in power**. If you don’t **stop and refuel**, your prayers will eventually come to a stop.

**Your prayer** will then become God's own Word alive in your mouth. **Praying God's Word brings results and answers,** because God Himself said that His Word **will not return to Him empty,** without accomplishing what He desires, and without succeeding in the matter for which He sent it (see Isa. 55:11).

We must meditate on it until becomes revelation from the Holy Spirit and dwells richly within us. In other words, **the Word must move into our house of prayer**.

**Pray the Word based on faith**, **believing that you are in agreement with God's will** for the circumstance. **Let faith be the motivation** behind your prayer.

We should focus on the **quality of our time in the Word versus the quantity**.

We discussed ways of meditation like **reviewing different versions of this scripture; cross reference** scriptures; **look up the definition** of words; **Picture yourself receiving from the Lord according to the scripture you are meditating** ; **Visualized yourself living the stories in the Bible. Lynne Hammond says this is a extremely powerful method of transferring the Scriptures from your head to your heart.**

**Muttering it** over and over to yourself. Think about it by turning it over and over in your mind.

As you meditate the Word, **you are actually fellowshipping with the Spirit of Truth**. Growing **familiar with His voice**.

Reading and Meditating the Word daily will give you a **sense of assurance when you pray**. The more firmly our prayers are grounded on the Word, the more sure we can be that those prayers will be answered.

**Waiting on the Lord**

It takes time to quiet our minds and hearts so that the static and noise that often deafens us to His gentle voice, melts away and we can hear Him.

While we wait the Word tells us that God goes to work. Is 64:4 For from of old no one has heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has eye seen a God besides You, **Who works and shows Himself active on behalf of him who earnestly waits for Him.**

And He strengthens us: **They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength**. Is 40:31

**The Powerful Practice of Praise**

So to keep our house of prayer running smoothly we have reviewed 3 habits to get into:

1. Daily reading of the Word with Meditation
2. Bringing a notebook and pen to prayer time with us expecting to hear from God
3. Waiting on the Lord
4. And the Fourth is the habit of praising and worshipping the Lord

Psalms 103:1-2 Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all HIS benefits!

This is a must for everyone who is serious about prayer. The reason is we need the **manifest presence of God in order to sense His leadership.** And the Word tells us **He inhabits the praises of His people**. (Psalms 22:3). We should be wise and make our house of prayer a place of continual praise as well.

The **failure to worship is the cause behind much of our powerless prayer**. God’s ways are **not mysterious**. Prayer is **not a hit or miss** proposition.

Ephesians 1:18-19 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe, according to the working of His mighty POWER.

There are laws that govern the **natural** and laws that govern the **supernatural.** If we know and understand the supernatural laws of God, we can **consistently tap into God’s power**.

The reason we see so little of it is not because God is withholding it from us. He wants us to have it. He gave us the Bible to show us how to tap into it. **The cause of our POWER failure lies with US, not HIM.**

One of the laws that **brings God’s POWER** into action in our lives is **the law of praise and worship.**

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 when the trumpeters and singers were joined in unison, making one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voices with the trumpets and cymbals, and other instruments for song and praised the Lord, saying, For He is good, for His mercy and loving kindness endures forever, then the house of the Lord was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

Think of it like this, the **city of Dallas has a huge electric powerplant**. And we can tap into that power simply by **plugging in a cord**. God has a similar system. **His throne is like a huge, spiritual generator** from which the rivers of life flow. As we **worship, we plug into** that generator, and **POWER begins to flow in us**. That’s why God wants us to worship…**not because He is insecure and needs us to make Him feel good about Himself, but BECAUSE HE want** us **to PLUG INTO HIS POWER.**

You are always plugged in somewhere. You might be **plugged into what your mind** is thinking. Plugged into what the doctor’s diagnosis. Plugged into your **circumstances**. **Unplug from those things and PLUG into the throne of God through praise.**

So **if your start to pray and can’t seem to locate your heart and sense which direction God wants to go in**, you can always **lift your heart in genuine worship**. **Reach down into your heart** and bring up something for which you are **really grateful and tell Him about it**. That will get your moving in the right direction.

Hebrews 13:15 **THROUGH HIM**, therefore, let us constantly and at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name.

We are not on our own. **We don’t have to worship Him in our strength alone**. We can do it THROUGH HIM. As we lift up our hearts in worship, the Holy Spirt will help us and inspire us with TRUTH. As you start, **He will bring things up for you to utter**, and as you reach down deeper and deeper into your heart, you will hit a gusher. When this happens, you will be worshipping in spirit and in truth.

**Being Led By The Holy Spirit.**

But now we are discharged from the Law and have terminated all intercourse with it, having died to what once restrained and held us captive. So now we serve not under obedience to the old code of written regulations, but under obedience to the promptings of the Spirit in the newness of life. Romans 7:6

The promptings of the Holy Spirit are your **cues** that come to you not only during your **special prayer time**, but also **throughout the day**.

As you drive down the street fellowshipping with the Lord, **you might suddenly have someone flash across your mind** and think, I haven’t’ thought of that person in years. **Wonder what made me think of him?** Guess what! It was the Holy Spirit and He wasn’t wanting you just to think about him, He wanted you to pray for him.

How many times have we **missed the opportunity to help** someone because we **overlooked the prompting to pray** because we **don’t realize how supernatural** they are. We expect supernatural things to be more spectacular.

We think we should see angels telling up in a loud voice to ‘**pray for so and so’**. But that is not the way he generally works. He **gives us impressions, quietly speaks a name to our heart, or** **flashes a face in your mind**. His promptings are so **light and gentle** that if you aren’t looking for them, you will **miss them** or mistake them for something natural.

The **Holy Spirit is at work in us doing the work Jesus said He would do**, bringing things to our remembrance, revealing and disclosing the things of God, helping you to pray as you ought.

When you **catch your cue** from the Holy Spirit, you **lift that person up** to the Lord. The Holy Spirit **can accomplish great things** with just a little cooperation from us.

Example page 115-116

All intercession is not hours and hours of travail on your face. **Paul said that he ‘made mention’** of them often in his prayers. When we speak God’s Word, His Words make things happen.

Since God has given mankind dominion over the earth, **in order to release His power** into people’s lives, He **needs a man or a woman to speak** His words for Him. He needs us to be His **mouthpiece** in the earth.

Sometimes you will be able to accomplish the Holy Spirit’s desire for someone by simply **mentioning them once or twice in prayer**. Other times, the Lord will continue to bring that person to your heart and you feel a **greater burden** for them and you will know there is more attention to prayer needed.

Galatians 3:5 He Who supplies you with His marvelous Holy Spirit works powerfully and miraculously among you **because of your believing**. (paraphrased)

Notice that it didn’t say because you have a **special call to pray** or if you are a very mature Christian who spends six hours a day in their prayer closet. He said **because you believed**.

Start now practicing a lifestyle of prayer. It will take time to develop in it. In addition, begin to study and meditate on what the Bible says about the work of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, The measure (of thought and study) you give (to the truth you hear) will be the measure) of virtue and knowledge) that comes back to you (Mark 4:24) Virtue means power.

So **if you want to increase your power to pray,** keep increasing in God’s Word.