

The Purpose, Practicalities, and Power of Persevering Prayer

We are saved by Christ and sent by Christ, and we are to model ourselves after Christ. Jesus prayed in the beginning, during, and at the close of his ministry (Luke 3:21, 5:16, and 23:46). The disciples watched Jesus withdraw to prayer and witnessed his serene and empowered life and work because of prayer's priority. If Jesus made prayer a priority how can we do any less? Jesus also taught the power, practicalities, and importance of prayer. God works through prayer, do you?

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I. The Purpose of Prayer

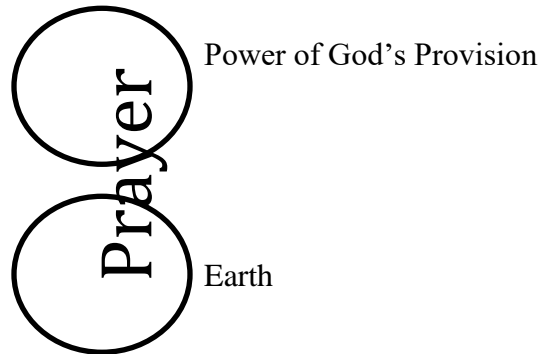
A. What is prayer – Group Thoughts?

1. Prayer is NOT
2. Prayer is
3. The main purpose of prayer
4. True prayer
5. Powerful earth-changing prayer
6. Our purpose in prayer

B. God is sovereign and rules over all mankind. (1 Chronicles 29:11-12)

1. Can we change God's mind through Prayer?
 - a. Numbers 23:19
 - b. 1 Samuel 15:29
2. Although prayer does not change God's will, it does activate God's will.

3. Jeremiah 33:3, Psalm 91:15, James 4:8, Matthew 7:7
4. How do our prayers release the power of God?
 - a. First God's desires must be before our heart.
 - b. As we pray God's words, God sees His word carried out.
 - i. Jeremiah 1:12
 - c. God even puts His words in our mouths
 - i. Jeremiah 1:9
 - d. God's words have energy and power and are active.
 - i. Hebrews 4:11



C. Patterns of Prayer

1. Jesus modelled powerful prayer
 - a. When disciples asked him how to pray, He gave them a model of prayer. (Matthew 6:5-13)
2. Adoration
 - a. Psalm 145
 - b. Psalm 62:5-8
3. Confession
 - a. James 5:16
 - b. 1 John 3:21-24
4. Thanksgiving
 - a. Philippians 4:4-6
 - b. Psalm 95:1-5
5. Supplication

a. 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

II. The Practicalities of Praying His Presence

A. Make it a daily priority

1. Believe it is God's desire for you to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Make it your daily desire to glorify God by being filled and focused on Christ. Present yourself to Christ to be filled because although he commands he does not coerce. He waits for you of your own volition to give what is his by his redemptive purchase (1 Peter 1:18-19, John 14:16-17)
2. Will you daily pray to will and do his good purpose (Philippians 2:13)?

B. Keep the slate clean!

1. Develop a deep sensitivity to sin. Practice quick confession. Don't grieve the Holy Spirit. Remember that as soon as we grieve the Holy Spirit, the poor is gone. We must confess and ask to be refilled. (2 Corinthians 3:17, Galatians 5:16)

C. Daily read and study God's word.

1. Know God's voice through prayer and the word; then obey Him (Galatians 6:7-9). The Word is life changing and can forever encourage us as we remember "hearing" from the Living God.
2. How will you record His memorable voice?

D. Practice His presence.

1. Ask God to fill your empty cleansed vessel (James 3:2-3)
2. Expect God to fill you (1 John 5:14-15)
3. Finally, act as if He has. We do not see the wind, but the evidence is there. We are ongoingly transformed and others will see the fruit.

E. What God promises through prayer

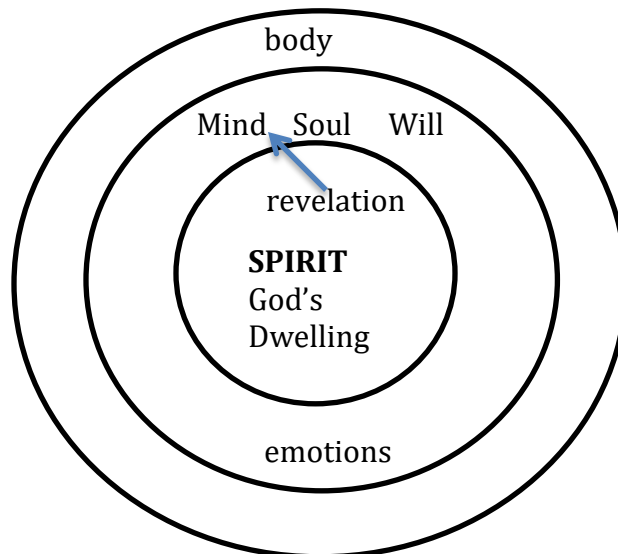
1. A transformed mind and heart changed by the prayer process to pray His promises, release His power, and his plans onto the earth (through our prayers!).
2. A praying life—more and more abandoned to God and His purposes.

3. Growing faith because faith and prayer are inseparably linked. Faith fuels prayer, prayer expresses faith.

III. Persevering Prayer

A. Waiting on God

1. The most difficult part of the process is waiting on God.
2. During the process of prayer
3. We start the prayer process desiring something (and though we can desire His gifts) God wants to give you something else. What?
 - a. TRIALS COME (waiting begins)
 - b. FAITH TESTED and proven to you
 - c. PERSEVERENCE develops
 - d. Which leads to MATURITY
4. Sometimes God waits (Ephesians 1:17, 2 Corinthians 2:-10)
5. Persevering Prayer (Colossians 1:9) leads us to His thinking, His will, and His spirit.
 - a. The goal is a praying life not a prayer life.



6. Our minds do not know and understand all truth. Our minds are part of the human nature and must be renewed by the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:9-16.
7. God wants to give us deeper truth

Quote by O. Hallesby

“This power is so rich and so mobile that all we have to do when we pray is to point to the persons or things to which we desire to have this power applied, and He, the Lord of this power, will direct the necessary power to the desired place at once. He has decreed that only His own friends can establish contact with these inexhaustible sources of power. IN fact, the means of contact has been devised so carefully that the connection is automatically cut off, even to the friends of Jesus, as soon as they try to employ this power in ways contrary to the will and purposes of Jesus. It is only when we pray for something according to the will of God that we have the promise of being heard and answered.”