

Remnant Life Church

June 2, 2013

Prayer- Effective and With Power

Luke 1:5-23

(SERIES CONTENT)

1. What it is and what it isn't
 2. The perfect blueprint
 3. Pray with effectiveness and power
- First, know what makes your prayers effective and...
 - Know what Satan wants to do to
 - Early 90's Gulf War we began by gathering information and then taking out their ability to communicate
 - Knowledge of who you are fighting sets the tone of the conflict
 - We will not focus on the enemy but we want to know what he plans to do so as not to get caught off guard or by surprise

Effective Prayer...

1. Begins with a humble heart
 - **2 Chron. 7:14** - *if my people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray... (EZRA)*
 - We are His people
 - Pride will prevent our prayers from being heard
 - Jas 4:6 - *"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."*
 - Desiring what God wants first
 - Your will be done... (**Matt. 6; Luke 11**)
 - Having God's will first is what brings me to the place of a right posture to pray

2. True faith

- a. **Mark 11:24** - ...*whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*
- b. **Mark 9:22-23** – (Demon possessed boy) *"It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us. 'If you can?'" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."*
- c. What if I believe and it does not happen? Go back to the first point – His will over mine (The mark of a maturing Christian)

What should I know to increase my faith?

i. He will answer prayer in His time

1. Yes – No – Not yet
2. **Luke 1** – the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth
 - a. They had been praying all their married lives for a child but God waited
 - b. They remained faithful to pray all that time without seeing the results of their prayers
 - c. Can we persevere?

ii. He will answer in His way

1. **Isaiah 55:8** - *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,"*
2. Many times God wants to bless us in a greater way than our prayer
 - a. Zechariah and Elizabeth's prayer was answered in the time that fulfill the scripture that the Messiah would have a forerunner – John the Baptist
 - b. We often ask for too little, and what little we ask for, we ask for it to come too fast.
 - c. **Eph. 3:20** - ...*to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or*

imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

iii. Understand that God does not need my help

1. Many times we pray and then set to work making it happen
2. God does work through us and through others but it should never be born out of doubt
3. Noah built the ark but only at God's command

iv. God answers prayer for His reasons

1. In Gen. 37 God reveals to Joseph in a dream that he would become a great ruler
2. He is then immediately sold into slavery
 - a. God's plan was to protect His people
3. Paul's great desire was to go to Rome and preach the gospel (**Rom.15:20**)
4. God answered his prayer and allowed him to do it, but not in the way he thought
5. **Acts 28:16** – house arrest
6. What was God's purpose?
 - a. Not for Paul to preach in the Coliseum
 - b. To write the letters that would help spread and ignite the gospel (Eph., Philip., Colo., Philemon)

3. Persistence

- a. **Matt. 7:7** - "*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you..*"
 - i. Ask – crave, beg
 - ii. Seek – desperation
 - iii. Knock – with a heavy blow
- b. The Israelites would win the battle against the Amalekites only as long as Moses had his hands lifted in prayer (**Ex. 17:11**)

- c. After God told Elijah it would rain to end a long period of drought it only came after he prayed 7 times (**I Kings 17:17-23**)
- d. Persistence shows the true condition of our hearts

What does satan do to try and thwart our prayers?

- He tries to discourage us
 - He will always want us to be thinking of ourselves first (pride)
 - We want what we want when we want it.
- He tells us that God did not hear our prayers
 - There are conditions that we must be aware of
 - We must forgive (**Matt. 18:25**)
 - We must know that God's love is greater than anything and that He cares about every aspect of our lives (**Luke 12:24**)
- He will try and convince you that your intellect needs to override your faith
 - We are to live in wisdom
 - Gravity will always work
 - God's laws of the natural world that we must abide by
 - But our actions should never be born out of doubt

Pray often about everything (I Thess. 5:17**)**

Pray with great faith (Matt. 11:24**)**

Pray expecting God to do great things (Psalms 86:10**)**