

## June 5th, 2016 – Prayer Retreat

This Sunday we had a prayer retreat and so I'd like to repost a small review of prayer that I've done previously. There are books beyond measure that could fill libraries unlimited, so this is by no means exhaustive, just key scriptures to stir you to prayer.

Do you know that most everyone prays? Prayer is something innate within our soul and spirit. It's WHO you pray to that is the key and that makes the difference. Every world religion, cult and sect has forms of prayer. But the ONLY prayer that prevails and is powerful is the one from a Christian who knows and is in fellowship with their God. Our God is the great I AM, the Sovereign, the Almighty One, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. He is omnipresent, omniscient, all knowing, all wise, all love, all kind, all peace, all holy, all pure, all beautiful and closer to you than your very breath. Jesus says in Matthew 7:11; *"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"*

Jesus is our model of prayer. Here are a few scriptures to show that He, being the only Son of God, also spent time in prayer and personal fellowship with his Father. Seek to have your own private time with your Father.

- Mark 1:35; *"In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place and was praying there."*
- Matthew 14:23; *"After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray."*
- Luke 5:16; *"But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."*

Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, and as we are also His disciples, it's a good model to guide us in prayer.

- Matthew 6:9-13; *"In this manner, therefore pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed by Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."*
- These are the key areas that His prayer focuses on;
  - Worshiping, fellowshiping and having communion with our Heavenly Father
  - Asking for His Kingdom – His perfect will to be done in our lives
  - Asking for the Father's daily provision to be given to us
  - Ask for forgiveness of our debts/sins....AS WE forgive those who sin against us
  - Ask him to deliver us from the temptations that the devil would want to throw across your path and to deliver us from satan's schemes, plots, fiery darts and flaming missiles.
  - Ending again in praise and worship, keeping our eyes on Him and Him alone
- Matthew 21:22; *"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."*

Jesus also taught that we need to pray and fast. Fasting is a powerful tool Jesus has given us, especially when the spiritual warfare is intense and the enemy's pursuits are relentless. But fasting with prayer is powerful and the victory will be seen! In fasting, you're saying, 'Father this meal isn't as important to me right now as the breakthrough that I need in my life and in prayer.' It speaks volumes to the Father that you're willing to go without a meal or meals to seek him and his power for deliverance and the breakthrough!

- Mark 9:29; *"So He said to them, "This kind come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."*

Jesus showed us how 'not' to pray.

- Matthew 6:5-8; *"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him."*

Praying in the Holy Spirit. When we receive the infilling or baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit gives us a heavenly language which is called speaking in tongues. These tongues could be other human languages or angelic tongues as referenced in:

- I Corinthians 13:1; *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels...”*
- Romans 8:26-27 says; *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but he Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”*

The Holy Spirit is our helper and he helps us pray, whether it is with understandable words, spiritual words and even in wordless groans! At times we don't know how to pray but the Holy Spirit does.

- I Corinthians 2:10-12 says; *“But God has revealed them to us through His spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”*

So the Holy Spirit helps us pray the perfect will of our Father.

- I Corinthians 14:15 says in the Amplified Bible; *“Then what am I to do? I will pray with the spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me], and I will pray with the mind [using words I understand]: I will sing with the spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me] and I will sing with the mind [using words I understand].”*

Prayer for the salvation of men, women, youth and children! Paul says in:

- II Corinthians 4:3-6; *“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.”*

The devil – god of this world – has blinded men and women so they can't comprehend the gospel of Jesus. That's why we pray and take authority in Jesus name over this spirit of blindness, so that their eyes can be opened to the truth. Jesus said in:

- Luke 10:19; *“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”*
- Mark 16:15-18; *“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.’”*

This is the AUTHORITY that Jesus has given us in his name and in prayer! Powerful! Isn't this exciting! I trust you'll be encouraged to pray, pray more, pray without ceasing with all prayers!

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