

Newsletter July 2023

From Heaven's Heart

“Prayer That Produces Results”

Most of us pray, don't we! It seems like the older I get, the more I pray. I guess it's because I have more things to pray for, to thank God for, and as I get older, I have learned by experience that God hears us and He always responds to our prayers.

I was reading something this morning about effective prayer and felt that God wanted me to share it with you.

Is anything more important than to see and experience results from our prayers?

Here's what Nehemiah had to say about talking to God. We call this prayer. Nehemiah 1:8-9 says, “Please remember what you told your servant Moses: (Nehemiah is talking/praying to God) If you are unfaithful to Me, I will scatter you among the nations. But if you return to Me and obey My commands and live by them...I will bring you back to the pace I have chosen for My name to be honored. God always wants us, His children to honor Him with our obedience to Him. As we do, He takes care of all our needs. And He answers our prayers. Always!

When you pray, it turns your attention toward God and helps you to see that He is bigger and more powerful than any of your problems and concerns. And as you watch God answer your prayers, your faith becomes stronger, you pray more often and the God directed results flow into your life.

How do we pray and see the results we need...desperately need?

First, pray knowing the character of God. In other words, pray like you know God will answer you because He will. That's God's character. He loves you and He wants to help you and therefore, He will answer your prayers to give you what you need if you are trying your best to live in obedience to God.

You should always be honest with God. Say, "Lord, I'm expecting You to answer this prayer because of who You are. You are faithful always. You are all-powerful and can do anything. You love me. You can handle any problem." This is praying in a way that exemplifies the character of God. He created the world and everything in it. He created you. Answering your prayer is easy for God.

Next, as you begin to pray, confess any sins you are aware of and ask God to remove the desire you are struggling with and help you. That's what Nehemiah did. He said, "I confess that we have sinned against you. Even my own family and I have sinned. We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us" Nehemiah 1:6-7 It wasn't Nehemiah's fault that Israel went into captivity. He wasn't even born when it happened, but he was most likely born in captivity. Yet he included himself in the sins of his people. He said, "I've been a part of the problem."

Next, think about all of God's promises. Nehemiah prayed to the Lord, "Please remember what you told your servant Moses." God doesn't need reminding. Nehemiah said, Lord, you warned your people that if they were unfaithful, they would lose hope and the land where they lived and they did. But God, you also promised that if they would repent, you'd give them their land back and provide peace and prosperity. And He eventually did when they repented and turned back to God. I'm pretty sure America needs to repent and turn away from a long list of sin and begin following God again, don't you?

Reminding God in our prayers of His promises...good and bad...reminds us of what we can and should claim in our prayers. We know what we can claim from what God has done before and therefore will do if we repent and turn back to Him. He promised and He always keeps His promise.

Lastly, always be specific in what you ask God. If you want specific answers to your prayers, make specific requests. Here's why. If our prayers consist of general request's, how will we know if God answers them?

When we pray, we are acknowledging that God is all-powerful, all-loving, all-forgiving and is able to provide for our every need and the needs of others. But prayer also brings us into alignment with God's will, helping us understand how and why He answered our

prayers the way He did. Our prayer life will not only build our faith but will help make us more mature as Christians. We learn so much from our conversations with God as He uses His Holy Spirit and His word to speak to us and to draw us closer and closer to Him. We learn more and more about His love, His grace, His power, His truths, His plans, His character and us...yes God is always actively involved in building up our own character by growing our personal relationship with Him. He does this through prayer, through our study of His word, through teaching us in Sunday School, bible study, and worship service.

Never, never doubt that God answers your prayers. You do not have to pray like someone else. You don't need to get the words right. Just let His spirit touch your heart and be amazed at the thoughts and the words that come out of your mouth.

I have a friend who has told me many times, "I can't pray in front of other people." This friend often visits the sick and elderly in our community. Just this week, I spoke with two people my friend visited. Both ladies told me, "I sure was happy for my visit this week by so and so. And the doughnuts were wonderful. And she prayed with me. I think it was the most beautiful prayer I have ever heard." When you join God in His work (visiting the sick, lonely, hurting) He will move you to pray and He will pray for you. This is the work of the Holy Spirit.

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ. Never doubt the power of the Holy Spirit to pray through you in such a powerful way that God speaks through your prayers to someone who needs to hear from God and to experience the results of answered prayer.

God promises to hear and to respond to your prayers with good results. Keep praying!

Love you deeply...always,

Pastor Steve