**LIVING WITH PRAYER**

**John 4.46 — 8-8-21am, QBC**

We will commence a new series of messages. These messages will focus on our acronym P. O. W. E. R. You will remember that this satnds for Prayer, Outreach, worship, Enrichment and Relationships. We believe these are the BASICS for Christian living. These are the basics for church life. We want to build on the basics.

We talk about living with POWER. It is no accident that it BEGINS with Prayer. Christian living commences with prayer and it continues with prayer.

 A modern parable tells about a young man who went off to college—let us call him Todd. Todd was a Christian, but he got mixed up with a group of students who would get drunk on weekends—a major problem on many university campuses. Todd did not drink much, but he would pretend to be drunk in order to fit in with the group. One night, the driver was seriously stoned and weaving all over the road on the way back to campus. Todd was frightened out of his wits—but not frightened enough to intervene and take the wheel. He prayed that God would get him home alive and promised he would never get drunk again. His desperate faith worked for the moment; he got home safely.

 But a few weeks later, the promise was forgotten; he went out with the same group of friends to get drunk again. But just as he was about to take his first drink, he remembered that hair-raising ride as well as his desperate prayer and God's answer. He walked out of the party, found another ride back to campus, and never drank again. Desperate faith had led him to pray, but deliberate faith led him to a changed lifestyle.

 Life is a process and a progression. Things are interrelated. Desperation and deliberation are part of life and part of praying.

 Our passage today is a typical passage of John. It is profoundly simple, yet simply profound. It has layer upon layer of truth and insight for us. Let’s see if we can peel back some layers, unwrap some truth and unleash some growth in our souls.

We will consider 2 headings Action and Application. Here we go . . .

I. **ACTION**

46 - Life brings problems as well as opportunities

47 - Challenges come to all kinds of people

47 - Notice this man’s course of action

Heard

He went

He pleaded

48 - Look at Jesus’ statement

He intends to deal with the Father as well as the son

49 - The father is insistent and he is persistent

50 - Jesus’ promise to the man

“Your son lives”

50 - the officials’ response

He believed

He departed (DOES NOT say he headed for home

52 - “yesterday” - he STAYED and went about his business

51 - confirmation -

“Your child lives’

53 - the father realized it was the same time - he KNEW

Jesus is not hindered by TIME or by SPACE

53 - he BELIEVED, along with his whole household

Jesus heals PHYSICALLY

Jesus heals SPIRITUALLY

Jesus heals PERFECTLY

Faith is a dynamic process:

This man had a **developing** faith

He had a **doing** faith

He had faith to :

COME to Jesus

CALL upon Jesus

CONSOLE his heart

COMMUNICATE to his household

CONVERT his soul

**II. APPLICATION**

In this story we learn some important truths about PRAYER . . .

A. Prayer **PURSUES** Jesus

B. Prayer **PLEADS** for help

C. Prayer **PERSISTS** in talking with Jesus

D. Prayer **PROCURES** a promise from the Lord

E. Prayer **PROCEEDS** in faith

F. Prayer **PROFITS** us and others

G. Answered prayer **PRODUCES MORE** faith

Christian living **COMMENCES** and **CONTINUES** with PRAYER

Prayer **applies** our faith to our lives

Prayer **adds** to our faith

Prayer **advances** God’s kingdom