



Fifteenth Avenue BAPTIST CHURCH

UNCERTAIN

THE CHURCH DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

Equipped

- What is the believer equipped with
 - To handle moments of uncertainty?
 - To survive the ups and downs of life?
 - To walk with confidence and assurance when all around you have lost their way?
- **The Spirit of God!**

Power of God In Uncertainty

- **Holy Spirit is**
 - God's **Presence** in the Believer
 - God's **Power** in the Believer
 - God's **Promise** to the Believer

God's Presence

God's Presence

- **Evidence of God's Presence**
 - Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
1Corinthians 3.16

God's Power

God's Transforming Power

- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

God's Transforming Power

- And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **Ezekiel 36:26**

God's Transforming Power

- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

God's Transforming Power

- And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. **Philippians 1:6**

God's Promise

God's Promise

- And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. **Rom. 8:28**
 - Not some things.
 - Work for the good.
 - Exclusive Promise.

God's Promise of Prayer

Promise of Prayer

- Without the aid of the Spirit,
 - Even our prayers would fail.
 - Even with God, Christians are weak.
 - Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. **James 4:3**

Promise of Prayer

- **Remedy to this weakness is the Spirit's intervention and assistance.**
- **Overcomes our own limitations**
- **Demonstrates that even in petition we need the Lord's help.**

Promise of Prayer

- **26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **Romans 8.26**

Promise of Prayer

- **Paul recognizes the Holy Spirit interceding with the Father on behalf of weak Christians.**
- **Holy Spirit pleads our cause with the Father,**
 - **Even helping us to formulate our prayers.**
 - **Holy Spirit is the source of all genuine Christian prayer.**

Promise of Prayer

- **Spirit's help includes all communion with God:**
 - **Doxology, blessing, praise, thanksgiving, penitent confession, supplication, or any acknowledgment of God as Father (8:15) and of Jesus as Lord (1 Cor 12:3b).**
- **Holy Spirit essential to communion with God!**
 - **Prayer powerful aid to the believer!**

Power of Prayer

- Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The **effectual fervent prayer** of a righteous man availeth much.
James 5:16
- The prayer of the righteous is very powerful in its working (5:16b).

Qualification of Prayer

- **Righteousness**
 - Sounds daunting but shouldn't threaten you!
 - We have been justified by faith
 - We stand before God with a righteousness that is **not our own.**

Qualification of Prayer

- **Not our Righteousness**
 - ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus. **Rom. 3:23-24**
 - To be justified is to be declared righteous.

Qualification of Prayer

- **Righteousness**
 - But it also refers to our walk.
 - Does not imply perfection.
 - Rather, means to walk uprightly before God.
 - To judge and confess all known sin
 - To seek to obey God in every area of life.

Qualification of Prayer

- **Power of Prayer as Powerful as the God to whom we pray.**
- **There is no inherent power in prayer itself.**
- **Instead, prayer links us to God who is omnipotent.**

Power of Prayer

- **Prayer is not just wishful thinking.**
 - **When we pray, we speak to the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth,**
 - **Prayer can do anything that God can do!**

Power of Prayer

- **What about unanswered prayers?**
 - **Sometimes God delays the answers we seek to keep us in humble dependence on Him.**
 - **Paul's thorn in the flesh is an example (2 Cor. 12:7-10).**

Power of Prayer

- **What about unanswered prayers?**
 - **Elijah prayed for God to send rain**
 - **God had promised to send rain, but**
 - **God did not answer instantly.**
 - **It took seven attempts on Elijah's part before the first cloud was seen in the sky.**

Power of Prayer

- Sometimes God answers **no** for His own reasons.
 - We have trust God and God's omniscient ways.
- The danger is that when we encounter God's delays or denials of our requests, we will lose heart and give up praying.
 - But we must not lose faith in God!

Power of Prayer

- **We should pray big prayers and expect God to accomplish much through them, according to His purpose and glory.**

Power of Prayer

- **Prayer is available to believers in every time and in every place.**
- **Power of prayer not limited to prayers offered in church buildings on Sunday mornings,**
- **Or to prayers offered by pastors or leaders.**
- **Or prayers in eloquent language.**

Power of Prayer

- **If you know Christ, then**
 - **Wherever you are,**
 - **Whatever need you find yourself,**
 - **You can call on God and God will hear and answer according to God's will.**

Power of Prayer

- **God doesn't weigh the value of the prayers**
 - **By their length**
 - **Or by how many people get together to pray**
 - **Or by how much you agonize in your prayers.**
 - **Even if you've only got a few minutes, you can still devote the time to prayer!**

Power of Prayer

- Prayer of the righteous is very powerful in its working.