

Prayer – Lesson 4

Beginning Guidelines for a Powerful Prayer Life

Many Scriptures emphasize the importance of learning to pray effectively. James 5:16 tells us that some prayers are effective...leading us to conclude that some prayers are not effective. In Luke 11, Jesus' disciples made perhaps their wisest request when they said, "Lord...teach us to pray." What is unfortunate and sad is that many Christians are praying on an ineffective level and don't even realize it.

With that said, let's begin our discussion by looking at two preliminary principles we need to remember.

The regular reading of significant amount of Scripture is essential to your prayer life.

It is impossible to develop powerful biblical praying without joining your prayers to the promises of God's Word. In Romans 10:17, we find that faith comes from hearing and hearing from the word of God. Matthew 4:4 says we live by every word that proceeds from God. 1 John 5:14-15 says the confidence that we have is if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us and whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desire of Him.

So that begs the question, "How much time do you spend every day reading God's Word?"

Familiarize yourself with the basic guidelines and Biblical principles for powerful prayer.

Only when we follow God's rules will His power be released. Tragically, many Christians can't even name the basic principles of powerful prayer...let alone practice them.

Before jumping in to discuss the principles of powerful prayer, let's look at a few practical prayer guidelines.

1. Be prepared to give God the BEST time of your day.
2. Purpose to experience a balanced prayer life.
3. Ask God daily to teach you to pray and also for His anointing and guidance.

THE PRINCIPLES OF POWERFUL PRAYER

1. Pray with an attitude of authority and confidence through the name of Jesus.

We are to come to God in Jesus' name...confident that He forgives...knowing He invited us to pray big prayers. When is the last time you asked God for something big? Do you have the confidence that your prayers will be answered?

2. Spend quality time allowing God to search you so you are freshly cleansed from every sin or hindrance.

It is imperative that your confession and repentance be thorough. Don't rush through your confession time in a brief or casual manner. Ask God to forgive you of the sins of which He has made you aware. Ask Him to reveal to you through His Spirit other sins that you may be committing and then confess those sins.

3. Specifically ask Him to fill and anoint you with His Spirit.

In order to pray in power we must have the fullness of God's Spirit. Pray that God will fill you with His Spirit. Pray that God will show you what you ought to pray; rather, than what you think you should pray.

4. Determine to pray in genuine faith and expectancy.

Only believing prayer has power with God. Use God's Word to find the will of God in your praying. It is vital to remember that faith must be a "choice" and more than just a "feeling."

5. Ask God to prevent the influence of satan in yourself and in the subjects for which you pray.

Remember that entering a serious time of prayer is like being a soldier entering the battlefield. Be sure your armor is on! Prayer is not just how we prepare for spiritual battle, prayer is the battle. Always keep in mind that satan attacks us at our most vulnerable area. In which area are you the most vulnerable?

6. In your praying, be as specific as possible.

Specific prayer moves mountains. Ask God to give you very specific requests that are Scripture-based. It is extremely important that we learn to pray according to the Word of God.

7. For your key prayer requests, try to find committed partners who will agree to join you in united prayer.

There is special power when believers unite in specific prayers of faith. Every great revival and spiritual awakening was born from intense, united prayer. Do you have some of these special prayer partners in your life?

Above all, remember that a powerful prayer life is the only way to a dynamic, growing relationship with Him. Your prayers will only as powerful as you believe they are. If you show up daily, He will show up daily and teach you how to pray.