

His Presence Church Arizona
Contending for Revival Series – Pastor Randy Winkles

Behind the Door (Closet) Revival 1

It Starts with YOU

Opening Text: Joshua 24:12-15:(NKJV)

¹² I sent the hornet before you which drove them out from before you, *also* the two kings of the Amorites, (Sihon, king of Hesbon, and Og, king of Bashan) *but* not with your sword or with your bow. ¹³ I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'

¹⁴ "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! ¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

TEXT: Matthew 6:5–8 (NKJV) ⁵ "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. ⁶ **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.** ⁷ 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. ⁸ "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

It seems to me that we have lost whatever little grip we once had on the privilege of prayer. As Spirit-filled folks we have a particularly privileged place in our lives. All religions pray. What makes Christian prayer any different? All Christian groups pray. What makes us any different?

We pray for revival in the earth, but what does the Bible say we should be praying for? I was preparing for a meeting in Richmond when the Lord spoke to me and said, “Revival starts in the closet.”

- I. Revival starts in the room with the door closed (closet)
 - A. Public prayer is fine, but what is the motive. Hypocrisy prays to impress a human audience. How often do we do that?
 - B. Jesus acknowledges that heathen pray, and that we have a possibility of being like them
 1. Jesus warned against vain repetitions –
 2. Remember James 5:16? What does it mean to be fervent (Amp. earnest (heartfelt, continued))?
 - James 5:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
 - Effective fervent: [nergeō](#) en-erg-eh'-o From [G1756](#); to *be active, efficient*: - do, (be) effectual (fervent), be mighty in, shew forth self, work (effectually in).
 - C. The **two things** He warns against are **public show** and **empty repetitions**. How much of your prayer life is public and repetitive? **If prayer has no purpose or result, it is simply another dead religious work.**
 - D. **He then tells us to go in the room, shut the door (closet), and ask Him even though He knows what we need. Why?**
- II. God will not move in the earth unless we ask Him
 - A. Remember that old saying: “Prayer doesn’t change things, but it changes me”? That is hogwash. God designed the system so that we have a part to play in it. James 4:2-3
 1. James 4:2–3 (NKJV) ² You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

2. You have to ask
3. You need a right motive

B. We ask because God cannot (because he cannot lie Titus 1:2) move if no one asks Him.

Titus 1:1–2 (NKJ) Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

1. **Need does not move God.** Prayer does.
2. "God does nothing but by prayer, and everything with it." John Wesley
3. **Here is the key** understanding necessary for Biblical prayer:
 - a. God gave dominion in the earth to Adam. (Gen 1:26 / (Ps 8)

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Psalms 8:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet,

- b. Adam bowed his knee to Satan, but authority in the earth is still ours. Note Eph 2:1-3)

Ephesians 2:1–3 (NKJV) And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among

whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

- c. God is our covenant partner who will intervene only if asked or if some other covenant condition is enacted. Note Genesis 18: 16-33 (Vv 18-20)
 - i. The Lord is on His way to intervene in Sodom because someone there has prayed. Compare
 - Gen 4:10 Abel's blood

Genesis 4:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

- Ex 3:6-9 The children of Israel

Exodus 3:6–9 (NKJV) ⁶ Moreover He said, "I *am* the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. ⁷ **And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. ⁸ So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.** ⁹ Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

- Exodus 22:20-24, Mistreating widows and orphans, taking advantage of the poor

Exodus 22:20–24 (NKJV) ²⁰ "He who sacrifices to *any* god, except to the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed. ²¹ "You shall neither

mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. ²² “You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. ²³ If you afflict them in any way, *and* they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry; ²⁴ and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

- 1 Sam 9:16 They got Saul because they asked (God warned them repeatedly Ch 8)
- James 5:4 The cries of the mistreated workers

James 5:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

- Rev 6:10 Vengeance for the martyrs

Revelation 6:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

- ii. He confers with Abraham because of the covenant and the presence of Lot in the city.
 - He actually amends His plan based on Abraham’s request.
 - Notice, God was willing to save the city, but only Lot and his kids got out “And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. (Gen 19:16 NKJV)”

4. **Closet first, then open reward. Revival begins in the (Closed Room) closet long before we see it in the streets.**

III. Christian prayer:

- A. John 16:22-23 We pray to the Father in the Name of the Son
 - John 16:22-23 (NKJV) ²² Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. ²³ “And **in that day you will ask Me nothing**. Most assuredly, I say to you, **whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you**.
1. The name of a person stands for that person's character, position, identity. EXAMPLE: Exodus 34:5 / John 17:6 / **Psalm 75:1** The word *name* is often used to designate the person himself; and the idea here is, that God was near; that he had manifested himself to them in some special manner, and that for this there was occasion of praise. (from Barnes' Notes,) / Psalm 34:3
 - Exodus 34:5 (NKJV) ⁵ Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.
 - John 17:6 (NKJV) ⁶ “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.
 - Psalm 34:3 (NKJV) ³ Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.
 - Psalm 75:1 (NKJV) ¹ We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare *that* Your name is near.
2. Name reflects all a person is and does. “In the Name” means to ask on the basis of the Lord Jesus Christ and His completed work.

3. VV 26-28. We now have access to the Father on the same sonship basis as Jesus did while on the earth.
- John 16:26–28 (NKJV) ²⁶ In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; ²⁷ for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. ²⁸ I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”

B. Heb 4:14-16. We have a mega High Priest who gives us boldness to come.

- Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, *yet* without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

1. Heb 10:19-23. He has opened the way. He wants you to come boldly.

- Hebrews 10:19–23 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Therefore, **brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus**, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.

2. James 5:16. **Righteousness is our platform for prayer.** No shame, no guilt, no fear. Pr 28:1 (2 Cor 5:21/ Romans 5:9-21/ Eph 4:24)

- Proverbs 28:1 (NKJV) The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- Ephesians 4:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

C. **It is time to move beyond self-centered prayer:** It's not all about me. I have to move beyond

1. Sin consciousness holds me captive to my own failings. 1 Jn 1:9 / Heb 10:2
- 1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - Hebrews 10:2 (NKJV) ² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.
2. Provision consciousness: My prayers for me are short: Mk 11:23-24 + Phil 4: 6-8 and are 90% thanksgiving.
- Mark 11:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.
²⁴ Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.
 - Philippians 4:6–8 (NKJV) ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are*

just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

- D. **My prayer room (closet) is primarily designed for me to pray for the saints and the ministry, not me and the sinner.** Eph 6:18-20 Always, all prayer, for the saints and for me

Ephesians 6:18–20 (NKJV) ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication **for all the saints—¹⁹ and for me, that utterance** may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

1. Rom 8:27 NKJV 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.
2. James 5:16 Pray for one another that you may be healed
3. Eph 1 and 3. Paul's prayers for the churches: Spirit of wisdom and revelation / strengthened with might and know the love of Christ, filled with all the fullness of God
4. Col 1:9-12 NKJV For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be **filled** with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; (10) that you may **walk** worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being **fruitful** in every good work and **increasing** in the knowledge of God; (11) **strengthened** with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; (12) **giving thanks** to the Father who has

qualified us to be **partakers** of the inheritance of the saints in the light. /

5. Col 4:12 Epaphras ,” always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.
6. Phil 1:9-11,19 NLT I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. (10) For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. (11) May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation--the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ--for this will bring much glory and praise to God. Php 1:19 NLT For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance.
7. Rom 15:30-33 NKJV Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me, (31) that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, (32) that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you. (33) Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.2 Thess 5:1
8. Col 4:2-4 NKJV Continue **earnestly** in prayer, being **vigilant** in it with thanksgiving; (3) meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us **a door for the word**, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, (4) that I may **make it manifest**, as I ought to speak.

Application:

1. Revival starts with you, in your private time behind closed doors (closet)
2. Pray from a position of righteousness, not sin consciousness.

3. Prayer focus should be to honor God asking what He wants.
4. Focused prayer on saints and ministry advancement for God's Kingdom.
5. Pray that sinners/unsaved will have an encounter with Jesus Christ.