

## **PRAYER - THE KEY TO REVIVAL**

10-16-22

### **REVIEW:**

***2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLT) Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.***

- 1) UNITY
- 2) HUMBLENESS
- 3) PRAYER
- 4) ERNEST SEEKING OF GOD'S FACE
- 5) REPENTANCE

**THESE THINGS USHER IN REVIVAL.**

### **OPENER:**

**SERMON TITLE: PRAYER - THE KEY TO REVIVAL**

**IT HAS BEEN HISTORICALLY TRUE THAT PRAYER HAS BEEN THE KEY TO EVERY REVIVAL IN THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY.**

**> Before the church was born on the Day of Pentecost....**

***Luke wrote, (NKJV) 24:53".....[the disciples] were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God".***

**> In the Book of Acts 1:14 (NLT) Luke further amplifies what the disciples were doing: They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.**

**THE CHURCH WAS BORN AS THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDED DURING A TIME OF CONCENTRATED PRAYER.**

**> Before the missionary era of the church began, that spread the gospel to the known world, the Holy Spirit revealed to the leaders gathered in Antioch that they should send Barnabas and Saul. The Holy Spirit only spoke after they had fasted and prayed.**

**EVERY MOVE OF THE SPIRIT UPON THE CHURCH SINCE ITS BIRTH HAS BEEN PRECEDED BY PRAYER.**

**> The Reformation was born after Martin Luther locked himself in a room within the tower of the monastery at Wittenberg for a season of prayer and intense study of the Word.**

- > John and Charles Wesley and George Whitfield spent hours in prayer and fasting and as a result, the worldwide Methodist revival was born.
- >The four major revival waves of the 20th century have been preceded by men and women seeking God in prayer.....
  - The first was the outpouring at Azusa Street, Los Angeles.
  - The second wave was called the “Healing Revival” which occurred in the late forties and fifties.
  - The third wave was known as the “Latter Rain Revival.”
  - The fourth wave was the charismatic renewal movement.

**BUT WE NEED A NEW REVIVAL - A NEW AWAKING  
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**AT NO TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH HAS THERE BEEN A GREATER  
NEED FOR A FRESH OUTPOURING  
OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD.  
THE KEY TO REVIVAL IS PRAYER!**

**THREE THINGS PRAYER DOES:**

**1. PRAYER RELEASES THE POWER OF GOD**

- > Moses, called a friend of God, sought God in prayer. When he prayed, plagues came to Egypt. When he prayed, the Red Sea opened before Israel. Yet, how did Moses have power? Moses developed a life of prayer.
- >Joshua saw the mighty hand of God work through his life and ministry. Mighty cities fell before the untrained army that he led. How did Joshua develop so much power with God? He had learned to pray.
- > David was a man given to prayer. When he was anointed king of Israel, Saul was still on the throne. David could have been discouraged by the fact that only a few recognized his kingship, yet prayer brought him to a place of trust. He waited for the Lord to place him on Israel's throne.
- > Elijah was the prophet of God during one of the worst times in the history of Israel. Elijah was a man of prayer. He would spend hours and even days in prayer. Elijah was even taken up into heaven by a chariot of fire.
- > .....And No one has ever manifested the power of God like Jesus. Jesus was known to have spent seasons of prayer alone with the God. He himself admitted that he could do nothing unless the Father revealed it to Him.

**ONE OF THE GREATEST LIES OF SATAN IS THAT WE JUST DON'T HAVE  
ENOUGH TIME TO PRAY.**

**ALL OF US HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO SLEEP EAT AND BREATHE.  
AS SOON AS WE REALIZE THAT PRAYER IS AS  
IMPORTANT AS SLEEPING, EATING AND BREATHING  
WE WILL BE AMAZED AT HOW MUCH TIME  
WILL BE AVAILABLE TO US FOR PRAYER.**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

If you, or a member of your family was dying of cancer, and you knew that there was a cure, wouldn't you do whatever was necessary to obtain healing? If the cure for healing was behind a locked door, and you had the key to unlock the door to get it. Wouldn't you use the key to open the door?

**PRAYER IS THE KEY TO UNLOCK THE POWER OF GOD.  
YET MANY OF US DON'T USE IT TO RELEASE GOD'S POWER.**

**MANY ARE SUFFERING FROM PHYSICAL AND  
SPIRITUAL CANCER.**

**THE POWER FOR HEALING COMES AS WE DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO PRAYER.**

**IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT REVIVAL THEN WE NEED TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT  
OUR PRAYER LIFE.**

**STORY:**

It has been said that one day as Charles Finney's train passed through Houghton, New York, the Holy Spirit fell on the people in the community. Men in bars fell on their knees under the convicting power of the Holy Spirit and asked Jesus Christ to save them. If the Holy Spirit gave Charles Finney such power, shouldn't He give us the same kind of power? Finney rarely shared the key to his power; however, a reporter decided to spy on him. The newspaperman finally realized that the source of Finney's power was the hours he spent in prayer.

**PERSONAL ILLUSTRATION:**

If I were to just get up and begin my days without spending the hours that I spend in prayer, I would only have my natural resources on which to depend. Yet, having spent time in prayer, I can trust the unlimited resources of God.

During the day, I usually face many problems. Before I do or say anything, I pray. This is the difference between acting and reacting. As I study the life of Christ, I notice that Jesus always acted; He never reacted.

To react is to allow people, situations, or circumstances to be in control. The way I keep from reacting is to discover the mind of God on each situation that presents itself to me. As I live my life in prayer, the mind of Christ is imparted to me and the voice of the Lord speaks to me. Then, when I make a decision, I know it is the will of God and can stand firm in the assurance that I am acting for God.

These days, it seems, He is drawing me more away from activity. He wants to spend more time alone with me. I know that if I satisfy His desire, He will allow me to have enough time to meet the duties that fall on me as pastor and for my family. Sometimes, I hear His call in the middle of the day, and I must respond. I never know when I will be drawn away. However, I have set priorities on my time.

**MINISTRY TO THE LORD IS BEFORE MINISTRY TO HIS PEOPLE.**

**YOU MUST FIRST HAVE A POWERFUL MINISTRY IN PRAYER SO GOD'S POWER CAN BE SEEN IN YOUR MINISTRY.**

**THERE IS NO WAY WE ARE GOING TO SEE THE WILL OF GOD ACCOMPLISHED IN OUR LIVES AND IN OUR CHURCH IF WE DON'T LEARN HOW TO PRAY.**

## **2. PRAYER BRINGS BROKENNESS**

The lesson of brokenness is not a popular one today. People only want to know how to be successful. Yet, I have learned that success does not come by learning easy formulas or principles.

**Brokenness = is to be torn in our hearts over our own sin and weaknesses before God.**

There are some things in our lives that need to be broken: pride, self-will, stubbornness, and sinful habits.

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

***Matthew 21:42-44 (NIV) Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: " 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?43"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. 44Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed."***

**(Explain scripture)**

Jesus is saying He is the cornerstone of the spiritual temple, the church. He is the most important part of the building in which every member is depicted as a stone. He is the cornerstone, or the stone that holds the entire building together. The cornerstone was the stone the builders started with.

In the Lord's time when building a stone building, the builder started with a one stone (a corner stone) and from that cornerstone all other stones in the building must be shaped according to its angles. So, stones edges were broken and they were shaped to fit into the wall. If that stone was too hard to be fitted and refused to be properly shaped, then that stone was of little value and it was crushed to powder.

God's desire was to have a spiritual building that could properly contain His glory. By rejecting the Messiah, Israel forfeited the right to be that spiritual building. Therefore, God is creating a new building - the church. Each of us is a living stone in the new spiritual temple. When we are taken from the world in salvation, we are stones that need to be shaped so that we can function according to the will of God.

**EACH STONE, IN ORDER TO BECOME A PART OF GOD'S HOUSE, HAS TO BE BROKEN SO THAT IT CAN TAKE ITS PLACE.**

**EACH STONE IS COMPARED AND MEASURED AGAINST THE CORNERSTONE - JESUS.**

**ITS ANGLES ARE ALIGNED AGAINST THAT CHIEF STONE. EDGES ARE CHIPPED OFF SO THAT IT CAN FIT IN THE WALL OF THE SPIRITUAL HOUSE THAT JESUS IS BUILDING.**

**WE MUST FALL ON THE ROCK AND BE BROKEN.**

**THE BREAKING OF GOD IS NOT TO DESTROY US, BUT TO SHAPE US INTO A FORM THAT HE CAN USE FOR THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH HE CHOSE US.**

**IF WE RESIST THE PURPOSE OF GOD THE RESULT IS CRUSHING - BEING GOOD FOR NOTHING IN GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE.**

**EXAMPLE:**

*Luke 22:61-62 (NLT) At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord's words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me." 62 And Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly.*

***(Explain scripture)***

Having denied Christ three times, he was broken. But because of Peter's brokenness, God gave him the opportunity to preach the first sermon in the church's history. As a result of Peter's ministry, three thousand people came to Christ on the Day of Pentecost. Peter was also used by Christ to open the spiritual door to the gentile world, bringing many to salvation. God was able to use Peter once he had been broken.

**HOW DOES BROKENNESS TAKE PLACE IN PRAYER?**

When you come in contact with God in your time of prayer, the first thing you feel in your heart as you enter into His presence is a realization of your sin. Once you sense your lack of natural qualifications to be in His holy presence, you will begin to confess your sin and humble yourself before God. This does not mean that you don't belong before the throne of grace. This opportunity has been paid for each believer by the blood of Jesus Christ. However, you realize that you have no natural qualifications to be there, and your immediate reaction is one of brokenness.

**BROKENNESS AND PRIDE CANNOT COEXIST IN GOD'S PRESENCE!**

**COMING BEFORE GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER WILL BRING ABOUT TWO  
IMPORTANT CHANGES - BROKENNESS  
AND THEN SURRENDER.**

**TO BE BROKEN BEFORE GOD IS TO WALK  
HONESTLY BEFORE GOD.**

*James 4:6 (NLT) And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

**IF WE WALK IN PRIDE, THEN GOD RESISTS US WHEN WE APPROACH HIM IN  
PRAYER.**

**IF WE ARE BROKEN AND HUMBLE BEFORE HIM  
HE GIVE US MORE GRACE.**

**SUCCESS IS BASED ON THE GRACE OF GOD.**

**NOTE:**

Walking in brokenness does not mean walking in failure or poor self-image. Remember that God chose us. We are important. However, as we learn to move into the Holy Spirit's presence in prayer, the natural result will be a broken attitude that will allow Jesus, the master builder, to complete His divine work in our lives.

**3. PRAYER OVERCOMES SATAN**

**THE DEVIL HAS NEVER BEEN TOO CONCERNED ABOUT CHURCH RITUAL - BUT  
HE IS VERY AFRAID  
OF GENUINE PRAYER.**

God created man in His own image. He gave him dominion. Satan was jealous of man's place and has from the beginning tried to destroy God's special creation.

After Adam and Eve died spiritually due to their sin, God made a promise.....

*Genesis 3:15 (NLT) And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring.*

*He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."*

Satan has known that through us he would suffer his ultimate and final defeat. Throughout the history of man, Satan has tried to keep this promise from coming to pass. Satan's trick was to pollute the human race so that the seed of woman (Jesus Christ) would not be pure.

Paul understood the spiritual warfare that we have been called to exercise when he stated, "*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*" (Ephesians 6:12)

**THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE WE FACE WILL BE WON IN PRAYER.**

**THE POWER OF HEAVEN WILL FALL AS WE FALL ON OUR KNEES IN PRAYER.**

**CLOSING:**

Our problem has been that we have thought about prayer, read about prayer, even received teaching regarding prayer—but we just have not prayed. Now is the time to understand that prayer is the source of power. Now is the time to allow the Holy Spirit to bring a new brokenness and surrender. Now is the time to learn how to use our spiritual authority in learning how to hinder the work of the devil. Now is the time to pray!

**OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES WILL ONLY BE AS DEEP AS OUR PRAYER LIVES.**

**WE CANNOT ORGANIZE A REVIVAL, BE WE CAN AGONIZE  
FOR ONE IN PRAYER.**