

BIBLE STUDY - PART 2

WHAT TO DO AFTER I PRAY - BUT NOTHING SEEMS TO CHANGE?

MOSAIC LIFE CHURCH

Prayer is not finished when I say "Amen."

Foundation Scriptures

- Romans 8:31-39
- Habakkuk 2:1-3
- Philippians 4:6-9
- Luke 18:1-8
- 2 Chronicles 20:12-22

Central Truth

Prayer is not finished when I say "Amen." After I have prayed, surrendered the situation, and allowed the Holy Spirit to intercede, I must learn how to wait without worrying, watch without interfering, and obey without having every answer.

PART 1 TAUGHT US:

When I do not know what to pray, the Holy Spirit helps me.

PART 2 TEACHES US:

After I pray, I must trust God enough to let Him work.

1. Prayer Must Change My Posture

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

- **Philippians 4:6**

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

- **Philippians 4:7**

Prayer does not always immediately change the situation, but it should begin changing the person praying.

Before prayer, I may have been:

- Frightened
- Anxious
- Confused
- Angry
- Overwhelmed
- Desperate for control

After prayer, I should begin moving into:

- Surrender
- Trust
- Peace
- Expectation
- Obedience
- Confidence in God

If I leave prayer carrying the same weight I supposedly gave God, I may have spoken to God without truly surrendering to God.

Peace is evidence that the weight has changed hands.

2. Do Not Pick Up What You Already Put Down

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

- 1 Peter 5:7

The word "casting" describes deliberately placing something upon another.

We sometimes cast our cares upon God during prayer and then pick them back up afterward.

We pick them back up by:

- Replaying every possible outcome
- Constantly checking for changes
- Trying to force an answer
- Assuming silence means rejection
- Speaking fear after praying in faith
- Attempting to control people and circumstances
- Preparing ourselves for the worst

Remember the firefighter illustration from Part 1: once the firefighter arrives, do not grab the hose and try to tell him how to fight the fire.

After prayer, get out of God's way.

This does not mean becoming careless or irresponsible. It means refusing to take personal responsibility for something that only God can control.

3. Waiting Is Not Doing Nothing

"I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me..."

- Habakkuk 2:1

Habakkuk prayed, but he did not walk away disconnected. He positioned himself to recognize God's response.

Waiting on God involves:

- Remaining prayerful
- Watching for direction
- Listening for His voice
- Studying His Word
- Staying sensitive to the Holy Spirit
- Continuing to fulfill present responsibilities

- Refusing to make fear-based decisions

Waiting is not inactivity. Waiting is disciplined expectation.

When I am waiting on God, I am saying:

"I will not move ahead of You, but I will remain ready to move when You speak."

- **A prayer of readiness**

4. God's Silence Does Not Mean God's Absence

"And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables..."

- **Habakkuk 2:2**

"For the vision is yet for an appointed time...but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it..."

- **Habakkuk 2:3**

God may not answer according to our preferred timing, but that does not mean He is inactive.

A delay may mean:

- God is preparing the answer.
- God is preparing us for the answer.
- God is working in another person.
- God is protecting us from moving prematurely.
- God is developing our character.
- God is revealing motives within us.
- God is arranging circumstances we cannot see.
- The answer has an appointed time.

We interpret delay as inactivity because we can only see the surface. God is working beneath what we can see.

**A seed looks buried before it looks planted.
But hidden does not mean dead.**

TO BE CONTINUED

In Our Next Bible Study

Point 5: Do What You Already Know to Do

While you are waiting for new direction, remain faithful to the instructions God has already given you.