

Faith Church – Feb 4, 2024

- How Prayer Works and Quiet Time Helps



Intro

Jim Cymbal – The greatest thing we can learn is how to pray. Prayer is on every page of the bible.

Spurgeon Prayer is an art that only the HS teaches us. He is the giver of all prayer.

Karl Barth - In Christian Prayer. We find ourselves in the very seat of government, at the heart of the mystery and purpose of all occurrences.

To clasp our hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.

I have been studying prayer for decades and I know less about it now than I did when I started because it is such a mysterious and complex subject.



I What is Prayer



Prayer is communication with God.

Il of Owen and Ben this is a video sent in email to Faith Church

The greatest adventure man can embark on is prayer. Prayer has the ability to take the deepest thoughts and feelings of man before the Creator.

Prayer opens the possibilities of all that heaven has to offer us. Yet this adventure into the life of prayer cannot be taken lightly. When we enter the life of prayer we walk on holy ground. We come into the presence of a living God.

Prayer is talking to our father.

Don't need a different dialect to talk to God.

He longs to hear from us.... Stop and think about that

Our prayer is for an audience of one



Prayer is also, when God communicating with us.

Prayer brings the nature, character, and purposes of God into the heart of man. Prayer can chart and change the course of human history. It can calm the heart in the midst of a raging storm and refresh the weary saint in the battles of life.

James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you.




Ill of a cruise ship



Prayer is Surrender to His Will

Jesus

- Knelt Down
- Bled
- Rose



Luke 22:39-46

Knelt down – Bled – Rose

Review

Prayer is

- **Communication with God**
- **God communicating with us**
- **Surrender to His Will**

• **Prayer Busters**



- Unconfessed sin
Psalm 66:18
- Lack of faith
James 1:6-7
- Broken relationships
Matthew 5:23-24

II Prayer busters:

- Unconfessed sin.

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."

Psalm 66:18

Lack of faith.


"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, for he who doubts is like wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord." James 1:6-7

Broken relationships.

"If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar."

First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.”
Matthew 5:23-24

Ill of trying to write a sermon and being upset with my wife.



- **Prayer Busters**
- Wrong motives
James 4:3
- Uncaring attitudes
Proverbs 21:13
- Prayerlessness
James 4:2

Wrong motives.

“When you ask you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” James 4:3


Uncaring attitudes.

“If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.” Proverbs 21:13

Prayerlessness.

“You do not have because you do not ask.” James 4:2

- **Prayer Busters**
- Wrong Expectations



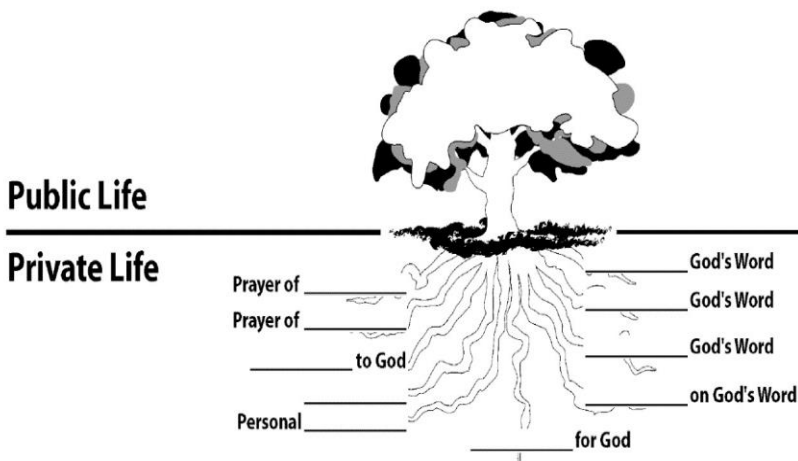
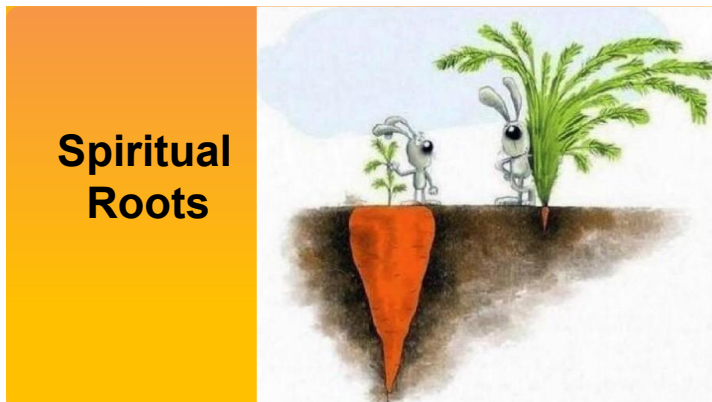
Wrong expectations

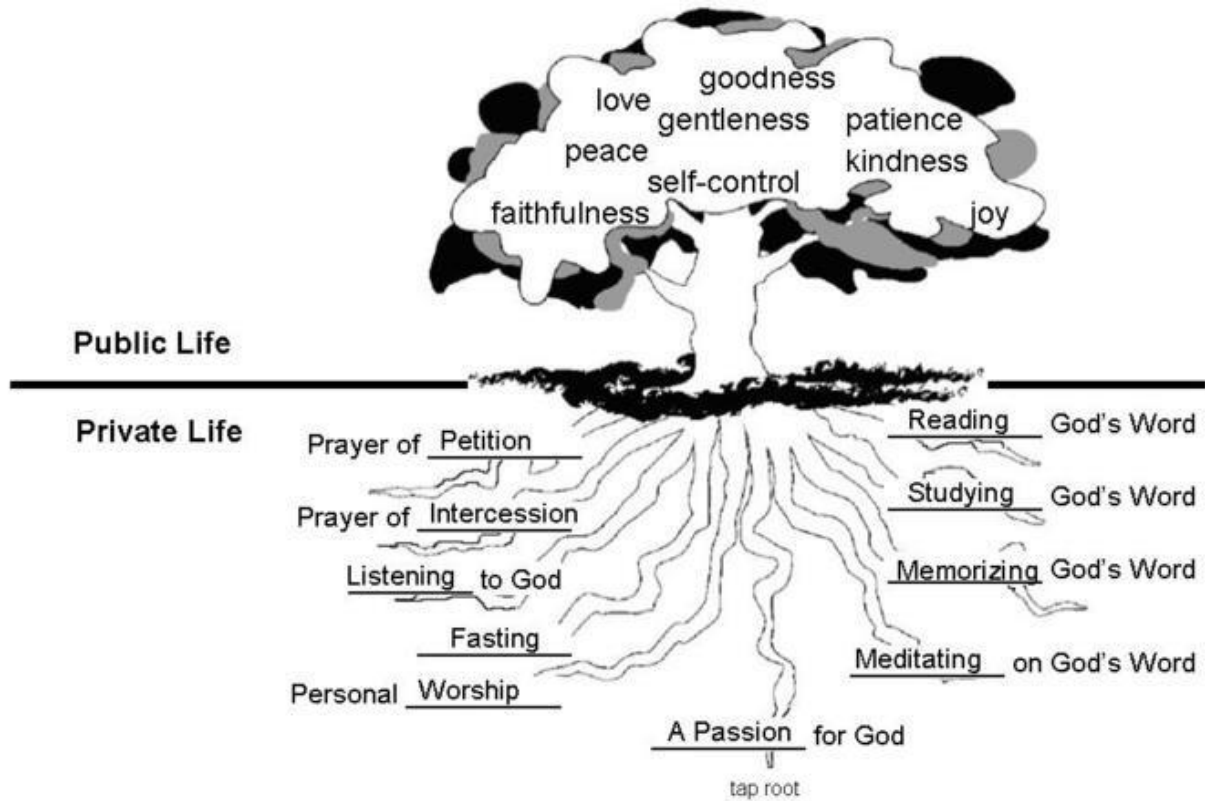
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III Preparation

R.A. Torrey shared what has become one of my favorite quotes, “People who pray for power but neglect the Bible abound in the church. But the power that belongs to God is stored up in the great reservoir of His own Word, the Bible. We cannot obtain or maintain God’s power in our own lives or in our work unless there is deep and frequent meditation on the Word of God.”





Scripture that point to this truth:

- Psalm 1:1-3
- Psalm 42:1
- Jeremiah 29:13
- Matthew 7:24-27
- Matthew 22:37
- Mark 4:16-17
- John 15:7-8
- Galatians 5:22-23
- Galatians 6:9
- James 1:22-25
- James 4:6
- 2 Peter 1:5



Quiet Time Helps



- Make an appointment with God
- Find a comfortable place
- Make a plan – Devotionals
- Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

-Make an appointment with God.

-Find a comfortable place.

-Plan. Devotions that come in my email

Harvest Prayer Ministry has one that comes each day called connections.

-Fix your eyes on Jesus.

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” – Colossians 3:1-3

Col 3:1-3

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Lordship
struggles

Servant

Die to self

rejoice in my

Commit to Trust God

Servant

Dwell with the Lord

Live in the Spiritual World

“One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in his temple.” Psalm 27:4

“...‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’” Hebrews 13:5

One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD AND to seek him in his temple. Ps 27:4

Worship

Gratefulness

Intimacy

Faith

Open my eyes

Yield to God.

Let Him draw near.

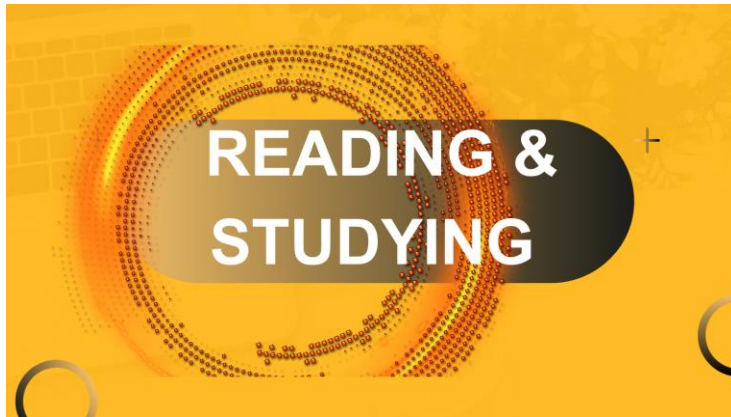
Heb 13:5 “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”



Ask God to speak to you as you read.


Ask God to show you how to pray.

Visualize heaven.



IV. Reading and Studying

- Have a regular Bible study program (start in John)
- Choose time when you will not be interrupted
- Have a backup plan if your designated time is stolen



Have a regular Bible study program (start in John).

Choose time when you will not be interrupted.

Have a backup plan if your designated time gets stolen by something or someone.

- Pick a comfortable place
- Begin with prayer
- Make a worry list
- Read for application



Pick a comfortable place. An inspirational place is best if you can get it.
Begin with prayer.
Make a worry list.
Read for application.

- With complete forgiveness


Matthew 18:21-35



With complete forgiveness – Matthew 18:21-35



V. Praying



- Your Bible study should fund your prayer time
- Models:
 - P - praise
 - R - repent
 - A - ask
 - Y - yield

Your Bible Study should **fund** your prayer time.

Models:
- P.R.A.Y.



- Pray Creatively
 - Pray the Scriptures
Colossians 1:9-11, Ephesians 1:16-20
 - Pray the Pictures
 - Write your prayers

Pray Creatively
- Pray the Scriptures

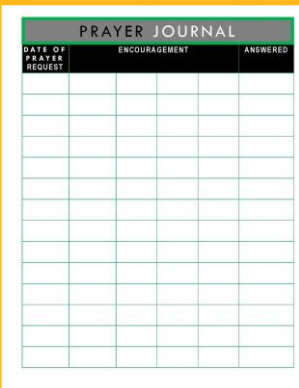
"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully."
Colossians 1:9-11 NIV

"I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 1:16-20

Pray the pictures

Write your prayers.

- Record your prayer requests



PRAYER JOURNAL		
DATE OF PRAYER REQUEST	ENCOURAGEMENT	ANSWERED

Record your prayer requests.



VI. Listening

This is a command:

“Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10



- Requires:
 - Stillness
 - Surrender
 - Time
 - Inviting God to speak
 - Recording & Reviewing Insights

Requires:

Stillness.


Surrender

Time

Inviting God to speak

Recording insights and reviewing them

Questions:



- Questions:
 - What is next step in...
 - Developing my Character?
 - My Family?
 - My Ministry?
 - Look for God's orchestration

- Questions

- What is going on in Spiritual Warfare?

- Is this leading from God?

- Does it square with Scripture?



- Questions:

- Is it consistent with God's gifts?

- God's leadings usually involve servanthood & humility



- Proceed with Caution

- If a leading creates unrest in the spirit of mature Christian friends or counselors, question it.





Tools



- Good Study Bible
- A Good Paraphrase
- Strong's Bible Concordance
- Journal
- Bible Knowledge Commentary

Good study Bible
A good paraphrase
Strong's Bible Concordance
Journal
Bible Knowledge Commentary

VII Advanced

PRAY DAILY

P = **PURSUE** *Meditation*

R = **REMEMBER** *THE MISSION*

A = **ACCOUNT FOR ANSWERED** *PRAYERS*

Y = **YOUR NEEDS & THOSE OF OTHERS**

D = **DISCERN** *Spiritual Warfare*

A = *Act on Dreams*

I = **IDENTIFY** *Insights*

L = *List* **GRATEFULNESS**

Y = **YOUR CONFESSIONS**





When you are indwelled by the H.S., you have a sustained appetite for prayer.
Prayerlessness is a blindfold that keeps us from seeing the schemes of the devil – John Onwuchekwa

This session will be followed by a Creative Way to Pray – “I remember when prayers.”