

Sunday, November 2, 2025 – POWERFUL PRAYER – Pastor John Henry Raskin

Introduction

- Prayer is the most powerful tool for growing the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. It's not just for emergencies, but should be as regular as breathing and eating.

The Lord's Prayer: A Template

- Address God as Father: "**Our Father in heaven**" – We approach God as His children.
- Worship & Praise: "**Hallowed be Your name**" – Begin with gratitude and praise.
 - *Psalm 100:4*: "**Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.**"
- Seek God's Will: "**Your kingdom come, Your will be done...**" – Pray for God's purpose, not personal desires.
- Daily Needs: "**Give us day by day our daily bread**" – Trust God for daily provision.
- Confession & Forgiveness: "**Forgive us our sins...**" – Repent and forgive others.
- Protection: "**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil**" – Ask for help and protection.

Keys to Powerful Prayer

1. Pray Without Ceasing
 - *1 Thessalonians 5:17*: "**Pray without ceasing.**"
 - Stay spiritually attentive and sensitive to God's Spirit.
2. Pray in Faith & Alignment with God's Will
 - *Mark 11:24*: "**Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.**"
 - *1 John 5:14-15*: "**If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.**"
3. Pray with Repentance & Forgiveness
 - *1 John 1:9*: "**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us...**"
 - Release unforgiveness for effective prayer.
4. Pray in Jesus' Name
 - *John 14:13-14*: "**Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do...**"
5. Pray Together
 - *Matthew 18:19-20*: "**If two of you agree on earth... it will be done... For where two or three are gathered... I am there.**"
 - *James 5:16*: "**Confess your trespasses... pray for one another... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**"

Miracles & Testimony

- Miracles still happen when believers pray in faith and obedience.
- Example: Praying for rain during drought and witnessing God's answer.

Final Encouragement

- Prayer releases God's power in every area of life.
- Be bold, pray specifically, and trust God's timing and purpose.

Scripture References:

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| • 1 Thessalonians 5:17 | • Mark 11:24 | • John 14:13-14 |
| • Psalm 100:4 | • 1 John 5:14-15 | • Matthew 18:19-20 |
| • Luke 11:1-4 | • 1 John 1:9 | • James 5:16 |

POWERFUL PRAYER

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Last week we discovered how the good earth has been impacted by the fall of man and how the Kingdom of God is now coexisting on earth with the Kingdom of the world.

We talked about the Lord's prayer and specifically the line "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" and how we as believers can be powerful to impact and grow the Kingdom of God and make the Kingdom of darkness recede on earth until the Lord returns.

That scripture came from a larger teaching by Jesus from the sermon on the mount that dealt specifically with how to pray.

Today we're going to talk about the spiritual impact of prayer and how prayer is the most powerful tool, or weapon, in our arsenal to grow the Kingdom of heaven on earth.

F.B. Meyer, the author of the great little book, "The Secret of Guidance" said, "The great tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but un-offered prayer."

Instead of prayer being something we do every day, like breathing and eating, walking and talking, it seems for many to be like that little glass covered box on the wall that says, "break in case of emergency."

It is true that very often we associate prayer only with crises in our life. We think of it as a last resort.

Beloved, the Apostle Paul tells believers to...

1 Thessalonians 5:17

17 pray without ceasing,

How is it possible to pray without ceasing?

When our spirit is sensitized to what God's Spirit is doing, then we are always in an attitude of prayerful attention.

It is then that we can begin to see with the eyes of the Holy Spirit the things that are going on around us.

It is when we pray in accordance with what His Spirit stirs in our spirit that we begin to see the power of God move through us and through our prayers.

Obviously, the Word of God, both Old and New Testaments has a lot to say about the power of prayer.

It also has a lot to say about how to pray and how to access and release that power when we pray.

Let's start with what is known as the Lord's prayer.

The Lord's prayer, which was given both on the sermon on the mount in Matthew and to the disciple's request for how to pray in Luke is really not meant to be recited by rote.

It is rather, a template for effective prayer that Jesus gives to His followers.

Although the version of the Lord's Prayer that is familiar to most people is found in Matthew, let's look at the one in Luke where the disciples ask Jesus how they should pray.

Luke 11:1-4

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”

2 So He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins,

For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.”

The Lord’s Prayer should be understood as an example, a pattern, of how to pray.

It gives us the “ingredients” that should go into prayer. Here is how it breaks down.

The opening, “Our Father in heaven” is teaching us to Whom we should address our prayers...the Father.

And not only THE Father, but Our Father. We are God’s family in Christ Jesus. We are coming to Him as His children.

“Hallowed or Holy be your name” is reminding us to worship God, and to praise Him for who He is.

Psalm 100:4 tells us

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,

And into His courts with praise.

Be thankful to Him and bless His name.

Before we bring our prayers before our Father in heaven, we should express gratitude that He hears us and praise and bless Him for who He is and what He has done and is doing in our lives.

The phrase “Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven” is an acknowledgment that we are praying for God’s divine purpose in our lives and in the world, not for our own plans to come to pass.

When we pray “give us this day our daily bread.” It is a reminder that our needs are met daily by the Grace and generosity of God alone.

Acknowledging that Jesus is the Bread of Life while asking for and believing we will receive our needs when we pray, keeps us mindful of our ultimate need for His Presence.

It is also important for us to remember that praying for things that we want is not part of this template.

There is much more to prayer than simply making requests of God for the things we want.

Prayer is not sending God a list of your errands to run.

Our desires, unless they are in line with God's sovereign and perfect will for our lives will not satisfy us and will not benefit us in the long term in any case.

When we pray “Forgive us our sins, as we also have forgiven our debtors” we are reminded to confess our sins to God and to turn from them, and also to forgive others as God in Christ has forgiven us.

Heartfelt repentance and release of self-righteous unforgiveness leads to powerful and effective prayer.

The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" is an acknowledgment that we still need God's help in achieving ultimate victory over sin.

It is also a request for protection from specific attacks of the enemy, remembering that Jesus intercedes for us from the Throne of Grace.

Remember that this is only a template, a format for prayer.

In your daily devotional "quiet" time with the Lord, ask Him to search your heart and align you with His will.

God in Christ has declared you righteous. A righteous person is a person after God's own heart like David.

David cried out to God in prayer and so should we...

Psalm 51:19

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

So now that we've looked at the template prayer that Jesus gave his disciples, let's zoom out and see how we can pray more specifically.

In each of our lives there are many variables, trials and tribulations, big and small.

Just as we have each been given a measure of faith and have each been given talents and abilities that are unique and special, each of us also faces challenges and circumstances that are very specific.

If we take daily quiet time with God, He will help us to discern which of these challenges can be overcome and which are intended to grow us in our faith and trust in Him and be endured for a season.

In truly Spirit-led prayer there must always be a heartfelt desire on our part to hear from the Lord and accept His ultimate decrees.

Using this template, we can bring these circumstances and challenges to the throne of Grace in prayer.

A Christian must get on his knees before he gets on his feet.

Prayer is not getting God prepared to do your will. Prayer is getting you prepared to do God's will.

Prayer is the way to release the supernatural power of God in your life, in your marriage, in your family, in your business, to show you great and mighty things that you do not know.

In a world where truth has become relative and social media is trying to fill that place in your heart and your mind that only God should be allowed to fill, prayer and the Word of God should be our only guides.

We are called to be intercessors for our families and the people that God puts in our lives.

We should also be standing in the gap for our local, city, state and federal governments.

Crying out for the wicked to be cast down and people of integrity to be raised up.

This is not outside of God's power to achieve.

But the problem is, as powerful as God is, God won't answer prayer until we pray.

You often hear people say, "Well I wonder when God is going to do something".

The initiative rests with us, not God.

Jesus tells the disciples plainly in the Gospel of Matthew...

Matthew 18:18

18 “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Perhaps you think some things are just too big for you to pray for... Things like national security, seismic activity or the weather for example...

The Apostle James puts a fine point on it when he writes...

James 5:17-18

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

Perhaps you think there are no miracles in the modern day...

When did the age of miracles start?

In Genesis 1, "In the beginning, God created".

That word "Created" is the Hebrew word "Bara," which means to make something from nothing.

God didn't come from someplace else and re-create something that was already floating around in space.

God created this magnificent universe from nothing. That's the first miracle.

The Bible says, "And God said," and it happened. "And God said," and it happened. "And God said," and it happened.

Beloved the age of miracles is not over. God is not dead and miracles have not stopped happening.

Too many Christians have stopped believing in miracles and so they are afraid to ask for them.

Are you asking yourself “could it be that simple”? The answer is YES, it absolutely could be that simple.

God gets excited when you get down on your knees.

Some of you knew several years ago that I had been praying for rain in the middle of the big drought in the Summer of 2022 because I had seen with my own eyes on a drive up North how Lake Shasta had become a mudhole.

The Lord put it on my heart to pray as I saw this Giant Lake that was a reservoir to millions of Californians in this sad condition.

He told me in that moment exactly what to pray. It was a prayer like Daniel's.

He told me to repent for myself and for all of us knowing that we as a people had done wickedly and did not deserve relief from this terrible drought.

However, because of His gracious merciful and generous nature and His power to answer prayer, He instructed me to ask Him to fill the lakes, the rivers, the reservoirs, and the aquifers.

I prayed this prayer several times a day exactly the way the Lord showed me, and I prayed it out loud at home, in my car and whenever I felt led to pray.

I would walk around the complex where Donna and I live, praying out loud.

As I prayed for my neighbors, I would also pray this prayer that the Lord had given me for relief from the drought.

My neighbors would ask me what I was praying for, and I would tell them specifically.

In August when the temperature was triple digits and there was no rain in sight, I told them that I was praying for rain to fill the lakes, the rivers, the reservoirs and the aquifers.

They probably went home and laughed about that crazy pastor guy that prays for things that can't happen.

but later that year and on into 2023, the Lord sent NINE atmospheric rivers that filled, and I quote, the lakes, the rivers, the reservoirs and the Aquifers in Central, Southern and Northern California. Glory to God!

By the way, the reason that I told everyone that I met that I was praying for these things was because I believed that God was going to do exactly what he called me to pray, and I wanted them to know it when it happened.

Now I'm reasonably sure that there were many others that God called to pray for this specific thing, so I give no credit to myself, but it is important for people to know when miracles happen. Amen?

"Ask and you shall receive". Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 7

7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Notice that ask, seek and knock... they are all action verbs.

You don't visualize a prayer: you say a prayer.

You don't think about or meditate a prayer...

You knock on God's door and seek His will, and then you ask God out loud for what He puts in your heart to ask.

And never let your heart be anxious about your circumstances.

You have a heavenly Father who loves you and who only wants to hear from his child.

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Prayer in supplication. Supplication means asking humbly, in submission to God's Will, knowing His Way is the only good way.

And praying with gratitude for all He has already done and everything He is about to do.

Secondly, ask in faith believing.

Mark 11:24

24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Now please don't think that your pastor is telling you that you can have whatever you want by just believing that you already have it.

As most of you know I'm not big on name it and claim it theology.

But what I am saying is that you need to believe that if God wants you to have something or to do something and He has put in in your heart to pray, that He is already doing a work in you and through you to make it happen in His way and in His time.

Another very important component of power-filled prayer is praying for and with others.

Jesus told the disciples right after he told them that anything they bind and loose on earth will be bound and loosed in heaven...

Matthew 18:19-20

19 “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

And James tells us just before he told us how Elijah prayed and brought the rain from a clear sky...

James 5:16

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.

Who is a righteous person? A righteous person can be understood as a person who practices righteousness and is seeking God's will and praying in obedience to what the Holy Spirit reveals.

This understanding connects to the idea that righteous living is closely linked to powerful and effective prayer, which comes from being in tune with God's will.

1 John 5:14

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

When someone lives a righteous life, their prayers are more aligned with God's purposes and are considered powerful because they are offered in faith and in line with His will.

If there is active sin blocking your ability to pray from a place of righteousness submit it to God in repentance and He will clear the way.

1 John:1:9

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Another key to powerful prayer is to ask in Jesus' Name.

There is no other name under Heaven by which we are saved and also through which His power is displayed.

John 14:13-14

13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

When we pray “in Jesus name” we are relying on His authority and righteousness not our own merits.

So let’s recap: Three keys to powerfully effective prayer are:

- 1. Although we are already righteous by our position in Christ, in order to pray effectively from our Kingdom position and be righteous in practice, we should practice heartfelt repentance and release any unforgiveness ongoing.**
- 2. A righteous person strives to be in tune with God's will and purpose. The Holy Spirit guides believers in what to pray for, and a righteous person is receptive to this guidance and believes in God’s power to do all that He has purposed.**
- 3. We should develop a true desire to know, trust and follow God's sovereign purposes for our lives which guide the prayers we offer and pray them aloud in Jesus’ Name.**

Praying in this way is an act of obedience, as the believer speaks the prayer that the Spirit leads them to say.

This is exemplified by the story of the prophet Elijah, who prayed according to God's will and was effective.

It was also the way that Jesus operated during His time on earth.

When we pray this way, in the Spirit, the purpose and power of the prayer originates from God, not the person praying,

but it is the obedience of the righteous person who is now positioned to pray in a way that aligns with God's will that brings the power of God to bear and produces the miraculous result that God intends.

In this way we can fulfill our purpose to bring Kingdom power into the world and see Jesus' Kingdom expand on earth as it is in Heaven.

Let's Pray...