

Pray First Week 2

Prayer of Authority

Intro: *We are in our 2nd week of Pray First, 21 days of intentional prayer/fasting. We are making room for God to have His way in our lives this year! Sometimes we think of prayer as getting God to be on the same page with us...you know, informing Him of the situation. But He already knows. Prayer is the conversation part of our relationship with God that keeps us on the same page with Him. It's both hearing and speaking, yielding, and moving. It's not convincing God or changing Him; it's how He changes us.*

*I used to believe that prayer changes things but now I know that prayer changes us, and we change things. **Mother Teresa***

- When prayer changes us, it can change our marriage, our relationship with our kids or coworkers. It can literally change our entire life.
- You can't come into contact with the Almighty and not be changed.

Funny Prayers from Kids:

A little boy was getting ready for bed and prayed with His dad. He folded His hands, looked to Heaven, and said, "Dear Herald..." His dad stopped him and asked Him why he called God "Herald." He said that's what they do at church. "Our Father, who is in Heaven, 'Herald be thy name."

"Thank you, God, for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. It's the only thing I have ever asked for. You can look it up.

God is true that if my dad uses his golf words, he won't get into Heaven?

"Please bless that when it's one person's turn to say the prayer, the other person doesn't say it."

God, I bet it's hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There's only four in my family and I can never do it.

Please tell Jesus to bring dinosaurs back.

God loves it when you pray and delights in helping you with every single part of your life.

- But many people never move from wanting something from God to doing something with God. Prayer is both.

Prayer is the most powerful tool we've been given on our assignment.

Mark 1:15-20 (TPT)

His message was this: "At last the fulfillment of the age has come! It is time for the realm of God's kingdom to be experienced in its fullness! Turn your lives back to God and put your trust in the hope-filled gospel!"

- Jesus' announcement His Kingdom with urgency. It wasn't passive or nonchalant. It wasn't when you get time for it or if you want to. It stirred expectation and it was a call to action!
- The disciples were taught all kinds of prayers, yet something was missing. They saw the way Jesus prayed and wanted what He had.
- This was not optional; it was an obligation. All of Heaven is backing this prayer.
- We confuse our destiny with our assignment. Our destiny is to get to Heaven, but our assignment is to bring Heaven. ("When you fast and pray...")
- Jesus teaches us how His personal declaration of the Kingdom becomes our personal prayer.

Matthew 6:9-10 (NIV)

9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

- Father is the word Abba (Daddy), and this was a foreign concept to the disciples to relate to God in this way. (Relational instead of religious) God wants us to relate to Him as His kids. When it comes to prayer, a relationship is everything. (Lordship and sonship meet in Jesus)
- Hallowed (Holy) is Your name: Who God is, His character, His power, His promise, His goodness. A posture of praise. God wants us to come looking up, focused on who He is.

JEHOVAH JIREH	God Who Provides
JEHOVAH NISSI	God My Victory
JEHOVAH SHAMMAH	God Who Is There
JEHOVAH SHALOM	God of Peace
JEHOVAH RAPHA	God Our Healer
JEHOVAH ROHI	God Our Shepherd

1. "...Your Kingdom come."

- This isn't a generic prayer of one day we want to go to Heaven. It's a specific prayer of, "I am looking for God's dominion (His solution) to be realized in this situation."
- Kingdom: The King's Domain/Rule- This acknowledges Him as the king of our lives. A longing for Him to have rule and reign in every area.
- I want His presence to be evident in my relationships, in my career, in the good and tough times but also through me in areas I influence. (Home, Community, World)

Matthew 12:28

“If I cast a demon out of you by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.”

- He was ministering to an individual who was tormented by a demon and made the point that if He got the demon out of that person, it is only because the Kingdom of God collided with the kingdom of darkness and...God’s Kingdom is superior.
- It is vital we value what heaven values, and the supreme value of heaven is the presence of God.
- As followers of Christ, we are all ministers of the Kingdom. We are not just releasing a message; we are releasing His presence. We are distributors of His dominion because we are carriers of His presence.

We are people of His Presence!

2. “Your will be done...”

- God’s Word is the foundation of prayer. Not what we feel or think, or circumstances. Not some opinion.
- This is where it gets personal because it’s a prayer of surrender. Not my will but your will. Not my desires, my plans, or my ways; but yours instead. “I want what You want more than I want what I want.”
- Sometimes the will of God feels ambiguous. Like a mystery. (Who should I marry? Where should I go to school? Is this the right job?) But God has given His Word that is full of His ways.
- When we become familiar with His ways, it reveals His will. (Many Christians are educated beyond their level of obedience.)
- This part of the prayer recognizes that His Word has ultimate authority. If you want to pray powerful prayers, learn to pray the Word of God first.

Isaiah 55:11

His Word never fails, but it always accomplishes what it has been sent to do!

- Confess: “Say the same thing as” So when we confess God’s Word, we are saying what He says...we are getting in agreement with God.
- Let’s just decide we will people of His Word: Thinking, Speaking, Praying.

Study: IF YOU READ THE BIBLE 4X A WEEK, THESE ARE THE RESULTS:

- *Feeling lonely drops 30%*
- *Anger issues drop 32%*
- *Bitterness in relationships drops 40%*
- *Alcoholism drops 57%*
- *Sex outside of marriage drops 68%*
- *Feeling spiritually stagnant drops 60%*
- *Viewing pornography drops 61%*

- *Sharing your faith jumps 200%*
- *Discipling others jumps 230%*

1 John 5:14-15 (Amplified)

¹⁴ This is the [remarkable degree of] confidence which we [as believers are entitled to] have before Him: that [^a]if we ask anything according to His will, [that is, consistent with His plan and purpose] He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know [for a fact, as indeed we do] that He hears and listens to us in whatever we ask, we [also] know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted to us] the requests which we have asked from Him.

We are people of His purpose!

3. "...on earth as it is in heaven."

- This is the result of prayer. Prayer Brings the Power of Heaven to Earth.

Matthew 28:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

- Jesus says this after His resurrection and as the Son of Man, our big brother. He restored the authority that man had in the Garden of Eden and sent them with it.
- Jesus has given us legitimate spiritual authority in this life to bring God's will and presence into our circumstances.
- The reality of Heaven invades the reality of Earth when we pray. Prayer is like a passport from the natural to the supernatural.
- Prayer doesn't get God to do something that He doesn't want to do. Prayer gives us access to what He already wants to do.
- "As the Father has sent me, I send you..." It's that simple. This is our assignment.

We are people of His power!

Every time you pray, remember you are a person of HIS Presence, Purpose, and Power.

James 4:8 (NIV)

Come near to God and he will come near to you...