

Pray First Part 4

A Life Built on Prayer

Intro:

- Today is the end of our 21 days of prayer and fasting, do these 2 things:
 1. Continue to Pray (Build a life on prayer)
 2. Join the Prayer Team (Continue covering our church in prayer)

Nehemiah 4:14, 16 (NIV)

After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor.

- Notice some worked and some watched
- We've got to get back to ministry but for some, prayer is your ministry. (Dream Team)
- Instructions:

Joke: 3 Men Crossing a Raging River

- Give me strength (muscles)
- Give me the tools (canoe)
- Give me intelligence (woman)

A Life Built on Prayer

1. Make prayer a priority

- We've got to get back to the priority of prayer- Pray First

Acts 1:14 (NIV)

They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

- "Well, I guess all we can do now is pray." No!
- Constantly: In every situation, before the kids leave for school, before the meeting, when you get in the car, when you walk into the office.
- In the good times- Pray First; In the tuff times-Pray First, Every time- Pray First!

Prayer will be my first response, not my last resort.

2. Find a place to pray.

- Your prayer is based on your personality
- Jesus had a place...

Mark 1:35 (NIV)

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

- Jesus liked the garden, probably because of the view of Jerusalem
- My spot is my chair at home or walking on our property with my Word.
- Find an undistracted environment- no computers or phones. Conducive for prayer. (music, solitude, scenery)
- *What place would be most conducive for prayer to work for you?*

3. Have a plan for prayer.

- Think of it as going into conversation knowing what your talk about "Lost in conversation"
- The opposite is not good. We can get bored. We don't know what to say.
- Notice Jesus gave the disciples a prayer outline...

Luke 11:1-2 (NIV)

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." ² He said to them, "When you pray..."

- Use the models we've shown you this month, download the Pray First app., Read Pray First

4. Pray powerful prayers.

- It's conversation with God but even more. Expect God to show up and do mighty things.
- When we meet with God, we leave changed. When He walks into the room, everything changes.
- Early Church: tongues of fire, earthquakes, prisons opened
- Story in Acts 3: Peter and John pray for a man and he's healed at the Temple, they were arrested, threatened, and hated. They didn't know what to do with them so they let them go. They went back to prayer...

Acts 4:23-24 (NIV)

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

Look at what they prayed:

Acts 4:29-31 (NIV)

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

- Challenge: Learn to pray out loud, boldly!
- The devil doesn't mind weak, subdued, passive prayer

James 5:16 (NKJV)

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Greek: energeo- energy, boiling, read hot

The world is bold. We can be bolder.

5. Relate to the Persons of prayer.

- It's about the person to whom the prayers are directed
- God is a person. He's expressed as Three in One called the Trinity
- Look at how Paul ends his letter...

2 Corinthians 13:14 (Message)

The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.

- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each One has a different role:

• The Amazing Grace of Jesus.

- 2 Reasons Jesus is First

1. He is the mediator between you and God. The intercessor. This is reason we pray to the Father in Jesus name.
2. He made relationship with God possible through the cross. We can't approach God without Him.

- Focus on the cross!

- **The Extravagant love of the Father.**

- Through the cross, connect to God as Father
- How? Focus on submission. It's one of the highest forms of love and worship. "Not my will but your be done."

Ephesians 3:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father,

- It doesn't mean to crawl in a lowly state, woe is me
- Come sit at His feet in love and respect- Healthy Fear
- Hebrew culture: children would kneel before their father's to be blessed
- Story: Healthy respect and honor for my earthy father.
- So we connect with Jesus- He's been there. Connect to the Father- you're His son/daughter

- **The Intimate Friendship of the Holy Spirit**

- Focus on communion. He wants to be best friends. Relate all day long.
- Friendships are developed. Be intentional. Time and place but keep it going.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (TPT)

¹⁸ We can all draw close to him with the veil removed from our faces. And with no veil we all become like mirrors who brightly reflect the glory of the Lord Jesus. We are being transfigured into his very image as we move from one brighter level of glory to another. And this glorious transfiguration comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

God decided to reveal Himself through the deepest form of relationship, His Spirit.