



Searching Outside Yourself To Help Others

Volume 39 - 9

## Monthly Newsletter

September- 2022

This month, I want to write on the topic of “**A Disciple And His Or Her Prayer Life.**” Or another way of saying it is, God does nothing but by prayer, and everything with it. On July 26<sup>th</sup> of this year, I had my fifty-year birthday as a Christian. I’ve been

involved with ministry in one form or another during that whole time. I was able to plant a church in the prison I was at, while serving my time. The church started with 4 individuals, and within two years we had over 200 inmates attending and being discipled. This was in a population of 800 inmates. Since leaving prison in 1980, I have been privileged to plant 2 other churches, and I assisted in planting three others. I have also served as a youth pastor, an associate pastor, and a senior pastor at three established churches. In the midst of that, I started a ministry that ministers in three ways: 1.) To those who are or have been addicted to drugs and alcohol. 2.) To the incarcerated. And 3.) In churches to help them move from a maintenance mode into a mission mode. I still oversee this ministry.

I said all of that to let you know that whatever impact I have been able to make in this world is mainly due to my love for

# DISCIPLE

BE ONE. MAKE ONE.

## Part Four

God’s Word and my commitment to prayer. Last month, I shared on my love for God’s Word and how I started the discipline of getting up at 4:30 every morning to read and study the Bible. During that time, I also developed the discipline of praying for at least an hour everyday, and then praying throughout the day as the Spirit prompted me.

I didn’t start out with an hour of reading and an hour of praying; initially it was only about 10 minutes for each. At that time, 10 minutes felt like an eternity. But as I committed myself to these disciplines, after awhile 10 minutes wasn’t enough; then 30 minutes wasn’t enough, and now an hour doesn’t seem to be enough. I so love my time with the Lord that there are times I don’t want to stop. I have the responsibility of sharing with others what the Lord has shared with me, so I take what I received and begin the joy of

giving it to others. I strongly believe everything that comes to us was designed to go out from us to others. I have found that if I give away what I have received, it is the very dynamic that allows me to

receive even more. I pray that the following thoughts will inspire you to develop a prayer life, or a better way of saying it is a “**Life Of Prayer.**”

Prayer does not consist of battering the walls of heaven for personal benefits or the success of our plans. Rather it is the committing of ourselves for the carrying out of His purposes. It is a telephone call to headquarters for orders. It is not bending God's will to ours, but our will to God's. In prayer, we tap vast reservoirs of spiritual power whereby God can find fuller entrance into the hearts of men. We are not told that Jesus ever taught His disciples how to preach, but He taught them how to pray. He wanted them to have power with God; for then He knew they would have power with man. Prayer is the God-ward reach of a man's soul. Prayer is not overcoming God's re-

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luctance; it is laying hold of His willingness.

He knocks and we pray. **Revelations 3:20** states, *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.”* I know of no other passage in the whole Bible, which throws greater light upon prayer than this one does. It is the key that opens the door into the holy and blessed realm of His presence. To pray is to let Jesus come into our hearts.

This verse teaches us, that it is not our prayer that moves the Lord Jesus. It is Jesus who moves us to pray. He knocks, whereby He makes known His desire to come in to us. Our prayers are always a result of Jesus knocking at our hearts’ door. To pray is nothing more involved than letting Jesus into our needs. It is giving Jesus permission to use His powers to alleviate our distress. He, who gave us the privilege of prayer, knows us very well. He knows our frame, our weaknesses and our flaws. He remembers we are but dust, **Psalms 103:13-14**. He has designed prayer in such a way, that the weakest person can make use of it. For to pray is simply to open the door to Jesus, and that requires no strength, it is only a question of our will.

From birth, we have been learning the rules of self-reliance as we strain and strug-

gle to achieve self-sufficiency. Through prayer God gives us His peace and power; which is one reason why even self-sufficient people fall on their knees and pour out their hearts to God. He doesn’t still the storms in our lives; He stills the storms in our hearts. It’s not escape from trouble, but escape from the anxiety that surrounds trouble.

The scriptures overflow with passages teaching us that our almighty, omnipotent God is ready, willing and able to answer the prayers of His followers. God’s power can change circumstances and relationships. It can help us face life’s daily struggles. It can heal psychological and physical problems, remove marriage obstructions, and meet financial needs. In fact, it can handle any kind of difficulty, dilemma or discouragement. This power may come in the form of: wisdom; courage greater than we could ever muster; confidence or perseverance; a changed attitude; a changed circumstance or even an outright miracle. However it comes, God’s prevailing power is released in the lives of people who pray.

**Matthew 12:18-21** states, *“Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen; My Beloved in whom My soul is well-pleased; I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not quarrel, nor cry out; nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. A battered reed He will*

*not break off, and a smoldering wick He will not put out, until He leads justice to victory. And in His name the Gentiles will hope.”* Is there anything frailer than a bruised reed; is there anything closer to death than a smoldering wick? This is a description of whom Jesus would minister to and how He would minister to them. Jesus brings good news to those who are feeble and failing. That’s you and me.

One of the main fires that the enemy is constantly trying to put out in our lives is prayer. I am ashamed to tell you how many times my prayer life has been a smoldering wick. At times the enemy has used late nights, business, laziness, depression, inferiority, guilt, and unbelief to dose my prayer life.

Some of us don’t pray because our prayers seem so shallow compared to others. I’ve been in prayer meetings where there are those who can pray like a Concorde jet, smooth, sleek, and mighty. Their words reverberate in the clouds and send sonic booms throughout heaven. They are eloquent, knowledgeable and passionate. Others like myself are more like a crop duster. We’re not flashy, we fly low, and we seem to cover the same ground. Some mornings it’s tough to get the old engine cranked up.

Some of our prayer lives lack consistency. We are either in a

desert or an oasis. Long dry spells are interrupted by brief plunges into the waters of prayer. We go days or weeks without consistent prayer, but then something happens. We hear a sermon, read a book, or experience a tragedy; something leads us to prayer and we dive in. We submerge ourselves in prayer and leave refreshed and with a new commitment to never go into the desert again.

Other prayer lives need sincerity. Our prayers are a bit hollow, memorized, and rigid; more liturgy than life. And though they may be daily, they are dull. Still others lack honesty. We honestly wonder if prayer makes a difference. We struggle to believe that God would even want to talk to us. If God knows all, whom am I to tell Him anything. Our prayers lay down the tracks on which God's power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, His power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without the rails of our prayers.

If you struggle in prayer, I've got just the Biblical example for you, his story is found in **Mark 9:14-19**. He is not a calloused-knee Apostle or a Prophet whose middle name is meditation. He is a fellow crop duster - a parent with a sick son in need of a miracle. The father's prayer isn't much, but this prayer will remind us that: the real power of prayer is in the one who hears it, and not in the one who says it. He prayed out of desperation, imagine the pain of this father. He prays the best prayer, in **verse 22** he simply asks for *"help."* He prayed out of unbelief, which doesn't sound courageous, confident, or strong. One word would have made a difference, instead of *"if You can do anything,"* how about *"since You can do anything."* This word *"if"* implies *"doubt."* But be of good cheer for God's response to his doubt isn't a rebuke, but an encouragement to believe. If his prayer sounds like yours than be encouraged, for this is where prayer begins. It begins as a yearning, an honest appeal, and an ordinary person dealing with an extraordinary dilemma. No pretense, no posturing, no boasting, just prayer. A feeble prayer, but a prayer none-the-less. Jesus responded not to the eloquence of this man, but the pain of this man. Please know God is more moved by our hurt than our eloquence. That is what fathers do. God hears every prayer whether eloquent or ordinary.

In closing, let share the story of another father who came to the assistance of his hurting son. "It was Monday night, August 3, at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. At the track and field stadium, the gun sounded for the 400-meter semifinals. About 100 meters into the race, Britain's Derek Redmond crumpled to the track with a torn right hamstring. Medical attendants rushed out to assist him, but as they approached Redmond, he waved them all aside, struggled to his feet, and crawled and hopped in a desperate effort to finish the race. Up in the stands, a big guy wearing a T-shirt, tennis shoes, and a Nike cap that said "Just Do It" across the front barreled out of the stands, hurled aside a security guard, ran to Derek Redmond's side, and embraced him. He was Jim Redmond, Derek's father. Now, arm around his son's waist, Derek's arm around his dad's thick shoulders and neck, they continue down the track. There, at the stadium, the crowd is standing, cheering. Derek and his dad work their way around the track until, finally, arm in arm, they cross the finish line."

What made this father do it? What made this father leave the stands to meet his son on the track? Was it the strength of the child, no it was the pain of the child. His son was hurt and struggling, so the father came to help him finish. God does the same. He leaves where He is at and comes to where we are. Our prayers may be awkward and feeble. Since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, then our prayers do make a difference. When our prayer life is but a smoldering wick, you can be sure that Jesus will not put it out. What He will do is fan it into flame.

*Jim Newsom*



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## Notes From The Newsom's From Diane's Desk

Jim's hand surgery on August 23<sup>rd</sup> went great. Thank you so much for all your prayers. He gets his stiches removed on the 7<sup>th</sup> and then will be doing physical therapy to recover full mobility. Please continue to pray for him, as this process is very painful.

Ronan started kindergarten on August 8<sup>th</sup> at his new school. When I used to pick him up from pre-school, he would always say he didn't want to go back. But now when I pick him up from school, he is so excited, and says he loves his new school. It is amazing how different teaching techniques can make all the difference in the world. His new school is very environmentally conscious, and the other day when I picked him up he told me I needed to start composting, so I can make more dirt.

Ronan has been missing their one cat that died, and was asking to get a new cat. So they took him to pick out a kitten from the local shelter. They ended up with two new kittens, one orange one named "Cheese It," and the other with tortoise coloring named "Greta."

I will be taking a trip to Florida to visit with my family this month. It has been two years since our mom passed away and I was last down there. Please pray for a safe trip, and that we have a great time making memories together.



## Jim's Itinerary For September - 2022

**September 14-17 - Talladega, AL**  
Ignite Men's Retreat  
Ron Gray - (251)533-4150

**September 27-28 - Harvey, IL**  
Restoration Ministries  
Ray Banks - (708)339-3573

**September 29-30 - Nashville, TN**  
Abundant Life Church Men's Retreat  
Charlie Bretz - (615)554-9085

*If you would like to schedule Jim to come speak at a school, prison, or church in your area, please call or e-mail Jim at the above number or address.*