

H&T: INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Sermon Series : Hunger and Thirst

Speaker : Scott Burns

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THERE IS NO REVIVAL WITHOUT PRAYER

You are God's plan A

"God does nothing on earth save in answer to believing prayer."

John Wesley

The church needs to become a praying people

Isaiah 62:1-7

God wants to use YOU to pour out His power on the earth

Two biggest questions when struggling with partnering with God in prayer...

- Is God Able? (God's power/truth)
- Does God care? (God's love)

Genesis 3:4-6 The enemy wants to build distrust and doubt

We pray most fervently when our desperation overtakes our hesitation!

The biggest obstacle to the effectiveness of our prayers is our lack of perseverance

God is calling you to persevere in prayer

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us:

- Hebrews 7:25
- Romans 8:26
- Romans 8:34

You learn to pray by praying so get with people who pray!

QUESTIONS

1. According to Matthew 21:13 what is God's intention for the church?
2. What is the role of the watchmen in Isaiah 61:6-7? How does this apply to us and our prayer life?
3. What stops you from praying? What is God calling you to persevere in prayer for?
4. Are you willing to let God use you in prayer? Will you partner with God in the things He wants to do? In your life? In your family? In your church? In your community?

"Plan A is for supernatural, but ordinary people like you and me to: (1) wholeheartedly believe in the victory of Calvary - to be convinced that it was complete and final and (2) to rise up in our role as sent ones, ambassadors, authorized representatives of the Victor." (Dutch Sheets, Intercessory Prayer)

"God is mobilizing an army, but it is a broken army that marches on its knees". (Pete Greig, Red Moon Rising)

Unanswered Prayer Personal Checklist

(Appendix A from *God on Mute* by Pete Grieg)

CAUTION: Making sense of unanswered prayer is seldom simple, so I offer this Personal Checklist with a measure of caution. Each of us, of course, is unique, and the factors at work in our situation are complex and probably painful. What's more, God Himself interacts with these factors in mysterious ways that invariably confound our nice neat charts and tables! I offer this checklist, therefore, merely as a simplistic summary of the biblical explanations and responses outlined previously in this book.

| WHY ISN'T MY PRAYER WORKING? | WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT? |
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| GOD'S WORLD—(CHAPTER 7) | |
| 1. COMMON SENSE (pp.112-113) | |
| Am I asking God to do something stupid, meaningless or illogical? | Consider praying in a different way or just doing something practical yourself! |
| 2. CONTRADICTION (pp. 114-117) | |
| Are my prayers likely to be conflicting with those of someone else? | Remember that you share the plane with over 6 billion other people, and thank God that in saying no to you He's probably blessing someone else. |
| 3. LAWS OF NATURE (pp. 117-120) | |
| Are my prayers potentially detrimental to the natural order or to the lives of others? | Don't stop praying—God can and does do miracles over the natural order! But remember, although your prayer seems so reasonable, in saying no to you, God may be protecting many others. |
| 4. LIFE IS TOUGH (pp.120-126) | |
| Am I expecting God to spare me from stuff that's just common human experience because of the Fall? | Discuss your situation with God and with your friends. Are you experiencing a direct satanic attack or a by-product of the Fall? Is God asking you to pray against this or for grace to endure it <i>with</i> Him? |
| 5. DOCTRINE (pp. 126-129) | |
| Does my prayer reflect God's character and His promises in the Bible? Might it be out of line with His will for my life? | 1 Tim 4:16 Talk to someone sensible about the thing you're asking God to do. Does that person think it's in line with what God wants? If so, go to item 13 in this list. If not, don't moderate your expectations; elevate them to what God has for you! |
| GOD'S WILL—(CHAPTER 8) | |
| 6. SECOND BEST (pp. 137-139) | |
| Although my desire is prayer is for something good, is it possible that God has something even better in store for me? | With this one, only time with tell whether God is saying no because it's not the best for you or simply if He is saying "not yet." Keep asking but hold your prayers lightly, remembering all the ways that God has given you the best in the past. |
| 7. MOTIVE (pp. 139-141) | |
| Are my prayers essentially just selfish? | Jas. 4:2-3 Assuming that you want something that is not intrinsically sinful, feel free to chat with God about how much you'd like whatever it is—the way a kid might with his dad—but don't expect or insist on it in prayer. Also, make sure that you're not coveting something that belongs to someone else! |

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| 8. RELATIONSHIP (pp. 142-144) | |
| Is there an opportunity here for going deeper in my relationship with God? | 2 Cor. 12:7-10; Phil. 3:10 Remember that the ultimate answer is the Answerer. Take time to worship and thank God. Turn your prayers into a conversation and get rid of the shopping list. Are you willing to trust Him even if the answer is no? |
| 9. FREE WILL (pp. 146-153) | |
| Am I expecting God to override someone's free will? | Gen. 2:16; John 7:17 Pray a small step at a time and pray creatively into situations, remembering that while God won't control a person, He will allow you to influence that person's situation in prayer. For example, "Please make John become a Christian" might become, "Please send a Christian to talk to John." |
| 10. INFLUENCE (pp. 153-155) | |
| Am I trying to exercise ungodly power over a person's life in prayer? | |
| GOD'S WAR—(CHAPTER 9) | |
| 11. SATANIC OPPOSITION (pp. 162-172) | |
| Is my prayer in line with God's will but experiencing specific demonic resistance? | Dan. 10; Eph. 6:10-18 Earn about spiritual warfare. Study what the Bible says about your authority in Christ. Wield the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Find Scriptures that you can use in prayer. Get others to share the prayer burden with you. Ask God to reveal any particular keys that could unlock the situation. Make sure you spend more time worshipping Jesus than thinking about Satan. Also, try fasting. |
| 12. FAITH (pp. 172-180) | |
| Do I really believe that God can do this? Am I out of my league? | Dan. 3:16; Mark 9:24; 11:23-24 Could you perhaps start smaller and work up to this? Keys to growing in faith include worshiping, fasting, and memorizing God's promises. |
| 13. PERSEVERANCE (pp. 180-184) | |
| Do I want it enough to keep praying? | Luke 18:1 Don't give up! Find a way of praying regularly into this situation, and make a habit of it. |
| 14. SIN (pp. 184-187) | |
| Honesty time: Is there secret sin you need to confess? | Mark 11:25; Jas. 5:16 Find someone you trust who is a Christian and confess your sin. If there are strongholds in your life, ask a mature person to help you walk free. Also, consider whether there is anyone whom you need to apologize to or forgive. |
| 15. JUSTICE (pp. 187-188) | |
| Am I actively seeking to express God's love for the poor? | Isa. 58 Make friends with just one person in your community who is marginalized in some way. Make sure you budget time and money each month for hospitality. Get educated about the challenges facing the poor at home and in the developing world. Get political! |
| EXPLORING THE SILENCE—(CHAPTER 10) | |
| 16. NONE OF THE ABOVE | |
| Am I trying to find answers where I need instead just to trust? | 1 Cor. 13:12-13; 2 Cor. 12:7-10 Ouch! You're doing all the right stuff, but your situation doesn't make sense. Be real with God. Hold on to Him like a hurting kid who doesn't understand. You really need your friends right now. |