



This week, we are looking at Marian Coertzen's sermon on “**Rising to Pray**”.

Psalm 109:4 (NKJV)

In return for my love, they are my accusers, But I give myself to prayer.

Prayer should be our first resort, not our last. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are interceding for us. They are praying for the perfect will of the Father. Prayer is more about listening to what God has to say than having something to say.

St. Augustine once said, “Without God, man cannot; without man, God will not.” God wants us to cooperate with Him to advance the Kingdom of God. God is calling us to greater influence, rising to help through prayer.

In Acts 3:1-8 we read about the miracle where the disciples helped up the crippled beggar, and he received healing. Sometimes we can find ourselves identifying with the crippled beggar. Our hearts become crippled when we operate outside of an intimate time of prayer.

Let's look at some things that cripple our hearts in prayer.

1. Delay

In Luke 1 we read how Zachariah responded when the angel promised him a son. He was in disbelief because he and his wife are old. In his mind, the season for having a child has passed. The angel silenced him to help him to deal with his unbelief.

Mary on the other hand was young and unmarried when the angel promised that she will bear the savior of the world.

God wants to answer the prayers we've stopped praying. He wants to fulfill the promises that we have become weary of praying.

2. Disappointment

This is when you receive the resounding “no” to something you've been praying about.

3. Disaster

This is when you experience severe loss in significant areas of your life. Your prayer life is reduced to “Lord help!”. This might look like this:

- Relationships: Loss through divorce or death of a loved one.
- Loss of personal integrity: Guilt and shame from sin
- Health: Terminal illness
- Finances: Losing everything, business failure/ job loss.

What is the biblical way to deal with pain?

God gives us permission to grieve and lament. Psalm 62:8 calls us to pour our hearts before Him, God is a refuge for us. (Also see Psalm 5:3)

Reflection:

Let Jesus pull you onto your feet, and restore your joy in prayer as he presents you to the Father, holy, faultless irreproachable (see Colossians 1:22). If there is any pain in your life, lament to the Lord. Be authentic, no pain is too big for God. Allow the God of all comfort to weep with you. Jesus knows the pain, even greater pain than we are experiencing. Experience the mercy of the Father.