

## Choices Part 15 – Choose to Pray Part 2

**1 John 5:14 (HCSB) -** Now this is the **confidence** we have before Him: Whenever we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

- **Confidence** " is parresia, " **free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage, boldness, assurance.** " "

**Prayer is not an outward demonstration,**

**Luke 18:9-14 (NASB Strong's) -** And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: 10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ 13 But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, **but was beating his breast, saying,** ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ 14 I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**(NLT) 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer** (look at it reads here, stood by himself—why because he thought he was righteous because of his works, his works of prayer)

**Listen prayer** is more than just holding your hands the right way, kneeling, **SAYING** the name of Jesus over and over again, or saying the same prayer over and over Matthew 6:7 (mechanical, religious) Prayer is more than just shouting as loud as you can (as if the louder you are the greater chance you have of Him hearing you). Prayer is more than this walking/pacing the floor, begging God to hear us

**RATHER prayer is COMMUNION** (fellowship, intimacy, yes communication [listening more than just talking **to** Him—if we are only talking to Him then we are not listening to Him])

Prayer is **this – an inward devotion – [this devotion that recognizes who we are and who He is—like the parable of the tax collector]**

**This inward devotion will cause an outward demonstration of the power of God in our lives**

**Devotion**-a love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity or cause. The use of time, money or energy for a particular purpose

**I am more convinced** today than ever before that if we committed more energy, time (and dare I say resources) towards prayer (again what is prayer? Fellowship, communion with Him) than we do with the cares of life, we would burn more for Him than “it” and thru this

burning for Him we would not only see the inward changes but an outward display of the power of God in us, thru this fellowship, thru this prayer life.

Prayer is not something we do once and while and only when tragedies occur or we are in need

**Rather prayer is a lifestyle, prayer is sitting at the feet of Jesus just as Mary did**

- **Luke 10:41- (HCSB)** - The Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, <sup>42</sup> but one thing is necessary. Mary has made the right choice, and it will not be taken away from her.”
  - **This is a picture of what prayer is – sitting at the feet of Jesus**
    - **How?** He is the Word!!

## **SO - Why Pray?**

- Jesus did (we looked at 9 different verses regarding Jesus praying)
  - It was such a habit, so much a part of His life that His disciples at one point ask Him, “show us how to pray”
    - **Luke 11:1 (NLT)** - Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”
- We are commanded
  - **Luke 18:1 (AMP)** - Now Jesus was telling the disciples a parable to make the point (*CJB says impress on them that they must*) **that at all times they ought to pray and not give up and lose heart,**
- Prayer acknowledges you can do nothing without Him
  - **John 5:19 (HCSB)** - Then Jesus replied, “I assure you: The Son is not able to do anything on His own, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son also does these things in the same way.
    - **Jesus, himself, acknowledge that in His Humanity He could do nothing without the Father showing Him.**
    - How would He see what the Father wanted to show Him? Thru prayer
      - Listen just as Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, Jesus, in His humanity, would go and sit at the feet of the Father
- Prayer a weapon – a weapon?
  - **Ephesians 6:12 (CJB)** - For we are not struggling (wrestle, fight) against human beings, but against the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers governing this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.

- **Ephesians 6:13 (CJB)** - So take up every piece of war equipment God provides; so that when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist; and when the battle is won, you will still be standing.
- **Ephesians 6:18-20 (NASB Strong's)** - 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, 19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

## SO WHY DON'T WE PRAY

### What are the Hindrances

#### What does HINDRANCE MEAN

- Hindrance – a thing that provides resistance, delay, or obstruction to someone or something—also a thing that makes a situation difficult)
1. We don't understand what "pray"/prayer means
    - a. Prayer, SIMPLE DEFINITION
      - i. Communion with God
        1. What is Communion?
          - a. The act or an instance of sharing, as of thoughts or feelings. - Also, unity, harmony, fellowship, closeness
          - b. Communion requires dialogue and not a monologue
  2. We think it's someone else's job
    - a. **James 5:13-15 (NASB Strong's)** - 13 Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.
3. It's only for the few...
  - a. **James 5:15-17 (HCSB)** - The prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will restore him to health; if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. <sup>17</sup> **Elijah was a man with a nature like ours**; yet he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the land.

- i. **James 5:16 (AMP)** Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. **The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available** [dynamic in its working].
  1. **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)** - For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.
  2. **Romans 5:1 (NLT)** - Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.
  
4. **Pride** - Pride doesn't seek God, pride doesn't humble itself, pride will be resisted by God.
  - a. **James 4:6 (NASB Strong's)** - 6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the **humble**."
  - b. **2 Chronicles 7:11-15 (NASB Strong's)** - 11 Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king's palace, and successfully completed all that he had planned on doing in the house of the Lord and in his palace. 12 Then the Lord appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. 13 If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, 14 and My people who are called by My name **humble themselves and pray** and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 15 Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.
  
5. **Wrong motives** behind the prayer
  - a. **James 4:3 (NASB Strong's)** - You ask and do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives**, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.
    - i. In other words, our request is rooted in our lust (desiring something that has been forbidden)
  
6. **We ask and don't believe – hindrance as well as a principle**
  - a. **Mark 11:24 (NASB Strong's)** - 24 **Therefore** (refer back to verse 23, "therefore) I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.
    - i. **Therefore = continually; on account of "this", "this" being verse 23**
    - ii. **Mark 11:23 (NASB Strong's) – Truly** (Greek = amen, firm truth I'm about to tell you) I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him.

- b. **Mark 11:24 (NASB Strong's) - 24 Therefore** (refer back to verse 23, “therefore) I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.
  - i.
- c. **In addition** to believing you must also forgive
  - 1. **Mark 11:25-26** Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. 26 [ But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions.”]

Where there is no expectation there is not anticipation, and where there is no anticipation there is no hope and where there is no hope there is no faith.

Weak prayers are offered when there is no expectation

Hot prayers are offered when there is an expectation that what has been asked for has been received

**Prayer is not an event, an outward demonstration; Prayer is a lifestyle**