PRAYER THAT CHANGES THE WORLD 2 - PRAYER FROM COVENANT

GEORGE MULLER STORY OF PROVISION: *300 ORPHANS AND NO BREAKFAST. Seated at table and prayed, giving thanks for God's provision. FIRST the Baker wakened in the night to bake extra. SECOND the milk wagon broke down in front of orphanage. milk would spoil before wheel repaired. HE TRUSTED GOD'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE.*

I. OUR GOD MAKES COVENANT AND THEN REVEALS HIMSELF TO US AS HE KEEPS HIS WORD

Luke 11:9 *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.* ***10*** *For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.* ***11*** *If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?* ***12*** *Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?* ***13*** *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"*

- *GOD'S INTENTION IS THAT WE BE BE FILLED WITH HIS PRESENCE SO THAT HE WOULD ALWAYS BE NEAR TO US*

A. WE LEARN WHO GOD IS THROUGH HIS PROMISES TO US

- ***This passage is an open-ended commitment by God to us.*** *If we will come to him when we need answers, when we are searching or when we feel locked out of our relationship with Him, He will answer us.*

1. PRAYER IS THE FAITH-JOURNEY WE TAKE TO GET CLOSER TO GOD

2. ASK, SEEK, KNOCK IS ABOUT *OUR RESPONSIBILITY* TO PURSUE HIM

3. HUMILITY TRANSFORMS PRAYER FROM RELIGIOUS PRACTICE TO COMPLETE RELIANCE ON GOD'S ABILITY TO DELIVER US FROM OUR TROUBLES

- TO ADMIT THAT WE FACE THINGS THAT ARE BIGGER THAN

WE ARE IS HUMBLING FOR SOME. BUT THE SOONER WE GET THERE, THE SOONER HELP WILL BE ON THE WAY

B. ASK, SEEK, KNOCK ASSURES US WE *WILL* HAVE ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS

1. WE HAVE NOT BECAUSE WE ASK NOT

JAMES 4:2B *Yet you do not have because you do not ask.* ***3*** *You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.*

- ***Nothing purifies our motives faster than delay***

2. PRAY FROM REST

Heb. 4:1 *Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.* ***2*** *For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.* ***3*** *For* ***we who have believed do enter that rest…***

3. PRAY FROM THE WORD and *PRAY* THE WORD

Heb. 4:11 *Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.* ***12*** *For* ***the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***

4. COME BOLDLY TO THE THRONE OF GRACE

Heb. 4:14 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.* ***15*** *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.* ***16*** *Let us therefore come* ***boldly to the throne of grace****, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

C. THE ASSURANCE OF PRAYER IS TRUST

- **PRAYER IS A MISSION OF ACQUISITION BASED ON TRUST *<u>NOT</u>* DESPERATION OR FEAR**

Luke 11:5 *And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves;* ***6*** *for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him';* ***7*** *and he will answer from within and say, "Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'?* ***8*** ***I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.***

1. **IMPORTUNITY AND TRUST**
   Importunity means repeatedly asking for something in a forceful, urgent, and <u>often annoying</u> way

Luke 18:1 NLT *One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.* ***2*** *"There was a judge in a certain city," he said, "who neither feared God nor cared about people.* ***3*** *A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.'* ***4*** *The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself,* ***'I don't fear God or care about people,*** ***5*** ***but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'" 6*** *Then the Lord said, "<u>Learn a lesson from this unjust judge</u>.* ***7*** *Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So <u>don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night?</u> Will he keep putting them off?* ***8*** *I tell you, he will grant justice to them <u>quickly</u>! But when the Son of Man[a] returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?"*

- **"QUICK" FOR GOD IS NOT WHAT WE THINK OF AS QUICK**

2. **TRUST HIS WORD**

Psa. 18:2 *The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;*
My ***God****, my strength, in whom I will* ***trust****;*
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psa. 18:30 *As for* ***God****, His way is perfect;*
The word of the LORD is proven;

*He is a shield to all who **trust** in Him.*

Psa. 20:7 *Some **trust** in chariots, and some in horses;*
*But we will remember the name of the LORD our **God**.*

3. TRUST HIS GOODNESS

Psa. 36:7 *How precious is Your lovingkindness, O **God**!*
*Therefore the children of men put their **trust** under the shadow of Your wings.*

Psa. 62:8 ***Trust** in Him at all times, you people;*
Pour out your heart before Him;
***God** is a refuge for us.*

4. NEVER STOP PRAYING

ISAIAH 12:2 *Behold, God is my salvation,*
I will trust and not be afraid;
"For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song;
He also has become my salvation.' "

3 ***Therefore with joy you will draw water***
From the wells of salvation.

Is. 12:4 *And in that day you will say:*
***"Praise the LORD,** call upon His name;*
Declare His deeds among the peoples,
***Make mention** that His name is exalted.*

5 ***Sing** to the LORD,*
For He has done excellent things;
This is known in all the earth.

6 ***Cry out and shout,** O inhabitant of Zion,*
For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"