

On the wings of prayer series:

Forever changed on the wings of prayer

Introduction:

Guys I want you to know that I never knew how important this series really was till I've seen how incredibly hard Satan has tried to defeat my purpose this week. I'll just tell you that God desired greatly that you and I should hear this message today. I'll be quiet honest I am not looking forward to this lesson at all. It is not a part of my past I am proud of.

I believe that Satan doesn't want us on our knees praying because if we were to get real with our desire to have a relationship with God.....Satan wouldn't have a place to stand. Men it's our responsibility to step up to the plate and show our families what it is to have a close relationship with God.

In Romans 12:1-2 we are told not to conform to this world but to be transformed. Transformed comes from a compound word in the Greek where we get the word Metamorphosis. Meaning to change one's form.

It dawned on me that being in the presence of God really does change our form. For example Moses comes down from being in the presence of God on Mount Sinai with his face radiant (Glowing as it were) Exodus 34:29.

Let me tell you that all of us should have a radiance about us from being in the presence of God through Prayer.

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Men.....I am afraid that the church today across the brotherhood is in peril because we have come to the river of life with only a small canteen. I think, on many occasions we are too afraid to commit ourselves to a relationship with God Almighty. We have put everything from our wives, our kids, our work, and our desires ahead of him. Settling for a mere study of God instead of a deep relationship with.

MO OF SATAN IS HE DOESN'T WANT US PRAYING? **WHY?**

Scripture: Read Acts 9:1-19

Did being in the presence of God transform Paul's life?

Lesson:

I. We are designed to be a part of God's plan

-Paul's story Acts 9

-We are not just happenstance

-Isaiah 44:2 "God created us in my mothers womb"

-Psalms 139:114 "We are fearfully and wonderfully made."

-Eph. 2:10

-Specifics in mind

-Good works

-What if I didn't understand that God planned on my being alive and here on this earth during this time.. What if I didn't understand that God knows me so very deeply and just lived out my life on a day to day basis working for the weekend...waiting for the next vacation. Etc.

-What if God's plan in my life is not accomplished.

-Will whole families miss hearing the gospel?

-Will my great, great, great, great, grandson Micheal not know anything about God and go to hell.

-We think to small brethern

-Worse yet how would you like to get to heaven and your kids not be with you?

-Kids are leaving the faith at an alarming rate.

-You were designed to be a part of God's plan

-You are not a hood ornament.

-Only for looks

*Made to be plugged in with your creater in Prayer.

II. We are not to be conformed to this world.

-Paul's story Acts 9

-Superficial life...

-Wrapped around what he knew

-Pharisee, Zealous

-Molded and shaped by his raising

-His friends and his own desires

-His past....

-Weighted down by his own baggage. **Are We?**

-Paul desired God but chose his own method.

-Like Moses Acts 7:25

- Thought he was right but he was wrong.
 - Holding the coats at Stevens stoning
 - Can you admit when your wrong
 - Is it like pulling teeth?
 - Does it take a declaration of congress?
 - *This is one of the most destructive attitudes
- He couldn't see outside of himself
- *Tried to do things his way like Moses. Acts 7:25
- Peers wouldn't change him
- Christians wouldn't try. (Yea I want to teach Saul gospel)
- *Prayers hinderedkept out of presence of God.

Dan's Story.

- Here several years ago Charity and I had the most difficult marriage problems and it is only by God's hand we stayed together. I am going to get plain and blunt with you on this matter because somehow through all this God drew me closer to him and I'll share anything with you in order for you have a close relationship with God.
- Put wife and kids before God.
- Raised in an environment where admitting you're wrong was bad.
 - Control was emphasized
 - Didn't know how to communicate except to yell if angry.
 - In Retrospect, I expected Charity to serve in the Kingdom of Dan
- I was afraid to get close to God
- I didn't understand my past had shaped me
- Pride had ruled in my heart.
- Had to be in control.

-3 Really bad things.

1. I didn't even know it
2. I thought things were great in Danville
3. Hindered from the presence of God 1 Pet 3:7

III. You don't want God to call you on the carpet.

-Paul's Story Acts 9

- This happened at exactly the time to give God the most glory

-At a time it would most humble Paul

-Fell to the ground on road to Damascus

-Light shone around him

-Jesus spoke to him

-brought to prayer session (presence of God)

-Are we listening to God's call

-told he was wrong

-Why do you persecute me?

-Why did God have to tell him

-wouldn't listen to anyone else

-Can you admit when your wrong?

-Is it like pulling teeth?

-Does it take a declaration of congress?

***This is one of the most destructive attitudes**

-Admitting your wrong is not a sign of weakness

-Disciplined....blinded

-God's in control

-Dan's Story

-Charity had begged me to get counseling with her so many times but I used all the usual excuses. Most from our childhood. I Reasoned that we could work it out. Everything was ok and it would be alright. She told me at a counseling session that she wanted separated and God pulled the carpet right out from under me. You've heard the expression when it rains it pours. Within a week I crushed my big toe on the job and still have great pain with that to this day. I've prayed about it but it must be a thorn in the flesh to keep me humble I suppose. Adding insult to injury a brown recluse spider bit me on the ankle within a few days of having my toe broke and at the first of the month Charity told me she wanted a divorce.

-Was this a wake up call or what.

-All this was not misfortune.

-It was the Hand of the Almighty God disciplining me.

-I had been wrong and he wanted me to know it (Struck me down)

-Humbled (blinding me)

-He was in control Now

-Cried myself to sleep at night

-Couldn't see my kids.

-I couldn't eatlost 60 lbs

-I couldn't sleep

- I couldn't function
- Ashamed

IV. We are to be transformed in the presence of God

-Paul's Story:

- From Metamorphosis meaning to change ones form
- Paul had tried to form himself.
- But it was a round peg in a square hole.

-3 Days of blindness

- Paul had to surrender
- Paul had to submit
- Paul had to rely on others for help
 - Not in control anymore
- Name change.....new identity

-Given mission

-told inexpressible things

- Paul could never be the same again
- Moses came down radiant

-Dan's Story

- I cried out to God (searched for his presence in prayer)
 - Camel Knees (James bro of Jesus)
- Exposed it all
 - Like exposed in hospital and don't care
 - Take skeletons out of closet
 - Feel the freshness in the air.
 - *Didn't have to hide
- I had to surrender
 - Lifting holy hands
 - 1 Tim. 2:8
 - Psalms 28:2 & 61 & 84 & 100
 - 1 Kngs 8:54-61
 - Lam 3:41
 - Ex. 17:11
 - Wasn't afraid anymore
- Give up control
 - Submit to what ever the outcome of my actions.
 - Pride was gone
- I had to put God first.

* I spent four months living by myself

-night after night 1 - 2 hours of sleep

****Until I gave it all to God one night.....the hurt and all.

-The next day she came home.

*My vision was restored and turned from worldly to spiritual

*And I've prayed for God to keep me in his presence every since

-Transformation that God desires comes from His hand.

V. As for me and my house we will serve the Lord. Josh 24:15

- I come in my home some days and say hey baby your #2 and she knows that what I am saying.

-More importantly I try to show God he is #1 through my relationship with him through prayer.

Conclusion

Go to the well of God and drink from the water from which you will never thirst again. Drink deeply in the presence of God building that refreshing relationship that will carry your soul into eternity.

Read Psalms 51