

Choose to Pursue the Presence of God in Prayer

Lesson #19

Scripture: Acts 4:31 “And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.”

James 5:16 “Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

Introduction:

- Does anyone know what this is? Magnifying Glass
- We've all played with these before right?
- Some things are interesting when magnified
- Some things are not

Question: What kind of things do we magnify in our lives?

- fun and entertainment
 - friends
 - work
 - relationships
- *We do choose daily what we make big in our lives.

Transitional Statement:

Church through prayer we magnify God and at the same time use the greatest resource in this world. The power in prayer.

I. The nature and character of prayer

- A. Prayer is mans ultimate quest for intimacy with God
 - 1. Helps us to think like God
 - 2. Desire what God desires
 - 3. Love what God loves
 - 4. See what God sees
- B. Prayer helps us in our goal to become like Him
- C. Prayer is accepting an invitation to come home to the Father and share our deepest thoughts.
- D. In prayer we find the depth of:
 - 1. Humility
 - 2. Submission
 - 3. Reliance

II. Learning to pray

A. From Jesus in Matthew 6:5-15

5 "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

7 "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. 8 "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

9 " Pray, then, in this way:

'Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

10 ' Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 ' Give us this day our daily bread.

12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.[For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]

14 " For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

1. Ultimately about God's purpose (will) in our lives

a. Touches on Motive, Conduct, Form and even Content

B. Also in John chapter 17 where Jesus prays for His disciples.

C. The parable of the widow ...Luke 18:1-8Prayers are to be:

1. Specific
2. Courageous
3. Persistent
4. Passionate

D. From the prayer of the publican ...prayers should acknowledge:

1. God in reverence
2. One's sinfulness with honesty
3. One's need of divine mercy with humility

E. Prayer is to be:

1. PersistentLuke 18:1-8

1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, 2 saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. 3 "There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, ' Give me legal protection from my opponent.' 4 "For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; 7 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8 "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

2. Prayer should be genuine.....Luke 18:9-14

9 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."

3. Prayer should be deep ...Luke 22:44

a. Jesus in the garden

II. We must remember the need for personal growth in prayer

- A. 1 Samuel 12:23 *“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way.”*
- B. Psalms 32:6 *“Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.*
- C. Psalms 116:2 *“Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live.”*
- D. Philippians 4:6 *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”*
- E. Luke 11:1 *“It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.”*

F. Romans 8:25 *“But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”*

G. James 4:2-3 *“You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.”*

H. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 *“pray without ceasing;”*

I. Luke 18:1 *“Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,”*

K. Hebrews 4:16 *“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

III. We must always approach God as Isaiah in chapter 6....seeing God as high and lifted up.

A. Willing to be at His beckon call.

IV. We must never forget that the power in prayer lies in faithfulness.

A. Believing in God to deliver our needs....not our desires.

B. And trusting in His sovereignty....Isa 40

VI. Learn to walk in the pathway of prayer

A. Adoration

1. 2 Samuel 22:2-3

2. 1 Chronicles 29:11-13

3. Psalms 8:1; 36:5-9; 57:5

4. Jeremiah 10:6-7

5. Revelation 15:3-4

B. Praise

1. Psalms 103:1-5; 71:19; 104:1-32; 145:10-20

2. Isaiah 24:1-5

3. Revelation 15:3-4

C. Thanksgiving

1. 1 Chronicles 29:13
2. Jonah 2:2-9
3. Matthew 26:26
4. Luke 24:30
5. Acts 27:35

D. Confession

1. James 5:16

E. Petition

1. Phil 4:6-7

F. Intercession

1. Eph 1:15-16
2. 1 Thess 5:25

G. Commitment

1. Luke 12:48
2. Matthew 6:9-13

H. Communion

1. Psalms 42:1-11

V. Prayer helps

1. Keep a journal...with goals
2. Have prayer partners
3. Pray regularly with you spouse
4. Listen to God...read bible often
5. Become a house of prayer

Conclusion:

Developing a deep relationship with God in prayer is partaking of the living water that Jesus tells the Samaritan woman about in John 4 and moving toward a outflow of streams of living water from with in....and think about the eternal rewards.