

## OUR GREATEST WEAPON, PRAYER!

God has given us great and powerful weapons to use for the kingdom of God and to walk in victory everyday. I believe the greatest of these is prayer. Everything starts and ends in prayer, the battle is won in prayer, the answer is received in prayer, and the miracle is done in prayer. Prayer knows no distance or time. Prayer does change things.

Heb. 4:16 says, *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need.”* Notice that we come before God's throne boldly, not crawling on our bellies like beggars, not crying and whining and pleading, but with confidence and boldness because of the blood of Jesus which paid the price for us to come before the Father in prayer.

To grasp the importance of prayer we must establish the foundation for prayer. Love is this foundation. God is love, faith works by love, if we do not walk and live in love then we short-circuit our prayers before God. We come before Him without being in our commanded position in Him. Check your love walk with God. To walk in love is a decision not an emotion. We choose to obey God and walk in love with all men, even those we do not like. Or those who are unlovely, it does not matter. God said, love our neighbor as our self after we love Him with our whole beings. Not living our lives in love is not an option.

Prayer always has a purpose, prayer must always be done in faith, believing and trusting God to bring about what is prayed.

To pray and then not believe in what we prayed is ludicrous for the Christian. We must always have faith in God, when we pray.

We must realize that prayer is commanded of God for us to do. In I Thes. 5:17, Paul writes under the unction of the Holy Spirit, *“Pray without ceasing.”* And just how do we pray without ceasing? Well we stay in contact with

God in our spirits and soul (mind, will and emotions) all the time. Isa 26:3, *“Thou wilt keep [him] in perfect peace, [whose] mind [is] stayed [on thee ]: because he trusteth in thee”.*

Let's clear something up, prayer is not a religious exercise, prayer is communication with God. And most importantly it is a **TWO-WAY** communication. We pray and then listen as God talks to us. Think about it this way, one thing that God demands of us is humility. He said to humble ourselves under Him, resist the devil and he will flee. If we do not humble ourselves, then the devil will not flee. When we pray and stop to listen to God we are humbling ourselves before Him. We are saying OK my list of requests was important, but what You have to say to me is more important. Humility is key to successful prayer. Prayer is not trying to get God's attention, it is not trying to get God to do something, but communicating to God and believing and receiving what He has already done and given to us in and through Jesus.

If prayer changes things then we pray prayers where things change. There are many types of prayers in the scriptures; these are some that change things.

- The Prayer of agreement – Matt 18:19
- The Prayer of faith – Mark 11:24
- The Prayer of Petition – Phil 4:6
- The Prayer of Binding & Loosing–Matt 18:18
- The Prayer of Intercession – I Tim 2:1
- The United Prayer – Acts 12:5

Why do we have trouble getting our prayers answered? Two things!

**Wrong Motive**, Jam 4:3 says, *“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts”.* Also in Jer. 29:13 it states, *“And ye shall seek me, and find [me], when ye shall search for me with all your heart”.* The major key in prayer is to pray from the heart. Having God's will and ways being our standard as

we pray. Removing “SELF” from the equation. This does not mean you do not pray for yourself, but you do not pray selfishly. Again humility enters the picture. We must pray God's will, God's word and God's agenda. We must lay down all our agendas and be lead by the Spirit of God in our prayers. Praying fervent with our whole heart, not our head desiring what God wants over anything we want.

### Wrong Method

What do I mean by wrong method? Coming before God begging for what He has done already. Praying out of doubt or fear, not faith and trust. Praying vain or empty repetitions, just praying because that is what you do in religious circles. Matt 6:7 clearly says, *“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen [do]: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking”*. In this same mode we can begin to pray and not be praying God's word or will concerning our given request. As recorded in I John 5:14,15 *“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him”*. When we pray God's will we get God's results.

Many times we come before God with our own understanding of the situation and we pray our minds, wants, and desires. We pray for the outcome and do not give God first place about what we are praying. We always need the mind of the Lord when we pray; we must let the Holy Spirit lead the way in our prayers.

Flip over in your Bible to Jam 5:16 and read with me this verse. *“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”* Let's focus on the last part, and look at these key words, **effectual and fervent**. Reading from the Amplified version it says, *“The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available – dynamic*

*in its working.”* Another way to say it, “The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working, it moves the hand of Him who moves the world.”

Wow, makes you want to go pray a fervent prayer that effects much. Praying fervently, (to boil with intensity) from a humbled heart in faith (the righteous man) knowing that what you prayed will produce the desired effect in the life of the one you prayed for. And that is exactly what God wants you to do.

One last thing we must address with prayer. Turn over to I Pet. 5:6 and take note of the words, *“Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you.”* Also in Phil 4:6,7 it states, *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”* What does it mean, “cares”? Our cares are what we worry about, fret about, fear will happen, are consumed with, takes up a lot of our energy, our thoughts, our time and activities. These cares are a big hindrance to unanswered prayer.

After we pray we should let Jesus take care of our prayer, but no, we have to get back in the picture and help Him or take back the “Care” of what we prayed. Jesus can TRULY take care of our prayers. To cast is a forceful word which means to throw off with violence if necessary the weight and care over our lives and over our prayers. Humility is to pray and let God do what you have asked, trusting that He can. We must pray and let him do it.

Prayer is our greatest weapon and I hope that this newsletter has increased your understanding of how to pray and how to keep yourself in the right motive and attitude when praying.

Knowing that when we pray correctly that we will have in our lives and in the lives of those we pray for, Gods fullness, Gods life, God's direction. His ways, thoughts, heart, and His will.

**God bless each of you as you pray.**