

## PRAYER IN THE PANDEMONIUM (part 2)

- Intro...
- **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...**'
- *Prayer*
- Of all the things that the disciples saw Jesus do, there was only one thing that they asked Him to teach THEM to do. "**Lord teach us to pray.**"

### 1. WE PRAY "IN JESUS' NAME"

Jesus said:

- "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything **in my name**, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything **in my name**, and I will do it!" (**John 14:12-14**)
- This is a powerful statement with, what seems like, some serious implications. Jesus is inviting us to ask Him for ANYTHING in HIS NAME.
- But what does it mean to pray in Jesus' name?
- *When our daughter Selah was younger...*
- In 1st Century Hebrew culture, a name told a story about who they were, where they were from, if they had authority or wealth or power, if they could be trusted.
- When Jesus spoke these words, He was inviting His followers to pray according to **who He is** and **what He has done**.
- Or better said:
- To pray in Jesus' name means that we pray according to the **authority** of Jesus, with the **access** of Jesus, and according to the **account** of Jesus.
- To pray in Jesus' name means that we pray according to the **AUTHORITY** of Jesus.
- **Ephesians 1:20-22** "Christ... has been seated at the right hand of the Father, **far above all** principalities and powers, **all** rule and authority, **all** might and dominion, and **every** name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He (the

Father) put **all things** under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over **all things** to the Church.”

- **Ephesians 2:6** “He raised **us** up together, and made **us** sit together in the heavenly places with Christ.”
- To pray according to someone’s name is to pray according to WHAT THEIR NAME MEANS.
- The name of JESUS means ALL AUTHORITY. And because we are seated with Him He have given us this same kind of authority.
- And THIS is how we ought to pray. We don’t pray from defeat. We pray from VICTORY praying because we are already in the Victorious One.
- This is what it means to pray in Jesus’ name.
  
- To pray in Jesus’ name means that we pray according to the **ACCESS** of Jesus.
  
- *Calling my phone...*
- When Jesus tells us to pray to the Father, in His name, it’s like Him handing us His phone and saying, “**Here, call from my number**”.
  
- **THIS IS THE KIND OF ACCESS** that we have to the Father.
- The Bible tells us.
- **Hebrews 4:16** “So let us come **boldly** to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.”
  
- **Hebrews 10:19, 21:** “So brothers and sisters, we can **boldly enter** heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus... let us go **right in** to the presence of God...”
  
- **Ephesians 3:12** “In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God **with freedom and confidence**.”
  
- When Jesus invites us to pray to the Father in His name, He is inviting us to pray with the kind of access that HE ALREADY HAS to the Father, which is FULL COMPLETE CONFIDENT ACCESS.
- We don’t come into God’s presence in prayer timid or unsure if we belong there. WE BELONG THERE.
- God invites to come boldly and confidently.
  
- To pray in Jesus’ name means that we pray according to the **ACCOUNT** of Jesus
  
- *I\$100k...*

- When we pray, we don't pray according to OUR account. We pray according to the ACCOUNT of Jesus, and His account is full of everything we need.
- **Ephesians 3:8** "[God] graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ."
- HIS treasures are available to US who have been saved.
- **Philippians 4:19** "And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs according to His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."
- His riches have been given to us, our needs are met ACCORDING to HIS riches.
- There is nothing that is too big of an ask of God.
- **Your account may be empty. But Jesus has made you a co-signer on His account today.**
- That means that when we come to God, we say, "Father I'm asking for this crazy (maybe impossible) thing, but I'm asking it according the account of Your Son, Jesus."
  - Lord I'm asking for healing... I know there's healing in the account of Jesus. Lord would you give from THAT account.
- This is what it means to pray in Jesus' name.

To pray in Jesus' name means that we pray according to His **KINGDOM ATTRIBUTES**

- We pray in a way that lines up with who Jesus, what He's about and what His eternal Kingdom is like.
- This is how Jesus taught us to pray right? Let YOUR Kingdom come. Let YOUR will be done ON EARTH AS IT IS in Heaven.  
Lord, let all of who you are and all that you are ABOUT, come here.
- **1 John 5:14** "Now, this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."
- It's not JUST that we come to Father with the authority, access, and account of Jesus and ask WHATEVER WE WANT, we come to Him asking Him to do what HE WANTS.
- *"But, how do I know what He wants?"*
- *He tells us in His word!*

## 2. WE PRAY THE PROMISES OF GOD BACK TO GOD

- One of my favorite prayer practices is praying God's promises **found His Word**, BACK to Him.
- *"Lord this is what you said, so I'm asking you to do that or be that."*
- Not only does this keep us in line with His will, but it builds faith to recall what He said He would do and be.
- **2 Chron. 20** when the people of God where up against an unbeatable enemy.

- King Jehoshaphat prayed to God and said, “God YOU SAID WOULD...”
  - “Lord, because You promised **THING** We are therefore asking **THIS**.”
- **So when we’re paying for salvation, we pray the promise of God back to God.**
  - 2 Peter 3:9 says that He is not wanting any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
  - That Psalm 86 says that He is always ready to forgive and full of unfailing love.
  - example...
- **We pray the promises of God BACK to God.**
- Google...
- **Find those promises in scripture and begin to pray them back to God.**
- As I said last week, sometimes we think God’s just going to do what’s He’s going to do. It’s pointless for me to pray.
- And sometimes God will just do what He’s going to do. BUT
- Sometimes God is waiting for us to ask, until He acts. Praying IS US ASKING.
- And sometime it’s us asking over and over and over...

### 3. WE LABOR AND PERSIST PRAYER

- **We labor in prayer.** This is how Paul describes His prayer life for the church:
- Colossians 2:1-2 “I want you to know how much I have **agonized** for you and for the church...”
  - “Agon” = To struggle, to labor, to work, to sweat.
- James 5:16 “The **effective** (active), **fervent** prayer of a righteous person accomplishes much.”
- In the next verse, He demonstrates what this looks like
- James 5:17-18 “Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he **prayed earnestly** that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.”
- I was talking to a friend the other day...
- In Ezekiel 22 God told Ezekiel “I looked... for someone to stand in the gap... so I wouldn’t have to destroy the land, but I found no one.” (Ezekiel 22:30)
- God wants to show mercy, but sometimes He is waiting to act until someone stands in the gap and asks.
- So you know what my friend did...
- There’s so much that we that we can’t really can’t do anything about, right now.

- But one of the things we CAN DO, is pray.
- And we do it until we see the change.
- **Luke 18:1-8** 'One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should **always pray and never give up**. "There was a judge in a certain city," He said, "who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.' The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people, 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!'" Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think **God will surely give justice to His chosen people who cry out to Him day and night?** Will He keep putting them off? I tell you, He will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will He find on the earth who have faith?"
- This woman asked until she saw justice prevail. And Jesus says, "Pray LIKE THIS".
- In **Luke 11**, Jesus tells the story of a guy who goes to his friend's house in the middle of the night asking for bread. His friend tells him to go away, but this guy **KEEPS COMING BACK** and asking. And it says in **Luke 11:8** that the friend finally responds **BECAUSE OF** this guy's "IMPORTUNITY" (KJV).
- **"Importunity"** = To consistently, insist with persistence.
- my kids do this...
- This is how Jesus invites us to pray and says that **SOMETIMES** our prayers aren't answered because we have not asked with persistence and insistence.
- Sometimes we have not because we **ask not**. (**James 4:2**)
- Sometimes we don't have because we ask **amiss with impure motives**. (**James 4:3**)
- Sometimes we have not because we're **in rebellion** and God's not hearing us right now. (**John 9:31**)
- Sometimes husbands have not because we are **not treating our wives right**. (**1 Peter 3:7**)
- Sometimes we have not because we're **not asking according to God's will**. (**1 John 5:14-15**)
- **BUT SOMETIMES**, we have not because we haven't asked with importunity — insisting with persistence. (**Luke 11:8**)
- When you know you're praying according to God's promises and you still don't have, maybe you need to just keep asking.
- "Some blessings of the Christian life just fall off the tree of blessings into our laps. But some blessings won't fall off the tree unless you grab ahold of the branches and shake." - **Charles Spurgeon**

- *Stepdad...*
- *My Grandfather...*
- *Me...*
- *My parents prayed...*
- As I shared last year that I felt like 2020 was going to be a year of some kind of significant spiritual harvest. Like revival was coming.
- You know what revival looks like? It looks millions of stories like these ones I just shared.
- Millions of supernatural, but very specific, Holy Spirit moments like these.
- Revival looks like thousands of great **grandmothers' prayers finally** being answers.
- Like thousands of **faithful wives' prayers** finally being answered.
- Like thousands of **wayward children** all coming home.
- Thousands of **addicted family members** all being set free.
- Like thousands of **hopeless family relationships** being restored.
- Revival looks like YOUR prayers being answers.
- Like YOUR kids coming home to Jesus.
- Like YOUR families being restored.
- **I believe that God wants to bring revival and He wants to start it in our families.**
- **See, God is not just wanting to save THE people. He's wanting to save YOUR people.**
- He doesn't want to use ME in your family member's life. He wants to use YOU.
- I think part of what God is wanting us to learn as a Church in this season.
- He's trying to show us that it's less about the preacher or the pulpit. It's all about His power and His presence, which cannot be contained by walls and is LIVING INSIDE OF YOU, Christian.
- Eph. 3:20: **"GOD is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think and according to the power that is at work IN YOU."**
- Not just in ME. In YOU.
- **God is wanting to use in your families life.**
- *"But I'm not a professional."*
- God doesn't need professional or educated ministers.
- **1 Corinthians 1:27 "Not many wise are called. For God uses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise."**
- **God doesn't use me because I'm wise. He uses me because I'M NOT.**
- **All I did was make myself available and God stated using me.**

- **God is not looking for wise or studied people. He is looking for willing and surrendered people — people who will actively and intentionally just make themselves available to Him.**
- The power to bring this salvation is in God alone, BUT THERE IS AN INVITATION in scripture for us to participate and partner with God in bringing that salvation.
- That partnering comes through us choosing to be on mission as ambassadors of Christ, and we need to that.
- But that participation also comes through prayer for those people.
- In fact there are some strongholds that no amount of mission can break. They must be broken through prayer (as we'll see next week), through fasting.
- God is inviting us to partner with Him in many ways. One the key ones is through a practice of faith filled, promise proclaiming, fervent, persistent, bold praying.
- Amen?