

01 – KINDS OF PRAYER

The Verse That Inspired the Series

James 5:16 – “The effective, passionate prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available, dynamic in its working.”

- ✓ Righteous Man – When Paul mentions a “righteous man” in this verse, he’s not talking about the man’s *behavior*. He’s referring to his *position* in Christ. (When someone accepts Jesus, they become the righteousness of God in Christ.)

2 Cor. 5:21 – “For (God) has made (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

- ✓ “Righteous” means “right with God” (saved). So, he’s talking about YOU here! (You’re the righteous man in this verse!) So, read it again, thinking about yourself: “The effective, passionate prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available ...”

- ✓ Think About It: That means if you pray passionately and effectively, then your prayers will be powerful! Now, listen:

(a) Passion is a choice! I can pray passionately, any time I want to.

(b) Effectiveness, on the other hand, is something that needs to be *learned*. That’s what this series is about – learning to pray effectively.

Four Keys to Praying Effectively

Eph. 6:18 – “Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray in the power of the Spirit, using every kind of prayer and petition. Stay alert. Intercede for God’s people so no one falls behind or drops out.” (CEV, EHV, MSG) Four things jump out at me, right away.

- 1.) Never Stop Praying – (Luke 18:1 – “Jesus told them a parable about the need to always pray and not lose heart.”) Some people lose heart when they don’t see instant results from their prayers. They

get discouraged and quit. But you’ll never be a great “pray-er” if you quit. Decide to stick with it, no matter how long as it takes.

- 2.) Pray In the Power of the Spirit – You can’t have a powerful prayer life without relying on the Holy Spirit. I like another translation of this verse. “Always pray by the power of the Spirit. You’re up against more than you can handle on your own.” That’s true!
- 3.) Use EVERY KIND of Prayer – Did you know that there are different *kinds* of prayer? There are at least 9 kinds, and we need all of them!
- 4.) Love the People You’re Praying For – “Intercede ... so no one falls behind or drops out. Most of us are fairly consistent in praying for our OWN needs. But, as he said at the beginning of the verse, “Never stop praying, especially for others”. Our brothers and sisters need us! And we need them.



Nine Kinds of Prayer – (Our Spiritual Toolbox)

- ✓ Most of us have a toolbox at home, filled with all kinds of tools. (You probably have a hammer, a screwdriver, a saw, some wrenches ... maybe a drill.) Why do you have different kinds of tools? Because not every tool does the same job. (Hammers are great for driving nails, but they’re terrible at cutting wood.)
- ✓ Not every tool (in your toolbox) does the same job. And it’s the same with prayer. Not every kind of prayer is designed to work in every situation. You need to use the right *prayer* for the right *job*.
- ✓ Another Thing: In the natural, every tool comes with its own set of instructions. Prayer has instructions, too. (We call them “verses”). In some cases, the instructions for *one* kind of prayer are the exact opposite of the instructions for *another* kind of prayer.
- ✓ That means the instruction that makes *one* kind of prayer *work*, will actually *destroy* another. A successful prayer life really comes down to your ability to follow instructions.)

Why Have We Struggled With Prayer?

- ✓ I think what we've done, as the Body of Christ, is we took all the prayer instructions, dumped them in a sack, shook it up, dumped it out, and said, "Well, prayer is prayer, isn't it?"
- ✓ But what if we did that with sports? What if we took Pastor Terry, put him in ice skates, gave him a curling rock and a soccer ball ... put him on a basketball court, set up some gymnastics equipment and said, "Go ahead and play"? He'd stand there confused. He wouldn't know what to do, or which rules to go by. And that's essentially what we've done with prayer! We've mixed up the instructions, until we don't know which *principle* to apply in which *prayer*.



Our Big Ideas, So Far ...

- (A) Not every kind of prayer was designed to work in every situation. That's why there are different kinds of prayer.
- (B) Different kinds of prayer have different "rules" (instructions) that make them work.

More Big Ideas ...

- (C) In every kind of prayer, man has a part to play, and God has a part to play. (There's "God's Part" and "Man's Part".)
- ✓ This is where we "miss it" sometimes. We set our focus on God's part. (Or to say it another way, we focus on the "sending end".) We pray, "God, I really need You to do this! You know how desperate I am. Please, Lord, please! ..." We spend our time focusing on God's part. The problem is ... in focusing on *God's* part, we tend to leave *our* part undone. (If we do our part, God will always do His.)
- (D) Most of the prayers have four steps on our side – (four things that God asks US to do.)

- ✓ To fulfill our part, we have to do all four. (Illustration: If there are four steps up to the platform, and I take two of them and stop, will I ever reach the top? No. In order to reach the top, I'd have to take all four steps. The same is true with prayer. If there are four steps on my side, I'm going to need to take all four.

Pastor, Are You Trying to Reduce Prayer to a "Formula"? (4 Steps?)

- ✓ No. A "formula" is trying to "push the right buttons" and "pull the right levers", so God has to do something. That's not what I'm talking about! I'm not talking about following a *formula*. I'm talking about following *instructions*. (Let me give you an example.)

John 16:24 – "Up to now you have asked nothing in my name; ask now, and you will receive, that your joy may be overflowing" (John 14:13-14)

- ✓ When I pray in Jesus' name, I'm not "following a formula". I'm following instructions. I'm being obedient.

Kinds of Prayer Found in Scripture

- 1.) The Prayer of Faith – (Receiving the promises.)
- 2.) The Prayer of Agreement – (The prayer you pray *with* others.)
- 3.) The Prayer of Intercession – (The prayer for pray *for* others.)
- 4-5.) Exercising Spiritual Authority – (Two kinds of prayer.)
- 6.) The Prayer of Dedication – (Submitting to God's will.)
- 7.) Casting Your Cares on Him – (Winning over worry.)
- 8.) Fellowship Prayer – (Spending time with the Father.)
- 9.) The Prayer of Worship – (Worship is a form of prayer!)

Random Prayer Instructions

- ✓ As we close, I'm going to list some random prayer instructions. See if you can match them with the kind of prayer they go with.

- ⇒ Pray without ceasing
- ⇒ Speak to the mountain (problem)
- ⇒ “If it be Thy will”
- ⇒ Be persistent, keep on asking
- ⇒ Ask once, then give thanks
- ⇒ Go into your closet, and pray to your Father in secret
- ⇒ Find two or three people to pray with
- ⇒ Pray until the burden lifts
- ✓ If you had trouble with that little exercise, don’t worry. In the weeks to come, we’ll get it all sorted out.