
WITH CHRIST

IN THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER

A 31-Day Quiet Time Series | Week 3

Day 15... THE POWER OF UNITED PRAYER: If two agree.

Matthew 18:19-20

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Power in unity.

Genesis 10:3-7

God himself acknowledged the power of a people speaking the same language and working toward a common goal. The reason for the confusion here was that they were united against God.

That's where Jesus' statement comes into play. "Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Gathered in Jesus' name is what makes the difference. For his purposes, united with him. The power of united prayer lays in the presence of God.

Together.

Until recently, I tend to think of this scripture in terms of two or three people praying individually. Then these words struck me, "two or three gathered." This powerful, united praying is the result of physically gathering together and praying together for the same thing! It is this type of praying that literally rocked the world.

Read [Acts 4:18-31](#)...

The Greek word used in verse 24 for together is *homothumadon*, which means with one mind, with one accord, unanimously! There is power in united prayer.

God does answer individually lifted up unified prayers... but imagine what could be done with two or three gathering in Jesus' name asking for the same things!

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 16... THE POWER OF PERSEVERING PRAYER: Will he keep putting them off?

Luke 18:1-8

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: 'In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' 'For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!' 'And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?'"

Delay: the Great Professor.

It is true that we do not know the full will of God in every circumstance. Therefore, there will be times where we pray and the answer will not be in God's will at that moment. However, what will you do when God does not say yes (meaning you see God answer), or no (meaning God closes the door), but rather God says maybe? It is during this time of maybe or "wait" that our faith is deepened.

Andrew Murray says "[L]et no delay shake our faith. Of faith it holds good; first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear. Each believing prayer brings a step near the final victory."

Power in Accumulation.

As with the persistent widow, each prayer of faith has an effect. That effect may not be seen in the moment, but Jesus' purpose with this parable is to show us that each believing prayer absolutely makes a difference.

I love how Murray puts this:
"[Faith] knows how, just as water, to exercise the irresistible power it can have, must be gathered up and accumulated, until the stream can come down in full force, there must often be a heaping up of prayer, until God sees that the Measure is full, and the answer comes."

- What stops you from persevering in certain prayers?
- What characteristics did the widow display that led to her requests being answered?

Go and do likewise! Develop the characteristics of a persistent and persevering person of prayer!

O LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 17... PRAYER IN HARMONY WITH THE BEING OF GOD: You always hear me.

John 11:38-43

"Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me..."

Psalms 2:7-8

"You are my son! This very day I have become your father! Ask me, and I will give you..." (NET)

Faith & Knowledge.

When we were children, a lot of times believing was simple... It's true because my parents said so! There was faith, but little knowledge. We were reliant on the knowledge of our parents. As young Christians, we accepted biblical truths in the same fashion... because God said so. There was faith, but little knowledge. This faith with little knowledge is acceptable in the infancy of being spiritual young. We know that God always hears our prayer, because God says so. However, there is something amiss if we do not grow in knowledge of how God has structured prayer to work. God always hears our prayers because of Jesus.

Jesus Centered Prayers.

It is necessary that your prayer life goes through Jesus. As loved as we are, the hearing of our prayers comes by the mouth of Jesus. Jesus is the one sitting at the right hand of God. Jesus is the only one born of God. Jesus is God's one and only son. Jesus has the proximity, the attention, the ear of God!

Andrew Murray says, "Prayer has its rise and its deepest source in the very Being of God. In the bosom of Deity nothing is ever done without prayer -- the asking of the Son and the giving of the Father."

Now it makes even more sense why Jesus taught us to pray by asking God through his name. As sinful as we are, even though we are forgiven, the being most in harmony with God and man is Jesus. Therefore, through Jesus, we have the utmost confidence that our meager, imperfect, human prayers will absolutely reach the ears of the Almighty Father in Heaven!

Therefore, "let it be our comfort and strength to be assured that in the eternal fellowship of the Father and the Son, the power of prayer has its origin and certainty, and that through our union with the Son, our prayer is taken up and can have its influence in the inner life of the Blessed Trinity." - Murray

O LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 18... PRAYER IN HARMONY WITH MAN'S DESTINY: Whose image is this?

Matthew 21:19-20

"Show me the coin used for paying the tax.' They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, 'Whose image is this? And whose inscription?'"

Genesis 1:26

"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness,'"

When you look in the mirror, whose image do you see? The answer to this question is very significant. The image we bear determines our destiny. The image we bear tells us our purpose. The image we bear is that of God's.

Original State.

In [Genesis 1:28](#), God showed us what our destiny was: Be fruitful and fill the earth... Subdue it... And rule over it. Such power! Such prestige! And our place was right there beside God Himself. No distance or separation. Up close and personal with our creator and Father.

One of the most profound and amazing statements in the Bible to me is in [Genesis 3:8](#), which says, "Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day"

Take a moment to imagine yourself walking with God, in the garden, in the cool of the day.

- How would you address God?

- What would you talk about if this is how you started each day?

- How would you feel when you were done and started on your work for the day?

This, then, is how you should pray. If we can only get back to our destiny of a walking and talking relationship with God! That is our original state.

The Purpose of the Position.

What do we do with such a position, responsibility, power of being in harmony with the image in which we were created?

Look no further than Abraham. Abraham used his relationship with God to be a blessing to other people. Whole nations rose up, were protected from harm and blessed by God through Abraham's relationship with God!

Andrew Murray says, "We do not once find Abraham praying for himself. His prayer for Sodom and Lot, for Abimelech, for Ishmael, prove what power a man, who is God's friend, has to make the history of those around him."

Let us seek to have this kind of impact on the world through our relationship with God and by our prayers!

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 19... POWER FOR PRAYING AND WORKING: Because I'm going to the Father.

John 14:12-13

"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name"

Work Propels Us to Pray.

A disciple is a student or follower. By definition a disciple will be actively following in Jesus' footsteps. Making every effort to teach, proclaim the good news and heal the sick ([Matt.4:23](#)). When a person starts to do the work that Jesus did, we quickly realize how ill equipped we are for such tasks! Loving some people can be easy. Loving *everyone* is difficult! There are so many needs and we only have so much physical, emotional and spiritual resources. It is this awareness that propels those doing the work of Jesus to prayer.

- **Write a list of needs, situations and/or persons that you are helping with. Pray for God to meet the need, and to provide you with wisdom, strength and love in your involvement.**

Prayer Propels Us to Work.

There is something amazing about prayer and how it connects us and conforms us to God's heart. Even if we have not been working like we should in being like Jesus, just start praying. This is the solution.

Praying for people, situations and needs propels us to work. Mainly because in order to pray properly, we need to be involved in some manner.

Asking questions, seeing what's already been done, our hearts begin to become intertwined with the need. Then, we begin to see our own ability to help. We cannot in good conscious sit idly by at this point without grieving the Holy Spirit.

- **What action can you personally take to help meet a prayed about need?**

When we combine a disciple working themselves into prayer, and praying themselves into work... (mixed with the power of the Holy Spirit!) The end result is "greater works than these!"

O LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 20... THE CHEIF END OF PRAYER: That the Father may be glorified.

John 14:13

"Because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

It is to God's glory that prays are answered. This needs to be what we seek to accomplish and aim for when we pray. To ask in such a way, that by the answer, glory is given to God. Murray said, "He that seeks God's glory will see it in the answer to his prayer, and he alone." So now is a great time to check your true motives in prayer.

- **When you pray, lifting up your requests to God, is it driven by needs of self, to fulfill an obligation, or to see God glorified through receiving the answer?**

Consider John 5:44, "**How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?**"

Meditate on this question: **How can you pray, accepting glory from one another but not seeking to glorify God?**

In learning how to pray, we are now learning how our motives are hindering our prayers! However, let the glorification of God through prayer free you to lift *more* up to God in prayer! This is not selfish, but for the glory of God.

Murray also said, "When there is but little prayer that can be answered, the Father is not glorified. It is a duty, for the glory of God, to live and pray so that our prayer can be answered. For the sake of God's glory, let us learn to pray well."

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 21... THE ALL-INCLUSIVE CONDITION: If you remain in me.

John 15:7

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

Promises & Conditions.

We have here yet another promise from God about prayer. This promise comes with a condition though. **If** you remain in me, ask whatever and it **will** be done. This is an amazing promise, but what is concerning is how lacking its fulfillment seems to be among us disciples. Either, we are not remaining like we think we are, OR God is not fulfilling his promise. It's difficult to admit that either of those options are possible, so we tend to add to the scriptures a qualifier that is not present... If it's the Lord's will. If we would only accept the promise as is, embrace that we have fallen short on our end, we would be empowered to go to new heights in remaining and would reap the benefits of "it will be done for you!"

Faith & Obedience.

Faith is the beginning, the starting place. But faith is not complete until it produces obedience ([James 2:22](#)). Andrew Murray puts it this way: "Faith is obedience at home and looking to the Master: obedience is faith going out to do His will. He sees how he has been more occupied with the privilege and the blessings of this abiding than with its duties and its fruit."

Faith that has matured to actions best describes "remain in me and my words remain in you."

- What does your lack (or abundance) of answered prayers say about your remaining in him and his words?
- What step can you make today to turn this around?

O LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!