
WITH CHRIST

IN THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER

A 31-Day Quiet Time Series | Week 4

Day 22... THE WORD AND PRAYER: And my words remain in you.

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."

Hearing God's Voice.

Remaining in Jesus isn't the only key to receiving whatever we ask in prayer. The second part is having his words remain in us as well. **Are the words of God ever increasing within you?** Hearing God's voice shapes our voice as we talk to Him. It is in hearing God's voice that we begin to speak like He speaks, think like He thinks, then desire what He desires. Only through His words remaining in us can we be conformed to His likeness. The reason why we can ask for whatever and receive is because, by His words remaining in us, God trusts us and is confident that He can answer the prayer without us abusing the power.

- **Using your diet for His Word as a measure, can God trust you enough to answer your prayers?**

Before truly answering that question, one must consider that there is a difference between reading your Bible and hearing the voice of God. Reading your Bible will give you a knowledge of right and wrong, and a glimpse of God's will. But hearing God's voice means that you understand Who it is that is talking to you!

Falling on Deaf Ears.

Observation shows us that when a person loses their hearing, soon after their speech goes as well. There is something about not hearing that leads to not speaking. The same is true of the Word and prayer. When we stop hearing the voice of God and His words no longer remain in us, we soon lose our ability to pray. Although you may be practicing the action of prayer, your voice may lack volume and power.

Puny to Potent.

We often go to our comfort reasoning for God not answering our prayers, and say it is a matter of God's will and wisdom. Let us consider this

scripture as the true reasoning for puny prayer, my own lack of keeping God's words in me. This keeping God's word has everything to do with not just hearing the word, but obeying the word ([James 1:22](#)).

Andrew Murray says it best in terms of obedience and answered prayers, "If I do what God says, He will do what I say." Only then can we grab hold of and not let go of God's voice; and in doing so claim and experience a life of "ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 23... OBEDIENCE: PATH TO POWER IN PRAYER: Bear fruit, so that the Father will give what you ask.

John 15:16

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

James 5:16

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

The path to influencing the inner chambers of the Most High God through prayer is once again shown to us! The power of the chosen, fruit bearing disciple cannot be ignored. There is power mainly because there is faith's obedience. As we have read before, faith is made complete by what we do ([James 2:22](#)), therefore obedience is what makes strong prayer.

Some variants of Christianity see this as compromising the grace given us. As we search the scriptures though, we see that this is quite harmonious with all of scripture. Consider:
[1 John 3:22](#) • [Psalm 18:20,24](#) • [Psalm 15:1](#) • [James 5:16](#)

These scriptures, along with others not mentioned, should convince us that God connects righteousness with heard and answered prayers.

This obedience stems from submission to Jesus as Lord, along with being beloved sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. Because we know our place, we "make it our aim to please Him." It is because we love God back that we obey. In the gospel of John, Jesus connects obedience to Him with love for Him ([John 14:15,21,23](#)).

Our effectiveness in prayer is directly connected to our fruit bearing obedience. As we go out and bear fruit for God, we display our faith, trust and love for God; and God in return will give us whatever we ask for.

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 24... THE ALL-PREVAILING PLEA: In my name.

John 14:13-14

"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

John 15:16

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

John 16:23-26

"In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. 'Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. In that day you will ask in my name.'"

Here In His Name.

To come in the name of someone means that you are there with their permission, authority and power. Everything that they are, reputation, resources, connections are all at your disposal. It takes complete trust in someone to give them this position of coming in their name. Trust that this power of position will not be abused and thus taint the name. The same is true in prayer. Jesus has entrusted us with the authority to approach God and ask anything. There is trust in us to not abuse the position for selfish gain, but rather for the advancement of His will.

Present Trust.

In [John 16:23-26](#), Jesus says a day will come

(and has come) where we won't have to ask him, but rather we will have the ability to ask God Himself. This meant that the disciples did not always have the direct access to God. But we do!

- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus has entrusted you to approach God using his name?

- How should this responsibility change the way you pray?

Life in His Name.

Bearing the name of Jesus in prayer, also comes with the responsibility of wearing the name in life.

If we are to pray in Jesus' name, what kind of life should we be living?

As Andrew Murray said, "The name and the power of asking go together: when the Name of Jesus has become the power that rules my life, it's power in prayer with God will be seen too."

And also, "...when [the Name] is everything to me, it will obtain everything for me. If I let it have all I have, it will let me have all it has."

LORD, TEACH ME TO PRAY!

Day 25... THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PRAYER: In that day.

John 16:23-27

"In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God."

Jude 20-21

"But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life."

A New Level.

[1 John 2:12-14](#) points to three life stages of the Christian life: little children, young men and fathers. It appears that there are similar stages in prayer as well. The Sermon on the Mount starts us little children off with the basic concept of God as the perfect Father but in heaven ([Matthew 6:6,8,9](#)). Embracing "how much more" was our initial area of growth ([Luke 11:13](#)).

Then comes the struggle of us young adults, wrestling with knowing that our crying out day and night, preserving prayer is being heard ([Luke 18:6-8](#)). It is in this battle where we learn that

sometimes prayer isn't enough, but some demons need prayer and fasting to come out ([Matthew 17:19-21](#)).

And lastly we come to life as spiritual parents. Here is where the disciples were when Jesus called them friends instead of servants ([John 15:14-15](#)). They had graduated and we're now ready for a new level of prayer. The prayer by way of the Holy Spirit made possible only through the conquest of the cross. A new level because before this, God's very presence on earth was through the temple at best. A new level because the cross converted our very selves into temples!

A Different Kind of Prayer.

Take a moment to read [Romans 8:26-27](#). The new level of praying was new for the disciples after Pentecost, but for us it's all we've known but have not fully understood. We should find it humbling that we really don't know what we should be praying for! Even at our best moments, we often lack the unity with God to pray aright. But praise be to God! Who has given us His very Spirit who "[intercedes for us](#)." This Spirit inside of us knows our inner workings, also knows the mind of God, and prays for us "[through wordless groans](#)!" We need only to maintain a lifestyle of prayer, and sometimes in silence, as to allow the very Spirit of God to deliver on our behalf that which we may not even know we need.

O LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 26... CHRIST THE INTERCESSOR: I have prayed for you.

Luke 22:31-32

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

Hebrews 7:25

"Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."

Redemption Made Complete.

[Hebrews 7:23-24](#) speaks of the permanent priesthood position that Jesus holds. It was very important to God's plan that Jesus not only die on the cross but also be raised to this everlasting position. Jesus went from Sacrifice here on earth, to Intercessor up in heaven. The forgiveness part is important in allowing us to be saved. The intercessory part is important for us to stay saved! Redemption was not complete at baptism. Redemption is only made complete as we faithfully go to our graves. We need Jesus praying for us!

Perfect Intercession.

We need Jesus praying for us, because Jesus has one

hand perfectly on God, and his other hand perfectly on humanity. That makes the words spoken in [Luke 22:31-32](#) so much more comforting, "I have prayed for you."

- How does Jesus saying to you "*I have prayed for you*" make you feel?

- When Jesus says "*And when you turn back*" how do you feel knowing that Jesus has so much faithful hope of your repentance?

Let Jesus' perfect intercession soak into our hearts and minds. He can relate. He cares. He prays for you. And not with a heart of disappointment in your failures, but he prays with a heart of loving expectation of victory, and faithful hope of repentance.

Interceding Like Jesus.

Because Jesus prays for us in such a way, we ought to join Him in this wonderful work. Just as the scripture says "He ever lives to intercede" let us ever live to intercede for the people in our circle of influence... enemies and brothers alike.

Let us not just allow Jesus to intercede for us, but knowing that God hears us because of Jesus' intercession, we should intercede for others.

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 27... CHRIST THE HIGH PRIEST: Father, I want.

John 17:24

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."

Jesus Goes Into 'Priest Mode.'

In John 17, Jesus goes full out priest mode! He leaves us an example praying for himself, his circle of disciples, then all disciples for all-time. Before this chapter we have only bits and pieces of prayers coming from Jesus. But here we have a full chapter (minus half a sentence) of Jesus praying! Therefore, one would do well to study deeply Jesus' example here of prayer.

Father I Want.

Jesus' desire, expressed here in his prayer for his disciples, is for those given him to be with him in glory. This is at the heart of intercessory prayer: the desire for others to be with God. It is this desire for the salvation of others that drives us to intercede for them. Little intercession means little care. Lots of intercession means lots of care.

- What does your amount of intercession reveal about your unity with Jesus' heart of "I want others to be with me in heaven"?

Reason I Can 'Will' to God.

Jesus starts his prayer revealing the source of his own powerful prayer, "Glorify your son, that your Son may glorify you." The reason Jesus' prayer was so powerful, was that glorifying God was at the heart of it. Our prayers become powerful as

we do the same, seek to glorify God by what we ask for in prayer. As we glorify God with Jesus, God will glorify us by answering our prayers. The other reason we can "will" (desire, ask) to God is when we not only intercede for people, (desiring them to be with Jesus so that God be glorified) but also give them God's word ([John 17:8](#)). People will not follow Jesus, or make it to heaven unless they are given the Word to believe and embrace in their life. The impact of your interceding is in giving them the Word.

Seek to glorify God with your prayer life. Desire for those you influence to make it to glory. Wash them with the water of the Word ([Ephesians 5:26](#)). And in doing so, you can also pray "Father, I want."

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 28... CHRIST THE SACRIFICE: Father, not what I will.

Mark 14:35-36

"Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. 'Abba, Father,' he said, 'everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.'"

Chicken or the Egg?

Jesus as Intercessor was able to say "Father, I want." However, Jesus as Sacrifice said "Father, not what I will." What a drastic shift! But which one came first? It was the sacrifice that paved the way for intercession. Although we have a glimpse of Christ the Intercessor in John 17, he then became a sacrifice on the cross. It was Christ as Sacrifice that allows him to have permanent priesthood in heaven. The same is true in our prayers as well. Before we can say "Father I want" we must first learn to say "Father not what I want."

The Complete Prayer.

In his weakest moment, Jesus asked that the cup be taken away from him. As we can see from the scriptures, this petition went unanswered. Jesus can even relate to unanswered prayers! This doesn't mean you are unspiritual, it just means that you may be praying outside of the promises and will of God. Up until this point, Jesus and God have been completely on point and unified. At this point, knowing all that was to come, Jesus' want to not go through with it was very much real.

- **What do you do when your wants and desires do not match up with the promises and will of God? Do you just move forward anyway? Do you get advice?**

Jesus prayed. But his prayer didn't stop at "take this cup from me," he continued saying, "yet not what I will, but what you will." Although Jesus' prayer for God to take the cup went unanswered, his prayer for God's will to be done was answered majestically!

Read [Philippians 2:6-11](#)...

- **Take a couple of minutes and meditate on what happens when we pray** "Father, not what I want."

O LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!