
WITH CHRIST

IN THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER

A 31-Day Quiet Time Series | Week 4

Day 29... OUR BOLDNESS IN PRAYER: According to His will.

1 John 5:14-15

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him."

When in Doubt.

How amazing is this promise of God! That if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. This scripture reminds the disciple of Christ of the confidence that we have in receiving answer to prayer. Yet, confidence is not the descriptive word that most of us would use. We replace confidence with "this is the *hope*, or *potential* that we have."

Our confidence is lessened to hope because we claim uncertainty to knowing the will of God. Surely God is not making His will elusive. Surely God has given us His word so that we may know Him and His will. When in doubt of what we ask, we do not have the boldness to ask or the faith to receive the answer.

Prayer According to Promise.

We confidently can say we know God's will when we know God's word and God's word is known and evident in our lives. In God's word, the Bible, we have all sorts of precious promises that He has left for us, yes even our generation! The secret to the confidence that John speaks of is praying according to those promises, and not outside of them. As we studied in Christ the Sacrifice, the prayer of Jesus that went unanswered was when he asked for the cup to be taken away. This was outside of the promises given to him. Then he followed that request up, however, with, not my will but yours be done. And that prayer, within God's promises, was gloriously answered!

The faithful child of God takes a promise of God, and applies it to his current situation. Thus he says, "God I am claiming this promise in my life right now." Andrew Murray said, "O let us no

longer throw the blame of our unanswered prayers on the secret will of God, but on our praying amiss." Prayer according to promise is powerful, and produces the confidence that He indeed hears us!

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 30... THE MINISTRY OF INTERCESSION: A holy priesthood.

1 Peter 2:4-5

"As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Isaiah 61:6

"And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God."

Priesthood requires two hands for service. With one hand the priest draws close to God. With the other hand the priest draws close to man. Drawing near to God requires holiness. Drawing near to man requires heart.

Holiness for God.

A priest of the Lord was to be holy, set apart and undefiled before the Lord ([Exodus 30:30](#)). This was the case for temple worship in the Old Testament. Jesus' sacrifice is not a ritualistic cleansing of the outside however, but also a cleansing of our inside ([Hebrews 9:13-14](#)). This cleansing is not a one-time occurrence, but rather an ongoing, continual cleansing. This continual cleansing happens as we walk in the light ([1 John 1:7,9](#)) and seek not to sin ([1 John 2:1-2](#)). The power and effectiveness of a righteous person's prayer, is due to their personal walk with God. We need to be the ones to whom Jesus can say: "[have not stained their clothes.](#)"

- Is there any sin that you have hiding in the dark?

Bring it into the light with the people in your life who can pray for you and help, so that you can resume your position in the Holy Priesthood!

Heart for Man.

The priest of God is also responsible for connecting man to God. Holiness was not just the life of a priest; holiness of God's people was the goal of the priest. Now that we have cleansed ourselves, we work to help others be cleansed. This takes a love for God and a love for people. Without love for people, we will not call people to God. Without a love for God, we will not call people to the right standards of living. The world is full of perishing souls who do not know their right hand from their left ([Jonah 4:11](#)). This world needs you, priest of the Living God, to intercede and sacrifice on their behalf.

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Day 31... A LIFE OF PRAYER: Never stop praying.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." (NLT)

It only makes sense that never ceasing prayer is right in between never ceasing joy, and never ceasing thankfulness. Joy in who God is and what His promises are lead us to pray. Also, because of how boundless prayer is, we can be thankful in all circumstances.

Living a life of unceasing prayer does not mean that every word out of your mouth is a prayer. J.B. Lightfoot said "It is not in the moving of the lips, but the elevation of the heart to God, that the essence of prayer consists." Unceasing prayer means that you take every opportunity afforded to you to pray. The Bible Knowledge Commentary says: "The adverb for continually was used in Greek of a hacking cough."

In order to never stop praying, one needs to accumulate and put into practice the lessons learned in Jesus' school of prayer. To boil it down, here are the Secrets to Never-Ceasing Prayer:

Devoted Life to God.

The person who prays solely out of habit, for the good of self or to place God in a lamp as some genie, will never pray unceasingly. Rather, a person who lays aside their wants and desires, who seeks alone God's wants and desires, that person lives a life devoted to God. That person, who has laid their life down on the alter, can truly say: glorify your son, so that your son can glorify you! A life devoted to God will never stop praying.

Assurance of Answer.

Ask and you will receive is both the beginning ([Matthew 7:8](#)) and the end ([John 16:24](#)) of Jesus' teaching on prayer. We know to take aim and pray specifically, and to ask according to the promises, and that sometimes prayer needs to accumulate by storing up until the proper time, but nothing should take away the confidence, assurance and certainty of the fact that when we ask we will receive! If you have the assurance of an answer, you will never stop praying.

Housing the Holy Spirit.

We do not know how to pray. Let's face the facts that we desperately need the Holy Spirit of God living inside of us. And since we do not often even know what we need, let us rely on His Holy Spirit to intercede for us and speak on our behalf. As I walk in the Spirit more and more, my spirit and the Holy Spirit become more unified. Truly the person who houses the Holy Spirit will never stop praying.

Taught By Jesus.

Lastly, and perhaps the foundation on which everything else is built, is the fact that Jesus teaches us how to pray. These lessons by Jesus were put into motion when the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Having the humility to ask to be taught how to pray, at any stage of life is extremely noble. The disciples did not let their religious background stop them from asking. They did not allow their age stop them from asking. They did not let how they would be perceived stop them from asking. Instead, by asking, they were enrolled in the most meaningful, life liberating, eternity impacting, school subject of all time... prayer. Anyone taught by Jesus, will never stop praying.

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY! LORD, TEACH ME TO PRAY!