

**RE-
DISCOVER
PRAYER**

RE-DISCOVER PRAYER

May 17, 2015

Sermon in a sentence: Prayer is the key that makes all of God's resources available to His children.

Scriptures: Matt. 6:5-13 (KJV); 1 Tim. 2:1-10.

Congregational reading: Matt 6:5-13 (KJV)

Matthew 6:5-13 (KJV) And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ⁶ But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. ⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. ⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: **Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

God is a very personal deity who desires a relationship with His people. He wants to be a part of every activity we engage in, every relationship we enjoy, every decision we make, every goal we pursue, and every thought we think.

He has the ability to transform our lives from mundane to magnificent, from blah to bliss, from failure to fulfillment, from disaster to delight.

But His involvement in our lives is based on a couple of very simple premises: we must **receive the incredible salvation He offers to us, and we must **invite Him** into our lives, day by day, to do the things He desires to do in us, and to help us in our areas of need.**

Prayer is the key that unlocks the door to relationship with God and gives us access to His resources. We have to invite Him into our lives, through prayer.

****Illustration: (See pictures below.) The car or the house may look spectacular, but access is only possible by using the appropriate key. Likewise, access to God and His resources is only possible by using the appropriate key: prayer!****

Knowing Jesus as Savior and friend is only possible through consistent prayer. We literally need to get to the place where we pray without ceasing. We must lean on Him daily and realize we can do nothing good, or accomplish anything godly without God's enabling, through prayer.

As the Lord sees our desire to get closer to Him, He speaks to us and tells us what's on His heart. He motivates us to trust Him with our lives and test Him in incredible circumstances! We must always be in the mode of prayer – in a state where God can feel free to communicate with us at any time.

Jesus – the master storyteller, taught people about the power of prayer: the unjust judge (Luke 18:1ff), the friend at midnight (Lu 11:1ff), the Pharisee and the publican (Luke 18:9ff).

He also exemplified a life of prayer: a night in prayer before choosing the apostles (Luke 6:12-16), rejoiced over their successes in ministry (Luke 10:21-22), His intercessory prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (John 17), and teaching His disciples how to pray (Matthew 6:9ff).

Prayer is the key to life. The key to entering into God's presence. The key to revival, soul-saving and spiritual growth. Prayer is the key to healthy attitudes and relationships. Prayer is the key to consistent Christian living and having God's will realized in our lives.

How you pray, where you pray and when you pray is totally up to you. Just pray! You can stand (Luke 18:11); kneel (Dan. 6:10); lift your hands (1 Kg. 8:22); sit (2 Sam. 7:18); bow your head (Gen. 24:26); lift your eyes to heaven (John 17:1); or fall prostrate before God (Gen. 17:3). Just pray! You can pray silently (1 Sam. 1:13); or with an oratorical flow for all to hear (2 Ch. 6:12-15).

"The act of praying is the very highest energy of which the human mind is capable; praying, that is, with the total concentration of the faculties. The great mass of worldly men and of learned men are absolutely incapable of prayer." -- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

"Is it true that prayer is simply the compliance with habit, dull and mechanical? A petty performance into which we are trained till tameness, shortness, superficiality are its chief elements? Is it true that prayer is, as is assumed, little else than the half-passive play of sentiment which flows languidly on through the minutes or hours of easy reverie? Let those who have really prayed give the answer. They sometimes describe prayer with the patriarch Jacob as a wrestling together with an Unseen Power which may last, not unfrequently in an earnest life, late into the night hours, or even to the

break of day. Sometimes they refer to common intercession with St. Paul as a concerted struggle. They have, when praying, their eyes fixed on the Great Intercessor in Gethsemane, upon the drops of blood which fall to the ground in that agony of resignation and sacrifice. Importunity is of the essence of successful prayer. Importunity means not dreaminess but sustained work. It is through prayer especially that the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it by force." (Canon Liddon.)

It was a saying of the late Bishop Hamilton that "No man is likely to do much good in prayer who does not begin by looking upon it in the light of a work to be prepared for and persevered in with all the earnestness which we bring to bear upon subjects which are in our opinion at once most interesting and most necessary." (From *Power Through Prayer* by Pastor E.M. Bounds, Chapter 8).

Prayer can change the course of nature, but unless prayer is made, nature will take its course.

Prayer Time: "Lord, from this day forward, I dedicate my life to You in fervent, unceasing prayer, in Jesus' name."









All these are accessible to you, if only you use the key.

**All of God is accessible to you, if only you use His key:
PRAYER!**