

## THE POWER OF PRAYER

The power of prayer is that it provides us with access to communicate with the Almighty God.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ Prayer is communication with God. This communication involves more than us speaking to God; it also involves God speaking to us.
- ❖ It is this connection to the living God that makes prayer such a powerful force. Through prayer we are able to access the power of the Almighty God.
- ❖ The Word of God is an important aspect of prayer. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to us. It reveals His love, desire and purpose for us.
- ❖ The Bible helps us to understand how we are to interact with God, the things that please Him and the things that He does not like.
- ❖ Prayer is designed to be a key element in the development and growth of our relationship with God.
- ❖ It is important for us to understand that God is desirous of having communion with us.
- ❖ It's not surprising that the scripture says that "men ought always to pray and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).
- ❖ The experience of Judah's King Hezekiah illustrates how powerful prayer can be in a person's life.
- ❖ King Hezekiah's father, Ahaz, did evil in the sight of the Lord. He made idols, burned his sons in idol worship and committed abominations before God.
- ❖ King Hezekiah chose his own path. He did not follow the example of his father Ahaz but chose to follow God for Himself.
- ❖ We don't have to be influenced by those around us who choose not to follow God; we can chart our own path towards God.
- ❖ King Hezekiah systematically began to restore the institutions that God had established with the children of Israel when He delivered them from Egypt.
- ❖ The key element to all that King Hezekiah did was that it was according to the word of God!
- ❖ King Hezekiah was able to access the forgiveness and healing of God through prayer (see 2 Chronicles 30:13-20).
- ❖ It seems inevitable that all of us at some point in our lives will encounter some circumstance that represents a significant challenge.
- ❖ The question is: what will we do when we face this challenge?
- ❖ For King Hezekiah, the challenge was Sennacherib, King of Assyria, who was coming against Judah with a powerful army. His intention? To attack, invade and conquer them.
- ❖ Sennacherib symbolizes sin, or a type of bondage or an element that is displeasing to God.

### KEY SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 19:15-19 (NASB)

- He was a pagan king who represented practices that were hostile to God's nature.
- ❖ Whenever we decide to fight against sin and the things that are displeasing to God, it usually results in some kind of opposition.
  - ❖ The strategy of Sennacherib and his servants was to try and undermine King Hezekiah's confidence in God. Confidence that would propel Judah's king to approach God's throne in prayer with boldness.
  - ❖ But first, King Hezekiah had to decide how he was going to respond. He could have followed the path of his father, Ahaz, who chose to serve Sennacherib king of Assyria. He could have just given up.
  - ❖ The Bible says, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, But we will remember the name of the Lord our God" (Psalm 20:7).
  - ❖ Hezekiah's response was to pray to the living God. Our response to the challenges that we will inevitably face should also be prayer to the Almighty God.
  - ❖ Prayer is not a mystical exercise that causes everything in our lives to be perfect.
  - ❖ The power in prayer is that it provides us with the opportunity to bring our cares and life concerns before the Almighty God.
  - ❖ "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:16, Berean Study Bible).

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Read Matthew 6:1-14, 25-31 and 7:7-12. What does Jesus teach about prayer in these verses?
2. Jesus taught that "men always ought to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). Paul tells the churches to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). Explain these teachings
3. What are some things that might cause us to practice "prayer-distancing" from God? What are some probable results?
4. Have you ever prayed even when you didn't "feel like it"? How would you advise someone experiencing that same feeling?
5. Take time now to pray, alone or with others.

### PRAYER TIME

Lord, please help me to put all my confidence in You and know that I can commune with You in prayer regardless of what I am experiencing in life. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start-up: If you need something you cannot do/provide for yourself, who do you turn to most often? Is it usually the same person?

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)    💡 (New idea)    🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this)    ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)    ↔ (Must share)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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*Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline*

## "WE PRAY" FS FACEBOOK GROUP

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/wepayatfaithsanctuary/>

**PRAYER FOCUS: Foreign missionaries: anointing to preach the gospel and to lead and empower national workers; family unity, personal protection**



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to [announcements@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:announcements@faithsanctuary.com) by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to [media@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:media@faithsanctuary.com).)

#### FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

For email transfers, please use the following address:  
[donate@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:donate@faithsanctuary.com)

What a friend we have in Jesus  
All our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit  
Oh, what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer

#### NOTICE:

**Faith Sanctuary services are suspended indefinitely at the direction of public officials until further notice. Watch our services at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday morning until we return to regular scheduled services.**

#### 4 ways to get to it:

- i) click the "livestream" link on the top menu bar on the Faith Sanctuary homepage
- ii) type [www.faithsanctuary.com/live](http://www.faithsanctuary.com/live)
- iii) go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for "Faith Sanctuary".
- iv) call 1-844-268-4848 for toll-free telephone live streaming

**\*KNOW JESUS, LOVE JESUS, SHARE JESUS\***

## FAITH FOUNDATIONS

### GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

### GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

### GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

### HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

### THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

### OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

### CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

MAY 17, 2020

  
**Faith**  
SANCTUARY  
Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

*2020 ~the year of vision~ 2020*

**Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie**

*"The Lord will command His  
lovingkindness in the daytime,  
And in the night His song shall  
be with me –  
A prayer to the God of my life."  
Psalm 42:8 NKJV*

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

1901 Jane St, Toronto, Ontario M9N 3T9  
Phone: 416-244-4898

Email: [mail@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:mail@faithsanctuary.com)  
Website: [www.faithsanctuary.com](http://www.faithsanctuary.com)