

The Gracious Power of Prayer

Prayer Connects Us with God's Heart

"Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us."
-Psalm 62:8

- Prayer is a wonderful two-way communication where we can pour out our hearts to God, and in return we can listen and connect to God's loving heart.
- God's Holy Spirit wants a loving, intimate relationship with us. (John 17:21) Prayer is a magnificent spiritual connection between God's Holy Spirit and our souls.
- God reveals His heart to us through prayer. (2 Chronicles 7:14) As we spend time communicating with God, we get better at recognizing Him, His ways, and His voice.

"If my people who are called by My Name will humble themselves, and **pray and seek My face**, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

Prayer Changes Us

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." -Psalm 139:23-24

- As we come to know God. He reveals Himself to us, teaches us His ways and shows us His paths.
- As the Lord helps us to know ourselves, through prayer, the Lord brings conviction of sin, repentance, healing and holiness to our lives.
- Grace is experienced and celebrated. Through prayer we receive God's grace in our hearts, and we extend grace to others.
- God wants us to partner with Him in prayer to bring the changes that will accomplish His purposes.

Prayer Puts You in the Right Posture Before God

- **A Posture of Humility** (2 Chronicles 7:14) You are God; I am not. You are the Creator; I am created. You are the potter; I am the clay. You set the way; I walk in it. Make me into the person you want me to be.
- **A Posture of Receiving** (1 John 3:21-22) I'm positioned to "die to Myself." As God increases; I decrease. I let the Lord capture my heart so all else pales in comparison. Then I can see God, and receive His cleansing, His love, His revealing of Himself.
- **A Posture of Service** (Matthew 16:25) I hold my life lightly, and I hand it back to God for Him to own, direct and control.

Three Simple Steps to Prayer

Connect

- Pray for your heart to open and connect to God.

Pray, *“Father God, please open my heart to love You, Please let my heart feel the warmth of Your love and know Your presence.”*



Clarity - Ask to See Your Life as God Sees it

Pray, *“God, please show me where I have offended You. Show me my sin. Open my heart up, Lord, to know the depth of the pain I caused You by turning away from You...At the feet of your cross, Jesus, I ask for Your mercy...and I seek and accept Your forgiveness.”*

- Pray for Your life (heart, mind, thoughts, choices, actions) to be more like Christ.

Change-Pray for Changes in You

- Ask for God's will in your life and for His supernatural strength to live it out.
- Ask God to show you the steps He would want you to take.

“Dear Lord, tell me in my thoughts how you want me to act in this situation. In spire me with steps that You want me to take to have Your will lived out in my life. Lord, guide my actions, give me Your words.”

“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men.”
Matthew 6:5

- Do not try to impress others.
- Do not try to impress God.
- God wants us to be humble and genuine.

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father who sees what is don in secret, will reward you.”

Matthew 6:6

- Get away from distractions.
- Be comfortable and in a quiet place so you can concentrate and listen.

“And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.” Matthew 6:7-8

- Open your heart up, and keep your talk simple.
- Pray as if you are talking to your very best friend or the perfect loving parent.



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