

“Getting LIFE in Your Prayer Life”
January 26, 2014

PROP- Prayer is a life-interaction with God where we are caught up in His world—and long to see His world invade ours!

- More than a *“religious compartment” of our life*—it IS our life!
- Place of friendship with God—unbroken conversation. Unbroken communion.
- More than an “activity”—an *“interactivity”* where we “watch & pray”—declare and discover more of Him

1. THE ESSENCE OF PRAYER (Luke 11:1-8)

[Not actually “The LORD’S Prayer”—includes “forgive us our sins”—something He never had to ask for, since He “had no sin” (2 Cor. 5:21). It is actually “Key essentials for US to have a healthy prayer life”]

TWO KEY ESSENTIALS:

a. “TAKE IT ALL IN & TAKE IT TO HEART”-

- The **contemplative** part of our relationship with Him
- “In quietness and trust” we find “great strength” (Isaiah 30:15)
- “Be still and know that (He) is God” (Psalm 46:10)
- Time to take note
- Take thought
- Take rest...take time to meditate...consider...to “abide in” and “think on”...

“WE have a Father. He reigns forever in the Heavenly realm. And He is HOLY—IN A CATEGORY ALL BY HIMSELF—unchanging and past our “finding out”—yet He is OURS. And He is FATHER.”

b. “TAKE RESPONSIBILITY & TAKE ACTION”-

- We want His Kingdom to come to our world
- If it’s IN Heaven—we want it!
- If it’s NOT in Heaven—we refuse it!
- Every breakthrough—every encounter with Him has this dynamic!
- This is at the heart of **SPIRITUAL WARFARE**
 - Not striving
 - Not simply focusing on the negative
 - Flows from **REST...JOY...INTIMACY...PEACE**
 - Knowing Jesus has “**ALL AUTHORITY** in Heaven and on earth”—He got the **KEYS BACK!!!**
 - Stop being nervous about the one who has **NO AUTHORITY!!!**
 - **LUKE 10:19** becomes our **NEW REALITY**

- We move from FORFEITING our authority → STANDING in it!!!
- Living in the CONVICTION that whatever is going on in Heaven should be happening here—and whatever isn't in Heaven must stop!!!
- We want “living bread” for everyone else on their journey to find Him—moving us to so know Him and become like Him—THEY ASK US, “WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU???” (1 Peter 3:15) because we “have hope”!

2. THE PERSISTENCE OF PRAYER (Luke 18:1-8)

We simply refuse to allow our circumstances to take us out or back us off!
Neither opposition, disappointment, nor delay will take the life out of our prayer life!!!

[Baker's Dictionary] “WIDOWS” in N. T. Times-

- **The loss of a husband was both a social & an economic tragedy**
- Immediately thrust into living a **marginal existence in extreme poverty**
- Prime target for **exploitation**
- Immediately classed as a “**landless stranger**”
- **Legal rights were “minimal, at best”**

To make matters worse, she lived in a district overseen by a corrupt judge “**who neither feared God nor cared about men.**”

YET, “**she refused to quit. She persisted and prevailed in prayer.**”

- **Jesus is the Righteous Judge**
- **Our enemy—“the accuser”—has NO authority. He only gets the authority WE FORFEIT.** (Time to lock your car & take your keys! The only way someone can drive you crazy—is if you give them the keys!!!)
- **Jesus spoke to the devil in the wilderness.** (Avoid the 2 extremes of obsession or ignorance).
- **The devil must bow to one kind of talk—“The Word of God.” Our only weapon of offense is “His Word in our mouth!”**
- **Prayer includes speaking up to your accuser. A simple declaration; not an endless dialogue. (Jesus rebuked demons “with a word.”)**

RESPONSE:

Prayer is God's relentless commitment to cause everything He's worked IN US—to now flow THROUGH US!

[Let's address every place—in families, regionally, etc.—where Heaven needs to happen...and darkness must cease]