

“Pray It Like You Mean It!”
January 5, 2014

PROP- Prayer is a lifestyle—powerfully transforming us as He restores the world around us.

1. PRAYER is more than an ACTIVITY—it’s an ATTITUDE.

- **A MIND-SET (Colossians 3:2- “a *mind set on things above*”)**
- **A POSTURE OF OUR HEARTS (Living in *dynamic intimacy* with our Father, our hearts thrive in constant **dependency and expectancy**. We need Him! And we expect Him to move!)**
- **A PERSPECTIVE we live in “at all times” (Ephesians 6:18)**
 - **“Everything by prayer” (Philippians 4:6-7)**
 - **“Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)**

2. PRAYER is the SAFEST PLACE.

- Place where we **increasingly discover** the One who **fully knows us**
- Place of **transparency & transformation**
- Place we come **“boldly” (Heb. 4:16)**—place of **“cheerful confidence where we can speak freely.”**
 - You can **“make your requests known to God” (Phil. 4:6)**
 - You can **“ask (and keep on asking)” (Matt. 7:7)**
 - **“Don’t be pulled in different directions or worried about a thing. Be saturated in prayer throughout each day, offering your faith-filled requests before God with overflowing gratitude. Tell Him every detail of your life, then God’s wonderful peace—transcending human understanding—will make the answers known to you through Jesus Christ.” (Phil. 4:6-7 TPT)**

3. PRAYER is a DISCIPLINE that pursues DEMONSTRATIONS (of His power & love).

- The **“ACTS of the Apostles”**—not simply the “Disciplines of the Apostles”
- How they prayed: **“Extend Your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of Your holy servant Jesus” (Acts 4:30)**
- **Paul: “in demonstration of the Spirit’s power” (1 Cor. 2:4)**
- **“Signs and wonders were done among you with great perseverance.” (2 Cor. 12:12)**
- **PRAYER INCREASES OUR APPETITE FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE!**

4. PRAYER is filled with CONFESSIONS—not CONCESSIONS.

- It presses for more—refusing to settle for less!
- It lives in expectancy—refusing to remain in our experience.
- Jesus “went about healing ALL”—He is “not willing for any to perish, but for all to come”! Though we have not experienced this yet, we refuse to settle for less!!!
- Jesus: “Always pray and never give up” (Luke 18:1)
 - “Cancer-free zone”
 - “Makob” (Isa. 53:6)- *mental/emotional anguish; Lit.- “to spoil; have something taken away” Restore peace & clarity.*

5. PRAYER enters into WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO US.

- Acts 12- like this prayer group, we can keep asking for what we already have
- Isaiah 66:7- “Tear open the heavens and come down”
 - Mark 1:9ff- He did! Signaling a New Era of increased manifestations!
 - Rev. 4:1- “I saw a door OPEN in the HEAVENS” (No one can shut it!)
- Jesus has “ALL authority in the heavens and on the earth” (Mt. 28)
 - That means someone has NONE!
 - 1 Jn. 3:8- “destroy the devil’s work” (*break up his business*)

6. PRAYER turns us from INWARD-FOCUS to UPWARD & OUTWARD focus.

- Acts 5- the (outshining) of Peter’s shadow brought transformation & healing to many people along the streets
- This would not have happened had Peter been fearfully internalized.
- “As we live the lifestyle of prayer—focusing upward & outward—lives are set free, bodies are restored, confusion lifts from people’s minds, the enemy’s tyranny is displaced. Businesses grow. Relationships flourish. People reconnect with their identities and callings. Churches grow. And cities feel the tangible effects of God’s Kingdom on the earth. Weariness—fueled by fear, worry & complaining—is replaced by a heavenly exuberance to see His will done on the earth just as it is in Heaven!”
- When you know who God made you to be—you’ll never want to be anyone else!

RESPONSE:

“The Lord’s Prayer”—bold declarations of an overcoming church.

(Luke 11:2) “When you pray, SAY...” (*Declare as reality*)-

- We have a FATHER...in Him we have an identity and an inheritance!

- **He is HOLY—in a category all by Himself. And nothing is impossible for Him!**
- **He will manifest His Kingdom realities & purposes here on the earth!**
 - **If it IS in Heaven—we want it!**
 - **It it's NOT in Heaven—we refuse it!**
- **At ALL times He will supply ALL we need—DAILY!**
- **We will live as FORGIVEN FORGIVERS.**
 - **Choosing gratitude—over grudges**
 - **Releasing others—not retaliating**
- **He will lead us in triumph—over every scheme of the enemy!**
- **BECAUSE He will reign in undisputed power, majesty & glory forever!!!**