

Part 21: "NOW WE TAKE POSSESSION!"

Part 3 - "Experiencing the Life-Changing Power of Prayer"

Texts:

Luke 18:1-8 (NKJV) - "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, [2] saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. [3] Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' [4] And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, [5] yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'" [6] Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. [7] And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? [8] I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV) - "Pray without ceasing."

Part 2 - "The Power of Prayer to Change Your Situation"

A. Some people do not believe in prayer—or even in God.

1. The truth is, at some point in our lives, every one of us will face a situation that will cause us to need the help of God.
2. **Joke:** "Dial-Up Prayer for Atheists"

This is a joke, okay? I heard the other day about a "Dial Up Prayer for Atheists." You dial this number and it rings and rings and rings, but no one answers.

B. This inspiration on the 12 types of prayer was given to me by God and is now in our book store.

1. Seven of these 12 types are what I call Devotional Prayers and five are Strategic Prayers.
2. The seven Devotional Prayers are:
 - a. Prayers of Thanksgiving
 - b. Laudatory Prayers
 - c. Prayers of Contrition
 - d. Prayers of Petition
 - e. Prayers of Dedication
 - f. Prayers of Commitment (Consecration)
 - g. Prayers of Intimacy
3. Devotional Prayers are about you and your personal relationship with God, while Strategic Prayers are about the purposes of God and bringing His Kingdom on earth.
4. Strategic Prayers affect other people, governments and nations, and can even generate revival and societal transformation. God can use these prayers to change situations you know nothing about!

C. Learning about these five Strategic Prayers can be life-changing!

1. Prayers of Intercession

- a. Intercessory prayers are among the most powerful of all prayers. The word "intercede" means: *to stand between*. That could be: standing between two people, standing between the

enemy and a person, or in some cases, standing between God and another person to prevent them from receiving what they actually deserve.

- b. Abraham interceded before God for the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18:22-33.
- c. Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25).
- d. For Strategic Prayers to be truly effective, you must first develop your Devotional Prayers. Having a close relationship with God is essential for offering powerful Strategic Prayers.
- e. Before Abraham began to intercede, he first ***drew near*** to God.
- f. **Genesis 18:22-23 (KJV)** - "And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. [23] And ***Abraham drew near***, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?"
- g. After drawing near to God, Abraham then positioned himself between God and the destruction of Sodom by asking if the city would be spared if there were 50 righteous people. He then negotiated all the way to 10 righteous people. But why did he stop at 10? Lot's family had more than 10 members. This one thing prevented God from sparing Sodom: Abraham had not understood the negative effects of this culture upon Lot and his family.

2. Prayers of Agreement

- a. Jesus taught His disciples, "If just two people on earth will agree concerning whatever they ask, it will be done by our Father in Heaven" (**Matthew 18:19 NKJV**).

- b. When people pray together in unity, the effectiveness of prayer is dramatically increased. This is why I often ask our members to share their requests with one another.
- c. If you haven't experienced a breakthrough by praying alone, ask someone to agree with you in prayer.

3. **Declarative, or Confessional Prayers**

- a. This prayer first declares, and then confesses the Word of God about a situation.
- b. **Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)** - "They overcame him (satan) by the blood of the lamb and the WORD of their testimony."
- c. Their testimony declared that God is faithful to perform His Word. At times, you may have to stand on the Word of God and simply ignore what people say or the circumstances.
- d. If you "personalize" Psalm 91, it would read like this:
Psalm 91:1-11 (NKJV) - "Because I dwell in the secret place of the Most High, I shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. [2] I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." [3] Surely He shall deliver me from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. [4] He shall cover me with His feathers, And under His wings I shall take refuge; His truth shall be my shield and buckler. [5] I shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, [6] Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. [7] A thousand may fall at my side, And ten thousand at my right hand; But it shall not come near me. [8] Only with my eyes shall I look, And see the reward of the wicked. [9] Because I have made the LORD, my refuge, Even

the Most High, my dwelling place, [10] No evil shall befall me, Nor shall any plague come near my dwelling; [11] For He shall give His angels charge over me, To keep me in all my ways.”

4. **Warfare Prayers**

- a. These prayers will propel you to an offensive position against the enemy.
- b. When Elijah stood at Mt. Carmel, he declared, “Let the God who answers by fire be God” (**1 Kings 18:24**).
- c. In our day, people consider an idol to be nothing more than a carving of wood or stone ... and that is correct! But never forget that an idol represents a demonic spirit—which is very real! Elijah challenged the unseen demonic spirits that empowered the idol of Baal.
- d. Warfare Prayers engage the armies of God to fight for you. One of the names of God, “The Lord of Hosts,” refers to: “The God of Angel Armies!”
- e. Warfare Prayers commission armies of angels to fight for you! When Judah was attacked by the combined armies of Moab and Ammon, King Jehoshaphat commanded the people of Judah to fast and pray. In response, God said, “Stand still and see the salvation of God. There’s no reason to worry, Jehoshaphat, because the battle is not yours, but the Lord’s.”
- f. Preceding the warriors, Jehoshaphat directed worshipers to lead the army. Judah didn’t have to shoot even one arrow! When the people began to worship, God Himself ambushed the armies of the enemy. They destroyed themselves by turning against each other.

- g. When Apostle Paul prayed against Elymas, the sorcerer who had tried to prevent a government official from hearing the Gospel, God caused Elymas to become blind.
- h. **Acts 13:9-11 (NKJV)** - "Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him [10] and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? [11] And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand."

5. **Governmental Prayers**

- a. This prayer is not to support the leaders of a community or nation—although Apostle Paul instructed us to pray for them (1 Timothy 2:1-2). This prayer is for the government or rule of God to come.
- b. **Matthew 6:10** - "Thy Kingdom come....."
- c. The problems we face are the result of God's government being surrendered to the rule of the enemy at the fall of mankind.
- e. In Genesis, chapter one, God gave Adam authority to fulfill four mandates: to be fruitful, to multiply, to subdue the earth, and to have dominion over the earth.
- f. When man disobeyed, he surrendered his God-given authority over the enemy. Since that time, we have been under the rule of the wicked one.

- g. This is why we must constantly struggle to keep our noses above the water. Rather than being in charge, it seems that we're always battling against our enemy. But that is not what God intended. We were created for so much more!
- h. Governmental prayers call for the return of God's government on earth. He has positioned each one of us to be agents of change, to overthrow the rule of Satan, and to establish God's government on earth!
- i. **Isaiah 9:6-7 (NKJV)** - "The government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. [7] Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end."

D. These five Strategic Prayers can change our situation and impact our families, our nation, and our world.

1. But our **FIRST** priority is to develop a personal relationship with God through the seven Devotional Prayers. It's the only way to emerge into the five Strategic Prayers.
2. ***Prayer really does change things!*** That's how the little widow lady changed her situation. Even though the unjust judge gained no advantage by relieving her, he reluctantly granted her petition because she refused to accept 'no' as an answer.
3. She refused to be refused! Her persistence is a great example of the unrelenting prayer of intercession!
4. **1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)** - "Pray without ceasing."

E. The enemy does not want you to claim your miracle or blessing!

1. **Zechariah 3:1 (NKJV)** - "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand **to oppose him.**"
2. To overcome the enemy, you must pray! Notice how God joined with Joshua, the High Priest, in Declarative and Warfare Prayers. First, he had to *speak* God's Word to the enemy:
 - a. **Zechariah 3:2a (NKJV)** - "And the LORD said to Satan, "THE LORD REBUKE YOU, Satan!"
 - b. That's Warfare Prayer! And then:
 - c. **Zechariah 3:2b (NKJV)** - "THE LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not **a brand plucked from the fire??**"
 - d. "A brand plucked from the fire" means: "I've escaped from my enemy! Satan did his best, but it wasn't good enough!"

F. Prayer changes things!

1. This is the story of Senator Michael Crotts from Georgia:

Before entering politics, Michael Crotts was involved in real estate. While at a church meeting, he received a prophetic word from Kim Clement that he would become a U.S. Senator. Michael had never met Kim Clement, but since he had already been considering politics, he knew this was a confirmation of God's plan for his life. Kim also told Michael that he would have a son named Caleb who would follow his footsteps into politics.

In obedience to this Word from the Lord, Michael began to campaign for the office of Senator. While traveling through the state, he had a massive heart attack and died.

He was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance, but failed to respond as emergency technicians fought to save his life. After 34 minutes with no heartbeat, he was finally declared legally dead. However, his wife rushed into the emergency room and began to prophesy the word from Kim Clement to Mike's lifeless body. She said, "You cannot die now! You have to become a U.S. Senator and have a son named Caleb. God has spoken it!"

The doctor finally asked security officers to remove her from the emergency room. He insisted that even if her husband should be resuscitated, he would still be brain dead.

Then, like only a wife can do, she commanded, "MICHAEL! YOU COME BACK INTO YOUR BODY RIGHT NOW!!"

When she spoke those words, the machines went crazy—and Michael came back to life!

He later shared what happened while he was dead. He saw a vast ocean of spheres, much like earthly kingdoms, with the people of God standing guard to protect them. These spheres represented kingdoms that were being shaken by the enemy, but the people of God would not allow them to be conquered. Their prayers stabilized the kingdoms God had sent them to oversee.

Just as Kim Clement had spoken, Mike fully recovered and became a Senator for the state of Georgia. He and his wife also had a son named Caleb. Today, Mike continues to give his amazing testimony wherever he is invited to speak.

2. Prayer is so powerful, it's hard to believe that Christians do not take advantage of this tremendous opportunity to partner with God. What a mystery that we should spend so little time with our Father!

G. How long should we pray?

1. **Hosea 10:12 (NIV)** - "Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, *until* he comes and showers his righteousness on you."
2. We must pray UNTIL.....!