



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

A Passion for Prayer (Part 2)

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October 2, 2019

PRAYER: very simple, passionately talking with God.

There are two categories of people who pray:

1. **Persons who have never experienced the power of prayer.**
 - a. They feel that God does not answer their prayers.
 - b. They have never been a part of a miracle. They expect something spectacular, without realizing that miracles happen every day.
 - c. They believe that "seeing is believing"; until I see, I can't believe.
2. **Persons who have forgotten the power of prayer.**
 - a. God had done wonderful things in their lives, but they have become disconnected. They may be busy, and do not have time for prayer. If they pray, they feel empty.
 - b. They used to have a great relationship with God, but are no longer excited to talk to Him.

Importance of Talking to God

- When we recognize God's authority, we regain our composure. When we talk and God responds, we begin to communicate with the creator of the universe, we feel special and loved, because He is our friend.
- The Lord uses prayer to transform lives, transform nations. We should pray unceasingly, with conviction and faith.
- Pray for protection of the unborn baby so that people will recognize that life begins before birth.
- Pray for everyone, that all may lead a tranquil life in devotion & dignity, that all will be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Ti 2: 1-4).
- Pray for the lost, who are hell-bound. Pray for our government officers, who should govern in a godly way. We need prayer that will change things.
- Pray for issues that confront us, which are pulling us away from God. Do we pray for wisdom or do we just give up?

Prayers that Will Change You

- Our God looks at the heart; we can't fake Him (Gal 6: 7). God sees your motives even before you pray.
- God wants us to be honest, so we must tell Him everything, though we are disappointed or discouraged at times.
- Confess your sins and pray to each other. When a righteous person confesses his sin, then nothing is blocking his prayer (Jas 5:16).
- Pray and forgive anyone with whom you have a grievance. Unforgiveness blocks prayer (Mk 11:25, Ps 66:18).
- Pray fervently, with great emotion and zeal, characterized by passion. Level up your prayer, because God gives wisdom.
 - Listen from the heart since God answers in 5 ways: Yes. No. Wait. Not my way (Mt 15:8 Do not pray if your heart is far from me). Stop praying (Is 25: stop if you are sinning). When you ask for petitions in prayer, you should submit everything to God, so that your plans will succeed (Prov 16:3).
 - For major decisions, you can consult our Elders who are known to be prayerful, and you can learn from them (Si 6:24).
 - Make time for prayer, and God will speak to you in different ways and through other people.
 - Spend time in silence, wait for Him to speak. Discern what God is saying; He knows everything about you (Rev 2:2-5).
He is knocking again at the door of your heart, but only you can open it (Rev 3). Without the Lord, we can do nothing (Jn 15:5). The Lord does not consider excuses (Lk 14).

Reflection:

- What are the things you used to do or had given up before, that you are doing again now? Why are we not praying as we used to do? Why are we again giving a lot of excuses?
- Backsliding is not instant; it is gradual. We can be backsliding even when we are present.

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