

PRAYER

God instilled into the DNA of His creation a desire to communicate in prayer. That is why you find all these crazy people create idols and such to pray to. There is a desire deep within us to communicate with God.

But the reverse applies. The reason why God created you was to have a relationship with you. He wanted to communicate with you.

Genesis tells us that God would come down at the cool of the day and walk and talk together in the garden of Eden.

Real genuine prayer is not "bail me out" or "I need this" - the original reason for prayer was for fellowship or establishing ongoing a relationship.

1 Sam 12:23 - far be it from me that you should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray.

We have a pattern in our society that we say - what about me? What is best for me? At what point do you grow up and say that it s no longer about me. What does God want? Let me give you the answer. God wants a relationship with you!

This is how you develop a prayer life:

1. Prayer must be a priority
 1. Read your bible - God is talking to you. When you pray - you talk to God.
 2. The word closet is used 4 times in the NT. Meaning you need to find a place of privacy to spend time with the Lord. Build prayer into your calendar.
 3. Why make it a priority?
 1. Prayer is a sin killer
 2. Prayer is a victory giver
 3. Prayer is a power enhancer
2. Prayer must have time given to it

1. Our lives are based off schedules. We schedule work. We schedule date nights. We schedule church. We schedule our meals. But we don't schedule our personal time with God.
 2. When you pray, you build a wall of protection. When you pray the angels of heaven come and surround you and your family.
 3. Daniel 6:10 - Daniel prayed 3 times per day giving thanks to God.
 4. You may be thinking I have kids or I have a job. Guess what, yep, you do. Guess what? Yep, you have to give time to it. It must be a priority.
3. Prayer must have a place
 1. Luke 5:16 - Jesus went to a desolate place and prayed. You have to find your place where you continually go. It can be your car, bedroom or wherever. But find a place you can go often and get alone and seek God.
 4. Prayer must have a pattern
 1. The reason why you don't pray is you don't know how. You don't have a practice and when something is hard, it is easier to just make excuses not to do it.
 2. We are going to do this one here in a bit. So I won't go any further on this...
 5. Prayer must be vocalize
 1. Now I am not saying every time but when you are going after Jesus, you need to be serious about it.
 2. Luke 11:3 When you pray, say... It doesn't say meditate. It doesn't say think about it. You have to pray out loud.

Let me be frank with you. We are in the middle of the last days. We have to have the fire of God. America needs it. Norman needs it. We have to carry the fire and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the only way that it will come is if we become people who are known as prayer warriors.

It is the will of God to save people. To heal people. To deliver people. But the problem is the church overall is powerless. Just because a lot of people attend a particular church does not mean power. Latest study. 1 out of every 2 marriages end in divorce - that includes people in the church. Why? Because the church is full of people who are playing a game with God.

As God as my witness - that is not what pathway is about. We are about pursuing the power of the Holy Spirit and building a relationship with Jesus that causes you to hold on to the word of God and believe that it carries the power for you to live the life that God has called you to live here on earth.

Now why don't we pray?

1. We don't see results
2. We don't see it as necessary
3. We don't see it appealing

So we don't do it. Are any of you foodies? You love food?

Im not a foodie but if you give me something sweet, I love to eat it. I don't want to eat broccoli. I want to eat candy! Why? Because I have developed taste buds for that. Over the last 2 months I have started eating lots of apples and carrots. I hatted them at the beginning but I have developed taste for them where I actually enjoy eating carrots.

When I eat a carrot, do I see the results of that today? No. Do I see it appealing? no. But over time, it changes my health patterns.

That is what prayer does. You may not see results today from it but over time, it begins to change you. As long as you stay consistent with it, it will change you.

You want to know the biggest frustration of pastors? Every week, a pastor serves you a meal and while at church you digest that meal but once your week starts, you forgot about what you ate.

I want to make this very simple for you. You can do this in just a couple of minutes a day or you can do this for 30 minutes a day but the key is doing it. You have to develop your appetite for the spirit of God.