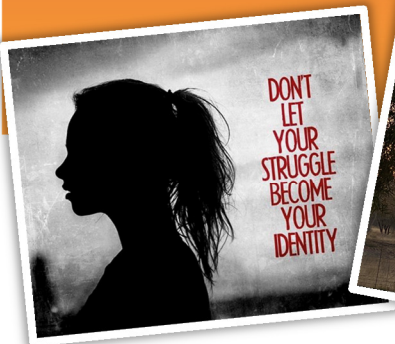


Praying Through

FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF GOD



In the last couple of months, we have had many conversation with many different forums of what the Church can do during these times. We certainly have never been here before.

With all the medical advice and the W.H.O recommendations and the various conspiracies out there, what do we have.

We have The Power Prayer.

Over the next few months towards the end of the year I hope to send a monthly prayer letter to all with a few prayer points. The prayer points will appear at the end of the article.

So what is the power of prayer?

How can prayer bring a person back to life?

How can it heal the sick?

How does prayer comfort those who are anxious or sinking into the depths of depression?

Why do Christians pray for their future spouses or pray prayers of protection over their children as they send them off to school?

How can prayer impact those who don't know Jesus or help in a time of crisis like a pandemic?

The answer is found in one pivotal scripture.

In Matthew 18:18-20, Jesus tells us about the power of prayer when he said, *“Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”*

There are dozens of real-life accounts in the Bible where Jesus and other disciples battled in prayer.

God shut heavens and prevented rain from falling for three years at Elijah’s request.

He parted the red sea for Moses to lead His people through.

He cast out demons; Jesus healed the sick and gave sight to the blind, and, on more than one occasion, raised people from the dead, like Lazarus.

Do we realize the power we have available to us when we take our authority in prayer?

If we did, we would be praying in Jesus’ name more. There would be no such thing as doubt, fear, or anxiety because we would be on our faces before God, storming the heavenly realms in battle with the darkness and evil forces in our world.

Talking to God

So, what exactly is the power of prayer? The power of prayer isn’t in the words you utter. It’s not about what you pray or even how you pray. Prayer can be defined as talking to God, but it is much more than that.

Prayer is an act of worship that glorifies God and reinforces our need for Him.

Through living a life of prayer, we communicate with the very source of and purpose for our existence.

It is our fiercest weapon against the enemy and all things in this fallen world.

Priscilla Shirer says, “Prayer is the portal that brings the power of heaven down to earth. It is kryptonite to the enemy and to all his ploys against you.”

Mark Patterson says, “Prayers are prophecies. They are the best predictors of your spiritual future. Who you become is determined by how you pray. Ultimately, the transcript of your prayers becomes the script of your life.”

In other words, who you become, the circumstances in your life and the core of your character are all determined by what you talk to God about. According to the Bible, the power of prayer is, quite simply, the power of God, who hears and answers prayer.

Consider the following:

God Is All-Powerful

The Lord God Almighty can do all things; there is nothing impossible for Him (Luke 1:37). The character and heart of God is the very fabric of the gospel. When we close our eyes, get on our knees, the spirit of God whispers, “I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?” It’s as if to say to our hearts, no need is too great or small.

God Asks Us to Pray

He invites, encourages, and *wants* us to talk to him. We are to come to him in faith, (James 1:5), with persistence (Luke 18:1), with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6), within his will (Matthew 6:10), and from a heart that is right with God (James 5:16).

In fact, in Luke 18:1 we read, “And he [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.” Hebrews 4:14-16 talks about Jesus as our High Priest and says He can sympathize with us.

Hebrews 4:16 says, “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” We have been given access to the very throne of God through prayer.

He Answers Our Prayers

The Lord God Almighty answers prayer. “I call on you, O God, for you will answer me” (Psalm 17:6).

“The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles” (Psalm 34:17).

In John 16:23-24, Jesus makes a stunning, sweeping, glorious promise to us:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

In other words, when we ask God to give us a love for our neighbours, he does.

When we ask for patience, he begins to tend to our hearts, uprooting areas of impatience and then provides opportunity to practice patience.

When we ask him to be near to us, his presence sweeps in and surrounds us like a snug blanketed embrace filled with his peace and strength.

Even when we lack faith or have very little faith. Sometimes learning to trust God with our prayers is like being a toddler. We wobble, waver and fall. But he doesn't chastise us. Instead, he encourages us to get back up and try again with his hands held out as he says, “Because of your little faith,” He told them. “For I assure you: If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20).

How Do I Tap into It?

The power of prayer isn't in the person praying. It's not a magic formula. It isn't keywords. It is an open heart, humble and filled with awe of who our mighty God is. Rather, the power resides in the God who is being prayed to.

1 John 5:14-15 tells us, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask we know that we have what we asked of him.”

In fact, Jesus rebukes those who pray using repetitions or those who pray in public to seek attention or those who don't have the right heart, “And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him” (Matthew 6:7-8).

Psalms 107:28-30 reminds us, “Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven.” There is power in prayer

Prayer points to consider:

- 1. Pray for a Supernatural Miraculous end to this Pandemic. Whether by Miracle or Medicine.**
- 2. Pray for all our Health and frontline workers.**
- 3. Pray for racial Harmony and a greater Unity in our country and the World.**
- 4. Pray for all our Pastors and their families. Many of our Pastors had contracted the virus and some have died as a result.**
- 5. Pray for the Full Gospel Church of God and her Leadership across the Regions.**
- 6. Pray very specifically for me as I need Wisdom and Godly guidance as I navigate Leadership through these times.**
- 7. Pray that God's children will understand and comprehend the absolute Power of forgiveness and the release of all those that may have harmed you with their words and actions.**

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