

NOTES

DEVELOPING YOUR PRAYER LIFE

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- We can all agree, in this current environment, condition and atmosphere of our community and nation - **we need to pray**. You can tune in to any form of media –and you will find voices of fear, confusion, bitterness, anger...people who are lost and hopeless. They are looking for answers, looking for hope and security. Body of Christ, WE ARE THE ANSWER!!
- God has given us a wonderful promise in His word our covenant or contract with God – WE CAN TAKE IT TO THE COURTS OF HEAVEN!!
- **II Chron. 7:14** – “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”
- No matter where you are in your prayer life, there is room to grow.
- Definitions:
 - Developing - growing and becoming more mature, advanced, or elaborate.
 - Prayer – a devout petition to God; a spiritual communion with God, as in supplication, thanksgiving, adoration, or confession.
- My prayer life was motivated initially by life issues but developed by the Holy Spirit, and I began to shift more to a motive of agape love and sensitivity to God’s agenda.

6 Keys To Developing Your Prayer Life

1. Delighting Yourself in God’s Word
2. Prayer Posture & Heart Conditioning
3. Practicing the Discipline & The Power of Prayer
4. Super Charging Your Prayer through Fasting
5. Discerning & Overcoming Obstacles, Hindrances & Attacks
6. Maintaining A Teachable Spirit

1. Delighting Yourself in God’s Word (Passion and Pursuit)

When we are first born again, we are babes in Christ and the word of God encourages us: As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: I Peter 2:2

- To develop your prayer life, you must delight yourself in the Word of God.

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” (I John 5:14-15)

- If you don't have a strong appetite for the Word of God, just start reading small passages consistently. “O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him”. Psalms 34:8

The psalmist said in Psalms 119:103 “How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth”!

Psalms 19:10 – “More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”

- If you want to create this desire, passion and pursuit of God – Psalms 119 will create it for you if you will give your heart to it! You will Seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart! (Jer. 29:11)
- Psalms 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible 176 verses. I call it the Word of God about the Word of God. It exalts and magnifies the passion of a heart in pursuit of God with a strong focus, no matter what obstacles come against that pursuit – the focus is always God's word!

Psalms 119**delighting** and **loving** the word

- ¹⁶ I will **delight** myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.
- ²⁴ Thy testimonies also are my **delight** and my counselors.
- ¹⁴³ Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my **delights**.

- ⁹⁷ O how **love** I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.
- ¹⁴⁰ Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant **loveth** it.
- ¹⁶⁵ Great peace have they which **love** thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Attending to the word of God will give you the same passion and pursuit if you seek it with your whole heart.

- This principle works in reciprocal! Your heart and your passions follow your attention. You can turn it on for good or for evil.

Romans 6:13 - Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

- Folks the greatest motivation to stay on the straight and narrow is to remember that heaven and hell is real. (Google “I Went To Hell” or go to YouTube)
- Mentioned book – A Divine Revelation of Hell by Mary Baxter

2. Prayer Posture & Heart Conditioning– (Cleansing, Truth, Purity, Attitude)

- You can talk to God in any physical posture. However, the posture God is mostly concerned about is the posture or the state and condition of our hearts. Heart conditioning deals with cleansing, truth, purity, attitude, and motives.
 - Matt 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.
 - James 4:3-4 AMP [Or] you do ask [God for them] and yet fail to receive, because you ask with wrong purpose and evil, selfish motives. Your intention is [when you get what you desire] to spend it in sensual pleasures.
 - You [are like] unfaithful wives [having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking your marriage vow to God]! Do you not know that being the world’s friend is being God’s enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God.
- The Lord said to my husband and I very recently
 - (7/20/20 **I Will Hear You**) *‘My children know that when you pray I will hear you. No prayer from a pure heart goes unheard. The Holy Spirit will take a prayer that is missing the right ingredients and inject it with truth and present it to the father. Keep on praying. Pray in the Spirit and pray with your understanding, because before I check the words, I check the heart. Then I will show you My way of doing things and doing things right.’*

- **In 2006**the Lord shared this with us concerning marriage – “the purer the hearts the easier it is to blend. The impurities that make harmony and unity difficult is the thing you both picked up in your past. (Your past being that which happened 10 minutes, 10 hours, 10 days, 10 weeks or 10 years ago.) It will all affect your unity. You purge impurities through truth. My word is truth....”

- This is also true in our relationship with God. Impurities will hinder your ability to get into His presence and hear Him – unless those impurities are dealt with, particularly as you mature. God’s goal for us is to be like Him. To have his characters and ways. When you pray and seek God’s Word He will shine the light on issues of your heart.
- God is all about building His character and His likeness in us.
- He will minister his love to you so you can love and forgive. God is love – so He will always direct you towards love and peace – all the fruit of the Spirit – because we represent Him.
- (Sid Roth Program -Lady that adopted as a son the guy that murdered her daughter) *[Linda Markowitz – March 29, 2020 broadcast]*
- Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within me.
- You will have to learn to trust God with developing your heart. There are things in our hearts we don’t know about until they are confronted with truth. That doesn’t always feel good. Some run from this process and never mature/develop. “Let God be truth and every man a liar” (Rom 3:4)(that includes self). Don’t be deceived nor prideful. “**Let God** arise and his enemies be scattered”.(Ps. 68:1)
 - Jeremiah 17: 9-10 KJV The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

- You can’t truly love others until God shows you your own heart, your stuff, removing layer after layer of deception and **coming through that process** loving God and loving yourself – your new self in Christ! (II Cor. 5:17)

3. Practicing the Discipline & Power of Prayer (Identity & Authority)

- I Cor 9:27 KJV- But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.
- If you want to operate in the power and authority that is rightfully ours in Christ, you will have to deal with the flesh. The flesh must be trained and disciplined just like you train a child.
- Your power in prayer comes through **knowing your identity in Christ and the authority and dominion He has given us!** You can't grow or develop your prayer life without a love relationship with God's word!
- **Psalm 119:97 O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.**
- Read it, speak it, meditate it, decree it, declare it, pray it, believe it and receive it, place a demand on it, take it – it is your source of victory!!
- Matthew 11:12 - And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.
- When you know who you are and Whose you are, you gain the confidence to place a demand on your covenant rights and privileges in Christ.

4. Super Charging Your Prayer through Fasting

- There are times in your walk with God and life circumstances that just prayer alone will not work. In the book of Matthew when the disciples asked Jesus why they could not cast the devil out of a young man that was brought to them Jesus said in Matt 17:20-21
- Matthew 17:20-21 KJV - And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.
- I recommend reading information from trusted authors* on the subject of fasting prior to starting a fast to get your focus and motivation as well as the benefits of fasting.
- Another scripture I use a lot for fasting:
- **Isaiah 58:6** Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

5. Discerning & Overcoming Obstacles, Hindrances & Attacks (*Distractions, busyness, fatigue, emotional & mental attacks*)

- Know that we have an adversary who works overtime to keep us out of God's presence.
- **1 Peter 5:8** KJV ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
- **Mark 4:19** And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.
- **Mark 4:15** And these are they by the wayside, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, **Satan cometh immediately**, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

6. Maintaining A Teachable Spirit

- II Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- There is always more to learn from God – His ways and His word. Some growth, maturity and advancement come from faithfulness, obedience and submission. It shapes and grooms your heart attitude.
- Keep a humble and submitted spirit and a sensitive heart. **There is no need to build a powerful prayer life and not be available to God and His people.** To be available on a moment's notice to intercede for someone.

***Fasting Resources**

Fasting for Breakthrough and Deliverance – John Eckhardt
 The Miracle Results of Fasting – Dave Williams