

## Understanding the Three Foundations of a Powerful Prayer Life

### I. You Must View Your Daily Prayer Time as a Relationship With God and Not Some Legalistic Duty or Discipline

The Pharisees spent much time in regular prayer and fasting yet had not personal relationship with God. Prayer is the expression of what God desires the most – our personal love, surrender, and trust. Prayer must be viewed as your commitment to spend meaningful time in personal relationship with the living God. John 17:3

Which does God desire the most: our service, our work, or our love? Matthew 22:37, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3  
If you are truly in love with someone the close relationship is a joy not a duty.

Love for God can be spelled T-I-M-E.

What does not spending time with God say to God?

How does not spending time with God affect us?

Luke 10:38-43

Martha was busy doing all kinds of tasks for Jesus but had no time to fellowship with Jesus.

Mary's first priority was on making time to sit quietly in His presence and listen.

Jesus rebuked Martha and stated that Mary had chosen the better part that would not be taken from her.

**\*We need MUCH T-I-M-E with God before we attempt work for God.**

### II. You Must Make An Absolute Commitment To Consistently Spend Significant Time Alone With God In Uninterrupted Prayer.

Brief momentary devotions can never replace the closet prayer when we enter God's presence and shut out everything else. Matthew 6:6

Jesus and New Testament believers spent much time alone in fervent prayer.

Believers and churches of every Great Awakening averaged much more time praying than we do.

Almost without exception, God's greatest servants spent much time in fervent daily prayer.

Brief, inconsistent prayer times never produce powerful Spirit filled believers.

In America we have made a god of convenience and ease.

We want to give God a brief minute or two and try to fit Him into our busy schedules.

The God of this universe deserves and requires far more than this to release His power on our lives.

What has changed is our definition of what constitutes a powerful prayer life.

What do you want the most, your convenience or spiritual maturity and power?

#### An Absolute Commitment

A. Satan fears intercession more than anything else and fights prayer like no other area of your life.

1. Prayer is an essential piece of your arsenal of spiritual warfare. It is through prayer all other weapons are used. 2 Corinthians 10:7

2. Prayer is crucial to putting on the whole armor of God. Ephesians 6:10-17

3. Prayer is the primary way we exert spiritual authority and wage effective spiritual warfare. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

4. Prayer is crucial to true evangelism. Acts 2-4

5. Prayer is the central element of all great revivals and spiritual awakenings. 2 Chronicles 7:14

Satan will do anything to keep you from praying consistently and from deepening your prayer power.

If he cannot keep you from praying, he will keep you from praying effectively.

He will cause you to settle for a shallow ineffective prayer life.

He will get you so busy with the good things that you will have little time for the best

B. Our flesh always resists the development of a powerful prayer life. Matthew 26:40-41

Serious prayer is often more like a spiritual battle than a brief moment of sweet reflection.

The demonic atmosphere of our very planet resists the praying saint.

Our physical bodies and earthly passions resist the practice of fervent prayer.

Whatever it takes to insure and guard your time with God, you must do.

Your commitment to prayer must be absolute or you will become inconsistent.

C. The world's system of human strength and promotion is the direct opposite of God's way.

Judges 7:2, Isaiah 55:8

God's ways are opposite of man's ways.

The world's pattern is to exalt human programs, strengths and abilities.

God's pattern is to bring us to a point of utter weakness and total reliance on Himself.

God is displeased when we put the predominate emphasis on our own methods and a comparatively small emphasis on prayer.

This still the typical pattern of today's Christianity.

### **Significant Time**

#### **Uninterrupted Prayer**

A. Time alone with God is the biblical example of Jesus and the lives of powerful Christians throughout history.

B. The Scriptures state the importance of a solitary place to seek God's face. Matthew 6:6

C. When we pray, we commune with God of the entire universe and He deserves our undivided attention. Jeremiah 29:13

D. God often speaks in a still small voice and we must still our hearts to clearly hear His voice

### **III. A Powerful Prayer Life Requires The Balanced Practice Of All Five Types Of Prayer.**

A. Praise, thanksgiving, and worship

B. Confession and repentance

C. Petition and supplication

D. Intercession

E. Meditation