Learning to Pray Effectively

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INTRODUCTION

- But this morning I want to talk about the other aspect in which we may feel a lack of confidence, and that is praying more effectively.
- The Bible has a lot to say about prayer. And in talking about prayer, it talks about both the frequency, but also it gives us instructions of how to pray properly.

1 Effective Prayer Is Offered by the Righteous

Psalm 66; John 9:31; James 5:16

- The scriptures teach us that effective prayer is to be offered by the righteous.
- Now we know that God does not hear sinners. But if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, he hears him.
- In order for our prayers to be heard, or at least to be effective before the throne of God, that we need to be in a right relationship with God.
- Our spiritual life can hinder our prayer life.

2 Offer These Prayers in Faith

James 5:15; James 1:5–6; Acts 12:5–15

- If we are righteous, it should follow that we offer these prayers in faith.
- But let him ask in faith with no doubting. For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.
- Everything we do has to be founded upon faith.
- Maybe identifying why we lack faith in prayer will help us to eliminate that doubt and pray in faith.
- We may lack faith in offering our prayers because we may be praying for tough things.

3 Calling Upon the Character of God

Psalm 86:1–15; Genesis 18:25

- Do you see what David is doing throughout this prayer? He is calling upon the character of God in his prayer.
- They don't just say, God do this for me. They often say, I know you to be a God of mercy and grace. Therefore, do that.
- Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?
- If you're praying for oppression, call upon God's justice.
- If you're praying for spiritual help, evoke the mercy of God and God's grace.

4 Prayer Is to Be Persistent

Luke 18:1–8

- Then he spoke a parable to them that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.
- And shall God not avenge his own elect who cry out day and night to him, though he bears long with them?
- Jesus says, if you want to be effective in your prayer, then pray. And then pray some more.
- Jesus calls upon repetition in our prayers. To pray over and over again.
- But for whatever reason, God wants to hear from us.

5 Prayer Needs to Be Earnest and Genuine

Matthew 9:38

- If a prayer to be effective, it needs to be earnest. And it needs to be genuine.
- Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane with sweat and tears as blood. The text says he prayed earnestly.
- They need to be real. They don't need to be hypocritical. They need to be honestly offered before God.
- Don't let your prayer life make you a liar.
- Not did I really say I was going to pray, but did I mean that? Did I really pray?

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Pray. Pray earnestly. Pray genuinely. Pray in faith. Pray persistently. And model your prayers after those that have prayed and had the ear of God. Call upon God's character.**

MY NOTES