

## JESUS: OUR MODEL OF A PRAYER FILLED LIFE

### INTRODUCTION:

When reading the Gospels we can't help but conclude and notice that Jesus was a man of prayer. He just didn't teach on prayer but His life exemplified prayer. Despite the fact that He was God in the flesh, yet in order for Him to fulfill all that His father had for Him to accomplish while on the earth, He was still a man dependent upon His Father's presence; and prayer was the most important part of His day. All the miracles that are recorded in the Gospels through His life are a result of the close intimate fellowship that He maintained with His Father on a daily basis. He didn't pray so that He could have great results. He had great results because He prayed. To Jesus, prayer was about relationship with His Father. That intimate relationship was the source of His anointing as His Father would clearly reveal to Him the things that were upon His heart and that were to be manifested. His example had a deep impact on the apostles which led them to follow in His steps, making prayer the priority of their ministry. In contrast, the church of today emphasizes and prioritizes busyness over prayer. If we desire to have fruit and results the early church had, we must go back to the basic simplistic example that Christ and His disciples gave to us throughout the New Testament.

***"...It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables...but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:2, 4***

*"We can do nothing without prayer. All things can be done by importunate prayer. This is the teaching of Jesus Christ." - E.M. Bounds*

### I. QUOTES FROM HISTORICAL REVIVALISTS

- A. Martin Luther: "It is not overcoming reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness...As is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to make shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray."
- B. Charles H. Spurgeon: "I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach...If man can but pray he can do anything. He who knows how to overcome with God in prayer has Heaven and Earth at his disposal."
- C. Hudson Taylor: "If we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let us answer God's standing challenge, 'Call unto Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you know not of.'"

## II. JESUS' EXAMPLE OF A PRAYER FILLED LIFE

Jesus' insight on prayer is very unique in that He is the only human Who has ever lived and understands prayer from two sides; He not only offered prayer to His Father while on earth but He also is prayed to and answers prayers. Let's see some scriptures that depict His prioritizing of prayer.

A. Jesus prayed in the morning hours.

***“Early in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.” Mark 1:35***

B. Jesus prayed in the evenings.

***“Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.” Luke 6:12***

C. Jesus prayed while on the mountainsides.

***“And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.” Matthew 14:23***

***“And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.” Mark 6:46***

***“Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.” Luke 9:28***

D. Jesus prayed in wilderness.

***“Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.” Luke 4:1***

***“So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.” Luke 5:16***

E. Jesus prayed in times of great suffering

***“Then He said to them, ‘My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me. And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, ‘My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.’ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.’” Matthew 26:36-39***

***“Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’” Luke 23:34***

### **III. WHY DID JESUS NEED TO PRAY SINCE HE WAS GOD?**

- A.** Jesus was completely dependent upon His father. He understood that He needed to yield His rights to the Father's will. Prayer was the means by which He completely lived a life of full surrender. Prayer also confirms God's will for us.

***“He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father , if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’” Matthew 26:39***

***“Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.’” John 5:19***

- B.** Jesus wasn't just God, He was God in human flesh. Because He was a human, He was subject to all the burdens, temptations, limitations that humanity is harassed by. He actually learned to be obedient to God by the things He suffered.

***“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same...” Hebrews 2:14***

***“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethern, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” Hebrews 2:17***

***“...who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear.” Hebrews 5:7-8***

- C.** God has set up prayer as the way to receive all the promises He has made to us as individuals and to all of mankind. The Psalmist reveals how God the Father had promised to Jesus His Son all the nations of the earth for His inheritance.

***“I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My son, Today I have begotten You.’” Psalms 2:7-8***

#### IV. EMBRACING JESUS' INVITATION TO PRAY

- A. If we want to see God respond to our prayers then we must do, obey what is revealed in holy scripture concerning prayer. We must ASK! Asking is a requisite to successful prayer. We will not see answers to our prayers unless we humble ourselves to the simple act of obedience in asking God in prayer.

***“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the son.” John 14:13-14***

***“...you do not have because you do not ask.” James 4:2***

- B. Another key to seeing effective prayer in our Christian Faith is to have a well understanding of God's word. Knowledge that is not acted upon only puffs up and fills our minds with information. When the believer knows how to use God's word (His promises given to us in prayer), he/she will see results. God is not moved by mere words, He is moved by His word. The Bible reveals to us His promises and His will for all humanity.

***“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” John 15:7***

***“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, 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 the petitions that we have asked of Him.” 1 John 5:14-15***

- C. Nothing is off limits. Nothing is beyond God's ability to answer. Nothing is beyond God's willingness. If we ask in faith that which is according to His will, then all things are possible to receive. The question is; will we believe? Will we approach God? Will we ask in order to receive?

***“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” John 14:13-14***