



Praying With God Video Course

Session Two: Why Pray?

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'After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly' Acts 4: 31

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'The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].' James 5: 16b

Many Christians believe in a “que sera sera” mentality, “whatever's to be will be.” In other words, whatever God wants to happen will happen anyway, without any involvement from us. This is way of thinking we need to change as God has given us the keys to His kingdom and we need to use these keys. If we were given the keys to a motor car and we never used them, we would get nowhere. The same is true in exercising our given authority in the spirit realm. We need to use the keys we have been given.

One of the reasons our prayers are sometimes ineffective, is that we have questions about prayer and these cause us uncertainty. So an important foundation for effective prayer is to understand and be utterly convinced about WHY we need to pray and the HOW we need to pray.

So, why pray? Because many times God's will doesn't automatically come to pass! We pray to establish God's will. We pray to release power from Heaven. We pray to shift the atmosphere and change situations here on earth.



Prayer establishes the will of God

There are many examples of this in the scriptures in both the Old and the New Testaments.

1. Victory over the Amalakites

Exodus 17:11-12. The situation here is the Amalekites were attacking the Israelites. It was expressly God's purpose and will for the Amalekites to be defeated and the Israelites to walk on in victory. Yet when Moses grew tired and lowered his hands the Amalekites began to win the battle. When his hands were raised Israel won. When his hands were raised Moses was exercising spiritual authority over the battlefield. Holding up hands in prayer is also mentioned in the New Covenant in 1 Timothy 2:8. In the natural, the physical battle was won because of the spiritual authority exercised over the battlefield. We need to exercise our authority in prayer for the God's will to be done.

2. Supernatural release from jail

The church met to pray earnestly for Peter in Herod's jail. This was life and death. He was spared because of the prayer. Acts 12:5. It was not God's will for him to die then but without prayer he would have. See John 21:18 where Jesus prophesied to Peter he would live to be old.

3. **Supernatural power over weather**

1 Kings 18:41-45. Elijah had prophesied no rain in the land. The ensuing drought lasted three years and six months according to James 5:17. God told him to present himself to Ahab as He was sending rain. In 1 Kings 18:41, Elijah prophesies 'There is the sound of abundance of rain.' We then see Elijah in verses 42-45 praying the rain in. Elijah took the responsibility to pray God's Word and desire into physical manifestation. Elijah's prayers established the will of God.

4. **Return of Jews to Israel**

Daniel 9:1-19. In this passage Daniel intercedes for Israel. Israel has been in exile for 70 years but Daniel understands that according to Jeremiah's prophecy Israel will be restored after 70 years. He took the promise in the prophecy and prayed it into being, and this actually happened after his death. Daniel's prayers established God's will.

5. **Preparing the way for Messiah**

Luke 2:25-38. Anna and Simeon spent much of their time praying in the Temple for the coming Messiah into manifestation. They were familiar with the many prophecies in the Old Testament about a coming Messiah, but 'prepared the way' in prayer.

6. **Jesus prayed for strength to fulfil His work on the cross**

In the life of Jesus the principle of praying things into being is also demonstrated. Hebrews 5:7 tells us how Jesus prayed in the days of His flesh. The Amplified Bible says Jesus offered up definite specific petitions for not only what He wanted but needed with loud crying and tears and was heard because of His reverent submission to God. In Luke 22:39-44 Jesus was in Gethsemane and prayed to fulfil God's will with such intensity that His sweat was like drops of blood. He was doing the prayer work here for what was to happen at Calvary. Jesus did nothing lest He saw His Father doing it but still had to pray. John 5:19.

7. **The birth of the Church**

The disciples met with their group to pray at the time of Pentecost and saw the historic and dramatic birth of the Church. Acts 2:1-4.

Bonus Notes: Other Reasons to Pray

- ‡ Paul equates the prayers of the saints with the help of the Holy Spirit. He needs both. Philippians 1:19.

- ✚ Prayer releases God's peace to guard our hearts and minds. Philippians 4:6-7.
- ✚ It gives strength and endurance. Colossians 1:11. Ephesians 3:16.
- ✚ Paul struggles in prayer for the believers to be encouraged, knit together in love and to understand the mysteries of God. Colossians 2:1.
- ✚ Epaphras 'labours fervently for you in prayers' that the full will of God will be achieved and the believers remain firm. Colossians 4:12.
- ✚ Paul asks for prayer that he may 'have freedom of utterance' and ability and boldness to proclaim the gospel. Ephesians 6:19.
- ✚ Prayer is necessary to grow in the knowledge of Christ and to understand the power of God. Ephesians 1:17-19.
- ✚ Prayer is needed to pull down strongholds. Ephesians 6:12.
- ✚ Travail is needed for Christ to be formed in the Galatians. Galatians 4:19.
- ✚ Prayer is a command, we are told to pray. 1Timothy 2:8; Ephesians 6:18.
- ✚ It brings revelation and understanding. Ephesians 1:17-19.
- ✚ Prayer causes Christ to be formed in us. Galatians 4:19.
- ✚ It opens doors of opportunity. Colossians 4:3-4.
- ✚ God will show us mighty things: Jeremiah 33:3.
- ✚ For the sheer delight of communing with Him.

To conclude, the prayers and intercessions of the righteous are critical for things to change. Your prayer and my prayer achieve the same result before God as the prayers of Paul the apostle, Elijah, David, Moses, Samuel and Jesus Himself. Prayer changes us and changes circumstances. Prayer establishes the will of God.

Our prayer for you is that these examples from the Bible will convince you of the need to pray for nations, situations and people so that God's will can be established and come to pass.



Key Points

1. God's will is not always automatic.
2. We can pray for God's will to be established.
3. Prayer will release power for change.

Activities



Reflective Questions

1. Does God's will always automatically come to pass?
2. Why do we need to pray if God already knows everything?
3. Give some examples of Old Testament and New Testament saints who prayed God's will in to being.



Activation

Are there any situations in your life at present where you know God's will or promise but need to pray for this to be established? Spend some time with God and ask Him to speak to you about these situations.



Bible Study: Reasons to Pray

Use the chart below to list some of the reasons we should pray. The first one has been done as an example.

Scripture	Reason to Pray
Philippians 4: 6-7	Releases peace
Ephesians 1: 17	
Ephesians 1: 18	
Ephesians 6: 19	
Colossians 2: 1-2	
Colossians 4: 3	
Jeremiah 33: 3	
Your own example	