**Introduction – 7 Keys of Effective Prayer**

I am excited to begin this new series called 7 keys to effective prayer –

learning how to connect with God in prayer has been a journey for me … I remember starting out in ministry as a prayerless pastor and part of a prayerless church! Our church had about 2,000 members back in the year 2000 and we didn’t see much church growth for 7 years – we were doing a lot of good things, biblical things but not dependent on the Holy Spirit – people would come in the front door and then go right out the back door – I remember at one point we called people to come pray at our churches prayer room and no one came, honestly I didn’t even want to be there – and the Lord asked me, “Do you think you can do this better than me … ? I was like ‘ do what’ and he said, ‘build my church’ I was so convicted by my pride – thinking that I could do ministry not fully dependant on the Holy Spirit – I would come up with new ideas and strategic plans and then ask God to bless them rather than asking God what he wanted to do and then obey Him!

He said I want you to get back in that prayer room and ask me what I ask you to ask me and then I will do it - basically pray the Bible! In the spring of 2007 the Lord gave us a simple prayer strategy asking people to commit to pray one hour a week for the church and those that were about to come – 220 people signed up and we had a canopy of 24/7 prayer in ou local church – every hour covered in around the clock prayer - a few months following we experienced a visitation of the Spirit – 360 people were saved and water baptized in a summer – we grow by 1000 people in one year and in the next few years we planted 26 churches in the Northwest! We were doing anything different in ministry – same small groups, outreaches, recovery ministry, unanointed preaching, mine, ha but God’s people were praying and he was releasing his power in response to their prayers!

If you are struggling in your prayer life today I want you to know that I am right there with you No matter where you are today in your prayer life, I believe God wants to take us on a journey learning to spend time with him – it’s not a technique, it’s not a formula - it’s the conversational part of the most important love relationship in our lives! It’s learning to develop spiritual friendship with the God who loves us beyond our wildest imaginations – with the one who knows us the best and loves us the most! It’s learning to keep company with him in the everyday stuff of life – a journey of both conversation and encounter with God – growing in awe and intimacy with the God who longs to be with us more than we want to be with him!

And the amazing thing is that God has invited us to partner with him in releasing his power through our prayers – wow - prayer is God’s way of bringing about change on planet earth and at the same time, bringing his sons and daughters to maturity. In God’s sovereignty and wisdom, he choose prayer as His strategy to accomplish his work on the earth! However, as we almost always do, we make prayer about us instead of about God. We look to prayer to get us what we want. Prayer becomes our strategy for getting things from God – if we pray long enough, believe strong enough, just maybe we’ll get what we want – and we wonder why it doesn’t work very well for us –

Prayer is from the beginning about God. All true prayer originates in the heart of the Father. When the Father wants something done, it is immediately known to the Spirit, “in the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God” (1 Cor. 2:11). Through the Spirit, God’s will is made known to the believer. Then, through the name and authority of the Son, we pray back to the Father what He wanted to do in the first place. We have a role to play … a vital role … but it’s all about God! God releases his power in response to the prayers of his people – accomplishing his work, in his way, and for His Glory! As Daniel Henderson writes, Prayer is Intimacy with God that leads to the fulfillment of God’s purposes – it is accomplished by his power and for his Glory! Our definition of prayer will set our destination in prayer. The definition of prayer is intimacy with God, which leads to the destination of prayer ‘ the fulfillment of his purposes!”

As we begin this journey we want to look at 7 keys to effective prayer – what is the kind of prayer that touches and moves the heart of God to respond and release his power, his love, and his justice on the earth? In my personal journey over the years – the Holy Spirit has highlighted these 7 keys or principles - I am still growing in them but they have been so helpful!

We have a phrase in our ministry and it’s this, “Little keys open big doors” I believe these 7 biblical keys or principles of prayer will help to unlock and release big doors of God’s blessing and power – where he will do immeasurably more than all we could ever ask or even imagine, all for his glory, and for our joy!

I have often pondered over the years the importance of choosing a name! Thinking back to when we choose the names for our kids, and now our kids naming our grandkids – we have 6 now, so fun – the names of our pets over the years, the name of our church, and ministry – names are important! Biblically, the choosing of a name often gave special significance or meaning to a person or a place. The name was so important, that when there was a change in circumstances, it often meant a name change was necessary – abram becomes Abraham – Jacob becomes Israel – any name is important – But there is special significance when God himself steps in to name someone or something that is close to his heart

The Bible tells us that God has chosen a name for his Own House – In Isaiah 56:7, the Lord says, “for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” Jesus took this naming seriously – three of the gospel writers mentioned Jesus quoting this verse about the temple and all four gospel writers record the cleansing of the temple where Jesus referred to his Father’s words! Jesus had zeal for his Father’s house to be a house of prayer! God made it clear that we are now God’s house – his temple –

“In Jesus the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit” (Eph. 2:21-22)

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Cor. 3:16).

For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

*“I will dwell in them*

*And walk among them*.

*I will be their God,*

*And they shall be My people.*[[1]](#footnote-1)

“You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5).

Just as Solomon dedicated the first temple through prayer fire fell from heaven and consumed sacrifices and the glory of the presence of the Lord filled the temple … God came to his house! On the day of Pentecost as the disciples gathered together in the upper for 10 days of prayer, God once again dedicated his house. Fire fell from heaven and rested on the 120 – this time not on a building but on a people – a new temple was dedicated – what hasn’t changed is the name – God’s house is still a house of prayer for all nations! We are called to be a praying people – a family that prays! God has chosen to accomplish His purposes through the prayers of His people! He has ordained prayer as the channel through which he carries out his will!

And we as God’s people, his family, I think it is so important that pray that the family altar of prayer in our homes be restored in these days! How can we grow in prayer as families, husbands and wives, fathers, mothers, and grandparents praying together with their children and grandchildren!

It was such a powerful and striking image in the gospel of Matthew when the children were crying out in praise in the Father’s house of prayer,

It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.” And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. **15**But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant, **16**and they said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read,

“ ‘Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies

you have prepared praise’?

And of course, at Pentecost, during the dedication of the God’s new temple - 3 generations were present praying and waiting for the Father’s promised gift of the Holy Spirit as Peter prophecies – this is that - your son’s and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams (Acts 2) – maybe this is still true today that when we come together was families in the place of prayer – God draws near!

When you look at your church today – would it be characterized as a ‘house of prayer for all nations?’ A family, praying together for all nations!

When it comes right down to it, it’s not a matter for debate. The owner of the house gets to name the house. God has clearly named his house a house of prayer for all nations - Our job is to figure out what that means and to get to it!

1. **Worship – based Prayer**

**Our first key to effective prayer is Worship- based Prayer! One of the most striking themes throughout all of Scripture is God’s passion for God! He has passionate zeal for the glory of his name (his name meaning his nature, his essence, his character and his reputation–** God relentlessly and unceasingly creates, rules, orders, directs, speaks, judges, saves, destroys and delivers in order to make known who He is and to secure from the whole of the universe the praise, honor and glory of which He and He alone is ultimately and infinitely worthy.

As Jonathan Edwards writes, “God… is infinitely the greatest and best of beings. All things else, with regard to worthiness, importance, and excellence, are perfectly as nothing in comparison to him… The ultimate [goal] of God’s works is… *the glory of God”*

According to J. I. Packer, "The only answer that the Bible gives to questions that begin: 'Why did God . . .?' is: 'For his own glory?' Everything God does is for His own glory. Everything God permits is for His own glory. Everything God pursues is for His own glory. When God acts it is for the sake of His name. And all this graciously redounds to our pleasure, enjoyment and satisfaction! To put it more directly, the aim of God in creation and redemption is his delight in our delight in him!

“For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself” (1 Samuel 12:22)

“He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake”

According to the Westminster Confession of Faith, 'The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever – in reality - the chief end of God is to glorify God and to enjoy himself forever.' As John Piper declares, “The chief end of man is to Glorify God ‘BY’ enjoying him forever. God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him”

Story of daughter?

**Our first duty in prayer is to exalt the Lord, to glorify his name, celebrate him, treasure him, adore him, and enjoy Him!** He truly is the most enjoyable, most fascinating, more pleasurable person in all of the universe!

When we talk about worship based prayer - it is the “response of all we are to the revelation of all He is.” Jesus helps us with this key when he teaches the disciples to pray “Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be your name.” The Lords prayer begins with an invitation to adoration. The most appropriate response to God’s presence is reverence! No one looks up at the Grand Canyon and says, “I’m awesome’

We are hardwired to wonder and therefore to Worship! The most enjoyable dimension of prayer is hallowing the Father’s name.

But this is also one of the keys to answered prayer! We know that God’s name is already hallowed in heaven – we are asking the Father to hallow his name on earth as it is in heaven! We can pray, “Father we ask that your name would treated and treasured as infinitely valuable on earth as it is in heaven” We are asking the Father to make his Name real in our midst. As Dennis Fuqua prays, ‘May your name be revealed that it might be revered”

**As Malachi writes, “**For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts (Malachi 1:11).

God the Father always acts in ways that honor his Name! It’s his reputation that is ultimately at stake! So Father, Vindicate your name, make your name known to your adversaries, make your name great on the earth! How else will the nations know who you are?

I love to put a ‘so that’ in my prayers. Father, your will be done – so that your name will be hallowed! Father, your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven so that your name will be glorified!

I have been so inspired by the church in Indonesia today! I believe they are one of the most united praying nations in world – 70 24/7 prayer towers, filled with the young and the old, united across the denominations and generations! 60 plus prayer towers in Papua that are filled with children in prayer! And the church is growing in astounding numbers – many pastors are saying that Indonesia which is the largest muslim nation in the nation – now has approximately 50 million Jesus followers! But what I am most impressed when I go to Indonesia is their worship- based prayer – they love to worship, and the presence of God is tangible in their meetings!

They have truly learned to Hallow the Father’s name and he is responding with his empowering presence in their midst! Amen -

1. **Abiding**

The second key to effective prayer is learning to Abide in Christ! As Jesus said, “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5**I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **6**If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7**If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.” (John 15:4-9)

**Notice the words ‘If’ you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you! Abiding means to keep in constant and close fellowship with Jesus – learning to walk with him in the place of prayer! Just like a branch can’t produce fruit apart from the vine, we recognize that we are entirely dependent on Jesus to accomplish anything of eternal value – apart from me you can do nothing!**

Our God is a relational being – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - From all eternity the living God has lived in relationship— At the center of the universe is a family - God is One, but he is not Alone – he is the Three -in – one God! From all eternity the living God has been infinitely pleased as Father, Son and Holy Spirit! What is crazy is that this eternal triune God beckons to us to enter this eternal relationship of joy and fellowship. The Bible says that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). Love implies relationship. The mystery is that long before any human being came into the picture God was already love. God had already existed as a community of love. The Father loved the Son, the Son loved the Father, and the love between the Father and the Son was embodied in the Person of the Holy Spirit. The God who is love draws near to me, a sinful, mere mortal, to draw me within the circle of Lover, Beloved and Love itself. We become co-lovers with God, loving God, co-lovers with God loving one another and co-lovers with God loving the lost! It is the very reason for our existence and it all starts with prayer – our conversation and connection with the God of the universe – learning to receive his love, give his love and display and share his love with others!

Not only are we invited to love God, but we are invited to love each person of the Trinity with the love of the other persons of the Trinity. The Father really loves the Son—an understatement. The Son has been and always will be the Father’s great delight. We learn to grow in love for the Son with the very love of the Father that the Holy Spirit sheds abroad in our hearts!

As we are engaged in prayerful fellowship with the triune God – the very essence and expression of eternal love –our hearts are transformed and filled with the love of God. It is this love that moves us to love one another!

What an amazing statement where Jesus says in Verse 9, “As the Father loves me, so I love you… now abide in my love” The same dedication, the same same loyal love, the same delight, the same affection, the same pursuit, the same enjoyment that the Father has for his son Jesus is the same love that Jesus has for you and I! That is outrageous love - It is his son gashed on a cross for us. It's him saying to us, "I will never leave you behind. I'm not moving on without you. I will never forsake you. On the contrary, I will break through walls for you. I will climb up hills for you. I will run through the darkness for you. I will pay any price to get you."

**Through the work of Jesus on the Cross**

**– Jesus was cursed so we could be cured**

**– Jesus was rejected so we could be accepted**

**-Jesus experience the wrath of God’s righteous judgement so we could be released from the weight of sin and shame**

**- Jesus was broken on the cross so that our shattered destiny, our fragments could be brought back together again – we could be now be made WHOLE**

**- Jesus became sin so that we could become the righteousness of God in Him**

**- Jesus was wounded so you could be healed**

Jesus tells us that one of the keys to abiding in him is learning to meditate on the cross. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. **56**Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him” (John 6:55-56).

Eat and keep on eating, drink and keep on drinking! Greater love has none –

The early church broke break daily in their homes! Jesus said ‘do this in remembrance of me – remember and give thanks! Paul decided to know nothing but Jesus and him crucified!

Listen the Father is always looking at he wounds of his son and

For over three decades, Andrew Murray Sr. faithfully held intercession meetings—praying every Friday night since the early 1820s—for a spiritual awakening in South Africa. In a town called Worcester, a group of committed intercessors regularly climbed to a hilltop overlooking the town to pray for a move of God, and in 1860, Andrew Murray Jr. took up the pastorate of Worcester, coinciding with a major conference attended by 374 leaders from 20 congregations, and all were focused on revival. During one of the opening prayers led by Murray Jr., people were deeply convicted of their sins—marking what many consider the spark of the revival. He formally began his ministry there on Pentecost Sunday (27 May), preaching passionately on the Spirit’s power and the urgency of conversion—

One night during a youth prayer meeting, a 15-year-old African girl was asked to pray. As she spoke, participants heard a roaring sound—like approaching thunder—filling the hall and shaking the building. The room erupted into spontaneous corporate prayer.

From Worcester it quickly spread: Prayer meetings multiplied, some continuing into the early hours of the morning. Worshipers overflowed church buildings

Whole communities experienced conviction of sin, repentance, and heartfelt conversion, with testimonies of “I am lost!” and “Lord, help me!” echoing across the fields and valleys.

**Legacy of Revival**  
The experience left a lasting mark on Murray’s life and ministry. He devoted himself to writing a wealth of devotional books—like *Abide in Christ*—to help new believers sustain their faith.

The theme of Andrew Murray’s *Abide in Christ* is the believer’s **continual, intimate, and dependent union with Jesus** as the source of all spiritual life, growth, and fruitfulness.

*Abide in Christ* teaches that the Christian’s greatest need is **to remain in living fellowship with Jesus every moment**, of everyday trusting Him to work in and through them.

1. **Asking in Jesus Name –**

The 3rd key to effective prayer is Asking in Jesus Name!

5x in the upper room – Jesus last words are important words – he asks his disciples to ask him or ask his father and ask in his name and then he would do it -

John 14:13-14, “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

There is the challenge to ask, the right way to ask – in his name and the assurance of our ask, when we ask in the Name of Jesus

“In Jesus’ name” was never designed to be a tack-on at the end of our superficial requests. Rather, “in Jesus’ name” is a reality that changes why, how, and what we pray, from the very opening moment of our communion with God! According to Jesus one of the keys to answered prayer is praying ‘in his name.’

John 14:13-14, “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

So what does Jesus mean when he says, “ask in his name?” I see three primary things. First it is worship-based prayer focused on the character and renown of Christ. Second, we come on the basis of Christ’s merit. Third, we are authorized to be Christ’s representatives praying with his delegated authority!

**Worship-based prayer**

Ultimately God will answer prayer when it will magnify his name and his character! As Dr. Randal Roberts writes,

“Praying in Jesus name means to pray in a manner consistent with His values and purposes . . . It is to pray with the glorification of God as the supreme motive; It is to pray as Jesus would pray if He was in our circumstances; It is to pray as His followers who have been appointed as instruments of fruit-bearing in the outworking of His mission . . . It is learning to ask for the good things that He delights to give from the devoted heart that He delights to bless.”

Praying ‘in Jesus name’ means we pray that the reputation of Jesus would be enhanced. Jesus Christ would be more clearly seen and savored, revealed and revered. We pray that the name of Jesus would be treated as infinitely valuable here on earth as it is in heaven! One major assumption when we pray is this: There’s always MORE --OF Christ, FROM Christ, and FOR Christ! The one major GUARANTEE our prayers will be heard and answered is this: Will the answers to our prayers help...

EXALT Jesus’ NAME?

SPREAD Jesus’ FAME?

EXTEND Jesus’ REIGN?

INCREASE Jesus’ GAIN?

RATIFY Jesus’ CLAIM?

**Christ’s Merit**

Praying in the name of Jesus is no formality. We approach God in prayer through Jesus because Jesus is the grounds upon which God chooses to hear us. God chooses to hear us because we have loved Jesus and believed that God sent him. God answers those who ask of him on the basis of Jesus and his gospel work. You and I have no claim on God, but Christ does. He merited the blessing of the Father’s favor by his perfect life of obedience and sacrifice of the cross. Our access depends solely on what Jesus has done! When we pray in Jesus’ name we are asking the Father, ‘grant this request, because your Son the Lord Jesus has earned it!’ May Jesus see the travail of his soul and be satisfied! May the Lamb who was slain receive his due reward. He is All-Deserving! Rev. 5:12

In our praying, it is God’s name that is at stake! Jesus is telling us that His Father always acts in ways that honor his Name! So we pray, God vindicate your name in the nations of the earth!

Praying in his name means praying in accordance with his will! 1 John 5:14–15 (NKJV), “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him”

We come asking in accord with Christ’s will, his desires… We have the mind of Christ in us, so what we ask is what Jesus would ask. He is asking us to ask for him. We are able to ask what he would ask because our wills are in sync with his will….

John 16:24 (NKJV), “Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full”

The Father so loves the Son that when we introduce the Son’s name in prayer, we haver his ear, we have secured his willingness, and we have touched his heart …

**Authorized as ‘Christ’s representatives’**

Third, when we are praying in ‘Jesus name’ we are coming as those who are authorized to act in his place. Since we ‘represent’ him, Jesus authorized us to use his name in prayer. He gave us authority over his accounts. He asked us to exercise control over his estate-the kingdom of God! To pray in Jesus name and with his authority ultimately means praying according to his will and not our own.

We exercise our authority through prayer. By prayer we ask the Father for all we need to get the job done. By prayer we ask God to bind and destroy all demonic strongholds that are contrary to his will! By prayer we ask for justice, making wrong things right! By prayer we ask God to shatter evil regimes and expose corruption! By prayer we ask him to direct his grace and power for the advance of the gospel in the nations of the earth!

Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords! He has been given the name that is above every other name! He is the Sovereign Son of the Father, who reigns at the right hand of the Father … All authority in heaven and earth has been given to him and he has asked us to exercise his delegated authority in the place of prayer! He is the triumphant victor over every foe-sin, death, Hades and the devil. He is the glorious Conqueror! Therefore, we are praying from the victory that he has secured through the cross. He is the Righteous Judge of peoples and nations, to whom all must give an account. He is the Undeniable and Gracious Ruler of history, overseeing its path and its outcome from beginning to end! He is the Incomparable King of a Kingdom that will ultimately cover the earth as the waters cover the sea! Hab. 2:14

**Expect Results!**

What happens when we pray in Jesus’ name? What is the ultimate purpose and result? According to Jesus’ multiple commands in this Upper Room Discourse, the outcomes of praying in His name are:

The Father will be glorified in the Son!

We bear fruit that remains!

Our joy is full!

God’s will is done on earth as it is in heaven!

He promised if we prayed in his name, he would do it! James gives us an example.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. **6**But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. **7**For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; **8**he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways”

We know it’s God’s will that we walk in wisdom – how do we get the wisdom of God? James encourages us to ask God for wisdom in prayer – but when we ask we need to ask in faith that God will give it! When we ask for things according to God’s will and for his renown we are assured he will answer!

Jesus always reminds us of this principle of faith-driven prayer,

“And Jesus answered them, “Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen. **22**And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith”

Power to wither fig trees and move mountains is released through prayer that is full of faith, confident in God, and certain of his promises!

Let’s believe it and ask until we see the results!

What a glorious privilege to pray by faith in Jesus’ name!

The story of **John Hyde**—better known as Praying Hyde—is one of the most inspiring accounts of a man who lived and breathed prayer, always rooted in praying in **Jesus’ name.**

John Hyde was born in 1865 in Illinois, USA, to a Presbyterian pastor. After graduating from seminary, he sailed to India in 1892 as a missionary. He was not a natural public speaker, nor did he find evangelism easy at first, but he quickly discovered his unique calling—**to labor for souls through prayer**.

Early in his ministry, Hyde began asking God **in Jesus’ name** for one soul every day to be saved. Soon, that prayer was answered so often that he asked for **two souls a day**, then four, and at times even more. Hyde said that praying in Jesus’ name meant asking **what Jesus Himself would ask if He were in the room**—

At the large Christian gatherings in Sialkot (then in India, now Pakistan), Hyde was known to disappear for hours—sometimes the entire night—into his prayer tent. He would plead in Jesus’ name for the Holy Spirit’s power over the preachers and for conviction in the hearers and many witnesses reported that when he emerged, there was a tangible sense of God’s presence. Hyde’s most famous prayer was:

“Father, give me souls, or I die!”

By the time he died in 1912 (only 46 years old), thousands in Punjab and beyond had come to Christ. His life became a rallying point for prayer movements worldwide. Missionary friends testified that Hyde’s prayers in Jesus’ name were marked by an unshakable confidence that God would answer.

One missionary recorded Hyde praying:

“Lord Jesus, we are not asking in our own name. We are coming with Your name on our lips and in our hearts—therefore we may ask great things, for Your name is great.”

Hyde once explained to a younger missionary:

“When I say, ‘in Jesus’ name,’ I do not mean a phrase at the end of a prayer. I mean I have sought His mind, and when I am sure what He wills, I can go to the Father as if Jesus Himself were asking.”

When praying for people by name, Hyde often said:

“Father, this one is Yours—You bought him with the blood of Your Son. I claim him now in Jesus’ name. Satan shall not have him.”

At Sialkot, Hyde prayed over maps of Punjab:

“Lord Jesus, these towns are still without a witness. We ask in Your name—send laborers into Your harvest. Let them go with power from on high, so that Your name is magnified in every village.”

And Before services, Hyde was heard to pray:

“Lord, make this preacher a vessel for Your glory. Fill him now in the name of Jesus. Let not one word be his own, but all Yours, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

At one Sialkot Convention, an Indian evangelist fell ill with a high fever the night before he was scheduled to speak. Doctors advised rest and no preaching.

* Hyde visited his bedside, placed a hand gently on his head, and prayed:

“Lord Jesus, You have called this man to proclaim Your Word tomorrow. In Your name, remove this fever that he may glorify You in the assembly.”

* Eyewitnesses recorded that the fever broke within hours. The next day, the man preached with unusual power and clarity.

1. **Praying God’s Word** –

**Our next key is praying God’s Word!** Years ago, I was taught how to pray the Word of God—and it has revolutionized my prayer life. It is the ultimate prayer manual written by God Himself. Scripture is the language of God’s heart! The Bible always makes His will clear to us through the written Word. Anything the Holy Spirit makes known to us will always be in agreement with God’s revealed Word. As 2 Timothy 3:16-17 writes,

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

God has always been looking for those for whom he can speak, those who will hear and live. The Word of God isn’t casual and it isn’t an option; our very lives depend on it! As Jesus declared in the wilderness, “man doesn not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of his mouth” (Matthew 4:4). One of the ways that we learn to listen and talk to God is through Praying His Word! It is about the rediscovery of hearing, delighting in, trembling before, and obeying the Word of God. The Word is meant to abide in us and transform us from the inside-out! God’s Word feeds us (Matt. 4:4), washes us (Eph. 5:26-27), sanctiﬁes us (John 17:17), disciplines us (Heb. 4:12-13), imparts faith to us (Rom. 10:17, and equips us (2 Tim. 3:16-17). May we get into the Word until the Word gets into us, both the written Word and the Living Word, the Lord Jesus!

One of the practical ways that God invites us to ‘keep company with him’ is through praying Scripture. Hebrews 4:12 states, that the Word of God is alive and powerful, or living and active! Along with reading God’s Word, and studying God’s Word, we want to meditate on God’s Word – as Psalm 1 says,

“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers” (Psalm 1:2-3).

“Meditation is simply talking to God about his Word with the desire that your life and those you pray for come into agreement with it – William Thrasher

Meditation on God’s Word and his Ways, or simply put Praying God’s Word is how the Spirit of God writes the Word of God on the hearts of the people of God. There is something about meditation that allows God’s truth to trickle from our heads to our hearts and through our hearts to our lives!

**Praying God’s Word is a key to answered prayer! As I John 5 writes,**

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. **15**And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him”

In intercessory prayer we stand before God on behalf of men! His word moves and touches our hearts and we pray back that word to him. If our requests line up with God’s will, it moves his heart and he answers with a divine yes – speaks a word and things shift on the earth! A good example in creation is lightning – I love a good lightning storm – Lightning is motivated by the heavens but starts from the ground up – and then we see it when it strikes the mark on the way down! Lightning story Washington DC –

The ultimate prayer model that Jesus taught us to pray is the Lord’s prayer and a primary focus is the phrase, ‘on earth as it is in heaven’ Father may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. How do we know how to pray according to the will of God – through pleading the promises of God in his Word! As DL Moody said, “Tarry at a promise and God will meet you there!” In intercessory prayer we pray from the answer with the answer in mind – from the answer to the answer!

Moses is a great example as he interceded on behalf of Israel after she had committed spiritual adultery on her wedding night with Yahweh – turning against God and wosrhipped the golden calf. Israel is punished by not destroyed – Psalm 106 shares about this event – “So he said he would destroy them – had not Moses his chosen one stood in the gap before him to keep his wrath from destroying them” God found someone to stand in the gap and his mercy triumphed over judgement!

Another story in Israel’s history illustrates this principle of standing in the gap in prayer is found in Ezekiel. The sins of Judah and Jerusalem were piling up and it was finally time for God’s justice to pour out against there sin. However the Lord desired for mercy to triumph over judgement. In order for the Lord to release his mercy and do what he wanted to do – he had to find someone to stand in the gap and ask him on behalf of his people Israel –

“And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none. Therefore I have poured out my indignation upon them” (Ezekiel 22:30).

The mighty God was looking or an intercessor – someone who would stand in the gap like Moses had done earlier in Israel’s history – who would cry out on behalf of the land so that God mighty release his saving power – None were found and the city was destroyed.

One of the misconceptions that I often hear in the church today is that intercessory prayer is for a gifted few, or the spiritual elite. However intercession is not a gifting; it is a discipline. All believers who take time to pray for others are intercessors. When we work we work, but when we pray God works!

I love what James 5 says

“The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. **18**Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit”

Elijah was a man with our nature just like ours – and God used him to stand in the gap in fervent prayer! Let’s follow his example in our day

The promise in James 5 says that the prayer of a righteous man is effective. Certainly we know that we are made righteous by our faith in the work of Christ through gospel and yet I do believe that our walk with God is important in effective prayer! As Psalm 66:18 says, “If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.” Jesus made a strong point that we need to forgive others as the Lord has forgiven us in the Lords’ prayer. Paul called out to the men to lift up ‘holy’ hand in the place of prayer. And Peter reminded husbands, ‘live with your wives in an understanding way… so that your prayers may not be hindered” And James shares with us, “You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”

The great news is that as we Pray God’s word – God’s word is what sanctifies and makes us more like Christ! Jesus prayed to the Father in John 17, “Father sanctify them by the truth, your Word is truth!”

Again I believe the most effective way to pray is to base your prayers on the Word of God! As EM Bounds use to say, “The Word of God is the food by which prayer is nourished and made strong”

One of the great proponent for praying Scripture in church history was Martin Luther!

**Reformation Story**

1. **Breakthrough Prayer for the Great Commission** –

**Our next key to effective prayer is praying for breakthrough to see the Great Commission fulfilled.**  The Bible places great importance on the role of prayer in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. The term "the Great Commission" refers to Jesus' final command to his disciples (and hence to the church as a whole) while he was physically on the earth. We want to pray that every person and family everywhere would have an authentic encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit! And Jesus clearly says the most effective way to do this – to see the gospel of the kingdom proclaimed to all the world is by making disciples of every nation! Jesus commanded his disciples to Go and make disciples of all nations from Mt. Arbel – Arbel is the tallest mountain in Galilee. Matthew’s Gospel tells us that after Jesus’ resurrection, He gave instructions for His disciples to go to the mountain in Galilee … On a clear day Standing on top of Arbel, you can see for miles. Looking to the north, you can see the peak of Mount Hermon, the largest mountain in Israel towering over the borders between Lebanon, Syria and Israel. To the east, you can see the Golan Heights, the black, basalt stoned tabletop range that separates Israel from the countries of Syria and Jordan. Looking to the south, you can see the fertile farmlands of the Jezreel Valley spread out like a patchwork quilt on the floor until it reaches the rolling hills of Samaria. And looking to the west, sits the coastal plain next to the ancient city of Caesarea Maritima, the ancient port city constructed by King Herod where the Apostle Paul set sail to Rome, carrying the Gospel with him to the West.

**Jesus was casting a vision -** a vision of a global movement of multiplication.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age”

\*In this passage we see first that authority is given to Jesus and the second part at the end I am with you always at the end of the age – we often focus on the go, on making disciples, on baptism or teaching or mechanics of planting churches – but Jesus words start and end with himself – his authority and his presence – as we see int eh book of acts these are not abstract principles – these were experienced as living reality – Jesus is the central person and burning core of the great commission – and we connect with him – his authority and his presence – through prayer! Prayer is the primary way that God has gifted to us to keep the main thing the main thing – Jesus himself at the center – Jesus has all authority – he is the with us -that is the start and finish of the great commission!

1. A disciple of Jesus is one who has come to Jesus for eternal life, has claimed him as Savior and God, and has embarked upon a life of following him. A disciple is one who Loves God, loves people, and makes disciples that multiply! The marks of disciple worthy reproducing according to Jesus are three fold –
   * Abides in God’s Word, John 8:31-32

John 8:31-32 (ESV), “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

* + Loves as Jesus loves, John 13:34-35

John 13:34-35 (ESV), “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

* + Bears Fruit, John 15:8

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples” How do we bear fruit that glorifies the Father – by Abiding and Asking – We start abiding in God’s Word through prayer and one of the first and foremost ways that we love others is by praying for them!

Prayer is the very lifeblood of a disciple of Jesus!

How did Jesus disciple his nation, the Jewish nation - he demonstrated the primacy of prayer – he sets the patterns in motion – Mark 1 – Jesus comes backs from his baptism, and time in the desert as man on fire - proclaiming the kingdom, calling his disciples, a high profile casting out of a demon, then he is healing his mother in law, healing an entire city – his popularity when viral among the nation – on fire and then

Mark 1:35-37, “And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed”

At this moment of high impact and doors opening – Jesus withdraws to spend time with the Father in prayer! How often we do the opposite – the ministry is increasing, we are so busy we think we don’t have time for prayer –

It reminds me of the story of Mary and Martha – on the heals of the parable of the good Samaritan – Jesus says to martha, “martha why are anxious and troubled about many things – only one thing is necessary and Mary has chosen the good portion and it will not be taken away from her” What was this one thing that was most necessary that mary was doing – she was sitting at the feet of jesus, gazing at his beauty and listening to every word that he was saying! Listening to the words of Jesus is so important in our missional work – we need to first inquire of the Lord what he desires, what are his plans and then when we speaks we obey him – radical, costly immediate obedience to the words of Jesus!

I love John 14:12-14, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14If you ask anything in My name, I will do it”

How will do the works of Jesus – we first ask him to do his work! When we work we work, but when we pray God works!

And Jesus modeled this for us – following Jesus is more than just learning from him, or even imitating him, in our union with him by the Holy Spirit as we abide in him and his words in us, he lives his life and ministry through us!

18 references to Jesus praying, Luke 5:16 says, “Jesus often withdrew to lonely places prayed”

8 recorded prayers of Jesus,

And 14 teachings of Jesus on prayer and we know Jesus continues his intercessory work before the Father today! If he is praying now, let’s follow him in this ministry of prayer as his disciples!

In Psalm 2 we see the Father asking Jesus to ask him for the nations! Let’s join this prayer, and ask the Father to give his Son the Nations as his inheritance!

One of the keys to the fulfillment of the Great Commission is praying to the Lord of the Harvest for laborers to sent forth!

He said to them, “The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest”

The word for prayer used in this context is deomai, which is the word for desperate prayer! Jesus said the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few – Therefore Pray – pray fervently, pray with desperation!

We also are aware that when these workers go forth to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom, that the enemy has set up spiritual strongholds over peoples, cities and nations. Paul tells us that we have been given weapons of warfare to do battle against the enemy and see breakthrough!

Wielding the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit through prayer is one of our most powerful weapons! We first pray and decare the supremacy of Jesus over peoples and regions! Through prayer, we ask the Father to bind and restrain the enemy, the principalities and powers in the name of Jesus over cities and nations for the breakthough of the gospel for people who have never heard! We ask the Lord to remove the blindness that the god of this age has placed over the unbelievers that they might see the light of the gospel in face of Jesus! We ask the Father to deliver us from the evil one, just as Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil**.** As we offer our worship and praise to the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, His presence and light in our midst shatters spiritual darkness, and the power of God delivers families from every faith on the earth to become wholehearted followers of Jesus Christ!

In light of God’s promises to the people of Israel, it is important that we follow Paul’s lead in praying for the salvation of Israel. As Paul prayed, “My heart’s desire and prayer to God is for their salvation” If the gospel is the power of God first to the Jew and then to the Gentile, we must also prioritize prayer first to the Jew and then to the Gentile! As Isaiah 62 writes, “On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth”

At the same time, we know according to Romans 11:25, “I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. **26**And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”; and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”

The gospel must be proclaimed to every nation to see the fullness of the Gentiles come in and then All Israel will be saved!

We have seen a great surge of worship and intercessory prayer launched in the 90’s through to today! The Koreans in early morning prayer for decades, Marches for Jesus in streets around the world, the Global Day of Prayer filling stadiums, people prayer walking and praying for breakthrough in gateway cities of the world , and the acceleration of houses of prayer and worship exploding in the nations.

And during this time there has been astounding results in missions movements around the world –

According to the top missions’ researchers, the disciples and churches in these movements have grown exponentially at an astounding rate of 23 percent annually, much faster than the global population. The total number of disciples in these movements has doubled every 3.5 years – a testimony of the potency of divine multiplication with prayer. The global growth has occurred over four distinct stages

* + From 1995 to 2000 – from 10,000 to over 100,000 disciples
  + From 2000 to 2005 – from 100,000 to over 1 million disciples
  + From 2005 to 2015 – from 1 million to over 10 million
  + From 2015 to 2024 – the number surpassed 100 million

We are seeing today over 100 million in united prayer on 4 global days of prayer and the results have been astounding – the numbers of churches being planted in just one of the movements among the muslim world has increased by 15- 20percent in some places!

As Christ-exalting, Bible Based, Worship-fed, Spirit-led, love-motivated prayer is increasing in the nations – more disciples are being made, more churches are being planted, more bibles are being translated, and more justice is being released to the poor, the marginalized and the orphan and widow!

Evan Roberts Story

The Welsh Revival in 1904-1905 had a profound ripple effect on global missions – as Spirit-led movement it ignited a worldwide passion for evangelism, and prayer that fueled mission’s movements. The Welsh Revival news spread rapidly through newspapers, traveling preachers, and letters, sparking revival movements in Europe, India, Korea (1907), and in North America in the Azusa street revival of 1906, which in turn launched global Pentecostal missions.

Evan Roberts was the central figure in the Welsh Revival, in 1904 - one of mighty movements of the Holy Spirit in church history. Born in a Welsh coal mining community, he left school at twelve to work in the mines and came to Christ at thirteen. In his teens, he attended prayer meetings nearly every night, devouring books and stories about past revivals. He became known for long hours of prayer, even being evicted once for praying and preaching in his rented room.

At 25, Roberts experienced nightly visitations from God for three months, in which he described as experiencing the liquid love of the Lord flooding hi entire being! Attending meetings led by evangelist Seth Joshua, he was deeply moved by the prayer, “O God, bend us.” Overwhelmed by God’s love, he cried, “Bend me!”—and he experienced a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit that transformed his personality, speech, and health. Soon after, he saw visions of preaching in his hometown, returned uninvited, and shared a simple but convicting message on receiving the Spirit by fulfilling four conditions: confess all known sin, remove doubtful habits, obey the Spirit promptly, and confess Christ publicly.

Roberts introduced “chain prayer,” repeatedly asking, “Father send the Spirit for Jesus Christ sake,” and again ‘Father send the Spirit even more powerfully for Jesus Christ sake.” The Spirit fell mightily, and within days revival swept across Wales. Churches overflowed, meetings ran from early morning to midnight, and within six months over 100,000 people came to Christ. Crime nearly vanished, taverns emptied, police formed singing quartets for church services, and even coal pit ponies were confused by miners’ newfound kindness and speech, 😊 After a few years of intense ministry, he had to take a break and withdraw from ministry. At it was during this time of rest and emotional healing that the Lord impressed on him, ‘before men you can reach hundreds but before me in prayer you could reach thousands - he dedicated the rest of his life as an intercessor.

1. **Desperate Prayer** – Evan Roberts

Our 6th Key to effective prayer that moves the heart of God – called Desperate Prayer!

We have come to believe that the true seedbed of awakening is the hearts of men and women willing to receive the gift of tears and travail. This kind of intercession is born out of human inability to make anything to happen, it’s a place of desperation, of dependence on God where we recognize we can do nothing about the situation, but God can! These types of prayers, heart-filled prayers with tears provoke a response in God… on three occasions in the gospels we see Jesus in tears - It so important for us to slow down, and watch Jesus weep with compassion over the ones he loves … he truly is a MAN OF SORROWS - and then enter into his weeping heart in the place of prayer

“Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy… He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him” (Ps. 126:5)

Crying out to God often with tears is an act of desperation and total consecration. It is a fervent expression of faith in God and trust in His goodness and power to act on our behalf. As Spurgeon said, “tears are liquid prayer.”

As we are crying out for souls to be saved – the Lord asked me a powerful question –

I was meditating on Scriptures that spoke of hell … Matthew 13:41–42 (ESV), “The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth….”

The Lord asked me – ‘Are you willing to cry out in tears NOW before they spend an eternity weeping and gnashing their teeth in outer darkness –

Paul shared in Romans 10:1 , “My hearts desire and prayer to God is that all Israel might be saved” Paul put his heart into praying – the salvation of the lost was the desired outcome of prayer … he loved the people he was praying for … it was a love motivated plea to a love Giving God on behalf of love needy persons who live in a love starved world –

just one chapter earlier Paul describes the depth of his love …

“I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race” (Romans 9:2-3)….

he even says he is willing to go to hell if his fellow jews might be saved … wow … Think about what this really means. Are you willing to go to hell for the sake of your nation.

how much do we care for those we are praying for …

one of the greatest gifts we can give people is the gift of prayer – asking God to do for them what they can’t do for themselves …

Dick Eastman story – salvation army …

“God will not intervene until we come to a point of desperation.” - Derek Prince

“Desperate prayer is when there is no other option left but to call upon God and God alone.”

This was the praying of the Hebrews who “groaned in their slavery and cried out to God ” (Exod. 2:23) and God heard their groaning and remembered his covenant.

Like Nehemiah when he heard the news of Jerusalem’s brokenness, “sat down and wept,” then fasted and prayed for days (Neh. 1:4).

This is the prayer of the prophets: that we “give [God] no rest,” (Isa. 62:7) until Jerusalem becomes a praise on the earth ; that we “go at once to entreat the Lord and seek the Lord Almighty.” (Zech. 8:21)

“Between the temple porch and the altar, let the priests, ministers of the Lord, weep and say, "Have pity upon Your people, and do not make Your heritage a disgrace, a mockery among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'â€¯(Joel 2:15-17).

The porch of the temple was the location that drew the population. Often a multitude would gather to see the interactions of the temple. The porch was for the people to gather… The altar was built for the purpose of receiving. It was a twofold receiving, as the altar first received the sacrifice and then the fire. Fire only fell on sacrifice … The altar is where the sacrificial offerings ascend to the Lord. The ‘between’ is a place of intercession! As the priest would take their place in between, they would be representing God to the people, and the people to God. It would be the cry of the priest unto the Lord, to "Spare your people, oh Lord." This place would be saturated with the sounds of weeping for the people”

Lamentations 2:18–19 (ESV), “Their heart cried to the Lord. O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears stream down like a torrent day and night! Give yourself no rest, your eyes no respite! 19 “Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the night watches! Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord! Lift your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint for hunger at the head of every street.”

Elijah “climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees” to pray for relief from drought (1 Kings 18:42). It was the posture of a woman giving birth…. He fervently prayed and cried out to the Lord – and then the Lord responded …

Daniel 9:3 says he “turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition” for Jerusalem.

This is the praying of the Psalms. “Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for your law is not obeyed” (Ps. 119:136); “day and night I cry out to you” (Ps. 88:1); “Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need” (Ps. 142:6).

This was the praying of Jesus, who “offered up prayers and petitions with fervant cries and tears to the one who could save him” (Heb. 5:7);

There is no deeper view of the heart of Jesus than Gethsemane, where the agony of prayer drew the first blood of the atonement.

This was the prayer of those “earnestly praying to God for” Peter in prison (Acts 12:5)… and then God opened a door that no man can shut …

This was the prayer of Paul, who implored the Romans, “by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle”—literally, to agonize with me—“by praying to God for me” (Rom. 15:30).

He commended Epaphras to the Colossians as “always wrestling in prayer for you” (Col. 4:12).

This is praying in the Spirit who “intercedes for us through wordless groans” (Rom. 8:26).

And in Revelation, the only recorded prayer of the Holy Spirit is the urgent cry, “Come!” which, when united with the prayer of the church, is addressed to Jesus beckoning his thrice repeated promise, “I am coming soon!” (Rev. 22:7, 12, 17, 20).

The Bible seems utterly unfamiliar with casual prayer: prayer of the mouth and not the heart.

Travail mixed with tears —a kind of burdened, focused pressing—seems closer to the throbbing core of prayer in Scripture… weeping that leads to reaping of souls for Christ, travailing that leads to prevailing!

When need a Christ – Awakening in our nations –

“The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, heaven without hell.”― William Booth

Acts 4 - And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

And when they had prayed – DEOMAI – desperate prayer – travailing prayer – prayer with tears –

The early disciples “began in reverence” (v. 24-26) for God, praying Old Testament Scriptures, Scripture-fed, Spirit-led, worship-based prayer … V27-28 the disciples surrendered in response to God – again worship is always the response of all we are to the revelation of all He is!

Lord It’s your Name that is at stake – because of the glory of your name – would you answer our prayers all for the Spread of your Fame – for the increase of your gain, for the extension of your reign

Next they “presented their requests” (v. 29-30) to God, noting that their requests were focused on both resource needs and relationship needs.

**They are praying that as they proclaimed the gospel, the Word of the Kingdom – God would demonstrate the power of the kingdom – Father heal the sick, stretch forth your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the NAME of your holy servant Jesus**

And when they had prayed – DEOMAI – desperate prayer – travailing prayer – prayer with tears – it says that they were Filled with the Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness!

Filled in Acts 2 – Acts 4 - Baptised in and with the Holy Spirit – it absolutely God’s will for us to KEEP on being filed with the Spirit –

Jesus of Nazareth, God-in-flesh, redeems us from the power and grip of sin and then baptizes us, immerses us, soaks us, dresses us, saturates us, drenches us, marinates us, overwhelms us with the very Life of the Living God! Jesus the Baptist dunks us in and drenches us with the very life of the Triune God.

The Lord released his power in response to their desperate prayer … revival hit the city …

1. The building was shaken with the power of prayer.

2. The believers were shaken with the power of the Spirit.

3. The city was shaken with the power of the Gospel.

A shaking that leads to an awakening, a Christ awakening –

**Second Great Awakening Daniel Nash**

This is the Story of Daniel Nash. He has been referred by many as the ‘prevailing prince of prayer.’ He pastored a small church in the backwoods of New York for six years, and prayed and traveled for 7 years with Charles Finney, the great evangelist of the 2nd Great Awakening! As far as we know he never ministered outside the region of upstate New York during days when much of it was frontier. He wrote no books, started no schools, led no movements, and generally kept out of sigh! However, this man saw revival twice in his pastorate, and then was the key intercessor in one of the greatest revivals in US History!

During Nash’s second revival experienced in his church, 200 were converted occurring in a township with only 308 homes with a population of about 2000. Through his pastorate, God was preparing his heart to leave a public ministry of preaching to a private one of prayer.

Story of his church -

Father Nash as some referred to him, partnered with Charles Finney. Finney’s labor in evangelism began in the region of Evan Mills, NY. Finney stated, “He was full of the power of prayer” There goals were stated simply in a letter,

“When Mr. Finney and I began our race, we had no thought of going amongst ministers. Our highest ambition was to go where there was neither minister, or reformation and try to look up the lost sheep, for whom no man cared. We began and the Lord prospered”

Daniel Nash prompted by the Lord would go into a town first, at times with his prayer partner Abel Clary, and find a place to stay. Cottage, basement, cellar it didn’t matter they were on assignment to pray for the souls for the towns people. For 3 or 4 weeks, they would travail in the in the Spirit, with fasting and prayer, until they heard from the Lord. Charles Finney would then come to the town, hold revival meetings, and 1,000’s would give their lives to the Lord.

Charles Finney would describe Nash to “pray himself ill” over the agony for souls. Leonard Ravenhill records,

“I met an old lady who told me a story about Charles Finney that has challenged me over the years. Finney went to Bolton to minister, but before he began, two men knocked on the door of her humble cottage, wanting lodging. The poor woman looked amazed for she had no extra accommodations. Finally for about twenty-five cents a week, the two men none other than Clary and Father Nash rented a dark and damp cellar for the period of the Finney meetings (at least two weeks) and there in that self- chosen cell those prayer partners battled the forces of darkness”

Not only did Nash prepare the communities for preaching, but he also continued in prayer during the meetings.

“Often Nash would not attend the meetings and while Finney was preaching Nash was praying for the Spirit’s outpouring upon him. Finney stated, ‘I did the preaching altogether and brother Nash gave himself up almost continually to prayer.’ Often while the evangelist preached to the multitudes, Nash in some adjoining house would be upon his face in the agony of prayer and God answered in the marvels of his grace. With all due credit to Mr. Finney for what was done, it was the praying men who held the ropes. The tears they shed, the groans they uttered, are written in the book of the chronicles of the things of God.”

Nash was a man who prayed with fervency and intensity! He would weep, groan, travail, and pray in the spirit for the souls of men and women. Often he would use a prayer list of unsaved people and cry out to the Lord for them by name! Let’s mediate on some of Nash’s key motivating verses

What would happen if we would so give ourselves to prayer like Daniel Nash? What could the Lord do in our city, or nation? Come Lord Jesus and give us a Spirit of travail for the Glory of your name, that your Kingdom would come and manifest itself here on the earth! May the slain Lamb receive the due reward of his sufferings!

1. **Unceasing Prayer**

Our final key to effective prayer is unceasing prayer!

–It’s our desire to see canopies of 24/7 prayer in every nation of the world by 2033 - Gods’ people praying around the throne, around the clock and around the globe!

One of the clearest commands to engage in continual prayer is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18,

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”

It is clear this command is to the gathered church community at Thessalonica. In the New Testament, Paul urges the entire community—not just individuals—to pray without ceasing, as this is God's will in Christ Jesus for everyone.

We pray better ‘together!’

Clearly the New Testament church was devoted to prayer. 6x the Greek word for ‘devoted’ is used in relation to prayer; 3 patterns in the book of Acts, and 3 commands in the epistles. Devoted meant to be diligently occupied with, to persist in, to be ‘constantly engaged in.’ These were regular, set times of prayer, like in Acts 3:1, “Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.”

Acts 1:14, “All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer”

Acts 2:42, “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers”

Acts 6:4, “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word”

Ephesians 6:18, “Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance”

Romans 12:12, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer”

Colossians 4:2, “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving”

It is absolutely God’s will that we pray without ceasing, devoting ourselves to pray as a house of prayer for all nations!

What would it look like to see 24/7 prayer in your city?

Practically speaking, what if each church in a city committed to a 24hr day of prayer once a month and then passed the baton to the next church in the city? If you had 30 churches engaged in this rhythm of prayer you would see a canopy of 24/7 prayer over the city! People could commit to convenient times and locations of prayer that fit their busy schedules. Families could commit to praying and worshipping together in their homes with their children. People could gather together in a city-wide house of prayer or prayer tower. It doesn’t matter how you organize this. It is simply the principle of churches in your city committing to regular times of prayer and worship, praying around the throne, around the clock and praying around the globe! And then the question is how to discern what God’s will is for your city – what would it look like if the kingdom of God increased in your city – what are the felt needs in your city? What is on the Father’s heart for transformation! It is important to hear from kingdom minded leaders in the different areas of culture and ask them to inform our praying – this will help us to ‘See the City’ in order to grow in love for the city! And then as you begin to pray together, a shared story will emerge where we see God in our cities and communities! As Jeremiah 29:7 writes, And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace”

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. **2**He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. **3**And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ **4**For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, **5**yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’ ” **6**And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. **7**And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? *z*Will he delay long over them? **8**I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? (Luke 18:1-8).

Jesus said men should always pray and not loose heart!

As we mentioned before - Prayer is the conversational part of the Most important love relationship in our lives. In prayer we learn to keep company with him in the everyday stuff of life. We develop spiritual friendship with him. Prayer is not only a real relationship with the kindest person in the universe, but Jesus also invites us to partner with him in shifting history through our prayer and intercession, releasing justice, bringing forth awakening and revival in the nations and preparing the planet for his return. God releases his power, his truth and his love in response to the prayers of his people!

When we pray according to God’s will and for his renown his activity always increases. He always responds.

How many of you want to take your place in history in your generation? I want to encourage you to first become a person of prayer – no matter what job you have, family you have – whatever you story looks like -everyone can be an intercessor. You can see massive impact in your generation as you learn to pray! He calls us to Always pray – just as he always prays for us –

“Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them” (Heb 7:25).

Men should always pray and not loose heart. At the end of the parable Jesus writes,

“When the Son of Man comes will he find faith on the earth”

His point is that a lifestyle of unrelenting prayer is evidence of a person’s faith and we know that faith is the only thing that pleases God. We know that faith is the substance of things hoped for (Hebrews 11:1). As Jesus says, men should always pray and not loose heart, or in other words don’t loose HOPE!

Hope is future orientated. It is the joyful expectation of something good from God coming our way! It is a vision of God’s good future before us, meaning where you are going is better than where you are and where you are coming from.

Our ultimate hope is discovered in seeing and savoring, prizing and praising, recognizing and relishing the glory of God in the face of Christ. Christ is our HOPE! He is the summation of all the promises of God, the source of all the riches of God, now and forevermore. In Christ we have been given an inheritance of HOPE.

**Fostering a culture of Hope is critical to effective and sustainable intercession**!

Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

As Paul declares to us in 1 Cor 13:13,

“Now these three remain, faith, hope and love but the greatest of these is love.”

The greatest of these three is love, however I believe hope comes first. Hebrews tells us that faith is the substance of things hoped for. And of course we know that faith needs to work itself out in love (Gal. 5:6).

So we could look at this way: our hope is in hearing the music of the future, our faith is dancing to that music NOW! And our love is brining others into the dance with you! The song being sung is the beauty, majesty, and supremacy of Jesus Christ.

When our prayers are shaped by the Word, we are building on solid ground. We are responding to who God is and what he is doing. When we are claiming his promises, and obeying his commands, there is no better way to pray! The Scriptures declare to us that God is much better than we think he is, and is doing much more than we think he is doing in response to our prayers. As Paul prays in Ephesians 3:20-21,

“Now to him wo is able to do far more abundantly that all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen”

As we pray the Word, we are pleading the good promises of God! Promises predict the answers by foretelling what to expect! They are the molds into which we pour our prayers. Promises like these, “call unto me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things which you do not know” (Jer. 33:3). Promises like, “whatever things you ask for in prayer, believing, you will receive” (Matt. 21:22). Promises like, “if you ask me anything in my name I will do it” (John 14:14). This next year 2025, lets’ pray BIG Prayers of HOPE in the glorious promise of God’s Word that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea (Hab. 2:14).

When we pray God’s word we pray from the answer … with the answer in mind! When we plead God’s promises we are praying from the answer to the answer! In intercession we are asking him what he asks us to ask him! As we ask according to his will and for his renown, his activity always increases, releasing his power, his love, and his truth on the earth!

Together let’s Ignite Hope in our generation as we pray God’s word

**This parable gives us HOPE. It points to persistent, on-going night and day prayer as the vehicle for releasing justice.**

During the past several decades, the Holy Spirit has taken the realities of intercessory prayer and branded them on the hearts of his people in every culture, tribe, tongue and nation. I believe a new day has dawned in the ministry of intercessory prayer and the Holy Spirit is intent on spreading the news. Our God is a God of deep love and desire. His passion is for his people to know his goodness and to come to seek him based on the confidence that he has heard and will act on the prayers He himself has birthed in our hearts!

This parable starts in the context of a city, ‘in a certain city.’ How many of our cities today need justice?

Often a common interpretation of the parable is a misperception of Jesus’s objective. It concerns a widow who had a problem for which she needed Justice to be invoked by someone with the authority to do so. She was desperate and hopelessness for her situation and her inability to bring about Justice in any other way and her only recourse was to go to the judge.

Now in the Middle Eastern culture of that day it was difficult at best to be a widow. If she had no living son she could only survive by begging or prostitution, redeemed by a Kinsman, or becoming a slave of the Temple.

The widow in the story was alone with no Defender and to make matters worse she was stuck with a judge who in the chilling words of Jesus ‘did not fear God nor regard man.’

Jesus is building tension to focus our awareness on the critical nature of the plight of widow. Her only hope was for the intervention from the one who was supposed to be a representative of righteousness and yet was anything but that. In the Roman dominated society of the day many government officials obtained their positions by fraud, deception or treachery with the aim of gaining wealth and power. This widow meant nothing to him.

She chooses the only weapon she had left at her disposal – tenacious, unrelenting appeal day after day…

The text states that ‘she came to him’ but the verb tense in the original language indicates a repeated action that she ‘kept’ coming to the judge, relentlessly asking for her needs to be met, for justice against her adversary. The judge used the phrase ‘ she troubles me with her continual coming.’

She was a thorn in his flesh. She would not be denied until he finally relented and avenged her simply because she was wearing him out. He finally caves in and gives her what she wants.

The reality of the story in Luke 18 is that Jesus was building tension for the purpose of **contrast** - his intent was not to say, I want you to pray like this widow. He was saying, “if that kind of appeal by one widow with no rights or standing is effective … even before an unjust judge … how much more will the prayers of God’s beloved bride be effective with him whose heart is ravished with love for her? Will he not hear the cry of his elect ones and answer quickly when they call out to him night and day?

Jesus was speaking about a widow because the people of God in that day were living as widows – and yet the bridegroom was standing in their midst unrecognized and ignored. They were living like the widow – abandoned, lonely and without hope.

And yet God himself was proclaiming through the presence of his glorious Son, that the day of restoration had arrived. The bridegroom had come – and the abandonment and isolation of the people could end if only they would turn and hear the good news!

“Did you hear what the unjust judge says? And will not God bring out justice for his elect who cry out to him night and day? (Luke 18:7).

He is saying, ‘did you get the gist of it?’ If an unrighteous reluctant judge who hates the lady and doesn’t like people says yes, how much more will God grant justice to those whom he loves!

**The contrast is this - Our judge is a righteous judge and as the elect, we are not widowed but ‘betrothed to this Judge as our Bridegroom King!**

And the principle is this – effective prayer is not just about persistence – it’s about persistence with intimacy that moves the heart of God to grant to us justice against our adversary!

Justice in simple terms is making wrong things right!

**What wrong things need to be made right in your city?**

When justice comes to sickness there is healing, when Justice comes to torn relationships there is reconciliation, when Justice comes to loss there is restoration, when Justice comes to rejection there is acceptance, when justice comes to oppression there is liberty, when justice comes to weariness there is rest, when justice comes to fear there is peace, when justice comes to barrenness, there is fruitfulness, when justice comes to loneliness, there is companionship, when justice comes to depression there is JOY, and when Justice comes to Sin there is forgiveness, when justice comes to the lost and broken of your city or your nation there is REVIVAL!

However the condition is night and day prayer!

**What would a canopy of night and day prayer motivated in the love of God look like in your city?**

**Conclusion**

Beloved you are the elect of God! You are his favored ones, his chosen people, meaning you have been hand-picked. It’s like Jesus looking to and fro across the earth and saying I want you and you and you! His affections run so strong, and deep for you that words fail to describe it. His love for you is beyond your wildest dreams, more than you could think or imagine, in fact you are his Dream come true!

Given his profound affection for you and given your unrelenting prayer, there can be no mistaking the outcome! God will answer prayer! But it takes both intimacy, and persistence!

The fact of the matter is we do have an adversary, and his name is the devil. The devil wants you to give up. He wants to convince you that God has ignored your prayer and is refusing to act on your behalf.

I truly believe the greatest warfare in our lives revolves around our prayer life. Nothing threatens hell more than the praying saint. The devil knows that if you become a person engaged in unrelenting prayer, bathed in the love of God, you are a dangerous weapon in the hand of your God and your adversary the devil is enraged.

If you can learn to kneel before God in prayer, then you can stand before anything in your life…

When you are abiding in His presence, clinging to his love, living in His Word, holding to his Promise, remaining fervent in spirit and believing for His visitation, you’re an explosion waiting to happen! As you pray you are standing on the platform that rewrites human history, the very hinge of history … little keys open big doors called awakening and revival! He will match your weak prayer with His Power, for His Glory, and for your joy!

One of the greatest stories of unceasing prayer is the story of the Moravians! The Moravians of the early 1700’s launched the first Protestant 24/7 prayer movement which led to beginning of the modern day missionary movement! After experiencing a mighty visitation of the Holy Spirit during a communion service, they began 24/7 prayer, prayer with worship 24hrs a day, 365 days a year for over 100yrs. And it was Under this canopy of 24/7 prayer, praise and worship, that God began to mark missionaries and send them to the nations to proclaim the gospel to those who had never heard the great good news of Jesus. 300 plus missionaries we sent and they established over 5000 missionary settlements around the world. Their purpose and mandate was to win for the Lamb who was slain the due reward for his sufferings – our Lamb has conquered, let us follow him!

he is all deserving to receive all the worship, all the obedience and all the affections of the human race!

We declare with the 24 elders, the four living creatures and the 100 million angels, together with millions of redeemed saints, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive all power, all wealth, all wisdom, all strength, all honor, all glory, and all blessing”

**Final Video – closing words – Living Room**

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)