

Strong Prayer Life

17 May 2008

(1 Chronicles 4:9) Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain."

(1 Chronicles 4:10) And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.

Jabez was a man of prayer. He constantly prays for...

- His spiritual life
- That God will enlarge his territory
- That the hand of God to be on him
- That God will keep him from evil

(2 Chronicles 7:14) if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Let's see the breakdown of that above verse...

"*If*" is the word. If only people pray.

"*My people*" are those in Christ, Christians. So if you are a Christian, you need to pray.

"*Humble*" in the above verse refers to fasting. When you are fasting you are going before God telling Him, "*I am leaning on your supernatural strength not by my human strength.*"

Notice in that verse God said "*pray*", not worship; not sing and not dance. But to pray!

"*seek My face*" is like God saying "*Seek Me for who I am.*" Seek the blesser not the blessing.

"*turn from their wicked ways*" in the above verse, God is talking about Christians. Just because you are a Christian does not means you are perfect. Simply because there is no one who is perfect in the world. Repent from your sins. The truth is whatever you are struggling with, turn away from it! Make a decision to turn away from it. God will give you the power to turn if you make a decision.

The reason why you need to be reminded to pray is because prayer can easily slip out of your life. Prayer can easily become a duty and not a relationship with God.

If only you pray and seek His face then there will be an anointing that can come into your life!

10 reasons why you should have a strong prayer life.

1. **TEMPTATIONS** are overcome through prayer.

(Matthew 26:40) Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

(Matthew 26:41) Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

2. Heart is **SOFTENED** toward God through prayer.

(Hosea 10:12) Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the Lord, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

3. God is **FOUND** through prayer.

(Isaiah 55:6) Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.

4. Life gets **REFRESHED** through prayer.

(Amos 5:6) Seek the Lord and live, Lest He break out like fire in the house of Joseph, And devour it, With no one to quench it in Bethel--

5. Soul is **ENCOURAGED** through prayer.

(Luke 18:1) Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

6. **PERSISTENCE** is built through prayer.

(Romans 12:12) rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

7. The Holy Spirit **EMPOWERS** you through prayer.

(Ephesians 6:14) Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

8. **ANXIETY** is defeated through prayer.

(Philippians 4:8) Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-- meditate on these things.

9. **REVIVAL** comes through prayer.

(Acts 1:14) These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, [2] with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

10. You will **SHAKE** the world through prayer.

(Acts 4:31) And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Conclusion...

God can do a miracle when it is impossible.

With God it is never a coincident but it is God-incident.

"Can Jesus alone be good enough for you?"

Sermon taken from <http://www.bryanchung.sg>
