

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP

Vol. 2 No. 24 Dec. 05, 2008

1 John 5:14-15-*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*

ULTIMATE PRAYER

As we yield totally, absolutely surrendering, to God, allowing Him to be the All in All in our lives, we will enter more often into His presence, understand more of His will, and hear, more often, His voice. As a result, we will approach our time of prayer with more caution, with more of a worshipful attitude, and we will be ready and anxious to allow God to lead us in prayer according to His perfect will.

We will find our prayer time to be filled with more quiet time, more listening to the Lord, and more worship; and when He does lead us to pray, we can pray simply yet with absolute confidence that He has heard us and that He is acting on our requests.

1 John 5:14-15-*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And we know that if he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him.*

It is important to understand the power in this Scripture. The key to understanding the Scripture are the words "*if we ask anything according to his*

will." **We can know, without doubt, absolutely, according to God's word that does not return unto him void, that if we pray according to God's will, He hears, and we will have that which we asked.** Why? Because we are praying according to His will. Can we now see how vitally important it is to come before the Lord first and get His mind regarding our prayer time? When we do, we will pray and Heaven will respond. That, dear friends, is not a hope, a wish, or an ideal. It is a fact.

There are times, of course, when events force us to pray based on the burden of our hearts. Though it can be said that the burden was put there by God, it is less a matter of discerning from whence it came and more a matter of being obedient to it, knowing it is a good thing. Examples from the Scriptures where men did not necessarily know God's will, yet performed properly in prayer include Abraham as he prayed for Sodom. It cannot definitely be said that it was God's will that Abraham pray that way, but his righteous concern moved God's heart. And God answered.

Another example is Daniel. Though, in retrospect, it can be said that it was God's will that Daniel receive the interpretation of the king's dream, Daniel, when praying, likely had no idea it was God's will. He prayed with a heart that wanted to see the evil edict to kill all the wise men, including he and his friends, thwarted. God answered and did so much more than Daniel asked.

There is much that God wants to teach us about prayer. We need to be patient; we need to be observant; we need to be willing and obedient; and we need to yield to God regarding prayer. He is the expert. We are the students. Regardless of how long we have served the Lord, our attitude needs to be, "Lord, teach me how to pray. I am willing to toss in the trash bin all that I've known up to this point, if that is Your will. I long to learn from You." **There should not be a day, during your prayer time, that you don't ask the Lord to teach you how to pray, both generally and specifically.**

God is faithful. Like everything else we are learning about God, it is His faithfulness that drives us on.



We can trust Him because of His faithfulness. We no longer have to rely on our unspiritual, undisciplined, limited selves. We rely on He to whom we belong.

ANOINTED PRAYER

Recently, the Lord reminded me that I wouldn't consider preaching without falling on my face before Him, pleading and trusting that He cover me with His anointing. I am very aware that, in my own strength, any message I were to bring, regardless of how beautiful and truthful it was, could do no more than tickle the ears of those who heard it if I brought it in my own strength. I am good at tickling ears but only God can change hearts. He knows that I have no desire, whatsoever, to preach unless He anoints me with the power of the Holy Spirit.

I answered His reminder and agreed. He asked me if preaching were more important than prayer. "No, of course not," I answered.

"Then why are you not pleading for the same anointing when you pray?"

Needless to say, I was stunned. The more I thought about it, the more I realized why God had shown me that truth. Prayer is a vital part of our Christianity. It is the spiritual boardroom where decisions are made and carried out; the infrastructure that allows the Church its

strong foundation so that it can continue to operate in God's power. **Without prayer, the Church would quickly fold.** Prayer is our individual communion with He who made us. It is our responsibility, not only to pray for those we love and are in our care, but for others we know. And, of course, from the standpoint of intercession, we are to pray for various situations – the government, Israel, difficulties that have arisen throughout the world, the Church, etc.

Prayer is: we Christians, as joint-heirs with Jesus, exercising the authority that He gave us to call down from Heaven God's will to the earth.

And God has shown us that the proper way to pray is to spend time with Him until we know what His will is regarding prayer. In seeking His guidance and the empowering of the Holy Spirit in prayer, our prayer time becomes as powerful, as passionate, and as uplifting as our preaching. Is it any wonder He wants us to be as anointed when we pray as we are, by His grace, when we preach? His ways are higher than our ways – and aren't we thankful?

When we recognize that our prayer time should always be committed to and yielded to Him so that He can guide and direct us, then we must recognize that we can and must pray according to 1

John 5:14-15. If we are going to pray according to His will and if God is going to hear and answer us, then we have an awesome responsibility to fulfill when we go to prayer; and it cannot be taken lightly.

Oh, how important this is. Am I the only person who can honestly say that I've spent countless hours in prayer that were a waste of time? I'm not proud of it but it's true. How often did I pray because I knew I was expected to? How often did I throw up a prayer to the Lord, just so that I could say that I didn't miss my prayer time? How often did I hurry through my rote, unfeeling prayers because I had something else to do (a ball game on TV?; a phone call to make)? How many days did I not pray at all? How many days did I spend less than five minutes in prayer? How many of those prayers were absolutely powerless, done out of obligation, with no desire or fervor, rather than with responsibility or love, full of the fire of God?

Prayer is a powerful part of our Christian life, our Christian growth, and our Christian responsibility. **If we performed in our income-producing jobs the way many of us handle our prayer time, how many of us would still have our jobs?**

If you read 1 John 5:14-15 every day before you pray, read it slowly and understand it; then if you wait on the Lord and allow Him to show

you how to pray, how can you not take it seriously? Suddenly, you realize that you are going to be praying according to God's will and God is going to hear and answer those prayers. That is His word; it has to be true. You can't beg off from that responsibility, not if you're sincere about your Christianity. You can't toss it off as something unimportant. And if you ask God to anoint you when you pray, you've got the Holy Spirit directing your prayers, on top of everything else.

Suppose God doesn't show you anything when you wait on Him? That's possible. In those cases, pray according to what you know is God's will – prayers for those who need salvation; for those who need healing; for family members; prayers for the Church and the Church leaders; for the persecuted and underground Church; prayers for the peace of Jerusalem; for the salvation of all Jews; for our own government; for peace on the earth. God still can, and will, direct you as you pray.

And if you have a prayer list, use it. **Prayer lists are not wrong, but being led by the Holy Spirit is better.** But if you use a prayer list, yield to the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pray for each item on that prayer list. He has more insight into those situations than you do.

Praying in the ultimate is a fail-safe for dead,

uninspired praying. And it causes us to grow closer to the Lord on a daily basis. We have the great satisfaction of knowing that God is using us in prayer. It's pretty awesome!

At times, while we are praying, God may direct us into warfare, even extended warfare. And if you are praying with God's anointing, you can sense the power of the Holy Spirit in those prayers. True wrestling in prayer must be done in the power of the Holy Spirit. When God says, "This is what I want you to pray about," He is serious. We need to be just as serious. How beautiful it is and how much more confidence we can have in prayer when we know, without question, that God is directing us. Why would we want to pray any other way?

True prayer is communion with God. True prayer seldom, if ever, asks God for anything, selfishly, for ourselves. He knows and supplies all our needs. If that Scripture is true (Matt. 6:33), then it is also final. It is enough. That doesn't mean we are not to ask, but rather that we are to ask, believing, even on a daily basis, if necessary – but for needs, not for selfish desires. True prayer is coming into God's presence, yielding to Him, experiencing His fellowship, worshipping, and offering thanksgiving, and much of each. God will allow a time

for our private intercession (prayer for those we know) and when He is ready, He will direct us to intercede for Heaven's concerns. When we are finished, there is a pure satisfaction in knowing that God's will has been done.

MEDITATION

Praying in the ultimate requires time, dedication and patience. And it starts with God's word. Meditating on God's word, too, requires those same attributes – time, dedication and patience. Speed-reading is not a prerequisite. In fact, it is a deterrent. If we take a few moments prior to our Bible reading time and devote that time to the Lord, asking Him, trusting Him, and depending on Him to supply us with grace, wisdom, and understanding as we search His word, He will gladly do so. It is important to understand what is meant by "as we search His word". We must do more than read. We must recognize that there are massive hidden truths in God's word and only God can search them out for us. But He will. The Holy Spirit, on our behalf, will search out the truth and the understanding in God's word and He will illuminate it to us.

You are now ready to sit peacefully and still before Him, allowing Him to speak to you regarding your time of prayer.

Praying in God's will is vital. Every one of us have had times when we felt our prayers were just falling to the floor in a heap, accomplishing nothing. But it will be very difficult for that to happen if you begin and follow through with a prayer session in a manner similar to that which has been shared here.

Praying in the ultimate is like anything else. The more you do it, the better you become at it. **Eventually, you will understand how to respond to the still, small voice in your spirit and to the faint promptings of the Holy Spirit.** Trust Him. He knows exactly what He is doing. He is not going to let you fail.

God is not required to show us exactly what we are doing, or what we are accomplishing. It is enough to know that we are praying according to His will. But occasionally He will show us what is occurring in the Heavens.

God is faithful. He is taking some of us places we've never been before, spiritually. Let Him. There is so much He wants to teach us. Let Him. Learn to pray in His will. And learn to pray knowing He will answer. In doing so, we also learn how to trust Him, completely. That is always the way God works. While we are doing what He requires of us, He also teaches us, and draws us closer to Himself.

Please, never, ever think of prayer as a burden or something that is unimportant. Prayer is an essential part of God's growth plan for us. Prayer is also the means by which God brings His will to earth. Prayer teaches us how to communicate with God. Prayer allows us to know God's will. Prayer enables us to participate in heavenly functions. Prayer allows us to see God in action. Prayer is the lifeline to our magnificent Heavenly Father.

Treat prayer as a holy sacrament. Approach prayer humbly, boldly, and expectantly. Accept prayer as a means to exact God's will on earth. And don't ever believe that you've prayed enough. You haven't.

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP is created and published by Peter Hess through PDH Writings, Inc. The information in this publication is not necessarily the opinion of any particular church or denomination. The author takes full responsibility for its content.

To view prior messages, please visit the website listed at the end of this publication and **CLICK** on Radical Discipleship Newsletters in the upper right corner of the Home Page of the website.

If you would prefer to have this publication e-mailed or to add new subscribers, please contact Peter at the email address at the end of this publication. Please note: there is no cost to subscribers nor do we accept donations regarding these publications.

Please call or e-mail for permission to copy or distribute this publication. In most cases, permission will be granted.

Peter Hess is the author of multiple non-fiction Christian books and Christian fiction novels that are sold nationwide. More information is available on the website.

Website:

www.peterhessbooks.com

E-Mail:

peter@peterhessbooks.com

GOD BLESS YOU!!!!