BATTLE PRAYER PODCAST

WITH JOHN POLIS



034: PRAYER IS THE PRIORITY

SHOW NOTES

We need to become like Epaphras.

James 5:16-18 NKJV Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. **17** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. **18** And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

- Elijah was subject to the same fears, torments and negative emotions we face.
- He realized he was accepted by God by faith as a righteous man.

James 2:23 NKJV And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

- The bible teaches that men are prayer warriors. Woman are prayer warriors obviously, woman have carried the battle to the enemy for years in the absence of men at the prayer meetings. Jesus was a prayer warrior.

Colossians 4:12-15 NKJV Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. **13** For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

- Characteristics of Epaphras as a spiritual warrior:
- On Paul's team as an intercessor.

1. <u>He was a bondservant of Christ – a "slave" of Christ.</u>

2. He had a lifestyle of prayer.

3. He labored in prayer.

4. His goal was for others to stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

5. He had a group of people that he was called to pray for.

1. He was a bondservant of Christ – a "slave" of Christ. The intercessor is a bondservant - one in total obedience to their Master, Jesus Christ.

2. He had a lifestyle of prayer. Didn't just pray every now and then, but a lifestyle of prayer.

Isaiah 56:7 NKJV Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for **My house shall be called a house of prayer** for all nations."

Acts 6:3-4 NKJV Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; **4** but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

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

- Do you have a set time to pray? Jesus scheduled prayer.

- You need to **schedule prayer**...when you enter into your closet, shut the door and pray...not when you're driving in your car on your way to work.

- You need **spontaneous prayer**. (Throughout the day)

Matthew 6:6 NKJV But you, when you pray, go into your room (closet), and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

3. He labored in prayer

- Spiritual birthing, a spiritual laboring. Birth in the spirit realm.

- Wail and Travail Prayer.

- Dimensions of prayer: The Tabernacle.

- The outer court (1st dimension) - Praying in English
- The inner court (2nd dimension) - Praying in tongues
- Behind the vail (3rd dimension) – Wailing, Travailing and Groaning in the spirit realm.
- Men, we need to become like Epaphras.
- We need to be bondservants of Christ.
- We need to have prayer as a priority and a life style.
- We need to know the dimensions of prayer. Not only pray in English but pray in tongues and pray in the third dimension.

Romans 8:26 NKJV Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

4. <u>His goal was for others to stand perfect and complete in all the will of God</u>

Romans 12:1-2 NKJV I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1 Peter 1:20 NKJV He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

- There are certain things God has predestined us as believers:
- To be conformed to the image of Christ.
- Works according to what God has gifted and called us to do.

Ephesians 2:10 NKJV For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

2 Timothy 4:6-7 NKJV For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Galatians 4:19 KJV My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

- Paul was a groaning and travailing intercessor.

Psalm 42:7 NKJV Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; all Your waves and billows have gone over me.

5. He had a group of people that he was called to pray for.

   - God will give us a burden for certain groups of people.
   - May be a burden for a group:
   - In another nation, Ethnicity, Age group within the church.
   - We need to know our calling, the target of our intercessory, like Epaphras.

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