



THE DOCTOR'S REPORT
DIDN'T CHANGE MY
PRAYERS...MY PRAYERS
CHANGED THE DOCTOR'S
REPORT!

LUKE 7:1-10
10.5.25



DR. DARRYL T. CANADY
RODMAN STREET CHURCH

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Title: The Power of Persistent Prayer: Changing the Doctor's Report

Sermon Summary: This sermon emphasizes the transformative power of persistent prayer and faith that can change even the most dire circumstances. The preacher uses the story of the centurion's faith in Luke 7 to illustrate how unwavering faith and persistent prayer can change seemingly hopeless situations.

We see how a man's servant, on the brink of death, was healed by Jesus without Him even entering the house - all because of the centurion's extraordinary faith. This narrative challenges us to examine our own faith. Do we truly believe in the power of God's Word to heal and transform? Are we persistent in our prayers, even when faced with seemingly hopeless situations? The message encourages us to trust in God's authority over all things, including sickness and death. It reminds us that sometimes, God allows problems in our lives to strengthen our prayer life and deepen our faith.

The central message is that while medical reports may be discouraging, a believer's prayers have the power to alter outcomes through God's intervention. The sermon encourages listeners to trust in God's Word over worldly pronouncements and to persist in prayer even when faced with challenging circumstances. As we face our own challenges, let's remember that the doctor's report doesn't have the final say - our prayers, fueled by faith, can change the outcome.

Chapters

Chapter 1: The Problem That Tested Prayer

A centurion's servant is sick and dying, leading to a test of faith and prayer.

Chapter 2: The Persistence That Turned Petition

The centurion's persistent faith leads to a powerful petition to Jesus.

Chapter 3: The Power That Transformed the Pronouncement

Jesus' word transforms the situation, changing the doctor's report.

Key Points:

- The problem that tests our prayer can actually strengthen our faith
- Persistence in prayer can turn desperate situations into determined faith
- God's power can transform negative pronouncements into miraculous outcomes
- Faith that impresses Jesus is faith that trusts His Word over worldly evidence
- Prayer still works, and God still has the final Word in all situations

Scripture Reference:

- Luke 7:1-10 (The story of the centurion's faith)

Stories:

- The personal account of the Pastor Canady's wife, Reverend Taleeta, being critically ill and the power of persistent prayer in her healing
- The story of the centurion's servant being healed by Jesus without Jesus physically visiting the home
- References to biblical accounts of healing and faith, including Hezekiah receiving 15 extra years of life, the raising of Jairus' daughter, and the widow of Nain's son
- Pastor Canady's experience with cancer treatment and "ringing the bell" after radiation therapy

Scriptures:

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon:

1. Luke 7:1-10 (The main passage the sermon is based on)
2. Jeremiah 33:3
3. Isaiah 55:11
4. Job 13:15 (alluded to: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him")

5. 2 Kings 20:1-6 (The story of Hezekiah's healing)
6. Matthew 7:7-8
7. Isaiah 65:24
8. Philippians 2:10-11 (alluded to: "At that name every knee shall bow")
9. Isaiah 43:2 (alluded to: "When I passed through the waters...")
10. Daniel 6 (alluded to: lion's den)
11. Daniel 3 (alluded to: fiery furnace)
12. John 11:1-44 (The story of Lazarus)
13. Mark 5:21-43 (Jairus' daughter)
14. Luke 7:11-17 (The widow of Nain's son)
15. Psalm 118:17 (alluded to: "I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done")

Additional relevant verses that align with the sermon's themes:

1. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."
2. 2 Corinthians 5:7 - "For we live by faith, not by sight."
3. James 5:15 - "And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up."
4. Mark 11:24 - "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

5. 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 if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him."

QUOTES:

The doctor's report didn't change my prayers, but my prayers changed the doctor's report.

Sometimes God allows your problem to show up so that your prayer life can grow up.

When life tests you, don't let the problem silence your prayer. If you only pray when you're in trouble, you're in trouble.

Faith that impresses Jesus is a faith that would trust His Word over what the world says. I don't have to see it to believe it because if God said it, I can stand on it.

When God speaks, symptoms surrender. When God speaks, disease disappears. When God speaks, the report gets rewritten.

Prayer still works. Faith still heals. And God still got the final word.

The same God who gave Hezekiah 15 extra years is the same God right here, right now.

Pray hardest when it's the hardest to pray.

You are proof that God answers prayers. You are proof that God is still able.

The doctor said it's over, but God said it's an opportunity because when you start praying, you give God permission to show up and you give God permission to show out.

God rewards those who keep praying while they are taking chemo. They keep praying while they are taking dialysis. They keep praying when they have so much medicine they can start their own little pharmacy.

Without the problem, the centurion would have never experienced the power. Without sickness, he would have never sought the Savior.

Prayer is faith with feet. It's belief with movement.

Persistence means you pray, and when nothing happens, you pray again.

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Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the transcription:

Day 1: The Power of Persistent Prayer

Reading: Luke 18:1-8

Devotional: Jesus teaches us about the importance of persistent prayer through the parable of the persistent widow. Like the centurion in Luke 7, we are called to pray with unwavering faith, even when circumstances seem dire. Remember, God honors those who keep praying, even in the face of adversity. Today, reflect on areas in your life where you may have given up praying. Renew your commitment to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17), trusting that God hears every prayer and works in His perfect timing.

Day 2: Faith That Moves Mountains

Reading: Matthew 17:14-20

Devotional: Jesus tells His disciples that faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains. The centurion's faith amazed Jesus because he understood the power of Christ's authority. Today, examine your own faith. Are there areas where you're limiting God's power in your life? Remember, our God is the same "yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). He can still perform miracles, heal the sick, and transform lives. Ask God to increase your faith and help you trust in His unlimited power.

Day 3: God's Presence in Suffering

Reading: Psalm 23

Devotional: David's famous psalm reminds us that God is with us even in the darkest valleys. When facing trials, it's easy to feel alone or abandoned. But like the preacher who stayed with the pastor all night during his wife's medical crisis, God promises to never leave us or forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6). Today, meditate on God's constant presence in your life. How has He comforted you in past difficulties? Trust that He is with you now, working behind the scenes, even when you can't see or feel Him.

Day 4: The Transformative Power of God's Word

Reading: Isaiah 55:8-11

Devotional: God's Word has the power to transform situations and lives. Just as Jesus' Word healed the centurion's servant without even being present, God's promises can change our circumstances today. His Word never returns void but accomplishes His purpose. Today, choose a promise from Scripture that speaks to your current situation. Declare it over your life, believing that God's Word is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12). Trust that as you align yourself with His Word, your situation will begin to align with His will.

Day 5: Hope in the Midst of Impossibility

Reading: Romans 4:18-21

Devotional: Abraham's faith in God's promise, even when it seemed humanly impossible, is a powerful example for us. Like the centurion who believed Jesus could heal from a distance, we're called to hope against hope. When doctors' reports are grim or situations seem hopeless, remember that with God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). Today, identify an "impossible" situation in your life. Offer it to God, choosing to hope in His power rather than focusing on the impossibility. Let Abraham's faith inspire you to trust God's promises, even when circumstances suggest otherwise.

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Small Group Guide: "The Doctor's Report Didn't Change My Prayers"

Opening Prayer:

Begin the session with a prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to the message and guide the discussion.

Key Takeaways:

1. Faith can overcome even the most dire circumstances.
2. Persistent prayer is powerful and can change situations.
3. God's Word has authority over any earthly report or diagnosis.
4. Our faith can grow through challenges and adversity.
5. God is still in the miracle-working business today.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon talks about the centurion's faith journey from desperation to determination. Can you share a time when your faith grew through a challenging situation?

2. Pastor Canady emphasizes the importance of persistent prayer. How has persistence in prayer impacted your life or the life of someone you know?

3. The sermon states, "Sometimes God allows your problem to show up so that your prayer life can grow up." How do you view challenges in your life? As obstacles or opportunities for spiritual growth?

4. Reflect on the statement: "The doctor's report didn't change my prayers, but my prayers changed the doctor's report." How does this challenge or encourage your approach to prayer?

5. The pastor shared personal stories of healing and faith. How do testimonies like these impact your own faith and belief in God's power?

6. The sermon emphasizes that God's Word has authority over earthly reports. How can we practically apply this truth in our daily lives, especially when facing difficult circumstances?

Practical Applications:

1. Prayer Challenge: Commit to persistent prayer for a specific situation in your life or someone else's life for the next week. Journal your experiences and any changes you observe.

2. Faith Declarations: Create a list of faith declarations based on God's Word that you can speak over your life daily, especially when facing challenges.

3. Gratitude Exercise: Each day this week, write down one way you've seen God work in your life, even in small ways. Share these with the group next time you meet.

4. Faith-Building Activity: Choose a Bible story that demonstrates God's miraculous power (e.g., healing of Naaman, raising of Lazarus) and meditate on it daily. Reflect on how this story applies to your current life situations.

5. Encouragement Mission: Reach out to someone you know who is facing a challenging situation. Share an encouraging word or offer to pray with them, putting into practice the lessons learned from this sermon.

Closing Prayer:

End the session by praying for each group member's specific needs, asking God for increased faith and the ability to trust His Word over any negative reports in their lives.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How can we maintain faith and persistence in prayer when faced with seemingly hopeless situations, as demonstrated by the centurion in the sermon?
2. In what ways might our own feelings of unworthiness, like those expressed by the centurion, actually strengthen our faith and relationship with God?
3. How does the concept of 'praying hardest when it's hardest to pray' apply to our own lives, especially during times of crisis or doubt?
4. What can we learn from the centurion's understanding of authority and how it relates to our faith in God's power?
5. How might our perspective on medical diagnoses and prognoses change if we truly believed that our prayers could 'change the doctor's report'?
6. In what ways can we cultivate a faith that 'impresses Jesus', as described in the sermon?

7. How does the idea that 'God allows your problem to show up so your prayer life can grow up' challenge or encourage our view of life's difficulties?
8. What does it mean practically to trust in 'the Word' of God over the word of the world, as exemplified in this sermon?
9. How can we balance accepting medical expertise with maintaining faith in divine healing, as illustrated in the sermon's central theme?
10. In what ways can we apply the sermon's message about persistent prayer and faith to non-medical challenges in our lives?

