

## POWER OF PRAYER SERMON HIGHLIGHTS

### **1 Corinthians 4:20 (HCSB)**

In order to walk in the power of God we must be in deep consistent prayer with God.

We have a God that is a God of infinite power... a God who created the universe out of nothing, created man out of dust, woman out of man, a God whose power parted the Red Sea...a God who dropped mana from Heaven and raised Jesus from the dead...yes... that is our God and there is no greater power than His.

Now the same powerful God who did all that came down to earth in the person of Jesus Christ, both fully God and fully man.

He emptied Himself according to **Philippians 2:7**; meaning He willingly set aside His divine nature so that He could walk as fully man while on earth in the flesh. He did this so that He could experience the same situations and struggles that you and I face every day...

Yet while walking as fully human, He was able to heal the sick, give sight to the blind, feed the 5000, raise people from the dead and preach His message boldly even until death, utilizing the power of God the Father.

How was he able to do this? He set His divine nature aside and was walking as fully man.

One thing you will notice from scripture is that Jesus --while He was fully man walking in power -- was always in communion with God the Father through deep consistent Prayer with God.

**Matthew 14:23 (HCSB)**

After dismissing the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.

**Mark 1:35 (HCSB)**

35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He got up, went out, and made His way to a deserted place. And He was praying there.

**Luke 6:12 (HCSB)**

12 During those days He went out to the mountain to pray and spent all night in prayer to God.

And the list goes on and on, Jesus was always in deep consistent prayer and Jesus walked in power.

Now how many of us want to be more like Jesus?

Well, we can...

In **John 14:12** Jesus says:

### **John 14:12 (HCSB)**

12 “I assure you: The one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these

Jesus said we will do greater things than He did, the greater here means greater in number, and if Jesus says we can, we know it is possible and we know it's possible then you can bet the enemy of our soul knows it's possible which is why prayer is more than just words its spiritual warfare.

### **Ephesians 6:12 (HCSB)**

12 For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.

You see, our battle is not against flesh and blood. It really IS a spiritual battle, and we fight it with prayer. Sometimes it is easier (especially in our culture) to ignore the supernatural and focus on the natural...and to look at the obstacles in front of us. Doing this, we can forget that there are spiritual forces behind them. If the enemy wants to do anything, he wants to distract us from praying. Why? Because prayer is where the real battle is fought and won. He will use anything and everything he can: he will try to use people we love, the busyness of life, politics, sports, social media, or dare I say it-- our smart phones.

Now none of these things are bad things, but the enemy **can** use them to distract us because he doesn't want us to walk in God's power.

So, in order for us to walk in the power of God we understand that we must be in deep consistent prayer with God. We see that prayer is the weapon of choice against spiritual warfare, and that the enemy wants to distract us from it because he knows that's where the battle is fought and won...

That being said, we may want to examine our prayer life to see if where we are is where we should be.

I know that when I examine my prayer life, I have done great at times -- and times not so great at times. I do know that when I am intentional about having deep consistent prayer with God, I am able to walk in His power. I see strongholds broken, relationships mended, people healed, kidney stones vanishing...but when I'm not, I get tired remarkably fast. Why? Because I'm trying to do everything in my own power and as a result, I do not see God move as much.

Maybe some of you struggle from time to time as I do, maybe some of you don't, but there is **always** room for improvement.

I am the kind of person who needs structure. Having a structured prayer life is essential for me: a consistent time, place, and good habits are all extremely important. I do best around 8am...I'm fully awake, I've checked some essential

communications, ( before the craziness of the day starts... hopefully.) and I know I'm setting aside specific. When I get to my spot, I turn my phone to "do not disturb", (so I won't get distracted by texts or calls), I start with a worship song to prepare my heart and then I use a simple prayer model that frees me up to pray what is on my heart and hear what God's will is.

The simple model I use is called the **ACTS Prayer Model**. It's easy to remember and it's also a good tie-in to Pastor John's ***Supernatural Church*** sermon series based on the book of Acts (that will be back next week,) I'm sure by popular demand after you had to sit through my message... 😊

It starts with **Adoration** :

We worship and praise God for who He is.

I say things like "Lord of Heaven and earth, Maker and Creator of all things, I praise your Holy name"...

It moves to **Confession**:

Here we ask for forgiveness for our sins as we turn from them and turn from God.

I say things like "Father please forgive me for not taking a full sabbath day this week and resting in your goodness."

**1 John 1:9 (HCSB)**

**9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

After being forgiving for our sins, our next step is to **Thanksgiving**:

Here we thank God for what He has done and what he is doing in your life. Things like “Thank you lord for healing my kidney stones”... ( I said this a LOT)

And lastly, there is **Supplication**:

This is where we ask God to meet our needs and the righteous desires of our heart as well as for others. Here we pray for things like, salvation of the lost, healing of the sick, wisdom, strength, faith, guidance...things like financial needs, a car, a house, our nation as a whole, or perhaps specifically the reversal of Roe Vs Wade...

I think we can add the reversal of Roe vs Wade to the thanksgiving column, don't you agree? Some of us have been praying for the reversal of that horrible discission for 50 years and we finally received the answer to our prayer. That's why we need to pray without ceasing: we never know how long it will take for some prayers to be answered.

God is most definitely glorified today as many more babies will live because of this answered prayer.

*Let us pray...*

*Good and Gracious God, Creator of the heavens and the earth, we humbly come before you and ask your forgiveness for the times we have not communed in prayer when we should have.*

*We are so thankful that you are patient and that your grace spans as far as the east is from the west. We thank you for answered prayer for the reversal of Roe Vs Wade. We ask that you heal our land by bringing revival to it. Let it start here with your people at Bay Point Church. Let us learn how to walk in Your power through the spiritual warfare with deep, consistent prayer.*

*There are many of us here hurting emotionally, spiritually, and physically. Lord, would you touch us.. oh God, would you answer our prayer and heal us!*

*If there is anyone here who has not given their life to you, Lord, would you speak to them? None of us are guaranteed tomorrow. Today is the day of salvation.*

*In Jesus name we pray.*

*Amen.*