

SERMON NOTES

PRAY FIRST

January 7, 2018

Prayer is....

1. Communicating with God.
2. Fellowship with God.

Matthew 6:3-5 (NKJV)

³ But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

⁴ That your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

The Model Prayer

⁵ “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

- Prayer and fasting connects you to God.
- Giving is worship to God.
- Giving and prayer should be a habit.
- When you pray, you are talking to God. When you read the Bible, God is talking to you. Through prayer, we are working together with God.
- God needs permission to work and move in our life. Prayer gives God permission to work in our life.

Matthew 6:16-18 (NKJV)

Fasting to Be Seen Only by God

¹⁶ “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

¹⁷ But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

- Celebrate fasting.
- Have an attitude of expectation. You can't wait to see what God is going to do.

Isaiah 58:6-12 (KJV)

⁶ Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to lose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

⁸ Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.

⁹ Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

¹⁰ And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day:

¹¹ And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

¹² And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

Formula and process to see the word of the Lord come to pass in your life:

1. Meditation
2. Revelation
3. Activation
4. Application
5. Abundant Life

2 Chronicles 20:1 (KJV)

¹It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.

- Lot is a shadow of a compromised life.
- Don't give up or doubt God's word.
- Don't give up on God's dream.
- Seek God's word.
- Seeking comes before a breakthrough.
- Fasting says that you are serious to change.
- Fasting and prayer says to God that we need help.
- Seek God and surrender to get out of a stuck, stagnant situation in your life.
- Believe God's word and you will prosper.

2 Chronicles 20:21 (KJV)

²¹ And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth forever.

- God gave them a song during prayer and fasting.
- God will take you through it and fight the battle for you.
- Begin to believe God's word and sing praises to God.
- Fasting has a reward.
- Surrender your life through prayer and fasting.
- God will fight your battles, give you a song and bring breakthrough.
- God will give you a song for the season you are in.

Job 35:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ But none saith, where is God my maker, who giveth songs in the night.

- Seek God and surrender to Him and God will give you a song in the night.

Psalms 32:7 (KJV)

⁷ Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

- Find a place to get alone with God to pray.
- Songs of praise will set you free and bring deliverance.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the formula to see that God's word come to pass in your life?
2. How will this formula impact your prayer life?