



The Immutable Wisdom of Prayer as a Lifestyle

I. **Intro:**

A. Mental Assent:

We all know that the place of prayer is valuable, there is not a single person in this room or in the Church at large that has a theological qualm about “prayer or praying.” We would all genuinely say that prayer is good, maybe even that it is necessary.

B. We’d Agree that Prayer Serves Different Purposes:

1. The individual encouragement of the heart.
2. The effecting of things in the Kingdom.
3. Bringing about unity in the Body of Christ.
4. As a place of learning His voice.

C. Follow Through:

What we often recognize as valuable doesn’t transfer over into long-term change in our lives. We get busy, we get bored, and we get distracted. There is however an immutable (unchangeable) wisdom of keeping prayer as a lifestyle no matter what comes our way. Let’s look at some of these truths from the scripture.

II. **Transformation does not take Place in a Moment:**

Prayer is a transforming agent; it shifts things. Whether we are speaking about transforming our mind, our city or a particular issue transformation doesn’t take place over night. It takes time and investment to see things shift. To stop short of seeing the transformation is like starting construction on a building and then stopping midway through. In that case the structure is never used for what it was intended. Many of the transformations brought about through prayer take considerable time before they take effect.

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will (Ro. 12:2).”

III. **A Priests-less Generation is One without the Knowledge of God:**

There is an entire generation of people around us that lack the knowledge of God, those who cultivate a corporate prayer life in God (effectively the modern day priests) carry with them the essential preservation of who God is. In the Old

Testament there were many outside of the priesthood that walked closely with God but the fact remains that it was given to the priests to maintain the knowledge of God in their generation. These were men who abided in the presence of the Lord, living out of the place of corporate prayer.

“For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction—because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty (Ma. 2:7).”

“the people who know their God will firmly resist him (Antichrist). Those who are wise will instruct many...(Da. 11:32-33)”

“Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness (Da. 12:3).”

IV. Worth of Christ:

Christ is worth so much more than we would ever be able to offer Him. He is worthy of night and day prayer, worth all our effort to see Him adored on the Earth as He is in Heaven, and as He most assuredly will be in the Age to come. He is worthy of it now, and we should labor to see Christ worshiped on Earth as He is in Heaven.

“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

“Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come (Re. 4:8).”

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being (Re. 4:11).”

“And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (Re. 5:9).”

“In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise (Re. 5:12)!”

V. The Testimony of the New Testament is to Pray Always:

Christ followers are repeatedly told that as believers we are to live lives together in corporate prayer. The New Testament Epistles were written to corporate congregations and were given the repeated instruction to pray always. Literal 24/7 prayer is not attainable for an individual but it is not only possible for a corporate people is the wisdom that is prescribed for the Church.

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up (Lk. 18:1)."

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Ac. 2:42)."

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer (Ro. 12:11-12)."

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints (Eph. 6:18)."

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful (Co. 4:2)."

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1Th. 5:16-18)."

VI. The Charge to Every Believer is to Stay Steady & Persevere:

The troubles that come against us are not worth mentioning compared to His worth, His promises, Him (Ro. 8:18). The Church has been given a mandate to persevere no matter what would stand in our way, it is a central teaching to our faith (Mt. 25:21; Ro. 8:25, 12:12, 15:4; 2Co. 6:6; Ga. 5:22; Eph. 5:22; Co. 1:11, 4:12; 1Ti. 6:11; 2Ti. 2:3, 12, 3:10, 4:5; Ti. 2:2; He. 10:36; Ja. 1:12; 1Pe. 4:10; Re. 1:9, 2:3, 10, 3:10, 13:10, 14:12, 17:14). Let it not be said of us that we quit when things were tough, but that instead we persevered through the years and through the difficulties.

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain (1Co. 15:58)."

VII. He Returns with a Heavy Question:

When Jesus comes back He will present the Church with a heavy question with regard to whether we remained faithful in the place of prayer. There are really only two scenarios; those who can say "yes Lord we took up your call to pray and we stayed faithful until the day of your return," and then those who say anything else.

"And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth (Lk. 18:7-8)?"

VIII. Commissioned to Intercede:

As saints, each of us have been called to pray for our city, region and nation. Certain things hinge on our obedience to that call; God in His great love has

permitted us to partner with Him. More than permitted, He has mandated it if we are to see the Kingdom go forth in our area.

"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none. So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD (Ez. 22:30-31)."

"Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper (Je. 29:7)."

"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land (2Ch. 7:14)."

IX. This Generation is Promised to Fall Away:

Terrifying as this may be, without continual prayer, there is no assurance that we will make it through the coming trial. Spiritual deception and wickedness will reach such heights that we are sternly warned to maintain lifestyles of prayer.

"Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved (Mt. 24:12-13)."

"Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man (Lk. 21:32-36)."

"The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray (1Pe. 4:7)."

X. God Actually Ties His Purposes in the Last Days to Prayer:

The end of this age is soon coming. God actually tells us that certain aspects of how things will unfold (timing and severity of events, numbers impacted, location of revivals, etc.) are left in the hands of His praying Church, or un-praying Church whichever the case may be.

"...You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat (2Pe. 3:11-12)."

"And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints (Re. 5:8)."

"And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake (Re. 8:2-5)."

"The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!...He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon (Re. 22:17, 20)."

XI. God's Re-establishment of Night & Day Prayer:

The Father has made it plain that in the Last Days He intends to reestablish literal night and day prayer in the Body of Christ worldwide. He intends to do it with worship, with singers and musicians. The growth rate of the prayer movement in the last decade has been historic, unparalleled since Genesis chapter one.

"In that day I will restore David's fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be (Am. 9:11)."

"After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things' that have been known for ages (Ac. 15:16-18)."

XII. God's Justice Requires Literal 24/7 Prayer:

God has a great justice movement in His heart. He desires to see justice birthed across the nations but He ties it to literal 24/7 prayer. Naturally 24/7 will never just happen, it is built, it is labored for, it is established through hard work.

"And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly...(Lk. 18:7-8)"

"I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth (Is. 62:6-7)."

XIII. God's Purposes for Church Unity are Tied to Continual Corporate Prayer:

To see true unity in the Body of Christ massive corporate prayer initiatives must be launched. The Lord holds the unity of His family in high regard. He has tied certain blessings and authority to His Bride being unified in the place of prayer. True unity is when the whole Church is in corporate agreement with God praying for His purposes to be released.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing—Life forevermore (Ps. 133:1-3 NKJV).”

“May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me (Jn. 17:23).”

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ro. 15:5-6).”

XIV. Challenge:

A. Despite Our Circumstances:

All of these are still true even when it's new, or hard or we are weak, sick, busy, bored, broken, hurt, distracted, mad, sad, just married, having babies, or starting new jobs. Nothing impacts the truth of the above realities, and no excuse has seized us except that which is common to man. Our reasoning never addresses the validity of immutable facts; instead we sidestep these because of our emotions and self-absorption.

B. Responsible:

We will be held accountable, even be rewarded for how well we overcome all these many reasons our flesh gives us to quit.

“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done (Re. 22:12).”

“See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him (Is. 40:10).”

C. Set Schedule:

I strongly encourage us to commit to certain days or times where we come to this room and focus on God in the place of prayer. Our lives are too busy and the distractions are too great to leave our prayer life to our availability or emotions.

D. War to Stay Involved:

You have by some grace of God found yourself in the midst of a people who actually pray together. This is what the New Testament lays out as normal Christianity, I charge you to get involved, stay involved and war against everything that would take you out of the place of corporate prayer.

XV. Where We're Headed at TPR:

A. We are Going to Grow Numerically

1. Continue to push the sacred trust (currently 67)

2. Grow our volunteer staff (if you'd like to join volunteer staff talk to Cherish)
 3. Grow our internships (gone from 1, 3, 3, 6, to 8 in our current)
 4. Add to our missionary staff (6 and climbing)
 5. Start a school of worship in the Fall (good bit of interest already)
- B. Become a 24/7 Missions Base:
1. We will be adding more prayer meetings
 2. Which will increase our total hours
 3. Adding some new intercession prayer topics
 4. We are never going to stop adding shifts until we're 24/7
 5. Then after that at some point we will start planting HOPs in DFW
- C. We are Providing a Context to Raise Up Forerunners:
1. Great shaking is right around the corner for us as a nation. We are a training center for those who will have deep lives of prayer and understand the hour, which we are living in.
 2. Revival is coming as well as shaking. When it does it is going to spring forth from places that have a history of prayer and fasting.
 3. We are teaching 20 year olds that fasting weekly is normal, that being part of a community of continual prayer is the starting point of normal Christianity.
- D. We Need Your Help to Build:
1. Sign up for more Sacred Trust prayer meetings.
 2. Invite your friends and family out to a prayer meeting, Encounter Service, prophetic night, workshop, etc.
 3. Help us recruit for the Sacred Trust
 4. Become a Financial Partner