

prayer & fasting

What Prayer Is—2 Chronicles 7:14 (Part Two)

Prayer is a Privilege

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Objective Sentence: Everyone should pray with results because of the principles of effective prayer outlined in 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Introduction: There is great power in prayer as is illustrated in the story of two parrots. There was a pastor who had a parrot. All the parrot would say was, “Let’s pray, let’s pray.” The pastor tried to teach him to say other things but to no avail. He learned that one of his deacons had a parrot. His parrot would only say, “Let’s kiss. Let’s kiss.” So the pastor decided to invite the deacon and his parrot over to his house. When the deacon arrived they put the parrots into the same cage to see what would happen. The deacon’s parrot said, “Let’s kiss, let’s kiss.” The pastor’s parrot said, “Thank you, Lord. My prayers have been answered.”

#1. Prayer is a privilege (2 Chron. 7:14 *If My people who are called by My name*)

A. Pastor Dan: *There is greatness in you. (Ro. 8:11-16; Acts 1:8; Eph. 3:20) The Lord blessed us in our first church after a time of discouragement. We were struggling financially and faced some other church problems I decided to go back into the classroom and teach. I got a job at an inner city school and worked for nine weeks before resigning and saying yes once again to the ministry. With the money I made teaching we were able to buy a brand new double wide mobile home, put in the septic system and drill the well. When the well digger came he said he would drill about 125 feet where the good water was. So he set up his rig and began banging pipe into the ground. At 125 feet he hit good water and one thousand dollars later we were living in our new home. We had no idea that there was fresh water inside the property that we owned. You have greatness inside of you that you can tap into. There is a cost, drilling is not easy, pipe is not cheap but the rewards are limitless and the supply is abundant.*

1. Friendship (John 15:14 *You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants for a servant does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends and all things that the Father has spoken to me I have made known to you. You did not choose me but I choose*)

- a. **Bruce Wilkinson; Jabez:** *Your want for God’s plenty has been His loving will for your life from eternity past.*
- b. **1 John 3:1-2** *Behold what manner of love*
- c. **John 1:12** *Exousia (1849): privilege, authority, right; the liberty and right to use power*
- d. **2 Cor. 6:14-17** *Be not unequally yoked ... for you are*

- e. *Author Unknown:* What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more novel methods, but men whom the Holy Spirit can use--men of prayer, men mighty in prayer
- f. **John 15:4, 5, 7 Eph. 6:18 John 14:21**
- g. *Pastor Dan:* The more we grow in our understanding of the level of friendship that God desires to share with his people the more effective we will be in our fellowship with God through prayer. **John 3:16-17**
- h. *Pastor Dan:* Our biggest problem is not in us doing things we shouldn't do but in us not doing the things that we should do.

2. **Relationship (Luke 11:2 *our father which is in heaven*)**

- a. *Pastor Dan:* What was Jesus greatest work? He established a prayer life that caused Him to immediately respond to God and caused God to immediately respond to Him.
- b. **1 John 3:20-22**
- c. *Martin Luther:* To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing
- d. *Abraham Lincoln:* I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me seemed insufficient for the day
- e. *Pastor Dan:* Prayer is not just the means where we get something from God but the means whereby we give our lives to God and allow God to give His life to us.
- f. *Pastor Dan:* Prayer is that time we set aside in our lives whereby we nurture relationship with God and allow God to nurture relationship with us.
- g. **Philippians 3:10** that I may know Him
- h. *Frank Laubach:* The depth and intensity of our friendship with God will depend upon the variety and the extent of the things we do and enjoy together.
- i. **Romans 5:5 1 Thes. 5:17** pray without ceasing
- j. *Mother Teresa:* Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of containing god's gift of himself
- k. *Pastor Dan:* If you live without prayer you don't have much of a life
- l. *Pope Pius XII; 1876-1958:* A man without prayer is like a tree without roots

Closing and Invitation: (The Ulster Revival of 1859) Edwin Orr wrote ... of the 1859 Revival: which originated in a prayer meeting which began with four young men in the village school house. These four made a great impact spiritually on Ireland. Nothing had equaled what they did since St. Patrick first brought the Gospel to Ireland. Before the revival many ministers were discouraged. One writes, "Up till now our condition was deplorable. The church seemed dead to God, formal, cold, prayerless, worldly, and stingy in religious things. Twice I tried a prayer-meeting with my elders, but failed; for after the fifth or sixth night I was left alone. All along I believed that the faithful use of the means of grace would be followed by their effects, as certainly as the plowing of a field is followed by a good crop ... but great was my disappointment, as year after year passed, without seeing any fruit; no outpouring of the Spirit. I ... was grieved ... and what alarmed me most was the indisposition, almost hostility, of the people to meetings for prayer. They seemed mostly to think that they were well enough, and that I was unnecessarily disturbing them. I had never been so despondent or distressed as during the weeks immediately preceding the awakening. I had almost ceased to hope. I felt as if I was almost alone, no one mourning or praying with me; and I told my people I was appalled at their

determination to have no prayer-meetings, and that we would not have a drop of the shower of grace which was going round, we would be left utterly reprobate.”

The beginning of this revival can be traced to ... a town called Kells The Rev. J.H. Moore exhorted young men in a Bible class, “*Do something more for God*. Could you not gather at least six of your neighbors ... and spend one hour with them reading and searching the Word of God. In response James McQuilkin, Jeremiah Meneely, Robert Carlisle and John Wallace began a weekly prayer meeting in an old school house.... Beginning in September 1857 these four banded together in a bond of fellowship to meet weekly for prayer and Bible study. Their sole desire was their own edification and the salvation of others around them. During the long winter of 1857-1858 every Friday evening ... they met, read and meditated upon the Scripture. They poured out their prayers to the God of heaven with hearts aflame with a pure first love ... focusing on three great fundamental truths of scripture They believed in the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit, the sufficiency of the Holy Scripture and the secret of Holy supplication. They studied the Word and prayed for three months before there were any visible results. Two more men joined their group and then on New Year’s Day, 1858, the first conversion took place as a result of the prayer meeting. By the end of 1858, about 50 young men were taking part in the weekly prayer meeting. Their hearts began to burn with an unquenchable fire from heaven, which set all Ulster ablaze for God. Many people ridiculed these young men praying for Revival. But in spite of the criticism faith grew. Hope brightened. The power of prayer began to be known, felt and seen. “The winter passed and the time of the singing of birds came. Humble, grateful, loving, joyous converts multiplied... the great concerns of eternity were realized as they had never been before... The community was altogether changed in its outward aspects, and a pervading seriousness prevailed... a total transformation had affected the hearts and lives of those who were the subjects of the change; and throughout all the neighborhood was heard thanksgiving and the voice of melody. Through the work of God in the hearts of four new converts who were moved to seek God in prayer, 100,000 souls came to Christ in one year.