

prayer & fasting

What Prayer Is--2 Chronicles 7:14 (Part Three)

Prayer Is An Attitude

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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: The Ulster Revival of 1859: In Coleraine, in Antrim County, at the local school, a teacher seeing one young boy clearly under the Holy Spirit's conviction, advised him to go home and call upon the Lord in private. He sent with him an older boy who had found peace with God the day before. After these two boys had travailed in prayer for some time, the young boy was blessed with sacred peace and rejoicing returned to the school, and with beaming face, reported to his teacher; "Oh Sir, I am so happy, I have the Lord Jesus in my heart!" Strange words in cold times, natural words in a time of Revival. The whole class was captivated by what was happening at their school and one boy after another silently slipped out of the classroom. The teacher looked out to see boys on their knees throughout the playground, each one earnestly praying. He turned to the two boys and asked them; "Do you think you can go and pray with these boys?" They did, and kneeling down with one after another, they began to implore the Lord to forgive their sins for the sake of Jesus who had borne them all upon the Cross. Silent grief soon turned into bitter cries. As these cries reached the girls school, they too fell upon their knees and wept in grief over their sins. The cries of the boys and girls at school reached passers-by in the adjoining streets and conviction of sin came upon them and they fell on their knees in the streets pleading to the Lord for mercy. It seemed as if every available spot was filled with sinners seeking God. Pastors and men of prayer were sought and they spent the rest of the day in counseling and praying with these mourners ... dinner was forgotten, tea was forgotten, and it was not until 11 o' clock at night that the school premises were freed from their unexpected guests." On the night of the June 9, 1859, nearly 100 persons, agonized in mind through conviction of sin, and entirely prostrated in body, and received consolation, instructions and prayer from Christian ministers and Christian people." "Full sanctuaries, full Sabbath schools, full prayer meetings, brotherly love, increased generosity and additions by the hundreds to the communion of the churches—these are the fruits that remain" to the summer Revival of 1859 in Coleraine. Some young men planned to mock the Revivalists by pretending to fall down and be stricken with guilt, while the others were to call Christians to come and pray for the pretended cases of conviction. The first young man to foolishly take part in this blasphemous mockery fell dead on the spot. One of the ministers involved in this Ulster Revival of 1859, wrote: "We have now seen the wondrous difference which His presence makes. When He is absent, Christians are cold, ordinances are powerless, sinners immovable and dead wickedness prevalent.

- #1. **Prayer is an Attitude** (2 Chron 7:14 *If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray...*)
- A. **E.M. Bounds: Humility does not have its eyes on self, but rather on God and others. It is poor in spirit, meek in behavior, lowly in heart.**
1. **Humility** (1 Peter 5:5-8 *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble, Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you., Be sober, (stay alert) be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour).*)
- a. **Matt 5:3** *Blessed are the poor* **Pastor Dan:** If poor means not having enough than to be poor in spirit means that we are not capable of coping with life (we don't have enough heart) apart from God.
 - b. **William Barclay:** Blessed is the man who has realized his own utter helplessness, and who has put his whole trust in God.' If a man has realized his own utter helplessness, and has put his whole trust in God, there will enter into his life two things which are opposite sides of the same thing. He will become completely **detached** from things, for he will know that things have not got it in them to bring happiness or security; and he will become completely **attached** to God, for he will know that God alone can bring him help, and hope, and strength. The man who is poor in spirit is the man who has realized that things mean nothing, and that God means everything
 - c. **Matt. 23:11-12** But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.
 - d. **Ps. 149:4** The Lord takes pleasure in His people and will beautify the humble with salvation.
 - e. **Pro 22:4** By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life.
 - f. **Pastor Dan:** Purge yourself from the desire to sit upon the throne of your own heart (**Matt. 14:22 & Jn. 6:14-15**)
 - g. **1 Cor. 6:19-20** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
2. **Surrender**
- a. **E. Stanley Jones:** Prayer is surrender--surrender to the will of God and cooperation with that will. If I throw out a boat anchor from the boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God
 - b. **Mk. 7:24** He could not be hidden. **Pastor Dan:** You have the ability to call God into the arena of your need.
 - c. **Mat 14:29-30** When Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind *was* boisterous, he was

afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" Prayer Changes Things!!! \

- d. *E.M. Bounds:* Answered prayer brings praying out of the realm of dry, dead things and makes praying a thing of life and power. It is the answer to prayer that brings things to pass, changes the natural trend of things, and orders all things according to the will of God
- e. **Ephesians 6:18** Pray in the Spirit at all times
- f. **2 Kings 19:20** Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard you. God sends an angel who destroys an army of 185,000 men.
- g. **Isaiah 38:1-6** Hezekiah became deathly ill, and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to visit him. He gave the king this message: "This is what the LORD says: 'Set your affairs in order, for you are going to die. You will not recover from this illness.'" When Hezekiah heard this, he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, ³"Remember, O LORD, how I have always been faithful to you and have served you single-mindedly, always doing what pleases you." Then he broke down and wept bitterly. ⁴Then this message came to Isaiah from the LORD: ⁵"Go back to Hezekiah and tell him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your ancestor David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will add fifteen years to your life, ⁶and I will rescue you and this city from the king of Assyria. I will defend this city

Closing and Invitation: David Wilkerson, a country preacher in Pennsylvania gave up his two hour nightly time in front of the T.V. He committed himself to prayer during that time and the Lord led him to New York City to help gang members. After a series of tests and disappointments the first gang members came to Christ. Teen Challenge was birthed. This ministry has now become global. David Wilkerson's book and movie *The Cross and the Switchblade* has been responsible for transforming the lives of multiplied thousands of people.