

"Prayer & the Cause of God"

INTRO

Word Association – 'Stubborn' ... 'Unresponsive' ... 'Unmotivated' ... 'Hard' ... 'Lethargic' ...
'Dead' ... 'Difficult'

The Church Covenant — **Commitment to God's Economy of Prayer** - I agree that God desires for his church to be a house of prayer and that the prayers of the saints play a significant role in God's will coming to pass on earth as it is in heaven. I therefore commit to make personal and corporate prayer a priority in my life and to avoid its neglect or decline. (Mk 11:17; Matt 6:9-13; Lk 18:1-8)

Luke's Pericope on Prayer in the Midst of the MISSION Lk 11:1-12

– Central to the Success of the Mission is ADEQUATE PRAYER

– The Mission Begins In Prayer (Lk 10:2) and Continues in Prayer (Lk 11, 18)

Lk 6:12-13 "In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. 13 And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve whom he named apostles:

PREMISE: Whatever God's Called you to be and to do He intended it to get prepared, empowered, envisioned, inspired, and accomplished through prayer.

• "God does nothing but in answer to prayer" John Wesley

• The power of the church to bless rests on intercession. When, due to lack of teaching or spiritual insight, we trust in our own diligence and efforts to influence the world, and work more than we pray, the presence and power of God will not be seen in our work as they should be. • Andrew Murray, "The Ministry of Intercession", p. 14

• You can do more than pray, after you have prayed. But you can not do more than pray until you have prayed. ... We think we can do more where we are through our service: then prayer to give power to our service. No! — with the blackest underscoring of emphasis, let it be said — No! We can do nothing of real power until we have done the prayer thing ... Here is a man by my side, I can talk to him, I can bring my personality to bear upon him, that I may win him. But before I can influence his will a jot for God, I must first have won the victory in the secret place. Intercession is winning the victory over the chief, and service is taking the field after the chief is driven off. • S.D. Gordon, "Quiet Talks on Prayer", p. 14

PRAYER PREPARES THE WAY – PREPARATION INVOLVES PRAYERPARATION

UNDERSTANDING OUR MISSION Jesus Illustration of a Vine & It's Branches

Jn 15

Fruit Bearing —> Requires Healthy Plants —> Growing Plants Require Seeds being Sown —> Seeds Germinating Requires Good Soil

The Parable of the Soils (The Sower)

... 4 Types of Soil: (1) Side of Path, (2) Rocky Soil, (3) Thorny Soil, (4) Good Soil

OVERCOMING "FALLOW" HEARTS

Zech 7:12 "And they made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.

Jer 4:3 For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: "Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.

Hos 10:12 Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

"niyr" (neer) OT:5215 – fallow, untilled ground. It indicates farming land, property owned that lies unplowed (Prov 13:23). Used figuratively, it indicates the hardened, untilled attitudes of the people of Judah and Israel that needed to be changed and refreshed. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament)

If we understand the Role of the Soil – then we understand that Our Mission is NOT Just About More Diligent Seed Sowing.... Better Seed Sowing Programs Seeker Sensitive Seed Sowing Contemporary vs Traditional Seed Sowing Mercy Ministry Seed Sowing Marriage/Parenting Seminar Seed Sowing

God Must Touch What We Cannot Touch

Prov 21:1 "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes."

Ezra 7:27 "Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to adorn the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem,"

Rev 17:17 "For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be fulfilled.

Acts 16:14 "And a certain woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul."

“ Even the hearts of men are in God's hand. God can change men's minds, can, by a powerful insensible operation under their spirits, turn them from that which they seemed most intent upon, and incline them to that which they seemed most averse to.” Matthew Henry

THE "PRAYERFORCE"

“ In 1930, William Mitchell wrote: 'The advent of air power has put a completely new complexion on the old ways of fighting wars. We now realise that the hostile main army in the field is not the main target. Armies themselves can be disregarded by air power if a rapid strike is made against the opposing centres'. So, instead of concentrating air attacks on population centres or the main army, airplanes should be used as strategic weapons to strike deep into the enemy's territory, targeting cities, military related industries and other vital areas.” Alf Wilkinson, “The History of Aviation”

“ Well now, it is in the field of prayer that life's critical battles are lost or won. ... In prayer we bring our spiritual enemies into the presence of God and we fight them there. Have you tried that? Or have you been satisfied to meet and fight your foes in the open spaces of the world? If I am like Bunyan's pilgrim and encounter Apollyon on the exposed road and begin my warfare there, I shall be sadly beaten, and he will leave me bruised and broken by the way. ” John H. Jowett, Classic Sermons on Prayer, p. 56 “

REVIVALS PRECEDED BY PRAYER

