**The Prayer of Faith**

When I was a young teenager, I had always wondered if there was some secret formula to prayer. Mrs. Riley, loaned me a paper she had gotten from her church about prayer. The biggest thing I learned through that and my other studies of prayer is what prayer is. Prayer is communing with God. Prayer is not just asking God for something. Have you ever noticed that for most of us, communion with God is 99% asking Him for something? Prayer is praise, it is concern, it is joy, it is just being in Him. A part of prayer is God speaking back to us too. Why would we speak to the Lord and never expect Him to speak back to us? Pastor Uth says, almost every week, that the Lord told him this or that. Prayer doesn’t stop when we die unless we don’t know the Lord.

Prayer

1. Is communion with God
   1. Communion – an act or instance of sharing. Communion always denotes a two way action.
2. Is not JUST asking God (supplication) for something.
   1. 99% of Christian’s prayer lives consist of asking God for something.
3. Prayer is also praise, worship, it is being “in Him”.
4. Prayer does not stop when we leave this earth unless we die spiritually.
   1. Illustration: Brother Hagin and old man
      1. No limits on our prayers when we are in Heaven
   2. The second death completely and eternally separates people from God.

James 5:13-15

Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. [14] Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: [15] And the **prayer of faith** shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Afflicted – Grk. Kakopatheo – suffering trouble, undergoing hardship – This has reference to any trouble other than sickness.

Pray – Grk. Proseuchomai – to supplicate or worship

Sick – Grk. Astheneo – Diseased or weak

Name of the Lord – Grk. Onoma – authority – We, as Christians, have been given authority to do, in the earth, everything that Jesus did.

Save – Grk. Sozo – deliver, make whole, protect

Raise – Grk. Egeiro – to raise up - as in raising a dead person back to life

Healed – Grk. Ioamai – make whole

God permits Satan to afflict sinners and even His own people when they go astray, to bring them to repentance (Job 33:12-30; Psalm 38; Psalm 103:3; Numbers 12:13-16; Numbers 21:9; *1 Cor. 5:1-5*; 2 Cor. 2:6-11; Galatians 6:7-8).

James 5:16

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Faults – Grk. Paraptoma - a falling aside when one should have stood upright; a transgression; a moral fall

The heartfelt, zealous, hot prayer of a man who knows his standing with God, that he has been made righteous because of what Christ did, and who understands the authority given to him by Christ, completes, heals and makes whole that which is not whole!

What is the “prayer of faith?”

Mark 11:22-26

And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. [23] For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. [24] Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. [25] And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. [26] But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Too many of us pray a “prayer of doubt and unbelief”.

James 4:3

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

How can we pray the “prayer of faith?”

1. By knowing the Word
   1. If you don’t know what God’s will is, how you can you be confident?
   2. Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1. Know that God is
   1. You faith is only as good as what you are putting it into
   2. Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God **must believe that he is**, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

**Do I Really? When you pray, do YOU REALLY BELIEVE that God is going to answer your prayer?**

2 Cor 1:20 The promises of God are “Yeah and Amen”, once we have God’s word on something that settles it no matter what else goes on!

1 Samuel 3:19

And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according **as God hath dealt to every man the *MEASURE OF FAITH****.*

* 1. **You CAN know God’s will for most situations**

**1 John 5:13 (New King James Version)**

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know** that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

* 1. **Remind God of His promises.**

Isaiah 43:25-26

I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. [26] Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.

John 14:12-14

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. [13] And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [14] If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

**Twenty-one Reasons for Greater Works**

1. Satan is cast out (John 12:31).

2. Satan's defeat on the cross (Col. 2:14-17; 1 Peter 2:24)

3. Completed redemption (John 19:30; Col. 2:14-17; 1 Peter 1:10-12)

4. Spirit baptism which could not be given until Jesus was glorified (John 7:37-39; Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:33).

5. Christ's intercession for believers (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25).

6. His restored glory (John 17:5)

7. High priesthood of Christ (Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 6:20; Hebrews 7:11-28; Hebrews 9:11-15)

8. Headship of all powers (Ephes. 1:20-23; 1 Peter 3:22; Col. 2:10)

9. All authority given to Christ to give to believers (Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:12-15; Acts 1:8)

10. Completed victory over death, hell and the grave (Hebrews 2:14-15; Rev. 1:18; Col. 2:14-15)

11. His headship of the church (Ephes. 1:20-23; Col. 1:16-18,24)

12. Making of the New Covenant benefits based upon better promises (Matthew 26:28; 2 Cor. 3:6-15; Hebrews 8:6) and confirmed by greater powers (Hebrews 2:1-4; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:49; 2 Cor. 3:6-15; 2 Peter 1:1-10)

13. Fullness of grace now possible in Christ (John 1:17; Col. 2:10)

14. Full salvation glory that was to follow the sufferings (1 Peter 1:10-12; Hebrews 2:1-4; 2 Cor. 3)

15. Entrance into the holiest by every believer now possible (Hebrews 10:19-38; Ephes. 2:14-18)

16. Time for God to bless both Jews and Gentiles alike (Ephes. 2:14-18; Ephes. 3:1-11; Romans 10:9-14)

17. Time to send men with full authority and power as God sent Christ (John 17:18; John 20:21)

18. Time for each believer to recieve all the gifts and fruit of the Spirit, which they could only recieve in part in Old Testament times (John 7:37-39; John 14:12-15; Matthew 17:20; Matthew 21:22; Mark 9:23)

19. Time of no limitations in Christ, in the Spirit, and in the full benefits of the gospel promises (Matthew 17:20; Matthew 21:22; Mark 9:23; Mark 11:22-24; John 15:7,16; 2 Cor. 2:20; 2 Peter 1:1-12)

20. Time for the universality of the program of God in blessing all nations (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:47-49; Acts 1:4-8; Genesis 12:1-3). Believers would be carrying out the full program of the gospel in worldwide works of power even in a greater degree and kind than that of Christ, depending upon the needs.

21. Because I go to My Father and will not be here to continue My works or do greater ones. I will give My power to My disciples to carry on where I stop. They will do the greater things that I would have done if I had continued (John 14:12). I will give them authority and see to it that My work is carried on through them.