

## THE PRAYER FACTOR PT2 - PRAYER IS POWERFUL

Scripture used: Ephesians 1:17 (NIV)

### OVERVIEW

Part 2 of our Prayer Factor series focuses on the fact that prayer not only positions us to know God more, but it is also a way to experience its power! This powerful prayer is not just experienced through independent, personal time with God. It also requires us to experience prayer in a community. Acts 1:3-4 shows us that Jesus spent time dialoguing with His apostles, which resulted in all of them together getting to know Christ more and more. And this ultimately resulted in their continual practice of prayer together (vs 14). It was through this process that the first church was able to experience incredible things through the power of prayer, including the ability to see transformed communities even during the time of Christ.

If the first church was able to do that, how much more so can we, as a church, experience the same results of powerful prayer!

### KEY POINTS

- 1) **Prayer begins in conversation.**
  - a. Dialogue with God. Dialogue is a shared experience. In Acts 1:3, Jesus shared with the apostles about the kingdom of God through face to face dialogue with them. We can experience this through personal prayer time with God. We can't know Him unless we spend time with Him.
  - b. Dialogue with Scripture. Everything God is trying to say to us is rooted through the word of God. We should read scripture asking, "What is Jesus trying to say to us?"
  - c. Dialogue with others (moves towards community). In Acts 1:14, the prayer that the apostles were constantly engaged in was in fact the Lord's Prayer, which says, "OUR Father, which is in Heaven" and "give US this day". Prayer is meant to be with others, not just independently.
- 2) **Prayer involves waiting and wrestling.**
  - a. We need to seek the heart/direction of God. This is done through 1) Praise, by recognizing the holiness of God, 2) Thanksgiving, by recognizing what God has done in our lives, 3) Intercession, by inviting God to work in the lives of others, 4) Petitions, by asking our requests of God, 5) Confession and Forgiveness, by forgiving others as God forgives us.
- 3) **Prayer produced in the church results in:**
  - a. A language that outsiders understand. - Powerful prayer is something that can be done regardless of your ethnicity, social status, demographic or language.
  - b. A message that outsiders value. - God speaks to each of us of His purpose.
  - c. A power that outsiders need. - Prayer leads us all to a common goal or purpose, like transforming communities.

Prayer (reflection) should lead to Action, which then causes a reaction. This is the prayer cycle. As we pray and reflect, this is in dialogue with God, which allows Him to communicate His heart and mind to us. This leads us to take action (next steps), which includes telling our revelations to others. This leads others to react to our acts, which then drives us and others to go back to prayer again.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - We heard the importance of Dialoguing with God. What are the ways in which you dialogue with God? How does this reflect in your prayer life?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - How have you experienced powerful prayer? How does it differ when you pray to God individually versus when you are receiving corporate prayer? How do you value corporate prayer?
- 3) **DO** - This week, read and reflect on Psalm 1 on three separate occasions. The first time you do so, ask yourself, "What is God trying to say to the followers of that Biblical time?" The second time: "What is God trying to say to me?" The third time: "What is God trying to say to our congregation?" Write down your reflections each time, and share your thoughts at the next Life Group meeting.