



## **Training Island Pastors to Lead Believers to Maturity in Christ**

### **The Pastor's Role in Prayer**

**Presented by Dr. Mike Dugal, PhD, MDiv**

#### **BEYOND THE REEF AND THE POWER OF PRAYER**

Since the establishment of Beyond the Reef (1977) prayer has been a key component in the ministry to God's people. Millions of hours have been recorded in heaven regarding those who sought God for the islands. Beyond the Reef's president, Missionary Rev. David Bush (1929-2018) joined with those prayers and sought God on behalf of the islands. Prayer was not a once a week event given during the weekly service, but an ongoing intimate communion that sought the power and presence of God as promised in the Scriptures to those who prayed. This bible study on prayer is an invitation to this generation to become God's instruments for changing the believer, the Church, and the world through prayer. May the Holy Spirit create a deeper thirst for prayer in your life.

#### **THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY:**

There are many roles the pastor and minister are expected to fulfill. None is as important as their personal time of prayer. It has been said, "Prayer is the language of heaven." Jesus reminded his disciples that they should always be praying and asking their Father in Heaven to not just hear their prayers and petitions, but they are to be expectant of Him answering them with good things. The true disciple, regardless of title or role, will desire to learn how to pray more effectively. They understand that learning about prayer and praying are two different things.

Pastor and theologian Eugene Peterson in his book, *Working the Angles*, writes the following:

"Three pastoral acts are so basic, so critical, that they determine the shape of everything else. The acts are praying, reading Scripture, and giving spiritual direction. . . . The three areas constitute acts of attention: prayer is an act in which I bring myself to attention before God; reading Scripture is an act of attending to God in his speech and action across two millennia in Israel and Christ; spiritual direction is an act of giving attention to what God is doing in the person who happens to be before me at any given moment." (Peterson, 2)

Beginning with Jesus' response to the disciples' request, we will look at the discipline and gift of prayer. The Apostle James reminds us,

*"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*  
(5:16b)

King David learned,

*"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer."*  
(Psalm 66:18-19)

Let's begin this journey on the study of prayer in the life of the pastor and minister. May the Holy Spirit be our Teacher and Guide as we look intently into the Scriptures. (John 16:13-14)

## **SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 11:1-13**

### **POINTS TO PONDER**

The disciples recognized that John's disciples were praying differently than they were praying. The first touch of grace is that we would even desire to learn how to pray. This conviction and desire can only be birthed in us by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26-27). The Holy Spirit resides in those who have confessed Jesus as Lord and Savior. A true disciple is one who has confessed their sins (1 John 1:9), accepted Jesus' righteousness as their only means for justification before a Holy God (Romans 3:21-24, 28), and have experienced a new birth by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:10-16; 1 Corinthians 2:12) . As a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) they have a new desire and that desire is to pray!

### **PRAYER REQUEST**

**"FATHER, TEACH US TO PRAY!"**

**"JESUS, TEACH US TO PRAY!"**

**"HOLY SPIRIT, TEACH US TO PRAY!"**

### **DIVING DEEPER**

Author and Quaker Pastor Richard Foster has written extensively on the subject of prayer. His book, *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, is one of the better evangelical works on the topic of prayer. In this book he suggests there may be at least 21 different types of prayer. Here is his list:

### **PRAYERS FOR MOVING INWARD (Transformation)**

Simple Prayer	Prayer of the Forsaken
Prayer of Examen	Prayer of Tears
Prayer of Relinquishment	Formation Prayer
Covenant Prayer	

### **PRAYERS FOR MOVING UPWARD (Intimacy)**

Prayer of Adoration	Prayer of Rest
Sacramental Prayer	Unceasing Prayer
Prayer of the Heart	Meditative Prayer
Contemplative Prayer	

### **PRAYERS FOR MOVING OUTWARD (Ministry)**

Praying the Ordinary	Petitionary Prayer
Intercessory Prayer	Healing Prayer
Prayer of Suffering	Authoritative Prayer
Radical Prayer	

The pastor/minister who desires to please the Lord and develop the discipline of prayer will quickly learn that such an endeavor is not an easy and simple one. We must heed King David's cry, "*Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*" (Psalm 139:23-24)

The journey of praying as a pastoral discipline begins with focusing on the inward person. It is by crying out to the Lord to cleanse us and forgive us of our sin and shortcomings (Psalm 1:1-2; 32:1-2; 40:8; 51) that enable us to prepare our heart, mind, and soul for God to transform us into a ready and willing servant. A servant given to prayer.

The remaining portion of this study will focus on the transformation prayers for moving inward (examen, relinquishment, and formation) and the intimacy prayer for moving upward (adoration). As we consider these different types of prayer, regarding the pastoral discipline of prayer, we will prayerfully read Paul's prayers for the Romans, Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians. For in them we will understand the privilege and responsibility God has

placed on his pastors and ministers regarding the discipline of prayer.

**Please take your copy of the Scriptures and look up the following passages which record Paul's prayers for the saints.**

**Romans 1:8-13**

**1 Corinthians 1:4-8**

**Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21**

**Philippians 1:9-11**

**Colossians 1:9-14; 4:2-6**

**1 Thessalonians 1:3; 5:23=24**

**2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; 2:16-17; 3:15-16**

**2 Timothy 1:3**

## **TRANSFORMATION PRAYERS FOR MOVING INWARD**

### **A. The Prayer of Examen (A personal journey before God)**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 3:14-21**

The Apostle Paul reveals his pastoral heart by praying for the believers in Ephesus. He not only cries out that God would strengthen them by the Holy Spirit in their inner being but that they would experientially know the parameters of Christ's love which was beyond natural knowledge. Such a prayer is a pastoral request for those under the shepherd's care to examen, posture, and present themselves to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all they could ask for or imagine.

### **B. The Prayer of Relinquishment (Letting go and letting God)**

In the Garden of Gethsemane, we learn from Jesus Himself what it means to pray the Prayer of Relinquishment. No other passage of Scripture sheds light on what it means to release our desires, our plans, our self to the Heavenly Father.

#### **SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 26:36-44**

Relinquishment is NOT resignation. Resignation is giving up and accepting what may appear to be the inevitable. Relinquishment is an act of faith that says, "Even if I do not presently understand the what and the why, I will place my trust in my Heavenly Father who loves me and will never abandon me." Resignation is giving up and falling into the black hole of fate. Relinquishment is releasing my need to be in control and laying back in the loving arms of my Heavenly Father.

Jesus did not resign in the garden of Gethsemane. He did not resign to the enemy's lies. He did not resign to the inevitable death without hope. No, Jesus relinquished His will to the Father's

will. He did not wrestle with God as did Jacob. He wrestled before God the Father and freely relinquished His will for the Father's will.

### **C. The Prayer of Formation (Being conformed to the image of Christ)**

Formational prayer is about bringing us into communion with the Father, through the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is about me being conformed to the image of Christ for the glory of the Father and for the sake of others. Formational prayer is not a one-time prayer but a prayer that requires a life commitment. We live a life that is constantly pressing toward the upward call of God in Christ. (Philippians 1:6; 2:12; 3:10-14; 1 Timothy 4:7)

#### **SCRIPTURE READING Phillipians 3:7-14**

As we are being pursued by God we in turn press forward, stretch out, to the Living God revealed in and through Jesus Christ. We are not passively waiting for the Holy Spirit to do a special work. We press into the Father's presence in humility and expectation. (James 4:4-10; 1 Peter 5:1-11)

The prayer of formation requires the spiritual leader to understand that the same work the Holy Spirit desires to do in congregational members He desires to do in them until Christ is fully formed in them. For in all things concerning godliness they are called and expected to be models before the congregation, the community, and among fellow ministers.

#### **TRANSFORMATION PRAYERS FOR MOVING UPWARD**

##### **A. The Prayer of Adoration (Responding to God's Love)**

The prayer of adoration is focused on an upward relationship with our Heavenly Father. As we learn of His grace, mercy, love, compassion, and forgiveness we have only one response; adoration. Richard Foster writes, "Adoration is the spontaneous yearning of the heart to worship, honor, magnify, and bless God."

Adoration is known as self-less devotion. The believer is so caught up with God's beauty and holiness that they desire nothing but to cherish Him. In the prayer of adoration we love God for Himself not for his blessings or gifts. We delight in Him and are filled with radiant joy. (Psalm 16:8)

*\*\*Turn to the Scriptures and find the book of Psalms. Quickly read through and find the verses that proclaim the desire to worship the Lord with adoration. You may want to use a concordance.*

#### **What Does This Type of Prayer Look Like?**

First and foremost, Christian prayer is Christ-centered (Worship).

Our access to God's Throne is made possible by Jesus Christ Himself. (Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:25)

Second, it is Bible-based (Word). Christian prayer is based on the truths that God has revealed in the Scriptures. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, Jesus' teaching is recorded so we may pray in accordance with God's will. Knowing God's word is the key to effective prayer. (Matthew 6:5-13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17)

Finally, Christian prayer is Spirit-led (Walk). Christian prayer is dependent on the Holy Spirit. He is the One Who intercedes for us when we cannot put our requests into words. Jesus promised that the Spirit would lead us into all truth. And the Father desires true worshipers to worship Him in Spirit and truth. (Romans 8:26-27; John 16:12-15; 4:23-24)

### **What Does the Work of Prayer Require?**

The key to the Kingdom of God coming on earth is in the hand of God, and that key is prayer not work, that is, not work as the word is popularly understood today. There are no nations in Jesus Christ's outlook for the Great Commission, but the world. (Matthew 9:38; Acts 1:8) Christ Himself owns the harvest that is produced by distress and conviction of sin (John 16:8-11), and this is the harvest we have to pray for so that laborers may be sent out to reap for God's glory.

Prayer does not just fit us for obedience and discernment; prayer is the greater work. Praying effectively is entering into a battle against the devil's schemes, and the rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world. Prayer is a battle against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:11-12)

Many are called to deliver God's message in a particular manner (preaching, teaching, evangelism, counseling). However, every believer and especially every Christian leader, whether they be ministers, deacons, deaconesses, or ordained pastors, ALL are called to pray and intercede for others.

### **Preparing Myself for Prayer**

There are many books on prayer and how to pray. Yet, the Scriptures assist us in how do we prepare ourselves to pray effectively. This is a known pattern of prayer for you to consider:

- 1) **Silence** – Psalm 46:10; 62:1-2; Mark 1:35
- 2) **Acknowledging God's Presence** – Psalm 16:8; 105:4-5
- 3) **Scripture Reading** – 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Luke 24:27, 32, 45
- 4) **Personal Reflection and Prayer** – Joshua 1:7-9; Psalm 119:9-11; 33-37; Mark 11:22-25; John 7:37-38
- 5) **Offering of Self to God** – Isaiah 6:7-8; Psalm 40:7-8; Colossians 1:28-29

- 6) **Receive God's Blessings** – Psalm 25:15; John 14:21, 23;  
Jeremiah 17:7-8

### **The Historic Practice of Prayer Through Spiritual Disciplines**

Throughout Church history we have examples of believers trusting, praying, and drawing closer to God. They accomplished this connection and communion with God through the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Scriptures. Here is what is known in Latin as "Lectio Divina" or "Holy Reading."

- 1) Lectio (Prayerfully Reading the Scripture)
- 2) Oratio (Responding in Prayer)
- 3) Meditatio (Reflecting Upon God's Word and Meditating on God's Goodness)
- 4) Contemplatio (Contemplation, resting in Christ Himself in silent listening)

### **Suggested Books on Prayer**

**The Circle Maker**, Mark Batterson (2011)

**Experiencing Prayer with Jesus**, Henry and Norman Blackaby (2006)

**Hearing God's Voice**, Henry and Richard Blackaby (2002)

**Praying with Paul**, R.L. Brandt (1966)

**Breakthrough Prayer**, Jim Cymbala (2003)

**Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home**, Richard J. Foster (1992)

**Prayer is Invading the Impossible**, Jack Hayford (1977)

**The Secrets of Intercessory Prayer**, Jack Hayford (2009)

**Rhythms of the Inner Life: Yearning for Closeness with God**, Howard R. Macy (1988)

**Praying Jesus' Way**, Curtis C. Mitchell (1927)

**The Prayer that Turns the World Upside Down**, R. Albert Mohler Jr. (2018)

**The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer**, Andrew Murray (1981, originally 1897)

**Praying with Power**, Lloyd John Ogilvie (1983)

**Revival Praying**, Leonard Ravenhill (1984)

**Prayer: Does it Make a Difference?**, Philip Yancy (2006)

**\*\*\*Most of these books are available through Amazon and Kindle**

