REACHCHURCH

"Teach Me How to Pray"

Matthew 6: 9 – 13

11/14/2017

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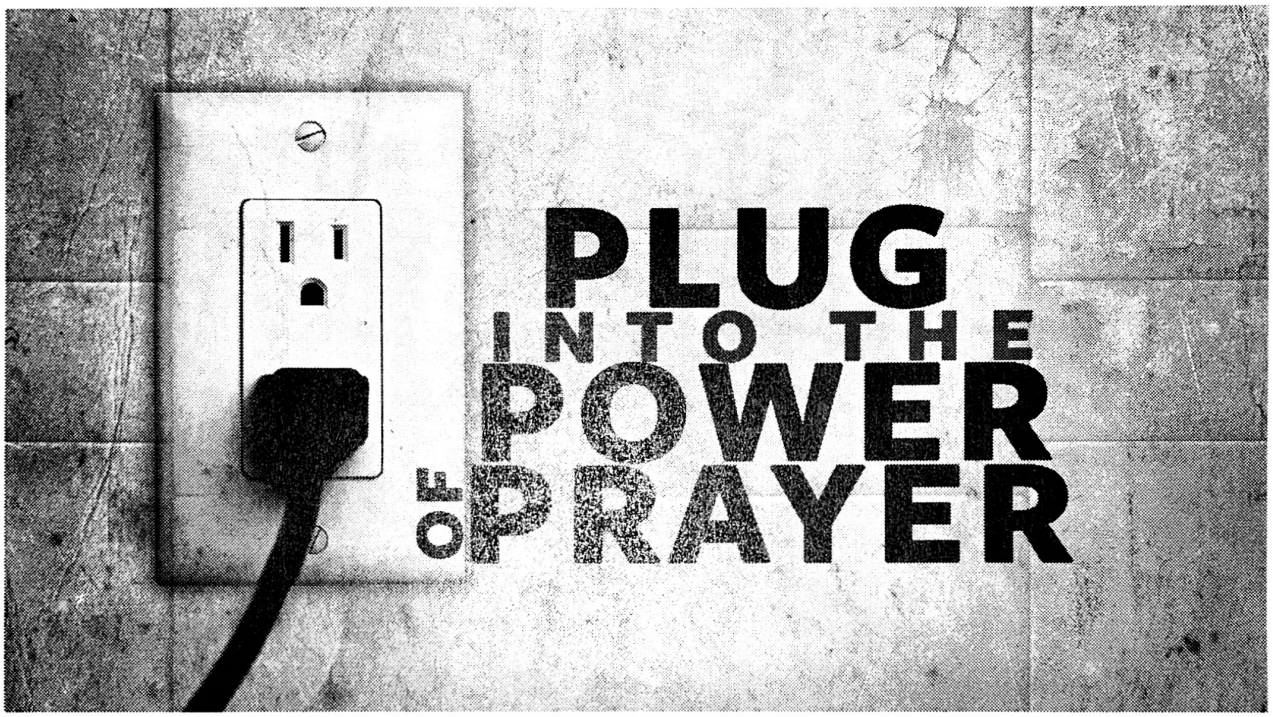

When Jesus called his twelve disciples he gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. What is interesting is that the disciples never asked Jesus for the power to do works. They asked him to teach them how to pray. They figured out that his power came from fellowship with the Father. John 1:1; John 7: 15, 16

They also recognized that Jesus prayers were different from what they had ever heard. So, when they asked Jesus to teach them to pray, they recognized that it was a pattern to effective prayer. So, Jesus taught them to pray.

What we know as the disciple's prayer, was really a pattern of prayer. It is not meant, that every time we pray we should pray these words, but rather it is a pattern to follow.

<u>What you need to know about prayer</u>:

1. *God answers prayers primarily through obedient men and women* – God designed us to work in tandem with Him. Therefore, it is important to pray the word of God, to be sure that we recognize our responsibility in prayer. Many times, we can find ourselves praying for things that God doesn't do. – Deuteronomy 30: 11 – 20

2. *God answers prayer through alignment with HIS will* – God is not authorized to answer any prayers that are outside his Word. Studying of the Word of God increases our confidence in our prayer life. – Psalm 119:89; Psalm 138: 2

3. *Don't mistake waiting on God with human pro*crastination – Sometimes we can say that we are waiting on God when really, we are not taking the steps necessary to make happen what God has already provided. The clock is not our enemy, the clock is our friend. The clock helps us determine what our priorities should be for that time in our lives. Psalms 1: 3

4. *Don't mistake delay for denial* – Just because a prayer seems unanswered, does not mean God has not sent the answer. At the appointed time, it will come to past. Our job is to be faithful in the meantime. Daniel 9:3 – 19; Hebrews 10:36

5. *Don't forget to listen* – Don't let your prayers be a series of quick request without fellowship with him. It's in the fellowship that he shows us the next steps and we become sensitive to His guiding. James 4:8

Matthew 6: 9 – 13 reveals the pattern of prayer we should follow!

1. Praise and Adoration – "Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy"
    - Our praise and adoration recognizes who we are communicating with.

2. God's Kingdom Agenda – "May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."
    - God is concerned with His priorities. Our blessings are connected us pursuing his priorities.

3. Provision – "Give us today the food we need"
    - If is correct to pray for proper provision. We prepare for the future but we can't worry about the future. Worry of the future sidetracks today's obedience.

4. Confession – "and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us"
    - As believers, we have a privilege to confess our sins.

5. Protection and Defense – "And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one"
    - No matter our best intentions spiritually or otherwise, we must recognize that we have an enemy attempting to derail our forward motion. Eph 6:12; 2 Cor 10:4

6. Give God the Glory – "for this is the kingdom, the power, forever. Amen"
    - In biblical theology, this portion is referenced to as the doxology. The doxology is important, because it recognizes that whether our prayers are answered through us or on our behalf, that He deserves the Glory.

Breakthrough Prayers: "IT DOES TAKE All THAT"

1. Pray the WORD
2. Be Specific
3. Be fervent and persistent
4. Be diligent about obedience

Prayer Exercise: In a small group pray the sequence of the disciple's prayer starting with the first topic and completing six. Use the scripture references or others to make sure your prayers are in line with God's Word.

- *Praise and Adoration* – Psalm 99:5; Psalms 100:4; Psalm 34:1
- *Kingdom Agenda* – Matthew 9:37; Matthew 28: 19,20; 2 Peter 3:9
- *Provision* – Luke 6:38; Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:33

  What do you need from God?

  - Break a Habit – John 8:31,32; Galatians 3:13; Matthew 16:19
  - Comfort – Psalm 23:1 -4; Psalm 27:1; Jeremiah 1:8
  - Courage – Isaiah 41:10; Joshua 1:8,9; Isaiah 41:13
  - Stay Focus – Colossians 3:2; Proverbs 4:25; Hebrews
  - Faith – Hebrews 11:6; Luke 17:6
  - Family – Psalm 128:3; Joshua 24:15
  - Grief – Psalm 9:9; Psalm 119:50; Isaiah 43:2
  - Patience – Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 6:12; Isaiah 43:2
  - Sexual Sin – Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3
  - Work – Psalm 128:2; Proverbs 12:11 Proverbs 10:4
- *Confession* – James; 5:16; I John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13
- *Protection* – Ephesians 6:11; Psalm 46:1; Hebrews 13:6
- *Give God the Glory* – Psalm 24:7 – 8; Deuteronomy 28:58