

Living Faith: Part 3-Prayer & Faith

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. If you had an extra hour every day, how would you use it?
2. What`s the most important part of life to you?

WORD

James 5:13-18

13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

Our requests for help sometimes get declined. We talk to others but don't always get the kind of attention that we hope they would give us... What do we do when it feels like either God isn't listening or our faith is just not strong enough to feel useful in prayer? When we find ourselves crying out to God for a need only to find ourselves asking again and again? What do we do when we desire to have our prayers answered but just feel like we are running empty on faith, or can barely lift our head up in prayer to God? We naturally want to know that God is listening. And to know that something good is going to come out of our prayers.

So, keep listening, and we are going to learn more on what it means to be a faithful prayer warrior.

3 Points

1. God calls us to pray with boldness.

The first thing to think about when we are in trouble is to remember that God is bigger than whatever problem we have

2. God calls us to intercede on behalf of others.

Praying as an act of intercession. How many of us felt drawn closer to the Lord because of the prayers of someone else? How many of us had times where we felt as though we ran out of faith or didn't know what to pray and someone encouraged us.

3. God calls us to pray persistently.

Remember that Elijah prayed earnestly, or persistently it says. He doesn't just pray one or two times about the rain to fall, but 7 times!

DISCUSSION

1. What has motivated you the most to pray more?

2. How can we know which sins (if any) to confess publicly?

LIFE APPLICATION

Let us attain a greater level of faith or better prayer lives so that we would know for sure that God would hear us and was doing something about our prayers. The good news is that God is always doing something about our prayers. Not only that, he did do something about our prayers, because long before you and I were ever born, he sent us Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. He conquered over all our struggles by entering into the world as a humble king and then dying on our behalf only to be raised again on the third day. If God was willing to do that, to show us that much love, isn't that someone who we can put our faith in? As Jesus said in Matthew 6:8, God hears our prayers and knows what we need even before we pray it. So let us pray bold prayers with faith and persistence. Because I am convinced that

through our prayers he is changing our lives, changing our hearts, and changing our communities for his glory in Jesus name!

VERSE TO MEDITATE ON

I Thessalonians 5:16 (ESV)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing

PRAYER

Share your answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.

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