

Session V November 10, 2021: Prayer's Continuance: What's Next in Prayer? Pt. 1

Reminders about our session format: our discussion is adapted as well as quoted. We've discussed the Why? Where? and How? of prayer when we pray *how* Jesus instructed and modeled for us. In our last two sessions we'll discuss what's next.

Session V Devotions/Chapters included from *The Book on Prayer*:

18. Pray the Name
19. Purified Prayers
20. Try Tears
21. Mind the Gap: Intercession

Before the last seven devotions in the book, Bro. Gurley delivers a wonderful history lesson on The Awakenings. These were times of sustained seasons of revival in America's past. The history deserves its own two-week study, but one section offers this summary: all American Awakenings share these common elements:

1. Intercession
2. Revelation
3. Consecration
4. Renewal
5. Expansion

He ends the history lessons with this astounding quote:

The depth of revival will be determined exactly by the depth of the spirit of repentance. And this will hold true for all people, at all times.

--Frank Bartleman

This reminds me of the quote in last week's session: our _____ is in direct proportion to our _____. Laying down self, repenting for believing we can, or trying to, do it all ourselves.....that is what will bring victory over the enemy and REVIVAL.

We need to dive deep into Prayer's Continuance so that WE can be a part of the next Great Spiritual Awakening.

Wrapped up in the Name of Jesus is all the meaning and purpose of those Old Testament names for God. page 231

Purified Prayers: Job 16:17. *Not for any injustice in my hands: Also my prayer is pure.*

Pure prayer is unhindered prayer. Page 238

Unhindered = free from distractions. What hinders us from purely praying?

- The obstacle of _____.
- The obstacle of _____.
- The obstacle of _____.
- The obstacle of an undisciplined _____.
- The obstacle of _____ – if we wait till we feel like praying, we'll never pray.
- The obstacle of _____ – when you are not praying in the presence of others (worship or praise or corporate prayer meeting), do you wonder what to say to God?

Pure prayer is unleavened prayer. page 240

Yeast in a bread changes the structure of it, makes it puff up on its own, smell and taste differently. The only bread allowed in the Temple was unleavened bread, free of contaminants or additives. How do we purify our prayers of unwanted leaven?

- Pray genuinely
- Pray secretly
- Pray definitely
- Pray in His will
- Pray patiently
- Pray in faith

Philip Yancey: "The trick of faith is to believe in advance what will only make sense in reverse." page 243

Try Tears.

God is an avid collector of tears...He remains close to those who are brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:18). page 248

Tears are God's favorite gift -- Psalm 56:8 -- "Put my tears into Your bottle." Jesus wept. (John 11:35). We should weep, too.

Weep over your city.....don't be at ease in Zion, but don't be distant from the troubles of this world. Let those troubles move you to tears.

Weep for the prodigal.....the lost children who need to return, or the children yet to be born. Isaiah 66:8 says "as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children."

Weep for ourselves.....

Have we lost our capacity to be broken before God? Yes, we should weep for ourselves. We are not as tender as we once were before God. page 255

Mind the Gap – Intercession (a specific form of tears): Ezekiel 22:30

To stand in the gap is to recognize that there is a divide "between the dead and the living, the hopeless and hopeful, the bound and the free." (page 260). We are called to stand in the gap and bridge between these extremes.

Intercessors must be

- Empathetic – they _____ what others _____
- Prayerful – willing to cry out to God
- Tireless – "never hold their peace day or night" Isaiah 62:6-7
- Submitted to a Higher Cause
- Desiring no credit – God knows who they are

Some people need you to mind the gap.....Who needs you? page 264

- Those in authority – 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- God's people – Romans 1:9
- Spiritual leaders – 2 Corinthians 1:11 – Paul was telling the church at Corinth that their prayers for him and his ministry team led to God delivering them
- All souls who need to know God – Colossians 1:9

The continuance of prayer brings the revival that this world needs.