

Session VI November 17, 2021: Prayer's Continuance: What's Next in Prayer? Pt. 2

Reminders about our session format: our discussion is adapted as well as quoted. We've discussed the Why? Where? and How? of prayer. In our last two sessions we're discussing what's next – powerful, purposeful prayers.

Session VI Chapters included from *The Book on Prayer*: (not in this order)

- 22. The Seventh and Forgotten Weapon
- 23. Changing the Spiritual Climate
- 24. The Recentered Life

Page 279 of *The Book on Prayer* reads like this:

One thing.

Is there one thing you could do to change everything?

One thing that could:

- cause you to glow like a light in the darkness;
- open a clear path before you;
- bring full life in the emptiest of places;
- make your life bloom like a rose;
- take old rubble and transform it into foundations for many generations;
- repair all that is damaged; and
- cause you to ride high and soar above adversity?

For these benefits and more, you would need to do the one thing described in Isaiah 58. Once you are engaged in this spiritual practice, your entire spiritual climate will radically change.

Fair warning: You're not going to like this.

Caution: your flesh is really going to hate this.

Buckle up: This is going to be a rough ride.

The one practice that can radically change the spiritual climate:

Isaiah 58:6

Is not this the fast that I have chosen?
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the heavy burdens,
and to let the oppressed go free,
and that ye break every yoke?

Prayer's Continuance: We change the Spiritual Climate with _____.

Fasting is an act of self-denial and, combined with prayer, will be a change agent.

Fasting means to “_____”.

Why we fast.

We fast for these reasons:

1. To loose the bonds of wickedness – to show that we are not under the bondage of anything, or to loose others from the bonds of wickedness or oppression.
2. To undo heavy _____ – like a camel that has to kneel to have its cargo removed, if we are humbled and deny self, God can lift our burdens.
3. To let the oppressed go free.
4. To break every yoke.

How we fast.

The Bible shows a wide variety of fasting for us to learn from today.

- *Supernatural Fasting* – three men in scripture fasted 40 days and nights.
[who can name them?]
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- *Absolute Fasting* – examples in the Bible of short periods with no food or water include Paul, Ezra and Esther
- *Partial Fasting* – typically, to have no food but drink water for a specific period of time. Other variations, too, and the idea comes from Daniel’s experience when in captivity.

Choose to fast.

Recall our scripture in Isaiah 58:6 – God has chosen a fast for us, to break those bonds and bring freedom. When we fast and pray, “_____”
and _____ are moved.” page 285

Fasting is the God-ordained, and time-worn means to change the spiritual climate. God has a fast chosen for you, so choose His fast. page 285

Prayer's Continuance: The Seventh Weapon in Armor of God.

What does Ephesians 6:11 - 17 describe as the Armor of God?

- Belt of _____
- Breastplate of _____
- Shoes of the _____
- Shield of _____
- Helmet of _____
- Sword of the _____

But in Ephesians 6:18, Paul describes a “forgotten” weapon.

What was Paul admonishing in those 21 words? To Pray in the Spirit.

As oil to a shield, so is the Holy Spirit to faith. Praying in the Spirit anoints our faith. The Spirit elevates the work of faith. page 270

Here's a worldly example: my husband the gunsmith will tell you that no matter how expensive or sophisticated the firearm, you cannot rely on it to do its job if it isn't cleaned and oiled. Oil on the shield or sword of the warrior kept them in prime operating function. Shields were made of heavy leather, or metal, covering their frame. Oil prevented compromise from cracking leather or rusting metal. This made them ready for the warrior, offering protection and defense.

Oil to the warrior was a liquid fat with many purposes. It would burn for light, it would protect and soften and make waterproof against the elements.

In the Old Testament, anointing with oil was a ritual for _____ . It conferred power or approval in more than one instance in the Bible.

Jesus is called the Anointed One. Messiah (mashiach) and Christ (christos) both meant “anointed.” page 269

In both the Old Testament (Isaiah 61:1) and the New Testament (1 John 2:20, 27), scriptures equate the anointing and oil, with the Holy Spirit. Today we often hear the metaphors of the Oil being a reference to the Holy Ghost. So, we should take that Shield of Faith from Ephesians 6, and saturate it with the Oil of the Spirit.
Praying in the Spirit anoints our faith, and elevates the work of faith.

We need to understand how praying in the Spirit truly works. Last week when we talked about pure prayers, we discussed ways that we should make our time talking to God as humans, as free from contamination as possible – genuine, in secret, patiently, in His will, etc. But praying in the Spirit is when God is praying through us because we don't have a human understanding of what is being said. We are _____.

In 1 Corinthians 14:2, Paul said a person praying in tongues is speaking not to others but directly to God.

To pray in the Spirit is to

- Lose touch with our wishes and will
- Be immersed in God's Will and God's Power
- Speak in an unknown, Heavenly language
- Pray with fervency and expectancy

How do we do this? Paul said we pursue and desire it. We ask God to fill us with His Spirit and speak through us. page 273

The anointing oil of the Holy Ghost flows and keeps us protected, ready for any battle, and at our prime. *The Armor of God is not complete without the Purest Prayer.*

Prayer's Continuance: Center around Him.

Have you ever felt like asking God, "God, where are you?"
How often do we miss God only to discover God has been missing us?
So, perhaps we should ask ourselves in those times when we think we can't find
God, "God, where am I?" page 289

We put God in the CENTER of our lives when we _____ to Him,
_____ to Him, and _____ Him.

A Guide or a Map? Remember how in Session I we talked about how God
promised to be our guide, not our map?

Think about when you're going somewhere you've never been before.

Would you rather

- a) follow someone,
- b) have someone ride with you who knows where to go, or
- c) rely on a map or handwritten directions?

God wants to be your guide. He wants to be the car in the lead, or the expert co-pilot IN THE CAR with you.

If He rides with you, you'll not have to wonder which lane on the Prayer Highway you need to take. You won't be asking "God, where are You?" If you are centered on Him, you'll know exactly where He is.

The continuance of prayer will awaken God's people and awaken this lost world.