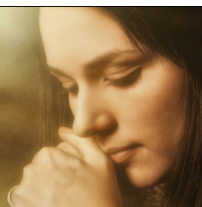


The Greatest Thing...

Agape Life Church April 3, 2016



Confess your sins to each other **and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.** Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops. James 5:16-17

I. The Greatest Thing We Can Do Is Pray

There is a divine principle in regard to prayer, which runs all through the Scriptures. It is that God is pleased to unite His people with Himself in whatever He is about to do. He first of all leads them to pray, and then does what He intends in answer to their prayers. - Russell Elliott

God must be **invited** in to have influence in our lives and we must make a sure connection.

Prayer is a dialogue between two people who love each other — God and man." Simply put, prayer is communicating with God. **Every Christian has a direct line of communication with God, available at all times.** But most Christians wait to make their connection until an emergency arises.

Mark 10:46-52 **What do you want to see done in your life?**

In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness; for we do not know what prayers to offer nor in what way to offer them. But the Spirit Himself pleads for us in yearnings that can find no words, and the Searcher of hearts knows what the Spirit's meaning is, because His intercessions for God's people are in harmony with God's will.

Romans 8:26-27 Weymouth

I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me seemed insufficient for the day. - A. Lincoln

Core Point: The prayers of the people of God amount to the greatest thing we can do. When we pray we bridge the power of God's Kingdom into our lives and into the world around us.

II. A New Boldness To Pray

The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray. Samuel Chadwick

"I fear John Knox's prayers more than an army of ten thousand men." - Mary, Queen of Scotland

*And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would **bless me** indeed, and **enlarge my territory**, that **Your hand would be with me**, and that You **would keep me from evil**, that I may **not cause pain!**" So God granted him what he requested. 1 Chronicles 4:10*

God desires to answer the prayers of His people!

It is God's nature to bless. In our minds we have often have limited thoughts that God has predetermined how many blessings to give, so there is no need to ask. God abounds in goodness. He wants His abundance to overflow into our lives, which is exactly why we need to ask God daily to bless us and to bless us abundantly.

"Oh that You would bless me indeed!" The petition sounds selfish, doesn't it? Could it be that the defining characteristic of those with great faith is that they pray differently? While many think that this petition is a sure sign of self-centered immaturity, it is actually the kind of prayer that God likes to hear.

"You do not have because you do not ask." James 4:2.

We must call on God, knowing He will hear and answer.

God is looking for those who want to change the course of their lives by **boldly asking** Him to answer them. He is eager to answer those who call boldly on Him!

The most life changing powerful thing you can do is to humble yourself and call on God to do what you can't do for yourself.

And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me. Psalm 50:15

It is crucial to realize that our total dependence is on God. Dependence is the key. **Total dependence upon God** is what produces greatness, which is exactly why we must pray with same boldness of Jabez.

Core Statement: I will employ the great power of prayer in a greater way in my life. I know God hears me when I pray so I will ask boldly in prayer. I depend on Him fully in my life and invite Him to answer my prayer to Him!