

Prayer That Changes the Future

Introduction

A. Some of the greatest promises in the Bible are related to prayer.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6,7

B. One of the most important questions we should ask is—“Why are we so unaffected by that promise and therefore so unproductive in our prayer life?”

C. True prayer cooperates with God in changing the future in the lives of individuals and all other areas where God desires a change. We can distribute **grace** by praying!

I. True Prayer is a Divine and Human Cooperative.

The Lord Jesus said: *I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*
John 14:13,14

Notice: True prayer is cooperating with the Lord Jesus in bringing glory to the Father. He seeks those who will get involved with Him in His work through prayer. He was preparing the Disciples (and us) for a life of successful living and ministry.

II. True Prayer is a Sharing of Authority.

The Lord Jesus said: *You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.* John 14:14

Notice: True prayer is receiving authority from the Lord Jesus and then praying within the realm of that authority. He gave His Disciples (and us) this power for their life and ministry.

III. True Prayer is Praying the Will of God into Existence.

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.
John 14:13

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14

Notice: By cooperating with the Lord Jesus, and using His authority, the Disciples were encouraged to pray God’s will into existence for their daily life and ministry. About 60 years later John wrote 1 John and said that such praying worked and encouraged people to have confidence in doing that type of praying.

IV. True Prayer is Hindered by Not Loving and Obeying the Lord Jesus.

- A. Lack of love for the Lord Jesus spawns neglect of Him, His promises, and prayer.

You do not have, because you do not ask God. James 4:2B

- B. Lack of love for the Lord Jesus spawns the idolatry of selfishness.

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. James 4:3

- C. Lack of love for the Lord Jesus spawns conflicts in and out of the family.

You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. James 4:2

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. 1 Peter 3:7

- D. Lack of love for the Lord Jesus spawns disobedience

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. 1 John 3:21,22

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. Psalm 66:18

Conclusion (Be honest and bold enough to put me in the place of us in 1-4 below.)

- A. Turn the following suggestions into personal and honest prayer.

1. Pray that God will humble and convict us of all failure to love the Lord Jesus.
2. Pray that God will show us what sins we need to confess and how to begin a life of praying true prayers. Perhaps we should start with the above list.
3. Pray that God will teach us how to receive His love and love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind.
4. Pray that God will make us Christians of honesty and integrity.

- B. Select a friend and pray the will of God, as outlined in Eph 3:14-19, into a more full and joyful realization in their life.

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