

Key: Green is “On the Screen”. Yellow is “Video”. Aqua is “Special Emphasis”.

Good Morning...Welcome...

Title Slide – “Prayer: It’s More Than a Wireless Connection!”

4/3/16

I just want to thank each and every one of you that were here at GTC for the wonderful weekend of Easter last weekend. What a weekend we had. Just 3 of the stories that we had over the weekend last weekend... All 3 on the same slide

- 1) We had a lady in her early 50’s that hasn’t been to church in years. She was with us and just really received the message that “It may be finished, but He is done with her yet!”**
- 2) We had a College Student that was with us. Listen to this, “That was so good for me! It really was what I needed today!”**
- 3) “Pastor Dan, the word you gave this past weekend, spoke to me and challenged me. Thank you for preaching the Word of God at GTC!”**

I am just so grateful to be a church, where lives are being touched and changed, because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Let me give you a couple of missions updates...

- 1) Our missionaries that we support in Pakistan (Pakistan Flag) have all been checked in, and they were not personally/physically affected by the terrorist attacks on Easter Sunday.**
- 2) Our missionaries in Kolkata, IN are presently working hard at meeting the needs of the Flyover Collaspe (Pic of the Collaspe) on Thursday morning. All 4 of the missionaries that we have relationships with were not in the area at the time of the Collaspe!**
- 3) Tim and Jenny Lind, Daughters Whitney and Kaitlyn (Pic of the Land Family) are heading to Cameroon on April 6th – this Wednesday! Let’s take a video before we leave service!**

PRAY! (Series Slide) Lastly, next week, we have a special non guest speaker – Jen Lewiston will be speaking!

AMEN! Exciting things in our midst! Don’t forget about our Work Day (Need Slide) on Saturday, April 16th. Sign-ups in the foyer!

Pray! (Series Slide) Ready to get in the word...

Let’s Pray...

For the month of April will be starting a series entitled PRAY! A really important part of the Christ-Followers disciplines, especially in times of need and desire, trial and error, or when we need grace and mercy!

Yet prayer is such a needed thing in the body of Christ!

Luke 18:1, One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.

"To be a Christian without prayer, is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."
Martin Luther

Apostle Paul – 1 Thes. 5:17, "Never stop praying!"

Apostle Peter – 1 Peter 3:7, "Treat (your wife) as you should so your prayers will not be hindered."

Prayer is more than significant part of the Christ Followers' journey. It is an absolute for living for Christ!

This week, we open are series Pray! With a message entitled (**Title Slide**) "Prayer: It's More Than a Wireless Connection!"

This week I want to give you 4 Keys to prayer! These keys will help you understand the nature, the necessity, and the power of prayer to the living God that we serve!

Are you ready? Let's Roll!

Acts 12:5, "But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him."

Often times in scripture when we see the topic or action of prayer, words like earnestly, passionately, steadfast, continual, effectual, etc... This gives us a picture of what prayer should be like. Not a boring and cumbersome chore, but a discipline that doesn't give up or stop, that is not wimpy or birthed in fear, not a half-way or hap hazard way of doing things.

There is an "All-In" approach to the Christ-Followers prayer life!

1st Key – Prayer is Persistent and Constant!

- We see that Jesus said that in **Luke 18:1**, "...you should always pray and never give up."
- Paul said in **1 Thes. 5:17**, "Never stop praying."
- Church we should not just pray 2 or 3 times, but constantly.
- I'm reminded of the disciples on their way to pray...
 - **Acts. 3:1-11**, "¹ Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. ² As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money.

⁴ Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵ The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. ⁶ But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!"

⁷ Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. ⁸ He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them.

⁹ All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. ¹⁰ When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! ¹¹ They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

- **It was on their persistent and constant way to pray, that the miracle happened!**

2nd Key – **Prayer is Focused, yet Humble!**

- **James 4:1-10**, ¹ "What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? ² You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. ³ And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

⁴ You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. ⁵ Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. ⁶ And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say,

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. ⁹ Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

- Vs. 2 tells us, that we don't have what we want, because we do not ask for it.
- **Prayer has to be focused.**
- Vs. 3 tells us, that we don't get what we want, because we have wrong motives.
- **Prayer has to be humble.**
- **Prayer is all about getting closer with God!**

3rd Key – **Prayer is Personal!**

- **Luke 18:9-14**, ⁹ Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: ¹⁰ **“Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’**

¹³ **“But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”**

- **The Pharisee prays through their own ambitions.**
- **The Tax Collector prays through his own personal struggle.**
- **Romans 8:26**, “And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.”



4th Key – **Prayer is Powerful!**

- **Mark 11:12-25**, ¹² The next morning as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³ He noticed a fig tree in full leaf a little way off, so he went over to see if he could find any figs. But there were only leaves because it was too early in the season for fruit. ¹⁴ Then Jesus said to the tree, **“May no one ever eat your fruit again!”** And the disciples heard him say it.

¹⁵ When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, ¹⁶ and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. ¹⁷ He said to them, **“The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.”**

¹⁸ When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill him. But they were afraid of him because the people were so amazed at his teaching. ¹⁹ That evening Jesus and the disciples left the city. ²⁰ The next morning as they passed by the fig tree he had cursed, the disciples noticed it had withered from the roots up. ²¹ Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, “Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!”

²² Then Jesus said to the disciples, **“Have faith in God. ²³ I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. ²⁴ I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours. ²⁵ But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”**

- **Jesus cursed the fig tree, because it had no fruit on it.**
- **Faith in Prayer produces fruit in your life.**



- **The secret to effective prayer is faith in Jesus Christ and absolute trust in the Word He has spoken.**
- **Know in your heart that the prayer you are asking for will be answered -- know this even at the moment you ask. Believe with all your heart that God has already answered your petition even before you finish praying.**

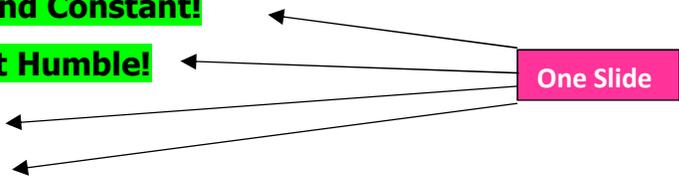
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Prayer is Powerful!

One Slide



Prayer

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