



Phil Pringle © 2006

Prayer and Fasting

This next week we are going to hold an early morning prayer meeting, 6:30am-7:30am. I'm calling us all to choose 1 day or more throughout the month to fast and pray. Some of you may fast for 3 days, 7, 10, 14, 21 days. We release immense power when we fast and pray.

2 Chronicles 7:14-17 If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 15 Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. 16 For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

One of the meanings 'to humble' ourselves and pray is to 'fast' and pray. It also refers to confessing our sins. Most everything we receive from God begins in prayer and fasting. Jesus began His Ministry with a forty day fast. Moses birthed nation of Israel by ascending the Mt. Sinai and fasting in the Presence of God for 40 days. Paul began his ministry after he was saved, fasting for 3 days. The door to the Gentiles was opened through the fasting and praying of Peter. Queen Esther called her entire nation to fasting and Prayer and they were delivered from extermination.

Our effectiveness is our sharpness. We sharpen our ability in life and in God through fasting and prayer.

The largest word in this verse is 'IF'. The people of God have learnt to worship but we need to learn to pray. Our spiritual stamina must increase so we are able to spend time together seeking God. IF we will seek Him, He WILL answer.



There is not a preacher, a pastor, or a group of Christians throughout all Christian history who have achieved some great thing for God that have been able to say, prayer was not part of it. Not just ordinary prayer either, but prayer that breaks through.

Saying a prayer is not the answer. That is merely satisfying a religious expectation either we or others have upon us. We are not here to be appropriately religious. We are here to change people and circumstances. Therefore we must be able to pray so that we effect changes. These changes are wrought in prayer. We pray until we know we have effected the change.

Old timers called it 'praying through'.

I think it was William Carey the great missionary to India, who originated the much-said statement, '*God does nothing but in answer to prayer*'.

On Prayer Mountain in Seoul, Korea, a property owned by the largest church in the world, Full Gospel Central Church, at any given time, up to 10,000 people can be found on the mountain locked away in small caves and holes in the hill, crying out to God for their church, their city, their country, their Pastor and his team. They have around one million members in their church.

It's difficult to argue with that kind of success.

Jashil Choi, Pastor Yongii Cho's Mother in law, committed herself to extraordinary prayer and fasting in the early days of that church, locking herself in a hole in the ground, determined that either God would bring blessing or else she would die.

David Yongii Cho the Pastor of this largest Church in the history of the world, says that he prays no less than three hours, sometimes 5 hours daily. '*Prayer is the key to revival. Prayer is the key to your success. Prayer is the*



key to personal victory. I ask you to pray. I ask you to pray. I ask you a third time to pray. Prayer is the foundation of the Kingdom of God. Only through prayer can we carry out God's command in our lives'

John Knox was famous for his power in prayer. Bloody Queen Mary of England, ruled only 5 years, killing at least 300 heretics who opposed her attempts to return England to Catholicism said she feared his prayers more than all Europe's armies. Her successor Elizabeth the 1st believed in prayer, *'Under Queen Elizabeth 1 in 1588 - England. The Spanish Armada relied on power, but the English relied on prayer. When the Armada attacked, Elizabeth called the nation to prayer. As a result, a storm arose and destroyed 65 of the Armada's 130 ships. The English lost not a single ship. After the history-making defeat, the English Government struck a medal with this inscription "God blew and they were scattered" .*

Martin Luther of Germany, possibly the most pivotal man in the entire Reformation of the 15th Century said, *'I have so much work to do, that I cannot get along without giving three hours daily of my best time to prayer'.*

Jonathan Edwards the man God used for the Great Awakening in America in the 17th Century records, *'When I was a boy I used to pray 5 times a day in secret, and to spend much time in religious conversation with other boys. I used to meet with them to pray together. So it is God's will through His wonderful grace, that the prayers of His saints should be one great and principal means of carryng on the designs of Christ's Kingdom in the world'.*

My task is to ensure that fire is kept alive upon the altar of prayer in this House.

Leviticus 6:12 'And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it; and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings.

Leiticus 6:13 'A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.



It takes a lot of care and attention to keep the fire burning.

This fire first came from the Lord (Lev 9:24), and all the priests needed to do from then was to maintain the fire. They were not to allow it to go out.

This is the calling of a minister of God. He or she is to keep the fire in the church alive and burning. It is the task of us all to maintain a fire of prayer day and night, unceasing, vigilant prayer (**1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing,**) so that there is a

continual reminder to God,
continual wall of defence against the devil,
continual binding of demons, strong men, and
principalities opposing the work of God,
continual refuelling of the saints,
continual strengthening of the work of God.

Prayer defeats temptation in your life;

Matthew 26:40-41 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Hosea 10:12 Break up your fallow ground,
For it is time to seek the LORD,
Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

Isaiah 55:6 Seek the LORD while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.

Jeremiah 29:12-14 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.



Amos 5:4 For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel: "Seek Me and live;

Luke 18:1 'men always ought to pray and not lose heart'

Romans 12:12 'continuing steadfastly in prayer'.

Ephesians 6:18 'praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit'.

Philippians 4:6 'Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God'.

Colossians 4:2 'Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving'.

Acts 1:14 'These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.'

Acts 4:31 'And when they had prayed , the place where they were assembled together was shaken ; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.'

HOW YOU KNOW IF YOU NEED TO ATTEND THE PRAYER MEETING.

If your family hasn't all yet come to Christ. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If all your friends haven't yet come to Christ. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If you're not coping with pressure well. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If your marriage is a little bumpy. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

Christian City Church

OXFORD FALLS



If your children are not living like they should. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If your parents are having difficulties. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If your relationships aren't working well. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If you feel emotionally stretched. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If you're anxious about a situation. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If your friends are backsliding. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If your own fire for God has cooled. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If you're not in love with the Bible and God like you used to be. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If the devil is obviously and easily attacking you. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If God seems afar off. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If your gifts and calling are not functioning like they used to or like they could be. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If you're about to start a new venture. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If you're about to make a big decision. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If you're about to finish something or change something. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If you think there is things the Church needs you need to be at the Prayer meeting.

If you think people in our church could be more blessed. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If you think Sydney needs a revival. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If you think the people of Sydney need to become hungry for God. You need to be at the Prayer meeting

If you think Sydney people should start coming to our Church. You need to be at the Prayer meeting



The secret to a major breakthrough in any circumstances is to first breakthrough in prayer.

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What Happened When the Praying Stopped

ALEDO, TX (FR) - How did the removal of prayer from the schools of the United States affect us?

Specialty Research Associates, in Texas gathered and tabulated statistics and uses over 100 pages of graphs and statistical analysis to prove that crime, venereal disease, premarital sex, illiteracy, suicide, drug use, public corruption began a dramatic increase after the Supreme Court decision was made in 1962 which banned school prayer.

Prayer in schools prior to 1962 was utilized in school districts all over the U.S.

The Scholastic Aptitude Test measures the developed verbal and math reasoning of a student exiting high school used by colleges and universities to indicate the strength of a student's academic preparation.



The actual knowledge of high school students began to drop at an accelerating rate after 1962.

Increase in sexual activity in unmarried teen-age girls after 1962 immediately began to soar.

Unwed women 15-19 years of age showed a phenomenal increase in the rate of pregnancies. The figure jumps drastically after the Supreme Court made abortion legal in the U.S.

The rates of youth suicide remained relatively unchanged during the years from 1946 to the School Prayer decision in 1962. But in the years since, suicides among the same group have increased 253 percent, or an average of 10.5 percent per year.

Since the 1962 decision, divorce, single parent families, couples living together but not married, and adultery are areas of family breakdown which have experienced radical growth in recent years.

We can attempt to explain away the slowness of revival taking root in Australian hearts by all kinds of explanations like, the people aren't interested, there's no deep Christian heritage, the ground is hard. None of these will suffice. Anywhere in the world will become ground for a national revival if God's people will pray. It doesn't matter where, when, what government is in power, what demons are over the country, what the sins of the nation are, prayer is the answer for breaking through and arousing a hunger for God in the people, and awakening people to their spiritual needs.

People only enter the Kingdom through being born again. (John 3:3)

If people are born, who does the birthing? (Isa 66:8)

The Church is called our 'mother' in Scripture. (Gal 4:26)

Prayer and intercession is the birthing process of the church.

We carry people first in prayer.



Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Paul's conviction though is that it is not just bringing people to Christ that happens in prayer. It is carrying them through their entire journey. He prays they are established, they are strong, they don't slip, that Christ is formed in them, that they do the will of God, that they complete their course.

He agonises for them in prayer. He fights against the devil, deception and false ministers for them in prayer. He intercedes for them in prayer. He couldn't send e-mails, phone them, even letters took months to be delivered. And he was in prison or unable to do anything else. He relied on prayer to get the job done.