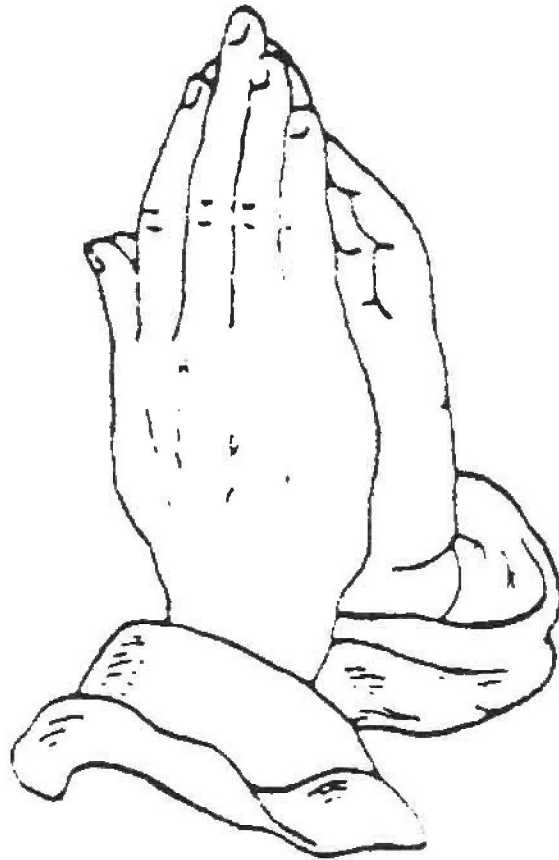


LIFE DEVELOPMENT CLASSES



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Sep. 1999, Apr. 2004

CONTENTS

Introduction

A. God Needs Our Prayers

1. The Necessity Of Prayer
2. God's Work Through Prayer

B. Releasing Christ's Victory Through Prayer

3. Intercession
4. Enforcing The Victory

C. Releasing The "Pre-saved" Through Prayer

5. Spirit Warfare For The Lost
6. Praying For The Lost

D. Persistence In Prayer

7. Persistence In Prayer – Part 1
8. Persistence In Prayer – Part 2

Taken from "Intercessory Prayer" by Dutch Sheets

© 1999 by Dutch Sheets

Produced and distributed by Gospel Light, Ventura, CA 93006.
Permission to photocopy granted only to Destiny Christian Church
for noncommercial use. All other rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
"Intercessory Prayer" DG848.

INTRODUCTION

“God’s giving is inseparably connected with our asking ...
Only by intercession can that power
be brought down from heaven
which will enable the Church
to conquer the world.”

-- Andrew Murray

In this video series, pastor and teacher Dutch Sheets takes the truth and wonder of this statement and shows through Scripture how God chooses to work through us to do miracles of healing, restoration and salvation. We are His partners on earth and our persistent prayers of intercession release the Holy Spirit to bless others and to carry out His will on the earth.

SESSION ONE

THE NECESSITY OF PRAYER

THREE POSSIBLE PRIMARY MOTIVES FOR PRAYER:

1. I need to.
→ leads to selfishness and using God
2. God needs me to.
→ leads to legalism and religious works
3. I need relationship with God.
→ leads to communion with God

HOW TO HAVE A DISCIPLINED CONSISTENT PRAYER TIME

- ☐ Start with quality, not quantity.
- ☐ Set out to enjoy your time with God!

I. Is prayer necessary?

“God does nothing on the earth except in answer to believing prayer.” -- John Wesley

“God shapes the world through prayer. The more praying there is in the world, the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil. The prayers of God's Saints are the capital stock of heaven, by which God carries on His great work upon earth ... God conditions the very life and prosperity of His cause on prayer.” -- E. M. Bounds

“Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him”.
(Matthew 6:8, NASB)

“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread”. (Matthew 6:10-11, NASB)

“Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9:38, NASB)

A. God wants us to ask for His will to be done.

1. We are to ask at the right “time” (Hebrew: *eth*); strategic, opportune time, the right time.

“Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.”
(Zechariah 10:1, NASB)

“Time” (Hebrew: *eth*); strategic, opportune time

2. Our asking somehow releases Him.

II. Why did God establish prayer?

- A. To make us relate to Him?
- B. Because He's training us to rule in this life, so we can reign with Him in heaven?

III. What was God's original plan?

- A. Initially, God gave the human race dominion over the earth and all creation.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:26-28, NASB)

1. "Man" (Hebrew: adam); people, human beings
2. God created man in His own "image" (Hebrew: tselem); to shade, to shadow; resemblance; an illusion, shadow or phantom
3. "Likeness" (Hebrew: demuwth, damah); to compare, similitude; similar to, modeled after, shaped after
4. "Dominion", "rule": to put under one's feet, to tread down, to subjugate

- B. God created us to be His family and crowned us with glory.

When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, The moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God. And dost crown him with glory and majesty! Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet, All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, The birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas. (Psalm 8:3-8, NASB)

1. "Glory" (Hebrew: kabowd); heavy or weighty; dominion or authority

For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. (1 Corinthians 11:7, NASB)

2. "Glory" (Greek: doxa); that appearance of a person or thing which attracts attention and causes it to be recognized for what it really is; recognition

3. God wants to be recognized in and represented by us on the earth.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23, NASB)

"But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18, NASB)

4. "Represent" (Latin: re presento); "to present again"

C. God wants us to "rule".

1. "Rule" (Hebrew: mashal); to govern or manage; to have dominion or rule.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:26-28, NASB)

2. "Given" (Hebrew: nathan); giving an assignment, putting something under the charge of someone else.

"The heavens are the heavens of the Lord; But the earth He has given to the sons of men." (Psalm 115:16, NASB)

"The heavens are the heavens of the Lord, but the earth He has assigned to man." (Psalm 115:16, Moffat).

IV. Questions for discussion

1. How complete was Adam's (humankind's) dominion upon the earth?
2. Can you explain how this relates to the necessity of prayer in order for God to work?
3. What did God mean when He said we were made in His image and likeness?
4. What is the root meaning of "glory" and how does this relate to prayer and representation?
5. What new information did you learn from this teaching? How does it affect the way you view prayer?

SESSION TWO

GOD WORKS THROUGH PRAYER

“So complete and final was Adam's authority over the earth that he, not just God, had the ability to give it away to another!” -- Dutch Sheets

I. How did mankind lose the right to govern the earth?

A. Adam and Eve sinned and gave this right to Satan.

1. Satan was called “the prince”.

“the prince” (Greek: archon) of this world; first in rank or power .

And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours." (Luke 4:6-7, NASB)

"Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out." (John 12:31, NASB)

"I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me;" (John 14:30, NASB)

"and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged." (John 16:11, NASB)

2. Yet a human would one day crush Satan's headship.

“Head” (Hebrew: rosh); headship; first in rank or authority.

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (Genesis 3:15, NASB)

II. How did mankind regain authority over the earth?

A. Through the man Christ Jesus.

"For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead." (1 Corinthians 15:21, NASB)

"For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5, NASB)

"... because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:31, NASB)

"So complete and final was God's decision to do things on earth through human beings, that it cost God the Incarnation to regain what Adam gave away ... He had to become a part of the human race." -- Dutch Sheets

B. Humans were forever to be God's link to authority on the earth.

1. This is the reason for the necessity of prayer.
2. God waits for humans to involve Him -- to ask Him!

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:38, NASB)

"Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him". (Matthew 6:8, NASB)

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread." (Matthew 6:10-11, NASB)

"Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you;" (2 Thessalonians 3:1, NASB)

C. Biblical examples:

1. **ELIJAH:**

In 1 Kings 18:1,41-45, God needed and used a person (Elijah) to accomplish His will.

... Now it came about after many days, that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, "Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the face of the earth." Now Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of the roar of a heavy shower." So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he crouched down on the earth, and put his face between his knees. And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go back" seven times. And it came about at the seventh time, that he said, "Behold, a cloud as small as a man's hand is coming up from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, so that the heavy shower does not stop you.'" So it came about in a little while, that the sky grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy shower. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. (1 Kings 18:1,41-45, NASB)

a. Elijah prayed effective and fervent prayers.

"Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the sky poured rain, and the earth produced its fruit." (James 5:17-18, NASB)

2. DANIEL:

In Daniel 9, Daniel discovered a prophecy ready to be fulfilled, and prayed it into being.

'And this whole land shall be a desolation and a horror, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,' declares the Lord, 'for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation.' (Jeremiah 25:11-12, NASB)

"In the first year of his reign I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes." (Daniel 9:2-3, NASB)

a. Through Daniel's intercession and faith, God set in motion the restoration of Israel.

"Daniel evidently realized that intercession had a part to play in bringing the prophecy to pass. God had made a prophecy; when it was time for its fulfillment, He did not fulfill it arbitrarily outside of His program of prayer, He sought for a man upon whose heart He could lay a burden of intercession. As always, God made the decision in heaven, but man was called upon to enforce that decision on earth through intercession and faith." -- Paul E. Billheimer

3. EZEKIEL:

In Ezekiel we see that God needs our prayers.

"And I searched for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads," declares the Lord God. (Ezekiel 22:30-31, NASB)

"We must understand that our sovereign God has, for His own reasons, so designed this world, that much of what is truly His will, He makes contingent on the attitudes and actions of human beings. He allows humans to make decisions that can influence history ... Human inaction does not nullify the atonement, but human inaction can make the atonement ineffective for lost people." -- Peter Wagner

D. We are partners with God!

"Prayer is essentially a partnership of the redeemed child of God working hand in hand with God toward the realization of His redemptive purposes on earth." -- Jack Hayford

III. Questions for discussion

1. How does the story of Elijah praying for rain reinforce our assertion that God works through prayer? Why do you think Elijah needed to pray seven times?
2. What did you learn about Daniel's prayer for the restoration of Israel?
3. Is prayer a responsibility or a privilege?
4. How do you feel about being a partner with God on the earth?

APPLICATION

1. Share some of the new insights about prayer, that you learned in this first session.
2. You are a partner with God, through prayer. He tells you what He wants you to pray for, you pray, and then He does it. In response to this truth, spend the next ten minutes in prayer, praying for one thing that you KNOW for sure, that God wants to do.

SESSION THREE INTERCESSION

“Jesus isn't praying for us; He is interceding for us so we can pray. This is what is meant by asking ‘in His name.’” -- Dutch Sheets

Ex: Dutch meets a girl.

Ex: Dutch's teeth meet a baseball.

TWO MEETINGS AT THE CROSS

- * A man is about to meet His bride.

"For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church." (Ephesians 5:31-32, NASB)

- * A serpent is about to meet a curve-ball in the teeth.

"Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God! For Thou hast smitten all my enemies on the cheek; Thou hast shattered the teeth of the wicked." (Psalm 3:7, NASB)

OTHER MEETINGS THROUGH THE CROSS

- Mercy met judgment
- Righteousness met sin
- Light met darkness
- Humility met pride
- Love met hate
- Life met death
- The cursed one on a tree met the curse that originated from a tree
- The sting of death met the antidote of resurrection

The serpent, who accomplished his greatest victory from a tree, suffered his greatest defeat from a tree.

The first Adam succumbed to temptation in a garden; the last Adam overcame his greatest temptation in a garden.

I. Christ, the ultimate intercessor

"For there is one God and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5, NASB).

“Intercession” (Hebrew: paga); to meet; a meeting; bull's-eye

The definitions all imply success!

A. Through His work of redemption Jesus created a meeting (paga) between God and man.

- B. God's truth met His lovingkindness and righteousness and peace have kissed each other, at the cross.

"Lovingkindness and truth have met [paga] together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other." (Psalm 85:10, NASB)

1. Mercy has triumphed over judgment.

- C. Jesus' meeting between God and man is called the ministry of reconciliation.

1. Jesus desires to release the fruit of that meeting through our prayers.

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21, NASB).

II. Pictures of intercession:

- A. Paralyzed Guatemalan woman
- B. Ambassador's wife with broken ankle
- C. Paralyzed young man

"Prayer meetings create God meetings." -- Dutch Sheets

III. Questions for discussion

1. In what way does a meeting picture intercession? How does "paga" establish the correlation between the two?
2. Discuss the irony involved in the fact that the serpent who accomplished his greatest victory from a tree (of the knowledge of good and evil) suffered his greatest defeat from a tree (the cross of Calvary).
3. Discuss what happened when God met with the people Dutch describes in this session.
4. Think of someone you know who needs a meeting with God. How and when can you help facilitate this?

SESSION FOUR

ENFORCING THE VICTORY

"Intercession can be violent! Meetings can be unpleasant! Some can be downright ugly!" -- Dutch Sheets

I. Confronting the enemy during intercession

The Hebrew word for intercession, "paga", is also a term for warfare or violent meetings.

"Better to meet [paga] a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool in his folly." (Proverbs 17:12, NIV)

A. Jesus "met" Satan -- a violent meeting

"Satan's worst nightmare came true when with 4,000 years of pent-up fury, Jesus met him at Calvary." -- Dutch Sheets

1. "Asah" (Hebrew: to do, make, fashion, accomplish; to create)

"They will come and will declare His righteousness To a people who will be born, that He has performed it." (Psalm 22:31, NASB)

2. "Tetelestai" (Greek: finished!); the debt is paid in full. The serpent's headship was crushed by Jesus.

When Jesus therefore had received the sour win, He said, "It is finished!" And he bowed His head, and gave up His spirit. (John 19:30, NASB)

3. "Luo" (Greek: to "loose"); to pronounce or determine that something is no longer bound; to dissolve or void a contract or something that legally binds; to dissolve, to beat something to pieces; to untie something.

*"The one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy [Greek: *luo*] the works of the devil."* (1 John 3:8, NASB)

B. We are no longer bound

1. We are to take the authority of Jesus' name and enforce His victory at Calvary through our prayers of "paga"; of intercession.

*"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose [Greek: *luo*] on earth shall be loosed [Greek: *luo*] in heaven."* (Matthew 16:19, NASB)

- What Jesus did legally, we enforce practically, through prayer.

2. Intercession is when we meet the enemy and enforce the victory of the Cross.

We, through prayers of intercession, meet the powers of darkness, enforcing the victory Christ accomplished when He met them in His work of intercession.”-- Dutch Sheets

II. A little girl set free

- A. Jesus set her free and her village came to Christ.

1. There was a meeting with the enemy to enforce the victory of Calvary
2. Through that meeting, Jesus met the entire village.
3. The heavenly pattern:
 - a. Jesus is the Victor -- we're the enforcers.
 - b. Jesus is the Redeemer -- we're the releasers.
 - c. Jesus is the Head -- we're the body (the church)
 - d. Our prayers of intercession release Christ's finished work of intercession.
 - e. His work empowers our prayers -- our prayers release His work.
 - Mine extends His -- His effectuates mine.
 - Mine activates His -- His validates mine.
 - f. In kingdom enterprises, we're not in the production department -- we're in distribution
 - g. He's the generator -- we're the distributors.

“Come on Church! Let's untie some folks. Let's tell them there is a God who cares. Let's represent -- let's mediate -- let's intercede!” -- Dutch Sheets

III. Questions for discussion

1. Explain the two opposite kinds of meetings shared in sessions three and four.
2. How does each one represent Calvary?
3. Define “luo” and comment on Christ doing it and the Church doing it.
4. Discuss the following thoughts:
 - a. Our prayers of intercession release Christ's finished work of intercession.
 - b. His work empowers our prayers -- our prayers release His work.

5. Do you know anyone "chained to a tree"? Please help them.

APPLICATION

1. Share some of the new insights about prayer, that you learned in this second session.
2. Pray for 5 minutes, for God to “meet with” [paga] an unsaved person, who you know personally.
3. Pray for 5 minutes, for God to “meet with” [paga] a person in need, who you know personally.

SESSION FIVE

SPIRITUAL WARFARE FOR THE LOST

THE NEED FOR BOLDNESS

"I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence (importunity) [Greek: anaideia] he will get up and give him as much as he needs." (Luke 11:8, NASB)

"Persistence" (Greek: anaideia); shamelessness, without shame, boldness

Let us therefore draw near with confidence [Greek: parre-sia] to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:10, NASB)

"Confidence" (Greek: parre-sia); all speech, freedom of speech, confidence

THE GOSPEL IS VEILED TO THE PRESAVED

"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to [in] those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4, NASB).

I. Understanding the Pre-saved

A. The pre-saved are blinded to the gospel by a veil.

1. "Veiled" (Greek: kalupsis); to hide, cover up or wrap around something
2. "Foolish" (Greek: moria); moronish, foolish

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14, NIV)

3. The perspective of the pre-saved is distorted.

People run from the pursuit of a God Who is desiring to save them from destruction.

B. The pre-saved need an unveiling or a revelation.

1. "Revelation" (Greek: apokalupsis); an unveiling or uncovering, a lifting of a veil
2. Information is of the mind.
3. Revelation involves and affects the mind but originates from the heart.

4. The power of the Holy Spirit is only released through revelation, not information.

a. “Scriptures” (Greek: graphe); scriptures, writings, written down Bible

“You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me” (John 5:39, NASB)

b. “Word” (Greek: rhema); spoken word

c. “Word” (Greek: logos); spoken word including an understanding of the “logic” in it

C. Believers have a part to play in lifting the veil off the mind of the pre-saved.

“... the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, [Greek: photizo] so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe ...” (Ephesians 1:17-18, NASB)

1. “Illumination” (Greek: photismos)

2. “Enlighten” (Greek: photizo); to let in light. Example: camera shutter

“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to [in] those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:3-4, NASB).

3. “Blinded” (Greek: tuphloo, tupho, tuphoo); to make smoke, smokescreen, darkened, opaque. Also, pride: to inflate with self-conceit or be lifted up with pride

II. Blinded by pride

Ex: Captain of a ship.

A. Men tend to struggle more than women do with pride.

1. Before the Fall, the man's focus was on leading, serving, nurturing, covering and protecting others.

2. After the Fall, pride set in and the man's focus was on pleasing self and being lord over others.

B. The veil needs to be lifted so pride can be broken and repentance can come.

1. Repentance is not “turning and going another way.” This behavior comes as the result of repentance.

2. "Repentance" (Greek: metanoia); a new understanding or new knowledge -- a change of mind.
3. The pre-saved need revelation (bringing true power) to be transformed [Greek: epistrephe] and enabled to go in a new direction.

"Transformed" (Greek: epistrophe); transformation, change state.

III. Questions for discussion

1. What is meant by the word "veil" in 2 Corinthians 4:3? How does this apply to unsaved people? Can you explain how this is related to biblical revelation?
2. What is meant by Satan "blinding" the minds of unbelievers? How is this connected to the Fall of humanity? How is this significant where men (versus women) are concerned?
3. Explain the meaning of enlightenment. Can you describe the analogy to this and photography?
4. What is the true meaning of repentance? How is this connected to biblical revelation?

SESSION SIX

PRAYING FOR THE LOST

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations [imagination - KJV] and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5, NASB).

"It is true that I am an ordinary, weak human being, but I don't use human plans and methods to win my battles. I use God's mighty weapons, not those made by men, to knock down the devil's strongholds. These weapons can break down every proud argument against God and every wall that can be built to keep men from finding Him. With these weapons I can capture rebels and bring them back to God, and change them into men whose hearts' desire is obedience to Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:3-5, LIVING BIBLE).

I. Lifting the veil

A. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal [of the flesh].

1. Persuasion on an earthly level doesn't work (resistance only increases because of pride).

B. The weapons of our warfare are mighty through God [divinely powerful - KJV] to pull down [destroy] strongholds [fortresses].

1. "Mighty" (Greek: dunatos); the power [of the Holy Spirit] in action, power being released; miracle-working power, the impossible becomes possible.
2. "Pull down" (Greek: kathaireo); demolition; to tear something down with violence; removing someone from office.
3. "Stronghold" (Greek: ochuroma); prison, castle, fortress; a place from which something or someone can be held in a very strong way.

C. The weapons of our warfare:

1. Pull down "imagination" [speculations]

- a. "Imaginations": (Greek: logismos); the source of thoughts: the belief system, reasoning, logic, wisdom, philosophies.
- b. When the pre-saved hear the gospel, they hear not only what's said, but also what they already believe.
- c. Ask God to show you what the pre-saved's "logismoses" are.

2. Pull down every “high thing” [lofty thing] that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

a. “High thing” (Greek: hupsoma); pride, any elevated place or thing

3. Bring into captivity every “thought” into “obedience”.

a. “Thought” (Greek: noema); schemes, plans, devices

b. “Obedience” (Greek: hupokouo); to hear under, to understand and submit to

“The Lord doesn't wish us luck or tell us that we will win a few once in awhile. He lets us know we can break down every proud argument and every wall; we can capture rebels! And we must!”
-- Dutch Sheets

SAMPLE PRAYER:

According to 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, by the weapons God has given to me and by the power of the Holy Spirit being released, in Jesus' name I take authority over every “logismos” (belief system), every high thing and every thought which keeps . _____ (person's name) _____. blinded to the truth. I capture and demolish that in Jesus' name. Amen.

II. Questions for discussion:

1. Define a “stronghold.”
2. Describe the three aspects of the stronghold in unbelievers and how intercession can be applied to each.
3. Intercede every day until the pre-saved are saved.

APPLICATION

1. Share some of the new insights about prayer, that you learned in this third session.
2. Think of one person who is “pre-saved” today (ie. not yet a Christian). Spend two minutes in prayer, asking God to reveal to you what their “logismos” is, (ie. what is the philosophy or belief system that they have, that is a hindrance to them coming to Christ).
3. Stand up, and boldly declare out loud in prayer, the sample prayer printed out on the next page. And if you know what their “logismos” (belief system) is, include that in your prayer.

SAMPLE PRAYER

According to
2 Corinthians 10:3-5,
by the weapons
God has given to me,
and by the power of
the Holy Spirit being released,
in Jesus' name
I take authority over
every belief system,
every high thing
and every thought
which keeps (person's name)
blinded to the truth.
I capture and demolish that
in Jesus' name.
Amen.

SESSION SEVEN

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER (PART 1)

"Few have a striving spirit like the artist Raphael. Once he was questioned, 'What is your greatest painting?' He smiled, saying, 'My next one.' One finds Raphael always striving to do better. This is what we need in prayer, an attitude of persistence." -- Dick Eastman

I. Why is persistence in prayer necessary?

- A. Example: Pilot who hung on
- B. Example: Prayer for young woman in coma
- C. Don't give up, even though you may not always succeed.

II. What our prayers release:

Do we earn answers to prayer? -- No!

Does God "finally" decide to do some things? -- No!

- A. Our prayers release the power of the Holy Spirit from us to accomplish God's will.

"God's literal power is released through us to do things." -- Dutch Sheets

- 1. "Power, energy" (Greek: energas); energized prayer

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual [Greek: energas] fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16, KJV)

"A prayer of a righteous person is able to do much as it operates." (James 5:16, K. Wuest)

"The earnest continued prayer of a righteous person makes tremendous power available, is dynamic in its working." (James 5:16, AMP)

- B. We are the holy of holies, the dwelling place of God on the earth

"Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16, NASB)

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19, NASB)

- 1. "Temple" (Greek: naos); holy of holies

C. The “rivers of living water” [Spirit] flow out of us.

“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke of the Spirit ...” (John 7:38-39, NASB).

1. “Innermost being” (Greek: koilia); womb, place of reproduction, place where life is born, carried, and released.

And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Revelation 22:1-2, NASB)

D. This “river of life” power is measurable and cumulative.

“We release Him. We lay hands on the sick. We speak the Word which becomes the sword of the Spirit.” -- Dutch Sheets

1. We speak the river of life, into people's lives.

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word [Greek: rhema] of God.” (Ephesians 6:17, NASB)

- a. word [Greek: rhema]; spoken word

We are the “incubation chamber” of the Spirit.

2. There are measurable levels of:

- a. Sin

“Then in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete [full].” (Genesis 15:16, NASB)

- b. Righteousness, grace and power

Grace, great grace, abundant grace.

“And with great [mega] power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant [mega] grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:33, NASB)

- c. Faith

No faith, little faith, faith, great faith, measure of faith, faith to faith (ie. growing faith)

"And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands upon a few sick people and healed them. And He wondered at their unbelief. ..." (Mark 6:5-6, NASB)

III. Questions for discussion

1. Describe a time you were persistent and your goal was accomplished.
2. How do we develop the heart for sustained prayer?
3. Read Luke 11:5-13. What is the real lesson being taught here? (See also Hebrews 4:16.)
4. How does the realization that the Holy Spirit's power is released through us affect your view of prayer?

SESSION EIGHT

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER (PART 2)

“After asking, we tend to sit back and wait on God when He is often waiting on us.” -- Dutch Sheets

I. Releasing “rivers of life” power

A. Certain amounts of this "river of life" power must be released and accumulated in the Spirit.

1. Different amounts of God's power are needed to do different things.
2. When enough of the Holy Spirit's power has been released from us through prayer, it accomplishes what it needs to accomplish.
 - a. Example: Jesus could do no miracles, except to heal a few sick people, due to their unbelief.

"And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands upon a few sick people and healed them." (Mark 6:5, NASB)

3. It takes time and persistence to get most prayers answered.
 - a. Example: Elijah prayed seven times for rain, even though it was already God's will, and God had promised it.
 - b. Example: Dutch persistently prayed over wife's cyst.
 - c. Daniel had to pray 21 days before the angel could come.
 - d. Jesus prayed for 3 hours in the Garden.
 - e. Elijah had to pray over, and breath into the dead boy 3 times before life came to him.
 - f. Jesus had to pray for one blind person twice.
4. The power source is never the problem. We must consistently release the power of God inside of us.

Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21, NASB)

"... in the measure of the power that is operative in us." (Ephesians 3:20, K. Wuest).

- a. “Measure” (Greek: kata) Also used with the connotation of distribution.

“... through the power distributed through us ...”

II. Accumulating "rivers of life" power

A. There are bowls in heaven in which our prayers accumulate.

"And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints." (Revelation 5:8, NASB)

1. When the bowls are full enough, God mixes our prayers with fire from His altar and pours out His power to answer the prayers.

And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer; and he filled it with the fire of the altar and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. (Revelation 8:3-4, NASB)

B. The enemy wants us to give up before we've released enough of "the river" to accomplish what we need to.

1. Persevere until enough of His power has been released from us and we see the answers!

"We need committed, determined, systematic prayer -- not once in a while fireworks." -- Dutch Sheets

III. Questions for discussion

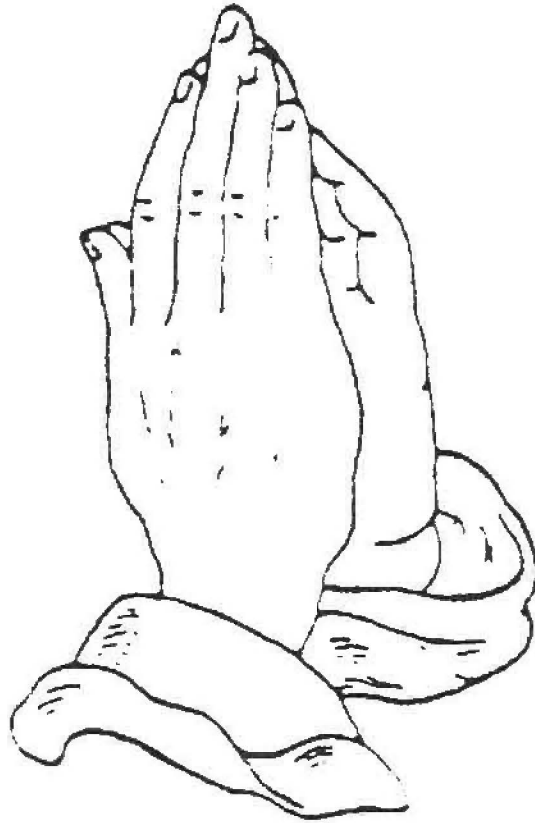
1. What does "expanding your prayer heart" mean to you? Will you pray for this?
2. Can you think of any situations where you may have stopped praying before your "bowl" was filled?
3. Are there any current situations in your life that might need more power released to receive an answer?

APPLICATION

1. Share some of the new insights about prayer, that you learned in this fourth session.
2. Think of one person or situation that you know needs prayer. Write that name or situation on a sheet of paper, along with a short description of the need, and at the bottom, put your name.
3. Get together with another person, and pray for your prayer request, and their prayer request. Then exchange papers, and commit to pray for both needs, for 7 days.

LIFE DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.



October 1 to October 22, 2003

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

October 1 - God Needs Our Prayers

October 8 - Releasing Christ's Victory Through Prayer

October 15 - Releasing The "Pre-saved" Through Prayer

October 22 - Persistence In Prayer

PRACTICAL TEACHING, DISCUSSION, AND MINISTRY

Destiny Christian Church

5615 Grande Allee, Brossard (Plaza Grande Allee)

Tel.: (450) 676-6944 / Fax: (450) 676-9900

Email: info@destinychurch.ca / www.destinychurch.ca