



PRAYERLIFE

THE POWER OF PRAYER IN THE BELIEVER'S PRAYERLIFE

“Restoring the Spirit's Fire in the Believer's PRAYERLIFE”

Pastor Robert F. Loggins, Sr.



The Power of Prayer

1 Kings 18:16-ff.

Elijah on Mount Carmel

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. ¹⁷ When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"

¹⁸ "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals. ¹⁹ Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

²⁰ So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. ²¹ Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

But the people said nothing.

²² Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the LORD's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. ²³ Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD.

The god who answers by fire—he is God."

Then all the people said, "What you say is good."

²⁵ Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." ²⁶ So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷ At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." ²⁸ So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹ Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which was in ruins. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel." ³² With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. ³³ He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood."

³⁴ "Do it again," he said, and they did it again.

"Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵ The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

³⁶ At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant

and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷ Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

³⁸ **Then the fire of the LORD fell** and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!”

⁴⁰ Then Elijah commanded them, “Seize the prophets of Baal. Don’t let anyone get away!” They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there (1 Kings 18:16-40, NIV).

2 Chronicles 7:1-ff.

The Dedication of the Temple

When Solomon finished praying, **fire came down from heaven** and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. ² The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it. ³ When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying,

“He is good;

his love endures forever” (2 Chron. 7:1-3, NIV).

The LORD Appears to Solomon

“I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices” (2 Chron. 7:12b-16, NIV).

Acts 2:1-ff.

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be **tongues of fire** that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:1-13, NIV).

I want to talk today about...

The Power of Prayer in the Believer's PRAYERLIFE

Then, I want us to examine today how God desires to HIMPOWER us in...

“Restoring the Spirit's Fire in the Believer's PRAYERLIFE”

Introduction

E. M. Bounds says, “Prayer honors God, and dishonors self. It is a plea of weakness, ignorance, need.” It is “A plea that heaven cannot disregard. God delights to have us pray.” E. M. Bounds continues by saying, “Prayer is not the enemy of work. ...Prayer itself is the greatest work. ...The lazy saint does not, will not, cannot pray, for prayer demands energy. ...The (prayer) closet is not an asylum for the lazy and worthless Christian. It is not a nursery where none but babies belong. It is the battlefield of the Church, its citadel. It's the scene of heroic and unearthly conflicts. The (prayer) closet is the base of supplies for the Christian and the Church.” But if we “Cut off from our prayer closet, then there is nothing left but retreat and disaster. In other words, “Few, short, feeble prayers, are always a sign of low spiritual condition.” That is why, “Christians ought to pray much,” because, “Eminent Christians have been eminent in prayer. The deep things of God are learned nowhere else. Great things for God are done by great prayers. Those who pray much, study much, love much, work much, and do much for God and humanity.”¹

Next, Charles Haddon Spurgeon penned in his work, *The Power of Prayer in a Believer's Life*, “...that prayer clothes the believer with the attributes of Deity, infuses human weakness with divine strength, turns human folly into heavenly wisdom, and gives to troubled mortals the serenity of the immortal God.” Then Spurgeon concludes with these words, “I know not what prayer cannot do! Thank You, great God, for the mercy seat – a wonderful gift of Your marvelous lovingkindness. Help us to use it correctly!”²

And finally, E. M. Bounds speaks again in his book, *A Treasure of Prayer Compiled and Condensed by Leonard Ravenhill* with these words, “What the church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use – men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men – men of prayer.”³ These are the men who clearly and humbly understand “The Power of Prayer in the Believer's PRAYERLIFE”.

A Prayer Power Outage

But unfortunately, far too many men and women are experiencing a “Prayer Power Outage”. Just a few days ago, in Missouri, we experienced a number of violent tornados and gale force

¹ E. M. Bounds, “The Greatest of All Forces,” *The Classic Collection on Prayer*, Ed., Harold Chadwick (Orlando, FL: Bridge-Logos Publishers, 2001), 516.

² Charles Haddon Spurgeon, “The Power of Prayer and the Pleasure of Praise,” *The Power of Prayer in a Believer's Life*, Compiled and edited by Robert Hall (Lynnwood, Washington: Emerald Books, 1993), 94.

³ E. M. Bounds, “Power through Prayer,” *A Treasure of Prayer: The Best of E. M. Bounds on Prayer in a Single Volume*, Compiled and condensed by, Leonard Ravenhill (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1981), 89.

winds that swept across our state in a flash. In the St. Louis Metropolitan area alone, it was reported that some 45,000 homes and businesses had experienced major power outages. KSDK our local NBC News affiliate in the St. Louis community stayed on the air all night in order to keep residents abreast of the unsettling weather conditions in our community. People were calling in all through the night and even into the morning hours reporting major storm damages, substantial power outages, and numerous desperate cries for help and emergency assistance. Many people were literally paralyzed as a result of the storms.

However, I was told that a number of people had prepared for the storms, before the storms struck. They had purchased a backup generator. It was said that they knew that tornadoes and high winds were frequent weather phenomena in the state of Missouri; and thus, they had prepared themselves for the worst kinds of power outages. From experience, they had learned how to avert major power outages by obtaining a simple backup generator.

In the same way, we as Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ possess another kind of backup generator. Our backup generator is known as Prayer. Prayer is our backup generator whenever we experience major power outages. In other words, when everybody else's power is down, we remain connected to the Power of God through the Power of Prayer.

Why are you here?

It is my prayer today that the reason why you are here, at this conference today, is to get your backup generator's battery recharged. However, if you don't have a backup generator today, then you need to get one before you leave today. Why? It is because you don't know when a sinful, ungodly, unrighteous, and unholy satanic storm is going to crash into the hull of your ministry, in order to destroy your work, your witness, and your willingness to serve God with joy. So, you need to get you a backup generator. You need the backup generator of prayer before a violent evil storm strikes the work that the Lord has placed in your hands to do.

So, do you need the backup generator of prayer? Or does your backup Prayer Generator needs recharging? Or are you experiencing some minor prayer power outages? Are things around your ministry literally going crazy? Are you working harder and yet becoming more frustrated, confused, drained, debilitated, and depleted?

So, why are we here? We are not here to engage in an exegetical exercise in theological platitudes. We are here today to know what the Power of Prayer can do in the PRAYERLIFE of a simple believer. Although many of us have studied and learn from attending seminaries, bible schools, bible studies, institutes, workshops, bible conferences, and the like. That there is power in prayer – **BUT**, somewhere between Monday and Sunday you have been experiencing a Major Spirit's Fire Prayer Power Outage.

Therefore, How Does God Help Us in "Restoring the Spirit's Fire in Our PRAYERLIFE"?

The First Point – He Helps Us in Restoring the Spirit's Fire in Our PRAYERLIFE through Understanding Who God is:

1. God is Holy – The Holiness of God
Hebrews 12:14, "...be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."
2. God is Merciful – The Mercy of God

1 Peter 1:15-16, "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

3. God is Love – The Love of God

1 John 4:8-12, "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

4. God is Sovereign – The Sovereignty of God

Daniel 4:25, (Concerning Nebuchadnezzar), "You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes."

5. God is Faithful – The Faithfulness of God

Exodus 3:13-15, Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob – has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation."

6. God is to be Honored – The Honor of God

1 Corinthians 6:20, "...you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

7. God is Righteous – The Righteousness of God

2 Corinthians 5:17-21, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

The Second Point – He Helps Us in Restoring the Spirit's Fire in Our PRAYERLIFE through Reviving Our Broken Relationship with God: Then, we will be able to...

1. Fellowship with God

1 John 1:3-4, "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete."

2. Ascertain and Do the Will of God

1 John 2:17, "The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."

3. Experience Authentic Spiritual Growth and Maturity

Ephesians 4:14-16, "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

4. Receive God's Insightful Instructions

Proverbs 13:24, "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him."

5. Advance God's Kingdom Expansion

Mark 1:15, "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

6. Acquire from Our Heavenly Father what He has Promised

Genesis 12:1-3, "The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

7. Experience God's Awesome and Liberating Presence

Isaiah 6:1-8, "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." 6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

8. Intercede for Others in Desperate Need of God's Help

Daniel 3:13-18, "Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, 14 and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? 15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown

immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?" ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

9. Receive Eternal Salvation through Jesus Christ – The Living Water of Eternal Life
John 4:13-14, "Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The Third Point – Now, what does this Spirit's Fire do for Our PRAYERLIFE?

1. He (The Spirit's Fire) Helps Us in Know How to Pray
Romans 8:26-29, "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. ²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."
2. He (The Spirit's Fire) Guides Us into All Truth
John 8:32, "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
3. He (The Spirit's Fire) Advocates for Us through Christ
John 14:26-27, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

The Fourth Point – Then, this will ignite a New Way to Pray and a New PRAYERLIFE that Celebrates

1. Confession of Sin
Romans 10:9-11, "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."
2. Praise to the Most High God
Psalm 9:1-2, "I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. ² I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High."
3. Thanksgiving to Almighty God
Psalm 100:4-5, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. ⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."
4. Petition to the King of all kings

Esther 9:11-15, "The number of those slain in the citadel of Susa was reported to the king that same day. ¹² The king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman in the citadel of Susa. What have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? Now what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? It will also be granted." ¹³ "If it pleases the king," Esther answered, "give the Jews in Susa permission to carry out this day's edict tomorrow also, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on gallows." ¹⁴ So the king commanded that this be done. An edict was issued in Susa, and they hanged the ten sons of Haman."

5. Intercession on the Behalf of Others

1 Timothy 2:1-5, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

6. Commitment to the Lord's Work, Will, and Way

Proverbs 16:3-5, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. ⁴ The Lord works out everything for his own ends — even the wicked for a day of disaster. ⁵ The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished."

7. Forgiveness of All Our Sins

Colossians 1:13-14, "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

8. Confidence in Approaching the Throne of Grace and Mercy

1 John 5:14-15, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him."

The Fifth Point – Then, this will cause us to...

1. Experience True Worship

Psalm 96:9, "Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth."

2. Receive Blessing of God

Deuteronomy 11:29-30, "When the Lord your God has brought you into the land you are entering to possess, you are to proclaim on Mount Gerizim the blessings, and on Mount Ebal the curses."

3. Overt the Wrath of God

Romans 1:18-21, "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him

as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."

4. Keep our Oaths, Vows, and Promises to God

Matthew 5:33-34, "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.'"

Psalm 132:2, "He swore an oath to the Lord and made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob."

5. Lament Over our Sins against both God and man

Jeremiah 4:8-9, "So put on sackcloth, lament and wail, for the fierce anger of the Lord has not turned away from us. ⁹ "In that day," declares the Lord, "the king and the officials will lose heart, the priests will be horrified, and the prophets will be appalled."

6. Make Music in our Hearts to God

Eph 5:19-20, "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Sixth Point – However, there are some things that can hinder the Spirit's Fire in Our PRAYERLIFE ...

1. Misunderstanding what it means to Pray in Jesus' Name

[How can we Pray with Power in Jesus' Name, yet we can't get along with one another?]

Phil 2:9-11, "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

2. Failing to realize the importance of Our Christian Behavior/Attitude

[How can we Pray with Power in Jesus' Name, yet our Christian Behavior/Attitude is rotten to the core?]

Phil 2:5-7, "...our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."

3. Lack of Faith in God's Power

[How can we Pray with Power in Jesus' Name, yet our does have enough power to tithe, give, serve, and sacrifice in our local church.]

Mark 11:22-25, "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. ²³ "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵ And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

4. Lack of Genuine Humility

[How can we Pray with Power in Jesus' Name, yet our knees are too stiff to humbly bow down to Almighty God and we refuse to Respect Leadership and Follow the Authority that we are operating under.]

Col 3:12-14, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

5. Lack of Genuine Sincerity, Honestly, and Earnestness

[How can we Pray with Power in Jesus' Name, yet we are not sincere, honest, and earnest when it comes to the things of God.]

Isa 59:14-15, "So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. ¹⁵ Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey."

6. Lack of Genuine Repentance of Sin

[How can we Pray with Power in Jesus' Name, yet we refuse to repent with godly sorrow of the sins that we have committed.]

Matt 4:17, "From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

7. Lack of Genuine Responsiveness to the Gospel

[How can we Pray with Power in Jesus' Name, yet we lethargic when it comes to doing what the Gospel say.]

Rom 1:16-17, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

8. Lack of Engaging in Practicing Regular and Persistency in Prayer

[How can we Pray with Power in Jesus' Name, yet we do not practice praying in a persistent manner and we find it impossible to attend weekly church prayer meetings.]

Ps 39:12, "Hear my prayer, O Lord, listen to my cry for help; be not deaf to my weeping. For I dwell with you as an alien, a stranger, as all my fathers were."

Conclusion

In closing, if could re-entitle my presentation today, I would have entitled it as "The Absence of The Spirit's Fire in far too many pastors, preachers, denominational workers, deacons, elders, trustees, musicians, choir members, Sunday school teachers, Bible teachers, associate ministers, evangelist, missionaries, church members, and the like". There is clearly an absent of the Spirit's Fire in far too many churches and Believers PrayerLife".

How can I make these assumptions? An October 2003 survey conducted by the Barna Group found that 45 percent of those who profess to be born-again Christians believed that gambling was morally acceptable.

According to the survey, 49 percent believed that “living with someone of the opposite sex without being married” was morally okay. Just under half of those questioned (49 percent) were comfortable with “enjoying sexual thoughts or fantasies about someone,” while one-third (33 percent) of those professing to be born again thought that it was okay to kill a baby while it is still in the womb. According to actual statistical data men belonging to the Christian organization Promise Keepers (who make a promise to be “committed to practicing spiritual, moral, ethical, and sexual purity”), 53 percent visit porn sites every week. Furthermore, in an internet survey of 6,000 pastors conducted in 2002 found that 30 percent of pastors had viewed Internet porn in the last 30 days. In addition to all this, 41 percent of self-proclaimed Christians believe that “the Bible, the Koran and the Book of Mormon are all different expressions of the same spiritual truths” – despite the books’ vastly contradictory teachings on truth, salvation, and nature of God. And only 46 percent of born-again adults believe in the existence of absolute moral truth.⁴

These are frightening statistics. Yet most churching going Christians is comfortable in their lack of biblical understanding. According to all the research 80 to 90 percent of those making decisions for Christ – whether through a large crusade, mega church, or a local church effort – will fall away.⁵ In one of his many illustrations, he writes, “A leading U. S. denomination reported that during 1995 they secured 384,057 decisions but retained only 22,983 in fellowship. They could not account for 361,074 supposed conversions. That is a 94 percent fall-away rate.”⁶

How to Correct the Problem

I don’t know what you are going to do to correct this problem, but I know what I have learned to do and that is PRAY! In other words, tell Jesus about. I will tell Jesus on you in a second. Don’t make me mad and cause my TWA to get out of shape. I’ll tell Jesus on you in a second and PRAY!

That’s what Jesus did at Calvary. He told his Father on the Rome Authorities, the disciples, the Sadducees, the Pharisees, the Jews, and the Gentiles. Jesus Prayed! “Father into Thy hands I commit my Spirit.” And he PRAYED then gave up the Holy Ghost. If Jesus had not PRAYED and given up the Holy Ghost (i.e., the Spirit’s Fire), we would still be Powerless in Our PRAYERLIFE.

In Matthew 28:18-20, the Bible said. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and

⁴ Ray Comfort, *God Has a Wonderful Plan for Your Life: The Myth of the Modern Message* (Bellflower, CA: Living Waters Publications, 2010), 10-11.

⁵ Ibid., 18.

⁶ Ibid., 77.

Author

Bob Loggins serves as the Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Specialist for the Missouri Baptist Convention and in Prayer and Spiritual Awakening and Evangelism with the North American Mission Board. Bob received Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord at age 16. He has been married to Cassandra Gail Jordan for 32 years and they have grown two sons, two grandchildren, and an eight pound Papillion. He loves walking, exercising, cycling, watching old movies with his wife, family and friends, music, art, southern hospitality, sports, fishing, hunting, books, comic books, Superman movies, and computer technology.



Missouri Baptist Convention
400 East High Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Prayer and Spiritual Awakening

Office Phone: 1-800-736-6227

Ext. Bob: 415 Ext. Betty: 462

Website: www.mobaptist.org

Copyright © 2011 Robert F. Loggins, Sr., Ministries

REVIVAL, RENEWAL, & SPIRITUAL AWAKENING
THE ANATOMICAL STRUCTURE OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

