

Lesson #2: Power of Prayer

*"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16.*

If God's examples of the power of prayer aren't enough for us, think of the New Testament church. Prayer caused 3,000 to be saved in a single day. (Acts 2:41). More than likely it was even more since the 3,000 were possibly men with households. Prayer launched the New Testament church. Peter constantly relied on it. Paul was addicted to it and called for believers to "pray continually." (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

*"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:4-5.*

Prayer is our defense against the Devil. Our assault weapon. It is part of the Armor of God that Paul encourages us to put on. The defense against self-pity or despair. Prayer can do anything because we now have a direct line to God. With God, "all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26).

Whatever the challenge is, prayer is our answer. Prayer is like a 24/7 counseling session with God. Always open. Always listening to you. If this is true, why don't people pray more? If you have difficulty praying, think of God as your Counselor and simply talk to him as you would a dearly loved Father whose advice you are seeking.

Sample Prayer:

*Almighty Father, Lord, I ask You to forgive me when I have not valued or believed in the power of prayer that You've offered me. I've tried making things happen in other ways but that never works out. Father I want to learn to pray in faith, to grow closer to You. I want to experience confidence and freedom to believe You, to rely completely on You, and to go into battle with You. Guide me I pray, as I learn to trust You more. Train me. Equip me. Make me a mighty warrior in prayer. Be glorified through me as I trust in you. In your son Jesus's name, Amen.*