

Partners In Courage, January 2016

How To Make Your Prayers More Powerful

Sermon by Wes Daughenbaugh

INTRODUCTION:

There's a verse, Luke 21:36. You should mark this in your Bible. Starting with verse 34, Jesus said, **"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap, for it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place and to stand before the Son of Man."**

You see, in the stormiest time the safety is in prayer. Your only real security is your ability to get an answer to prayer. Say that out loud: "Your only real security is your ability to get an answer to prayer." On February 22, 2015 I was in a prayer meeting in North Carolina when the Holy Spirit spoke to me. Now when I do a Revival/Seminar I usually say, "God said this to me; God said that to me." I'm covering over 43 years when I do that. I get revelation from the Scriptures, I go by the inner leading of the Holy Spirit, but I do not often hear God speak. There's nothing wrong with you if you do not hear God speak and tell you what dress to wear, or what tie to wear or what pants to put on. People who say that God speaks to them all the time *usually* are kooky people. Amen, Brother Wes! (I have to amen myself sometimes.) I don't want you to think that when I say, "God said this" or "God said that" that I just hear all the time. I don't. But I've heard from God two main times in the last year and I've had some wonderful revelations from Scriptures. But this was quite a word. God beamed this into me:

"I have one word for America. The word is DISRUPTION. It's a better word than DESTRUCTION. Right now I could give America destruction but I'm going to give America more time to repent." Then he said, "There's going to be disruption in the energy, disruption in the food supply. There's going to be all kinds of disruption. **YOU ARE TO PREPARE PHYSICALLY.**" Then he said, "Don't give me disruption." Then three scriptures came to me rapid fire.

Revelations 22:11 **Let him who righteous continue to be righteous. Let him who is holy continue to be holy.** Remember, Amos said, **"Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream"** (Amos 5:24 NIV). How many of you know that the rivers don't take a break? Everyday they are flowing. God wants us to be righteous and holy with no disruption.

Then Hebrews 13:15 NIV **"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of our lips that openly profess his name.** No disruption in our praise. You say, "How can I do that?" Well, through Jesus you can do that. If you don't do it through Jesus, you won't do it. But if you think, "Jesus loved me. Jesus took on a human body. The Word of God became flesh. He died for me. He rose from the dead for me. He's covering me with his blood. He ever lives to make intercession for me. He wants to give me all that he is and all that he has, including to sit with him in his throne and to make me a joint heir with him." When we think about Jesus, we can surely praise God! Continual praise.

Then the next verse that came to me was 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV **"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

I believe that every church should have a special committee that would be in charge of disaster preparedness. There are two great kinds of disruption that would or could disrupt the entire nation at once. The biggest one is a credit meltdown (or a complete credit freeze up) where all the ATM's would cease

up, where the banks would freeze and no one could get their money out of their bank. That would be the biggest because that would affect even Alaska and Hawaii, all 50 states at once.

The second biggest one, and the most deadly would be a terrorist attack on our power grid—a cyber attack or some other kind of attack. There are nuclear power stations near New York and the San Francisco area that if terrorists were to blow up one of them, 40 to 50 million people in the area would have to be evacuated! We're coming into very turbulent times. So when we're teaching on prayer it's not so that you can get a new toaster or a new china closet or a new motorcycle or something like that. *You are going to live or die according to your ability to get an answer to prayer.*

Luke 21:36. When men's hearts are failing for fear, what did Jesus say? "You be alert and you pray, and pray that you will have strength to escape all these things and stand before the Son of Man." I don't believe that is just a one-time escape. I believe that is repeated deliverance. The people who pray are the ones who are going to be delivered.

Michael Boldea is a man who helped Dimitru Duduman. Michael is the grandson of Dimitru Duduman, and was his interpreter when God sent Dimitru from Romania to warn America of coming judgment. Once in a while Michael will put a vision or a dream on his web site but he doesn't put very many because he doesn't want people calling him saying, "What's the latest word from the Lord?" But he had one spiritual dream where he was walking down a street and it was absolutely devastated, worse than a tornado. Everything had been swept clean. He rounded the corner and there was one house that looked like it had been in a fire. It was a white house but it looked scorched. He could hear the people inside that house fervently praying. There was a big loud rip-roaring prayer meeting going on.

Then Michael woke up and looked around. When he went back to sleep the dream started over again but this time all the houses were in the neighborhood. He was walking down the same street BEFORE the disaster. When he rounded the corner, there was that white house. It wasn't scorched yet but he could hear the sound of loud praying. The Lord told him, "This is the kind of house that will stand." You see, that's very very important stuff. We are going to have to be praying churches. If we are praying churches, if we'll get together and really cry out to God and pray the hand of deliverance will be over us. We'll be under the wing of the Most High. There will be supernatural provision, supernatural protection. So this is not optional. And I want to say, "MEN, LEAD THE WAY!" It's always been that if you have a prayer meeting a few women show up. Now men, be men! What did the apostles say? The apostles said, "**We must devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word,**" (Acts 6:4). They were MEN and their top priority was prayer!

It was Moses that lifted up his hands (in prayer) and two men who held up his hands! When they fought the Amalekites, if his hands were up, they would win. But if his hands went down, they would lose. (See Exodus 17:12) Men, we've got to get with it! We can't be sissified men who let the women do the work. Come on! Men, decide, "I'm going to get in the battle!" Men usually just sit around, eat popcorn and watch football while the women go pray. Listen, the days are changing. Do you want to protect your family? You better learn how to pray. Hallelujah! Well, I almost scared myself. Praise God.

Here's the second thing God spoke to me in the last year. On August 22, 2015 he impressed these words, "YOU WILL NOT BE SHAKEN." I felt like it was a personal promise. When I looked it up using my computer I found out that when God shakes a nation in judgment he will not allow his own loving righteous worshippers to be shaken. I thought that was pretty cool.

Now I want to speak to you tonight on HOW TO MAKE YOUR PRAYERS MORE POWERFUL.

1. MAKE YOUR PRAYERS MORE POWERFUL THROUGH UNITY

When we love each other, when we get along with each other, when we ask each other to team up in prayer there is a corporate anointing. There is a synergy in prayer. Have you heard the story that if you had one workhorse who could pull 10,000 pounds on a sled, and a second horse that could pull 10,000 pounds on a sled, but teamed together they could pull 30,000 pounds. That's the effect of synergy.

The same thing happens when we get along with each other. That's why we're always supposed to try to keep the unity of the faith. We also have to do that in the home. We have to avoid strife. Now the Bible says, **"Husbands, treat your wives with gentleness and respect so that nothing will hinder your prayers,"** (1 Peter 3:7 my paraphrase). You see, if we're into strife our prayers are being hindered. Also, in Psalms 133 it says, **"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like the precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe...for there the Lord bestows his blessing."** (It's like the anointing oil that consecrated Aaron to be the High Priest.) There is an anointing that comes when we get along.

Your pastor has been trying to get some churches to cooperate, who haven't been speaking to each other—get them to go on prayer marches together. That's what brings regional revival—when all the competitive pastors that are jealous of each other and don't talk to each other start loving each other—that's when regional revival breaks out! That's when are prayers become much more powerful. So what do we do? From the home to the church to the area we have to prioritize loving each other.

Philippians 2:14 says, **"Do everything without arguing or complaining that you may be blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation in which you shine like stars of the universe as you hold out the word of life."**

We tend to think of impurity as *sexual* impurity but there are different kinds of impurity. **"Do everything without arguing and complaining that you may be blameless and pure."** You see, arguing and complaining are two forms of impurity and your prayers are not powerful if you are in impurity.

Today I was trying to phone a bunch of churches and line up meetings. My wife kept texting me about insurance issues and I had given her a project that she didn't quite understand how to do. Her text messages kept interrupting me over and over. My flesh was about ready to text something back that might have been an expression of irritation. But the Lord helped me. I was very kind and gentle and texted back, "Just leave that project. I'll be home on Friday. We'll do it together." Whew. I could have blown it. Thank you for praying for me! Do you want powerful answers to prayer? Well then, don't step into the devil's trap to get in arguments and fights and strife and jealousy. Let's love each other.

Also, follow your pastor's lead to see what you can do as a church to promote churches to love each other. When churches start doing projects for each other, wow. Regional revival breaks out. Let's tell the Lord, "I want to be used to love people. I don't want to fight with my brothers and sisters. I want to have the corporate anointing." Jesus said, **"Truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for it will be done for them by my Father in heaven,"** (Matthew 18:19 NIV).

2. MAKE YOUR PRAYERS MORE POWERFUL BY ADDING FASTING.

Turn to Matthew 6:16-18 (ESV) Fasting needs to be rediscovered by the American Church. Jesus said, **"And when you fast (not if, but when) do not look gloomy like the hypocrites for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."**

This is a scripture that says fasting carries a special reward. Now turn back a page or two Matthew 5:4 (ESV). Jesus said, **"Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted."** I've often wondered, "Why is fasting so important? Why does God seem to answer prayer better if we don't eat food and we're miserable and we're hungry? I don't get it." Well, I'll tell you a few things that I know about it. For one thing, it's great for your health. For another, it's a way to humble yourself. It's a way to say, "Lord, we are so sorry for all of our sins." But when you are not in sin it is a way to mourn for the grief and the problems that are happening to other people.

That's what I've been doing from Christmas to January. Most of the days I did not eat during the day. I'd eat one meal after dark. I have a physical condition that makes it difficult for me to fast but I can do that. It just didn't seem right to have my brothers and sisters being on the edge of death, some of their

children were killed, some were made homeless, one of them was shot and others were injured. For me to be eating as normal just didn't seem right. It felt like I needed to enter into their pain. I did that through fasting.

I believe that fasting is appropriate whenever there is a life and death issue on the line. It just seems right. In the Old Testament when there was a life and death crisis, the kings would proclaim a fast, and everyone would fast together. And so as we see calamities come, or if we want to prevent big calamities—when it is a life and death issue—we need to rediscover fasting.

There are various ways to do it. Daniel, as an elderly man fasted 21 days by not eating any sweets, sweet drinks or meat. That was a partial fast. A total fast is when you don't eat any food but you do drink water. There is kind of a death fast where you don't eat food or drink water and you can't do that very long, three days is max. The apostle Paul fasted that way before he was filled with the Spirit.

Dimitru Duduman and his people fasted a death type of fast because the communists took a bunch of their fellow Christians and dumped them off in the Black Forrest where they would have perished from exposure and starvation. The church that was left fasted together for three days and three nights without food or water. Do you know what happened? An angel came and appeared and said, "I will sit on the hood of your car and with my sword I will direct you where to go to find these people." So the angel sat on the hood and he'd stretch his sword straight forward to have them go straight. When a right turn was required he'd turn his sword to the right. For a left turn he'd turn his sword left.

While they were on the way their car was followed by the communist police. They cried out to God and a huge hailstorm followed them and broke the windshield out of the police car and it drove off into the ditch. The angel led them safely right to the people who were in need. You say, "Why doesn't that type of miracle happen more often?" Well, we don't fast very often. The greatest answers to prayer come when prayers are empowered by unity and by fasting.

You can read books on fasting, but you have to be careful. Don't fast to be part of a fad. One lady stayed in our house and tried to do a forty day fast. She nearly died in our house. Her hands started to curl up in rigor mortis. She wanted to finish the forty day fast but I said, "You are not dying in our house." I made her get medical attention. They said, "You came within hours of dying." So get some good advice. But I believe many of our issues are so desperate they call for at least some fasting. Does that sound balanced? It's a way to humble yourself. It's a way to mourn with those who mourn. When you fast in secret it says you will be rewarded. And scripture says those who mourn will be comforted. So there are special rewards for fasting.

**** One time Michael Boldea had a spiritual dream. He woke up right before the end of the dream and did not see the end of it. This went on night after night. He'd dream the same dream and wake up before the ending. After the fourth or seventh night he fasted. That night an angel appeared by his bed and told him the ending of the dream. He asked, "Why did you wait so long to explain the dream to me?" The angel said, "Why did it take you so long to fast?"

Would you tell the Lord that you'll let the Holy Spirit guide you into a proper expression of fasting so that you can empower your prayers? We'll walk in love. We'll love each other. We'll mourn with those who mourn. We'll humble ourselves.

3. EMPOWER YOUR PRAYERS BY GETTING DEEPLY INTO GOD'S WORD.

Jesus said, "**If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you**" ([John 15:7 ESV](#)). How does the word of God "abide" in you? Well, you have to eat it. How does food abide in you? You eat the food, you digest the food and pretty soon the cells of the living food are becoming living cells of your body. You have to eat the Word of God for it to abide in you. Then you practice it. Many of us are just reading minimal amounts of the Word of God. So are prayers aren't so powerful. Now why would reading the Word make prayers more powerful? Because, as you read the Word you are getting a revelation of God's will. You are getting to know his character. You are getting to know what he likes. The Bible says, "**If we ask anything according to his will he hears us.**"

And if he hears us in whatever we ask, we know we have the requests that we asked of him (1 John 5:14 NIV).

George Mueller cared for something like 2,000 orphans and he wanted to prove that prayer worked. So he didn't use any modern fund raising techniques. All he would do is pray. Then miraculously, God would bring in the food for those orphans. Sometimes they'd all be seated at tables and there would be a knock on the door. In would come the food right then and there.

What Mr. Mueller would do, he'd get on his knees and read the Bible for one hour before he would start to pray. What was that doing? That was filling him with the knowledge of God's will and God's character so that when he prayed there was a confidence based on the revelation of God's will. That's what faith is—when you grasp the revelation of God's will.

Most of us would have to admit that we're very shallow in the Word of God. There is no excuse for that. You can have the Bible on your smart phone in all kinds of translations. You can have audio CD's to play in your car. You can have all different kinds of translations. I just got a brand new Bible, the English Standard Version. It's large print. It's very fun to read something a little bit different. For years I've been mainly reading the NIV translation. But I like to go for prayer walks and have my cell phone reading the Bible to me. I can walk for an hour listening to the Bible. When I get in my car I play the Bible from my phone through the car speakers and be listening to the Bible hours and hours and hours. Then when I go to prepare a sermon there are so many scriptures in me that I can just look in a concordance and find the verses that are coming back to my memory.

**** Now the Bible says that if you are going to stand in the evil day you must put on the armor of God. (See [Ephesians 6:10-20](#)). I once had a lady tell me, "I put the armor of God on every day." I said, "How do you do it?" She said, "I recite this little poem. Now I put on the breastplate of righteousness. Now I put on the belt of truth. Now I put on the helmet of salvation. Now I take the shield of faith. Now I put on the boots of readiness. Now I take the sword of the Spirit." She just recited it as if that would do it. Well, that won't do it any more than carrying a rabbit's foot in your pocket would give you good luck.

Here's how you put on the armor of God. It all relates to the Word of God. You put on the belt of truth when you *turn at the correction* of the Word of God. You put on the breastplate of righteousness when you *do* the Word of God. You pick up the shield of faith when you *believe* the Word of God. You have the Sword of the Spirit when you *speak* the Word of God. You have the boots of readiness when you *memorize* the Word of God. You put on the helmet of salvation when you are *thinking and meditating* on the Word of God.

**** Most Christians are lightly armored. In World War II, two British battleships attacked the brand new German battleship called the Bismarck, which was heavily armored. The British sailors were more experienced. They got their guns aimed and fired the first shots but the shells just bounced off the heavily armored sides of the Bismarck. The Germans were slower, but their first salvo pierced the weaker armor of the older ship, the HMS Hood. It pierced the magazine of the ship and blew it in half. Two thousand sailors perished. The other British ship retreated. There are times to retreat. When you are lightly armored you had better get out of the battlefield. You'd better run. Then get into the Word of God. That will make your prayers more powerful. But if you aren't into the Word very much you are liable to pray a "scared prayer."

**** I heard one preacher telling the story of a mentally challenged young boy. He was out working in the field with his parents and a tornado was coming. The dad was so afraid that he fell on his knees and prayed that God would save him. The boy was running and looked back. He yelled, "Come on dad, get up! A scared prayer ain't no account!"

There's a lot of theology in that. When you are not into the Word your prayer might be a "scared prayer," that is, one that doesn't have any faith in it. Let's tell the Lord we want to ABIDE in the Word of God. Tell the Lord you want it to be fun. His word should be a pleasure. I read it for peace. I love to read the Word until I'm full of peace.

4. EMPOWER YOUR PRAYERS BY MAKING SURE YOUR MOTIVE IS PURE.

James 4:2-3 (NIV) **You do not have because you do not ask God. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.**

The best motive is the desire to bring glory to God through the prayer. That's a pure motive. Jesus always prayed from that motive. He said, "**Glorify your son that your son may glorify you.**" The prayer was to get the glory he had with the Father before the world began. But the motive was "that your son may glorify you." (See John 17:1-4).

I remember that when I lived in Omaha, Nebraska I had a real old pick-up truck. It had one fender rusted out and it would flap and bang as I drove down the road. It had different kinds of tires on the back and front. That vehicle would pull suddenly three feet sideways! It would change lanes! It didn't have any weather striping in the doors, so in the 20 below zero weather that frigid air would come into the cab and I'd be freezing. Can you see me driving that, freezing, the fender flapping, the pick-up moving sideways, unable to be driven in a straight line? One day I said to the Lord, "*Are you proud of me for being so spiritual?*" I thought, "I'm suffering for Jesus." I thought, "I'm not greedy, I'm not running after riches." I thought maybe God would affirm me and tell me I was really doing good for driving that old pick-up truck.

When I asked that God surprised me and said, "No, you are embarrassing me. I'm your provider. This doesn't glorify me." So I prayed from the motive of glorifying God. I said, "Lord, I need a better pick-up truck so that you will be glorified." Then God helped me get a better one. Just always want to bring glory to God. In everything, what you say, what you don't say, what you do, what you don't do, what you read, what you don't read, what you watch, what you don't watch, what you eat what you don't eat. The Bible says, "**So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God,**" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

5. PRAY IN THE SPIRIT TO EMPOWER YOUR PRAYERS

When the early church was baptized in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost they were all filled with the Spirit and began to speak in other languages or other "tongues" as the Spirit enabled them. (See Acts 2:4). The Apostle Paul wrote, "**For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit,**" (1 Corinthians 14:2).

There are many times when your problems are so great that you don't know what to tell God to do in prayer. Have you ever had such a complex problem you don't know what to ask God to do? How do you empower your prayer then? You pray in tongues. You pray in the Spirit because that means your prayer is bypassing your natural mind and the Holy Spirit is giving you words according to the will of God. That's something God wants each of you to have. He cannot force that on you but when God names it, you are supposed to claim it. You are supposed to see that this is God's will and you are supposed to desire that. Tonight I'd like to pray with people to be filled with the Spirit. You've got to realize that it's a promise from God. Actually, it is a command and a promise. Jesus said to go to Jerusalem and wait until you are baptized in the Holy Spirit. I'm going to send the promise of the Father. I'm commanding you to go, that's a command. You are going to receive the promise." (My paraphrase of Acts 1:4-5)

**** I have two examples of times that I prayed through to a mysterious answer. When I pioneered a church in Omaha, Nebraska I wanted to have a children's pastor to work with me so that someone could do a children's church while I was doing the adult church. But I was a pioneer pastor and I wasn't making any salary. As I started to pray for a children's pastor the devil said, "That's not fair. You can't pray for a children's pastor. You aren't even getting paid yourself." I had to say, "Shut up, you stupid devil. It doesn't cost anything to pray!" Would you say that out loud? "It doesn't cost anything to pray."

Do you know what I did? I walked between rows of corn praying in tongues for two hours. At the end of two hours I knew what to do. I knew I was supposed to call from Omaha, Nebraska to Arnold, Missouri where Pastor Ken Brown had an in house Bible College. I knew in my spirit that there would be a graduate from that little Bible college who would come and work for free. I knew it. However, I argued

with God. It was August. God had told me “they just graduated” and I said, “Everybody graduates in the spring. No one graduates in August.” But God didn’t tell me any more.

So I called Pastor Ken Brown and he said, “Yes, we graduate our students in August. They’ve just graduated and everyone has left for their assignments except for one young man who doesn’t know where to go. He’s just staying here, waiting on God and praying.” I said, “What is his major?” He said, “Child Evangelism.” I drove 500 miles to the Saint Louis area and interviewed that young man. He came and worked for free for nine months and did our children’s church until we were big enough to hire someone. That was a mysterious answer. I prayed in tongues until I knew what I was praying about.

Another time it happened that I had pastored for fifteen years and then went on the evangelistic field. I was still based in Omaha. So in 1997, it was June and I had no meetings in July and August except for one meeting, east of Omaha in the State of Illinois for that second week of July. It was the beginning of June, and thirty days lead-time is not much when you are trying to book meetings in churches. My only meeting called and cancelled. I only had 30 days until July and August, no meetings in those months and the devil said, “You’ve already struck out of the ministry. You’ve already flunked. You must go get a job selling used cars or insurance. If you don’t, you are going to starve to death. You’ve got to provide for your family.”

That night I laid on the couch and prayed in tongues all night. If I had prayed in English all night long it would have been monotonous, “HELP. HELP. HELP.” I didn’t really know what to say. I didn’t know what to do. I only knew that I was in a mess. But I prayed all night very quietly in tongues. In the morning, I knew what to do. I had prayed through to a mystery. I knew God did not want me to go east because he wanted me to take my whole family and go west. He wanted me to go to Oregon for the summer, have my wife and two kids stay with Bonnie’s parents. We were supposed to take the dog and the cat and stay there all summer, take two cars. I knew it. I called pastors that morning and said, “I’m coming out for the summer and if you book a meeting there will be no transportation charges.” Five meetings booked that morning. Bam! Bam! Bam! The whole summer lined up.

Now, when we got out there with the dog and the cat, two kids, my wife and two cars a relator came by and said, “How are you all going to fit into this little three bedroom one bath house? Look, the house next door is vacant. It’s my listing, and we have an offer on it, but it’s going to take a long time to close. So I’m going to give you the key. You can use the bathroom in that house. You can set up your office in one of the bedrooms. If you want to move in furniture and sleep in it, you are welcome to.” Now that’s absolutely unheard of.

For thirty-one days, as long as my family was there, that house didn’t close. But the very day that my family had to drive back to Omaha to get ready for school that house closed. That was a mystery. I prayed through to a mystery. That’s why it would not be fair if the Lord let me pray in tongues and didn’t let you. So just throw that lie out. If the devil says, “Well, other people pray in tongues but you probably won’t get it” then say, “If I don’t get it the reason will be that I don’t want it.” You see, it would not be fair for God to give it to some and not to others. That’s why all 120 in the upper room spoke in tongues. If God didn’t want everybody to speak in tongues he would have had 119 speak in tongues. He would have left one out to be an example for you.

When the men of Ephesus were prayed for they all spoke in tongues. (See [Acts 19:1-4](#)) When Peter preached the Gospel to all in Cornelius’s house and the Spirit fell, they all spoke in tongues. (See [Acts 10:44-46](#)). When you pray in the Spirit, you make your prayers more powerful.

That’s what I like to do in the morning. I like to pray into the “arena of peace.” I like to wake up and make sure that I have at least an hour to quietly pray in the Spirit until I feel so peaceful and good and then I go about my battle. But I hate to go about my battle if I haven’t had any morning time just worshipping and adoring God.

Jesus said, **“If your son asks you for bread or a fish you are not going to give him a scorpion or a stone or a snake. If he asks for something good you aren’t going to give him something bad. How much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”** (My

paraphrase of [Luke 11:11-13](#)). Everyone say, “How much more.” You can see that praying in the Spirit is one of the main ways to make your prayers more powerful.

6. MAKE YOUR PRAYERS MORE POWERFUL BY ASKING FOR WHAT GOD LOVES TO GIVE.

In John 14, 15 and 16 Jesus gives an outline for what the Holy Spirit wants to do for the believer. I’m one of these guys who prays this all the time. I have that outline memorized. I can only refer you to it. Jesus said the Holy Spirit will be your counselor. I’m always praying and asking for his counsel. Jesus said the Holy Spirit will be our teacher. I’m always saying, “Lord teach me. Teach me something new. Teach me your ways.” See, he wants to answer that prayer. *Why not pray a prayer that is real easy to get an answer to? Amen? Does that make sense?*

Jesus said the Holy Spirit would remind me of everything Jesus said. I ask the Holy Spirit to do that. “Please remind me, Holy Spirit. I don’t want to be a hypocrite and preach something to one person and then go do the opposite myself. I need to be reminded.” I ask him to do that. Jesus said, “The Holy Spirit will testify about me and you also must testify.” I pray that the Holy Spirit will be the big soul winner inside of me. Jesus said the Holy Spirit will convict us of sin, righteousness and judgment. There are three different kinds of conviction. The conviction of sin is a pull to God. If you are going the wrong way, he’ll pull you back. The conviction of righteousness is when you are doing the right thing but other people are telling you that you are nuts. Then you need a conviction of righteousness. A conviction of judgment is the conviction that it will all come out in the end, no secrets, and the bad guys will get what’s due to them. The good guys will get what’s due to them. There’s going to be justice done. We have to believe that. So I ask the Lord to convict me in all three of those ways.

The Bible says he’ll guide you into all truth. I ask the Lord, “Shine your light on my situation. Give me your perspective.” **** Once I got a can of Coke from an outdoor pop machine at night. It had an amber light over it. The label looked dark brown under the amber light. Inside the motel, in white light, the label looked bright red. Under Satan’s perverted light right looks wrong, and wrong looks right. So ask God for his perspective on your situation. The devil will tell you the other woman is better than your wife. The Holy Spirit will say, “The grass is always greener over the septic tank.”

Pray through that outline daily. Jesus said, “He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and make it known to you.” That’s the gifts of the Spirit. I call that the “entertainment of God.” When you are used in the gifts of the Spirit it is entertaining. The Holy Spirit taught me that if I would turn away from the devil’s entertainment that God would entertain me and I’d see people saved, filled, healed and delivered—wonderful types of entertainment. *But so many people weaken their prayers because they are letting the devil entertain them.* 2 Timothy 2:20-22 explains the difference between vessels of honor and vessels of dishonor. The toilet is a vessel of dishonor and a pitcher used to make ice tea is a vessel of honor. The Bible says, **“If a man cleanses himself from dishonorable things he will be a vessel of honor, made holy, useful to the master, prepared to do any good work.”** You determine if you are a toilet bowl for the devil or a pitcher for the Holy Spirit by what you put into your life.

7. MAKE YOUR PRAYERS MORE POWERFUL BY DELIGHTING IN THE LORD HIMSELF. MAKE TIME TO SPEND WITH GOD.

Psalm 37:4 Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

We don’t want prayer to be just about getting “things.” We pray to get God himself. That’s called seeking His face. *If we want Him more than anything else we ask for, it makes our prayers for those things more powerful.* There are four kinds of Christians. Distracted—are like Martha. She made Jesus sad but he stayed near. Disinterested—they grieve God. He backs away. Disloyal—they anger God. He approaches with drawn sword for judgment. Devoted—they *make* time for God. He is their greatest delight. Because they delight in Him, most of all, he readily gives them everything else.

I LOVE YOU. GOD BLESS YOU.