



the prepwork

Prayer

MAIN THING

God Does Nothing Except In Response To The Prayers Of His People

SCRIPTURE

Luke 5:15-16, 1 Peter 4:7, Luke 18:1, Ephesians 6:18-19, James 5:16

ICEBREAKER

What is the longest you've ever prayed? What cause you to do that?

OPENING THOUGHT

One of the strangest phenomena in the church is the prayerless Christian. It doesn't make sense, yet they are everywhere. God's people are supposed to be in perpetual communion with Him- constantly in conversation with Him, constantly connected to Him, yet we aren't. So many people never access the power, grace, comfort, peace, and motivation that is brought about by prayer and fasting.

Prayer does something in us before it does something for us. Prayer brings us to the point where we are surrendered to God, where God can actually begin His work. The prayerless Christian isn't surrendered to God. The prayerless Christian isn't to the point of total dependence on God, and therefore shouldn't be surprised at the powerless life he or she is living.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. What does prayer look like for the average person? Is it before meals, when we go to bed, or when we're called on at a church event? Is it personal? How do we communicate with God? What do Luke 5:15-16 and 1 Peter 4:7 say about that? Is prayer more public than private, or is it the opposite?
3. How often should we pray? Read Luke 18:1 and Ephesians 6:18-19. According to these verses, how often should we pray? How do we do this? Is this a realistic request? Why is this something we should do?

LIFE APPLICATION

How powerfully does God work through you? Do you feel like a force for the Kingdom, or do you feel like you're barely connected with Christ? James 5:16 tells us that the prayer of a righteous man is powerful. I'd dare say that, if you aren't praying, you probably aren't powerful for the Kingdom. It should be the goal for all of us to be game changers for the Gospel of Jesus. Lives should be changed, because of the work we do for the Kingdom. When we aren't praying, we aren't being the conduit for the power that God wants to unleash through us. Make every effort this week to pray often. The more connected we are with God, the more He can use us.

CHALLENGE

It's my assumption that all of our community groups are praying. If you aren't, let's get that going this week. Pray for each other. Pray for this church. Pray for our community. Pray for our nation. Whatever you do, be sure to bathe it in prayer this week. I've personally seen lives changed, due to the power of prayer. Don't let your group miss out on that.