

Episode 015

Power of thanksgiving in prayer Being Prayerful Series

Introduction

The making of a prayer warrior does not come automatically. It starts with our willingness to invest our lives in personal prayer before the Lord. The author of "The Hiding Place," Corrie ten Boom, once asked, "Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" In other words, is prayer your main source of seeking God's direction for your life? Is prayer something you cannot do without?

God desires His people to be people of prayer. In Isaiah 56:7 (NIV), it is written: "I will bring these to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."

Andrew Murray once said, "God rules the world and His church through the prayers of His people. That God should have made the expansion of His Kingdom so dependent on the faithfulness of His people in prayer is a stupendous mystery, yet an absolute certainty. God calls for intercessors; in His grace, He has made His work dependent on them. He waits for them."

Dr. Stanley Jones once said, "In prayer, you align yourself with the purposes of God." A lot of things can happen when God's people pray.



Growing in Prayerful Thanksgiving before God:

- Delighting in your personal relationship with God: Imagine going to your Heavenly Father and Greatest/Truest Friend, experiencing His love, tranquility, and peace. As God's son or daughter, He is waiting to spend precious time with you.
- Intentionally seeking Him: What better way than through giving Him thanks! Psalms 100:4-5 (NIV) says, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations." Before pouring out our petitions and prayers, let's praise God for what He has done in our lives, not out of emotion but knowing that God Himself is faithful to us.
- Establishing intimacy with Father God through thanksgiving and praise: Recognize that He is in control in every circumstance. Romans 8:28 (NIV) assures us, "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."
- Releasing God's Presence into our lives: Psalms 22:3 (NIV) proclaims, "Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel." God dwells in the spiritual atmosphere of praise. Thanksgiving brings us into the presence and power of God.
- Meditating on God's Word: Thank God for transforming us from our past and working in us in the present. Praise Him for who He is and what He has done. Let His peace stand guard at the door of our hearts and minds, transforming us from the inside out. Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) advises, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."





Continually thanking God crowds out criticisms, defeats fear, doubts, and depression. Thus, we trust in God more, aiding us in our prayer life. Isaiah 26:3 (NIV) reassures, "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast because he trusts in you."

Praising God communicates our belief that He is with us and in control of the outcome of our circumstances. It banishes negative emotions like fear and anxiety because we align ourselves with God's purposes through praise. This act of faith paves the way for us to be prayerful vessels. Additionally, it's equally important to listen to what He has to say to us in return.



Discussion Questions

These questions could be done personally or as part of a group discussion.

1. Reflect on one specific thing that God has done in your life in the past month. Give thanks to God personally.
2. Bring before God an area of uncertainty, fear, or worry. Thank God for teaching us to overcome that aspect of our lives. Let's hear what He has to say to us.





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