

DANGEROUS PRAYERS 4

'Lord, use me'

A Prayer We ALL Pray

- * DEEPLY INGRAINED in all of us is the desire to SERVE God, PLEASE God and make our Father PROUD.
- * Of course, we're all WIRED differently, have diverse GIFTS and PASSIONS & are CALLED to serve in varying ways.
- * Ephesians 2:10, 1 Peter 4:10-11, Luke 10:2-3.
→ *Is it deeply ingrained? What do those desires look and feel like? How does God put them there?*
→ *What is the Lord's call? What aspects of that call are generic for us all? Which parts are individual & specific? What do you feel God's call to you is personally?*

3 ELEMENTS that lie just beneath the surface of this prayer

→ *How often do you pray this prayer? What goes through your mind as you do? Were you aware of these 3 elements 'just beneath the surface?'*

1. 'Lord use me' is a dangerous prayer because the answer will have to be on HIS TERMS, not YOURS.

- * God is the SUBJECT of the prayer: He is the One doing the USING; you are the OBJECT, the one BEING USED.
- * Don't try it the OTHER WAY ROUND, it's EXHAUSTING!
- * The good news: HIS WAY is guaranteed to be BETTER than YOURS every time.
- * If you're expecting it to be on His terms, you must also be ready for it to be HIS TIMING.
- * Are you willing to tolerate INCONVENIENCE & INTERRUPTION?
- * We want DIVINE APPOINTMENTS, not merely the fruit of our own GOOD INTENTIONS.

→ *What are the dangers when we expect it to be on our terms? How might people fall into the trap of making themselves the subject of the sentence / prayer? What do the results tend to be if they do? Why does serving the Lord sometimes lead to tiredness, frustration, disappointment? How does this element speak to that?*

→ *Have you ever had a 'divine appointment?' What were the results? How could we position ourselves for more?*

→ *How do you feel about interruptions? Why do we tend to resent them? Does this point help to change that perspective?*

2. 'Lord use me' is a dangerous prayer because it is going to necessitate a REFINING of your CHARACTER.

- * Will your CHARACTER sustain you where you GIFTS might take you?

- * If you pray that DP, you've got to be prepared for the Lord to send you to CHARACTER-REFINEMENT SCHOOL.

→ *What are the dangers when someone's character doesn't match their giftedness? What potential character flaws bring the mighty to their knees?*
→ *How can you tell your character is being refined? What are the signs / symptoms that God is at work? How does God refine people's character?*

THREE TIPS to help

- Stay OPEN → Don't just ignore the LESSONS, medicate the PAIN, circle around same MOUNTAINS.
→ *Have there been any lessons you've been ignoring, pain you've been medicating rather than treating? Which mountains do you circle around and around? What might God be doing / wanting to do in all that?*
- Make sure you're also prepared to PRAY all those other DANGEROUS PRAYERS → They all work TOGETHER.
- Keep your eyes FIXED ON JESUS → So His holy, godly CHARACTER not yours shines through when you need it the most.

3. 'Lord use me' is a dangerous prayer because in praying those words you're coming out from behind the PARAPET and stepping onto the FRONT-LINE.

- * On the front-line, the HEAT is hotter, the STAKES are higher & the OPPOSITION is greater.

→ *Have you ever experienced this? Have you ever felt under attack as you've stepped up? What happened, how did you recognise it and how did it help you cope next time? Has it ever made you want to back-off?*

- * If you have VULNERABILITIES, the Enemy will ATTACK them, even while the Holy Spirit is deep at work HEALING and RESTORING those very areas (John 10:10).
- * That is a huge part of the SPIRITUAL BATTLE you sign up to when you pray, 'Lord, USE ME!'

→ *Why does the enemy attack you when you take a step forward? What is he trying to achieve? How should you go about resisting his efforts?*

THREE THINGS you're going to need (1 Peter 5:5-11)

- You must have a SUPPORT STRUCTURE of PRAYER & ACCOUNTABILITY (v9b) → ISOLATION is a dangerous place ... Who's IN YOUR CORNER?
- You must be STRONG in the WORD (v9a) → Do you know how to WIELD your SWORD?
- You must be serving out of HUMILITY, not PRIDE (v5-6).
→ *Do you know anyone who's stepped out on their own and been 'munched?'*
Why is isolation dangerous? Who is in your corner and how do they help?
→ *What do you routinely do to make sure your service stays positioned in humility and thus stops pride sneaking in?*