



PART 3: Who's Driving? (cont)

OPENING PREMISE: Prayer is not supposed to be a FIGHT with guilt, stress & inadequacy, but a WALK with the Lord.

→ *Does your prayer life feel like a frustrating fight or a dynamic walk? What was it three weeks ago? Has this series helped any yet?*

→ *E.M. Bounds said, "He who has learned to pray has learned the greatest secret of a holy and happy life." Do you agree?*

The Big Question: WHO'S DRIVING?

- * If God is on the THRONE of heaven, shouldn't He also be on the THRONE of your PRAYER LIFE?
- * THE ESSENCE: Whose KINGDOM are we trying to build? Whose WILL are we working to get done? (Matthew 6:9-10)

→ *If you're honest, who's driving your prayer life? What are the indicators that it's you driving rather than Him? If you do let the Lord step in and drive, how do you do so? Do you believe that if you could learn to let the Lord sit in the driving seat, your prayer life would be better, healthier and more effective?*

→ *Does your prayer ever tend to be 'Lord, help me build my kingdom' (i.e. My job, marriage, family, wealth, influence) or 'Lord, my will be done' ("Here's my plan; Please bless it! This is what I want You to do for me ...")*

JESUS' EXAMPLE

- * One of the keys to Jesus' ministry success was the relentless PURSUIT of His Father's WILL (Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16), Jeremiah 33:3).
 - * Jesus went to His Father and PRAYED until He SAW (John 5:19-20)
 - * Our prophetic mandate is to SEE then DO.
 - * SEEING gives us AUTHORITY; DOING brings BREAKTHROUGH (1 John 5:14-15).
- *What do you think were the hallmarks of Jesus' prayer life? What can we learn from Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16 and John 5:19-20?*
- *"Seeing gives us authority; doing brings breakthrough. Authority doesn't come from doing ... and breakthrough doesn't come from seeing. But, when we first see and then are obedient to do, that's when supernatural power released." What does this mean? How does it work? Do you agree?*

LEADS TO A NEW SET OF QUESTIONS AS WE PRAY

- * Lord, what's Your revealed WILL in this situation?
- * What are You SAYING here?
- * What are You already DOING that I can't yet see?

- * How can I respond to ADVANCE Your KINGDOM in these circumstances?

LEADS TO A NEW APPROACH

Now I ask God first:

- * WHAT should I pray about?
- * WHO should I pray for?
- * HOW should I pray in these circumstances?

→ *How would you practically implement using these questions in your prayer life? How do you think they'd help? Where would you like them to take you? How do you hear the answers?*

→ *"If we start asking these questions, prayer ceases to be to/at God, but with/for God. He becomes the driver. He is leading and we are following." Discuss!*

HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US IN OUR WEAKNESS (Romans 8:26-27)

Often, we just don't KNOW.

The Greek word translated 'WHAT' means both WHAT and HOW.

The GOOD NEWS is the Holy Spirit knows BOTH the WHAT and HOW.

→ *What 'help' do you need when you're praying? What are your 'weaknesses?' How might the Holy Spirit help?*

→ *Can you think of occasions when the Holy Spirit has helped you pray? What did you do and what happened?*

A BALANCED PRAYER LIFE = 1/3 WORSHIP, 1/3 LISTENING, 1/3 SPEAKING

1. WORSHIP

- * How we shift focus & attention from US to GOD
- * From our FLAWED WILL to His PERFECT WILL.
- * From the PRESERVATION of our KINGDOM to the BUILDING of HIS.

2. LISTENING

- * Requires a degree of STILLNESS.
- * Much easier when our ears are TUNED IN and our mouths are TURNED OFF!

3. SPEAKING

- * There is such power in PROPHETIC DECLARATION
- * HEARING leads to kingdom AUTHORITY and SPEAKING it out leads to SUPERNATURAL BREAKTHROUGH.

→ *Which of those three do you do best? Which do you perhaps neglect? How might you think about changing your prayer times in the light of this suggestion?*

SUMMARY: DIRECTIONAL SHIFTS

- a) As you pray, make sure the starting point is Your will be done, Your Kingdom come.
- b) Do that by first asking key questions: Lord, how would you have me pray?
- c) To facilitate that try 1/3 Worship, 1/3 Listening, 1/3 Speaking