



## PART 2: Who's Driving?

Enemy is TERRIFIED of prayer. He too has read JAMES 5:16. He knows the power of the BLOOD, WORD & SPIRIT.

- \* He's TERRIFIED of a praying YOU.
- \* And he's PETRIFIED of a praying CHURCH.
- *Why is the Enemy so afraid of prayer? What do you think could be achieved if you could take your prayer life up several levels? What about for us as a church?*
- *How does the Enemy's fear play into your personal struggles and frustrations with prayer? What does he cause? How does he distract? What's his agenda?*

### THREE COMMON TRAPS

#### 1. SHOPPING LIST

- \* Your prayers becoming over-dominated by PETITION.

#### 2. GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS

- \* The REPETITION isn't the problem; it's the MOTIVATION and AUTOMATION (Matthew 15:7-8).

#### 3. TOO FORMULAIC

- \* Structure is GOOD, but it can become DRY.
- \* Structure can be a useful TOOL, but not if it takes the place of the HOLY SPIRIT.

- *If you're honest do you ever fall into any of those traps? Which one is the most troublesome for you? Are there any other common traps you can think of?*
- *"The more your prayer life is about you, the less fulfilling and more dissatisfying it will tend to be." Discuss!*
- *How do repetition and structure help you in your prayer life? How do they sometimes hinder?*

### HOW DO WE TRANSITION FROM RELIGIOUS OBLIGATION TO DYNAMIC WALK?

THE BIG IDEA: Prayer shouldn't be a FORMULA or ROUTINE, but the natural outworking of RELATIONSHIP with your Father.

- \* It's not a CHORE, but a CALLING we have as God's children.
- \* It should be the natural by-product of HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP with Him.

### A HELPFUL THOUGHT

We don't so much pray TO God, but FOR God. Not so much AT God, but WITH God. It's something we do TOGETHER.

- *How would making this perspective shift alter the way you pray or the types of prayers you pray? If prayer really is a partnership with God, how should that play out practically?*

→ *Are there particular types of prayer that constitute praying TO God? Are there particular types of prayer that are praying FOR God or WITH God?*

### THE REVELATION: SPEAK LESS, LISTEN MORE.

- \* God seems to be more into INTERACTIONS than INTERRUPTIONS.
  - \* It's more often STILL, SMALL VOICE than EARTHQUAKE & FIRE.
  - \* If prayer is 'naturally spiritual & spiritually natural,' where does one END and the other BEGIN? Or should they INTERTWINE quite naturally?
  - \* God will GENUINELY PARTICIPATE in your prayer life, if you'll let Him. And when that happens, prayer ceases to be FORMULA, RITUAL, STRUGGLE, but BURSTS INTO LIFE.
  - \* Which has greater value? YOU telling GOD what's on YOUR heart OR GOD revealing to YOU what's on HIS?
- *Who does most of the talking in your prayer life? What space do you leave to listen?*
- *What is this difference between 'interaction' and interruption? How does God interact with us as we pray? Has He ever interrupted you and, if so, how?*
- *Is your prayer life 'naturally spiritual & spiritually natural?' Where does one end and the other begin? Or do they intertwine and, if so, how?*
- *"Which has greater value: You telling God what's on your heart OR God revealing to you what's on His?" Discuss!*

### HOW DO YOU DO THE LISTENING? (Isaiah 55:1-3)

#### 1. EXPECT to HEAR

- \* If you never seem to HEAR, perhaps it's because you're not really LISTENING (Proverbs 20:12).

→ *How do you 'incline your ears' or 'tune your ears?' (See Isa 55:3 KJV & Prov 2:2 NLT)*

#### 2. BE STILL

- \* The danger is, if we're doing all the TALKING, God can't GET A WORD IN.
- \* It's not easy to move from BUSY to STILL, but when we get into His PRESENCE, there are HIDDEN DEPTHS we can only dream of. Allow PRAISE & WORSHIP to take you there.

→ *What distractions do you struggle with as you pray? What steps have you successfully taken to overcome them?*

#### 3. Learn to distinguish STIRRINGS from DISTRACTIONS

- \* May be inspired IDEAS, wise WORDS, PICTURES, prophetic REVELATIONS, unimagined SOLUTIONS.

→ *How does God tend to speak to you while you pray? What kind of things does He say or show or reveal? If you could grow in this area, what would you like it to look like?*

**THE CRUX:** When you hear Him SPEAK, when you recognise His LEADING, then you PRAY

- \* There's such POWER in those STIRRINGS.
  - \* When you know the WILL of God, you can pray with BOLDNESS, CONFIDENCE & AUTHORITY (1 John 5:14-15).
- *"Spirit-inspired brings life. Spirit-sparked releases power. Spirit-led carries authority. Supernatural seed produces supernatural fruit." Discuss in the context of prayer!*
- *"Faith starts where the will of God is known." Do you agree? How does that relate to His written Word and spoken Word?*