



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC The Prayers of Many
THEME Culture of Honour

SPEAKER DSP Edric Sng
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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

DSP Edric Sng opened with a practical question on which important spiritual discipline we tended to overlook. From a poll done, prayer was the most common response. Isaiah 56: 7 reminds us that “My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” It is evident that prayer is a must-do and a commandment. BBTC is a praying church as we devote ourselves to prayer.

KEY HANDLES TO KNOW ABOUT PRAYER

1. The Prerequisite of Prayer

There are many verses in the Bible that emphasizes the importance of prayer which is needful (e.g., Col 4: 2, Phil 4:6, Eph 4:18). Prayer should be more than a possibility for a Christian and a Church. Prayer should be a prerequisite of a healthy Christian and Church. It is our privilege and should be our preference to come to God in persistent prayer. God told a parable of the persistent widow to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.” Luke 18:1

2. The Posture of Prayer

It is important to embrace a healthy perspective and understanding of prayer. It’s a relationship and conversation with God where we engage in a dialogue with God. Our prayer life should be conversational and as we pray, we must be still to hear from God. It’s not about us but it’s about God. Our focus as we pray should be on God.

Prayer achieves these:

As we pray, we connect with God.

- “The Lord is near to all who call on him.” PSALM 145:18
- “Call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.” JER 29:12

As we pray, we concentrate on God.

- “Seek the Lord ... seek his presence continually!” 1 CHRON16:11
- “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.” MATT 26:41

As we pray, we cry out to God (for us & for others).

- “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.” JAMES 5:13

3. The Practice of Prayer

The Bible is full of exhortations to pray. Yet those who follow Jesus often confess that the spiritual discipline they struggle with most is prayer (Mark 14:37-42). We already know enough about prayer and we don't need more information about prayer. We need a new perspective on it, and we need to do it. At times, we may struggle to pray for these reasons but we can overcome them:

- We feel inadequate.
Perhaps, we don't know how to pray.
However, God Himself will help us as promised in these verses:
Luke 11: 1 - One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'
Romans 8:28 - The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us.
- We feel inertia.
If we rarely pray, it's hard to start. Prayer is like a muscle – if never used, it starts to atrophy. The only solution to inexperience is to experience it. Just do it. Don't wait for the perfect prayer, or the right time. Prayer takes practice.
- We feel indifferent.
Allowing weak flesh to dictate prayer life as seen in 1 Peter 2:11.
"Abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul." If your issue is not wanting to pray, the moment you decide to pray, this issue is immediately nullified.
- We feel indicted with shame, guilt and condemnation.
The good news is that God is NOT a condemning God but He is a loving Father always waiting to welcome you back with open arms. (Romans 8: 1, 15 and Luke 15:18-20)

4. The Power of Prayer

Prayer is powerful when there is alignment between the person praying, the prayer request and the heart or will of God (1 John 5:14; Matt 21:22; James 5:16). In addition, answered prayers glorify God (Ps 50:15; 2 Cor 1:10-11). Finally, prayers are the key to cast out demons, bring healing, set people free from their sins and to receive forgiveness.

CONCLUSION

Prayer is an integral part of our spiritual discipline to commune with God. Prayer is one of the primary means by which we can communicate with God, both bringing to Him our thanks, petitions and requests, and also hearing from Him directly as we soak ourselves in His Presence.

Prayer is already a big part of BBTC life. It is part of our core values, weekly congregational prayer, monthly W&I, CG-level, and house of prayer. In 2023, we will create even more opportunities for BBTCians to pray at the congregational level. Every last weekend will be services majoring on prayer and all are encouraged to embrace this season of levelling up in our prayer-life.

QUESTIONS

1. How can we posture ourselves to embrace a prayer-filled life in today's busy world where there are many competing priorities?

2. What is your prayer life like now? What areas in your prayer life are you struggling with?

3. Prayerfully reflect on how you can commit or dedicate yourself to invest in a vibrant prayer life in this New Year so that you can experience the power of prayer.