

Power of Prayer Pray..it's more than you can imagine....know this...Prayer is powerful, because the person to whom we are praying has all Power!!! all power and therefore everyone and everything must submit to His will.

1. God knows everything God made everything God has power over everything.....with God nothing is impossible because nothing or no one can thwart his will
2. God has all power and effectively handles any situation brought to Him in prayer...prayer is our greatest asset..

the power of prayer is not that we pray it is that God will answer every prayer according to His will... you will walk with God if you talk with God” prayer changes us...

EPH 3: 20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

Leave here today knowing that every promise God has made ...He will keep...Nothing will be left undone...

*****We must learn to embrace the slow pace of God’s answering of many of our prayers. And second we must understand why God appears to often take so long to answer prayers? and that is what we will continue to look at today...**

1. It takes time to prevail against Demonic resistance or entrenchment

context vision of war and hardship in the future...started praying...months later...angel comes

*Daniel 10:12 Then he said, “Don’t be afraid, Daniel. **Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer.** ¹³ **But for twenty-one days the spirit prince^[c] of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels,^[d] came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia.** ¹⁴ Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come.”*

But there is more...

Know this...we are in personal battle with the enemy...

He comes to steal our faith...and turn us from trusting Jesus...thereby weakening our team...our brothers and sisters...so Jesus allows us this fight to tak place.in order to strengthen us... but enables us to endure and win...

Luke 22:31 “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. ³² But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.”

- ...persistence in prayer is often necessary for battles are taking place we know not about...and then there is the gathering of who else needs to be involved..
- Jesus picks up this idea when discussing the disciples inability to cast out a particular demon...

Mark 9:28 And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹ And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

2. It takes Time for God to coordinate circumstances to bring pressure on a person until that one becomes willing to do what God wants them to do.

- Which is usually a radical departure from the person we think we are....man Paul thought he was...the man shaped by his culture the man formed by his own weaknesses to hate those different than him...to judge those who worshipped a Messiah he rejected... to kill those of his own race who did not believe like him...the man who appeared great in his own eyes and was fueled by the admiration of those like him, but those who had not the courage or craziness to do what he was doing... he was the maniac and reveled in it...

as Paul explains to King Herod Agrippa, also known as Herod or Agrippa I (41 – 44 AD), was a King of Judea ..during his second missionary journey after his arrest...

- *Acts 26:14 New Living Translation (NLT)*
- ¹⁴ We all fell down, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is useless for you to fight against my will. ¹⁵ “‘Who are you, lord?’ I asked. “And the Lord replied, ‘I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting.’¹⁶ Now get to your feet! For I have appeared to you to appoint you as my servant and witness. Tell people that you have seen me, and tell them what I will show you in the future.
- He had to broken ...God only uses those he can break...break of what? ...break of the shell they live in the masks they hide behind.....so they can be who they were meant to be...

- But when God gets a hold of someone their potential increases by a billion...
 - thief on the cross....

Luke 23 ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”
⁴³ And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

3.It takes time for the cumulative effect of a great amassing of prayer and repentance to gain victory.

did you know God drew out the boundaries of the Promised Land nearly 400 years before Moses was even born...and
 ..Moses had seen the trouble his people were in.....and took matters into his own hands...so the Lord allowed him to fail in his own efforts ... while it took 40 more years for the people to want freedom...bad enough...

The Lord speaking to Moses at the Burning bush...

Ex 3:7 Then the LORD told him, “I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—

and it was another 40 years that separated the day where Moses stretched out his hand for God to part the Red Sea from the day where the Hebrews first crossed the Jordan.

4.It take time to prune from our own lives things that are hindering our prayers
Prayer may not change things for you, but it sure changes you for things. *Many times God is working to enlarge our faith and intensify our commitment to his purpose, preparing us for the sacrifice ahead that we will have to make.*

1 Peter 3:7 [Husbands] *In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your **prayers** will not be hindered.*

1 Peter 3:12 *The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their **prayers**. But the LORD turns his face against those who do evil.”*

- sin that so trips us up ...keeps us from prayer

5. It takes time for separate parts of complex situations to fit together. God knows the perfect time to give maximum results.

*EX 23:27 "I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run. ²⁸ I will send the hornet ahead of you to drive the Hivites, Canaanites and Hittites out of your way. ²⁹ But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. ³⁰ **Little by little** I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.*

*Galatians 6:9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. **At just the right time** we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.*

*1 Timothy 6:15 For, **At just the right time** Christ will be revealed from heaven by **the** blessed and only almighty God, **the** King of all kings and Lord of all lords.*

- **Timing is a key with the Lord at just the right time Romans 5:6 there is a right time. Rest in that**

Luke 5: ⁵ When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. ⁶ Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations.

- **In describing Zechariah and Elizabeth,** we are told he was a priest in the line of Aaron...and if priests wanted their to remain in the priesthood, they had to marry the daughters of priests..
- Elizabeth, was of **Aaron's** lineage also...that is like winning the lottery.... Because Aaron had been Israel's very first Chief Priest, **if one wanted a great name and legacy for a priest's wife, this was it! Zechariah would have been at least twenty years old and Elizabeth most likely around 15.at their young ages they would have many children...**
- **Luke is also telling us that God looked upon this couple with favor, not only because of their faithful behavior, Which in their culture, meant that they were behaviorally obedient in observing the Ten Commandments, as well as all the**

Levitical laws concerning diet, including all the feasts and festivals. **And because their hearts were right in God's sight as well.**

.....and the next sentence does not begin to describe the personal heartache and social and religious disapproval and shame this couple endured in their marriage because they were childless..

Luke 1:7 They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.

- and in their culture You were either “righteous” or you were a “sinner.” You were either “in” or “out.” Therefore, it is no surprise that in this culture “barrenness was a woman’s and a family’s greatest misfortune.”an indicator of being in sin and under the judgment of God...
- **Luke gives us insight into they handled this progressive accumulation of cultural disgrace. They persevered in being faithful.**
- **skip ahead 40 years or so**

*LK 1:8 **Once** (one time) when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen **by lot** (coincidence), according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And **when the time** for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.*

- Incense was burned in the Temple twice daily. 9am before the morning sacrifice and 3pm after the evening sacrifice... **By this time in Israel's history, the number of ordinary Levitical priests is estimated to be upwards of 20,000. For organizational purposes, the priesthood was divided into 24 divisions of approximately 850 priests each.**
- **Since there were generally more priests in a division than might ever be able to perform the incense offering, a priest was allowed to serve once in his lifetime. As a result, a lot-casting system was established to allow God to select the priest He desired to honor with that service.**
- **One of the obligations of each division's service was performing the four mandated daily offerings and sacrifices. This included the incense offering in the Holy Place which, because of its location so close to the Holy of Holies, was considered to be the most coveted service for a priest to carry out.**

- This great honor could only be done once in a priest lifetime... Lots were cast to decide who would enter the sanctuary, **After decades of participating in this process (some consider Zechariah to be sixty years old when**
- But what appeared to be chance was not by chance ... Zechariah was chosen that day to enter the Holy Place—to light the incense and afterward would pronounce a blessing on the people from the balcony When the people saw the smoke from the burning incense, they prayed. The smoke drifting heavenward symbolized their prayers ascending to God’s throne along with the sacrifice...
- So we pick up the story

Luke 1: 8 One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. 9 As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. 10 While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying. 11 While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. 12 Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. 13 But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John.

- **they quit praying that prayer 20 years ago...God did not forget** God who moves around us in ways both seen and unseen
- **The " Do not be afraid " of yet unanswered prayer** know this my friends every prayer will be answered, every wrong righted, every hurt healed...all the suffering will end...that is what the Christmas promise is all about...we give each other gifts...
- **What he had hoped for and finally given up hope on....God simply saw it as a timing issue! But there is more...**
- **Certainly Zechariah and Elizabeth had been praying not only for the birth and advent of the Messiah for their people, but they had also been praying for the birth and advent of a child of their own. God was about to answer both prayers through a faithful, married couple who were advanced in years—**
- The last verse of the last book of the Old Testament prophesied that before the Messiah would

- the nation waited 400 hundred years for the fulfillment of this promise...Zechariah and Elizabeth waited many years for their prayer to be answered...you will wait on the timing of God also...

Luke 1:16 And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly."

*****The angel not only tells him he will have a son but what name to give him..

➤ John means "the LORD is gracious," and Jesus means "the LORD saves." Both names were prescribed by God, not chosen by human parents.

- the nation waited 400 hundred years for the fulfillment of this promise...Zechariah and Elizabeth waited many years for their prayer to be answered...you will wait on the timing of God also...

Zechariah and Elizabeth most likely died sometime before John's adulthood, even perhaps during his formative years. If so, Zechariah and Elizabeth would never have seen the fullness of God's intended plan for their son, nor the impact he would have on the nation and world this side of heaven

God never forgets a prayer and at the fullness of time...you will see the answer

We must wait for God to work in his way, in his time for His desired results...

- Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance to hear or help, but laying hold of His will in all situations

Perhaps we need to pray the prayer of relinquishing...relinquishing my hoped for outcome to my prayers ...to Let thy will be done...thy Kingdom come.

- Not just the prayer to help you get out of something
- Not just the prayer to get through
- But the prayer of relinquishing the situation to the control of God.
- The submitting of our will to his direction
- It is a prayer of release with hope for our confidence is in God and His Character...He knows the right direction and has perfect timing ...we trust him..
- The important thing...is the compass of your life today pointed toward pleasing God.
- And doing his will
- Patiently waiting for his answer in all things. end

Answers to prayers are sometimes delayed for the following Reasons:

- 1. It takes time to prevail against Demonic resistance or entrenchment**
- 2. It takes Time for God to coordinate circumstances to bring pressure on a person until that one becomes willing to do what God wants them to do.**
- 3. It takes time for the cumulative effect of a great amassing of prayer and repentance to gain victory.**
- 4. It takes time to prune from our own lives things that are hindering our prayers**
- 5. It takes time for separate parts of complex situations to fit together. God knows the perfect time to give maximum results.**

God never forgets a prayer and at the Right time...you will see the answer. We must wait patiently for God to work in his way, in his time.

Hebrews 13:8 (ESV)

⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Understanding how God has delayed in answering prayers in the past helps lay the foundation for discovering the ways He answers today.

Remember...if He did it for them, He can do it for us. Why? Because He does not change and He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

We must never limit God in the methods He uses to answer prayers. All those ways mentioned are still ways that God can and does answer His people.

@@@@@

Jesus gave us the Pattern of Prayer, The order so to speak of how to engage in **Our Fathers Kingdom Business**

Luke 11:2-4 Say this

Father---Intimate direct address, no intermediaries, based on a family relationship, God is our Father. Prayer is based on sonship and daughtership.

Hallowed—Separate, Holy Reverent....To treat as Holy. He is our Father yet the Sovereign of the Universe. Isa 66: 1-2 yet esteems the Humble and Contrite, Approach Humbly and expectantly 1Peter 5:6

Be Your Name--- Psalm 138:2 His name and Word are above all things John 15:7 In Him...His word and in His name relationship...ask and you shall receive

Your Kingdom Come---Speaks of His Second coming in your prayers all acknowledge and remember that....

Why?

1. It keeps us on track and in the fight 2Tim 4:7-8
2. Carrying on the purpose of Jesus' Mission Luke 4:17...To the comma..
3. And waiting for his return to rule Isa. 61:2 the day of Vengeance against evil.
4. For ;you see the Lord is coming out of His dwelling...Isa 26:21
5. But we will be sheltered in our Fathers rooms... Isa 26:20
And John 14:2

This is what Peter the Apostle Says His coming will Look like 2Peter 3:10-15

1. It will come like a thief...no one will know ...go to vs. 8 and 9
2. He is not slow but patient....I am glad He waited this long....Were In and He wants us to Reconcile others as He continues to demonstrate patience

Praying for His Kingdom to come keeps us on Track and in the fight.
Because everything is not about us and not about now!!

Matt 6:9 adds “Your **Will be Done**”

Continually Hold up His agenda...Lots of “Wills” in the World Isa 14:12 The Devil has five

1. So His name is Glorified
2. His Kingdom extended...lives added
3. His will is done
4. Giving and acknowledging His right to over rule our requests.

Prayer is not overcoming god’s reluctance to hear or help, but laying hold of His will in all situations

- **Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance to hear or help, but laying hold of His will in all situations**

But we don’t understand this, even as Christians. And it is, at least in part, a problem of paradigm. Our primary paradigm in the U.S. for understanding how the world is ordered is economics. Our central value as a culture is the inducement to buy and sell goods. This for that. While other countries might embrace a kinship culture or center around politics, ours is a culture of consumption. So rather than understanding the cross as a space of profound transformation and deep healing, we embrace atonement theology and penal substitution as our animating metaphors for understanding the cross and see it instead as a transaction. A tit for tat. And we pray that way, too.

We go to church on Sunday mornings and attempt to exchange our prayers and our piety for bodily health and well-being.

The problem with praying for healing in this way is that it exposes the way the church is missing the mark. Our prayers for healing play so well into the cultural narratives that exist in our culture around pain and suffering that they obscure the difference between the two. They turn God into Lucy from *The Chronicles of*

Narnia who dispenses her magical cordial drops to those who are injured or ill but only if the person really needs it because there's not enough for everyone.

We like to think that we've outgrown the notion of God as Grand Puppeteer, or Benevolent Cordial-Dispenser—that we don't believe in a super being up in the clouds pulling the strings and cranking the levers—but our prayers indict us.

How is the healing that the world offers me any different from the healing that the church is offering me? Since being diagnosed I've spent endless hours online scouring the interwebs for information about my disease. And now my news and social media feeds offer me vastly different advertisements than they did one year ago. Instead of hawking the latest trends in middle-age-white-lady fashion, shoes, and accessories like it used to, the internet has decided that I've moved on to the likes of "The Ultimate MS Travel Checklist" and "Living With MS: One Woman's Brave Story," which, I'll admit, I have.

But I also see ad after ad after ad espousing the next great thing for someone in my condition. Promises of complete cure (total remission) if I take this supplement, try that cream, change my diet to this, or exercise like that. Links to videos that I watch patiently, sometimes more than twenty minutes, waiting to hear the one thing that doctors won't tell me before I realize they are never going to tell me unless I pay \$39.99 for their exclusive video (only available at this price for the next seventy-two hours). It's exhausting.

Only when we have named and renounced our idolatry can we make room for new metaphors and prayers to take shape.

Then I show up on Sunday morning to find the church offering me the exact same thing. If I pray this prayer, hope like this, beseech like that, stand at the right time, and—here's the essential part—truly believe, I might be healed.

I come to church in part to share my pain and suffering and find instead that I'm put through yet more paces. Does the church have good intentions? I have no doubt. But I don't know if Jesus, healer of the bleeding woman and the blind man at Bethsaida, actually embraced this archetype. Did Jesus say to those who approached him do this and then I'll do that? Did Jesus promise a cure if they

would do all the right things? Or did he simply offer them a gift? A beautiful, generous, breathtaking gift?

Was the bleeding woman physically healed? Was the blind man? They almost certainly were and that alone is worthy of exploration. But it's actually the least interesting part of those stories. When we look at the bleeding woman we see a woman who was considered unclean and therefore excluded from her community, unable to partake in the religious ceremonies and traditions that marked daily and seasonal life. She was also unmarry-able because of her condition, compounding her social and emotional isolation further still. And she had likely spent countless hours and endless money searching for the next great thing that might cure her so that she could change her life. Healing her was so much more than merely quelling the flow of blood from her body. The miracle wasn't that she stopped bleeding. The miracle was that she was seen by Jesus. She was seen by Jesus, her story was heard and her dignity affirmed. When Jesus healed her, he spoke to all the areas of woundedness and pain and devastation in her life. He also healed her body.

I wonder what would have happened if our pastor had said, "Stand up if you are exhausted. Stand up if you are all out of options. Stand up if you aren't sure you can take even one more step and you wonder if this is all a crock of shit." I think the church would probably be ok with that. My church would, anyway. But before we can do that we need to acknowledge the idol we've made. We need to name the idolatry of our belief in a God who conforms to our erroneous notions of how the world works—the idolatry of a God who takes the payment of our prayers and exchanges them for miracles.

Only when we have named and renounced our idolatry can we make room for new metaphors and prayers to take shape. Only then can we ask folks at church to stand up, acknowledging that they likely won't be healed, but that we would like the opportunity to see them like Jesus saw the blind man and the bleeding woman. Stand up and let us see the pain and the fear and the devastation in your lives because your bodies are hurting. Stand up so we can hear your stories and hold you before a benevolent God who is the ground of our being, whose love will permeate your pain through and through and through and through. Stand up so

that we can see your suffering and say with the unknown author of Lamentations, “How great is your pain . . . it is deep as the ocean.”

Standing up last Sunday signified a collective effort to avoid the transformation that comes with longsuffering and circumvent the virtues that might be cultivated in our lives by enduring such pain and hardship. It would have been to deny the places where God’s profound, abiding love and our deep suffering dance together in mysterious, holy ways.

I believe in a God who suffers with me and surrounds me with a love so capacious it will one day make all things new.

[Tweet this](#)

Do I want to be healed? Of course I do. I saw a woman in a yellow dress yesterday outside the window of the cafe where I was writing and I watched as she bounded up a set of stairs. Watching her move with such ease made my chest constrict with longing. I watched her walk all the way down the street and felt inexpressibly sad.

Yes, I’d like to be healed. But I don’t believe in a superhero God who doles out miracles on a whim to the most faithful. My dad has Alzheimer’s disease and I am not praying for him to be healed either. I am praying for him to be seen by the people around him, to be held in the mind of God, and for his suffering and dignity to be affirmed. Because I do believe in a God who swells up from the depths and moves around us in ways both seen and unseen. I believe in a God who sees me and sees my body and all the ways it now impacts and at times impedes my life. I believe in a God who suffers with me and surrounds me with a love so capacious it will one day make all things new.

But I’ll be waiting in my seat.

@@@@@

**God never forgets a prayer and at the fullness of time...you will see the answer
We must wait for God to work in his way, in his time for His desired results...**

Answers to prayers are sometimes delayed for the following Reasons:

- 1. It takes time to prevail against Demonic resistance or entrenchment**
- 2. It takes Time for God to coordinate circumstances to bring pressure on a person until that one becomes willing to do what God wants them to do.**
- 3. It takes time for the cumulative effect of a great amassing of prayer and repentance to gain victory.**
- 4. It takes time to prune from our own lives things that are hindering our prayers**
- 5. It takes time for separate parts of complex situations to fit together. God knows the perfect time to give maximum results.**

God never forgets a prayer and at the Right time...you will see the answer. We must wait patiently for God to work in his way, in his time.

END

Prayer.....to God.....About someone or something

God speaks to our heart...we pray to God about it...God moves to answer our prayer...according to His will

John 15:7

And one of the great joys of the Christian life is in seeing prayers answered, and nothing builds faith like answered prayer!!! And a Great part of that Joy is that God allows us to be part of his unfolding plan of redemption of man.

During the Dark days of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln was quoted as saying “ I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I have no where else to go.”

1.