

4-19-20 Video Message 4th Message
MESSAGES DURING LOCKDOWN
GOD'S POWER IN PRAYER

Intro: It is hard to believe that this has been the 4th week of the Coronavirus lockdown. Last week I did my video service in the church to make it special for Easter Sunday. So far I shared 3 messages during this lockdown period.

1. **3-29-20 The Most Profitable Thing You Can Do in Light of the Pandemic**
2. **4-5-20 Search The Scriptures**
3. **4-12-20 God's Plan / For You And Whole World**

Today I'm back in my office or man cave (which the men in our church affectionately call it). The title of my message is "God's Power In Prayer".

Before we get into the message I am going to have my wife come and sing a medley of songs about prayer. The first song I wrote way back in 70's when we were attending Bible College and is taken from II Chronicles 7:14. The second song is a popular song that we used to sing way back in the 70's about prayer entitled, "He's Only A Prayer Away". My wife is going to come and sing it for you and then I want to talk to you about this matter of prayer.

PRAYER MEDLEY ONLY A PRAYER AWAY

He's only a prayer away. This morning we are going to be talking about God's Power In Prayer.

I hope you are availing yourself of attending our prayer and Bible study groups via conference calls on our regular service times. S.S. Sunday Evening and Wednesday Night. What I like about this way of doing our services is that we can talk to each other, admonish one another, pray for each other. This is what the church is all about. Sunday morning we are doing these video messages because usually Sunday morning at our church is a little more formal. So we are trying to keep the same structure going while we are in lockdown.

Now this morning I want to talk to you about **God's Power In Prayer**. Let me say this in light of the present crisis, we have a lot of people looking to men for answers. How foolish we are to not look to our creator for the answers. Is there any person in this world that is not hoping that our scientists would come up with a cure or vaccine for this terrible virus? Yet, let me remind you there is one who has a cure and has all the solutions, but how sad it is that we do not go to Him for answers. We read about Jesus power to heal in the Bible, We read about the story of Jesus healing Peter's mother in law in Matt. 8

The Bible says this about Jesus.

Matthew 8:15 And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.

Matthew 8:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

Matthew 8:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

This was a quote from Isaiah:

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

When Jesus comes back to earth He will indeed heal this land of pestilences and viruses. When He came to planet Earth in His incarnation He preached the Kingdom of God and went around everywhere, healing people of sickness and diseases. But there was one place where He didn't heal a lot of people and that was in His home town.. We read this about this matter:

Matthew 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

Matthew 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

Matthew 13:56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

Matthew 13:57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

Matthew 13:58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Notice He did not many might works there because of their unbelief. Now we need not read more into this than is there. Jesus ability to heal was not limited by a person's unbelief. He is all powerful whether you believe or not. In fact Jesus healed a lot of people that didn't even know who He was. **He even healed unsaved people**. Did they have faith? What it means is that the unbelief that people had in their hearts prevented them to come to Jesus and if they did not come they did not get healed. Let me also say, **your unbelief will keep you from prayer**. And when you don't pray you don't receive.

What we need in our nation today is more of God's people praying. The Bible says "if my people shall humble themselves and pray" and turn from their wicked ways, then God will heal our land.

God will not give to us if we do not pray! When the prime minister of England came down with the Corona Virus, I noticed on the news instead of people saying our prayers are with you, Prime Minister Johnson, they said, "Our thoughts are with you..." How sad it is that the cat has got everyone's tongue when it comes to prayer. We have become so secularized that we can't even say our prayers are with you! What good are our thoughts? Jesus said, which of you by taking thought could add one cubit to his stature?

If you don't pray you will receive nothing.

James 4:2you desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Many of us have been cooped up in our homes for about 4 weeks now. Even though many of us are not sick, it is as if we are sick. You know, when you come down with a bad flu and are sick and in bed the whole world stops. Work stops, you can't do anything, you're locked up in your room with nowhere to go.

Years ago when I was a music major in secular college I had a music professor who was an excellent musician and jazz performer. This professor made music his life and passion. He played the trumpet and was an excellent jazz musician. It was during that one year period when I was weighing this matter of salvation and eternal life that I went up to him after class and asked him a question. I said, "Doc, let me ask you something, what would you do if you were in a plane crash and stranded on an island somewhere without your instrument, and couldn't play music anymore? What would you do?" He looked at me and said, "I could sing.." I thought to myself that is a terrible answer because he was a terrible singer. Sometimes when he would sit at the piano and comp out Jazz chords all you would hear is these moans and groans as he played.

You see, when I was a freshman in college the head of the music department met with 100 freshman music students and told us that only about 10 of us would graduate. He gave the reason why. He said, the reason why is that most of you will not put your careers first, above family, above jobs, above friends, and other things that will distract you. You know, he was right. A few years later I was one of about 10 students who graduated. Back then my career was my life and I was willing to put that first. But when I was presented with the gospel and I was challenged by this verse:

Matthew 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Matthew 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Matthew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

When I was challenged by this verse I started thinking, was it worth putting my career above Jesus? If the Bible is true, is it worth trading the benefits of this life in exchange of eternal life? No one in the world had a good answer about life and death. So I, by

the grace of God, gave my life to Jesus 46 years ago and I can tell you I am not sorry about that decision.

A few Years later I was in seminary, and we had a professor who was teaching pastoral counseling. I had heard at one time this professor had pastored one of the largest churches in the fellowship, I heard his wife died, and then he got sick and was hospitalized. Then he lost his church and ministry. Now newly saved and in Seminary I decided to ask this godly man the same question I asked my music professor a few years earlier.

I went up to him and asked him pretty much the same question I asked that jazz professor. I said, "Doc, let me ask you a personal question, What do you do when you're flat on your back and can no longer pastor a church, and can't do anything, you can't preach, you can't teach, can't pastor, you're just flat on your back. What do you do? He looked at me, a gleam in his eye, and said without hesitation, "I can pray, no one can take this from me."

I thought to myself, he had the right answer. PRAYER IS SOMETHING NO ONE CAN TAKE FROM YOU.. Even if you get this coronavirus, YOU CAN PRAY. When you're sick you can pray, when you're down and out you can pray, when the whole world is about to cave in on you, you still can pray.

The economy can collapse but you can still pray.
You can lose a family member but I say prayer can be a comfort to you.
You can lose your health but no one can take prayer from you.
You can lose your career but you can never lose the ability to pray.

CONSIDER GOD'S POWER IN PRAYER

I. THE PRIVILEGE OF GOD'S POWER IN PRAYER.

What a privilege it is to pray.

Matthew 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Matthew 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Matthew 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Matthew 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Here we have the promise of this privilege.

He promises He will hear you even if you are alone in your prayer closet.

He promises He will hear you even if you don't have fancy words to say.

You don't need a mediator.

You don't need a priest.

You don't need anyone to pray.

God hears you just like He hears me.

Don't make a show of prayer.

You need not pray any fancy words.

God knows you. God knows your needs. JUST TALK TO GOD REVERENTLY.

II. THE POTENTIAL OF GOD'S POWER IN PRAYER.

Now consider the potential of prayer. Think of what God potentially can do for you!

I remember years ago when I went to build my house. We were living in a mobile home and the kids were running out of closet space. So I went and looked at what we could do to build a house. I purchase a piece of property next to the church and started the process of trying to build on it.

Back then I used to do recordings for people and I had a friend who needed a multimedia presentation for his master thesis. He was an architect. He asked me how much I would charge to do the recording. I said, well I need help designing a house and you need a recording let's barter. I will do the recording if you draw me up plans for my house. So that is what we did.

When we went to design the house, the first thing he asked is how much money I had and what was my budget for the house. Back then I had a housing allowance of \$400.00 per month so I went to the bank to see how much money \$400.00 per month would give me for a mortgage. I found that the bank would give me \$60,000.00

So I went to my friend and said design me a house for \$60,000. When he started to design the house based on square feet I found out a stick built house for \$60,000 was not going to be any larger than the double wide trailer I was currently living in. Then I said to my friend "Forget about the cost just design the house I need.." I decided I needed a house that was three times the size of the trailer we were living in. I needed one floor for a piano workshop and studio and office, one floor for living space and one floor bedrooms. So I told him forget the price design the house I need and if I can't get that I won't build it.

So I just kept praying about the matter and refused to borrow more than I could budget. I had those prints for years. I just kept praying. Then I meet a Pastor friend one day who was a contractor who built his own house. He invited me to his house after church. I asked him, "how much did it cost you to build this house?" He said, around \$60,000.00 I said, "I have prints for a house bigger than this. I showed him the prints and said, can you help me build this, finished on the outside, sided, insulated, wired, rough plumbing, roughed in for \$60,000?" He looked at the prints and said, I think we can do that. So I went to the bank and borrowed \$60,000 and built the main structure of my house.

Now on the outside the house looked complete but we had to pray for everything on the inside.

We prayed for brick and someone gave us brick
We prayed for trimming and went to an auction and got trim for a bargain.
We prayed for wood floors and we got left over flooring at an auction
We got stone from a quarry from our own property,
We prayed and prayed for over 2 years until finally the Lord allowed us to move into our new house.

THINK ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OF PRAYER.

1. *THINK ABOUT THE POTENTIAL UNLIKE US, GOD IS NOT LIMITED IN RESOURCES.*

God does not have a budget.

It is not like He cannot give us what we want and need, it is a matter of whether or not it is His will to do it.

John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, **that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

John 14:14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

I John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, **if we ask any thing according to his will,** he heareth us:

If what you ask will bring glory to the father, He not only can answer that prayer He promises He will answer that prayer.

Now here is the problem. You may think it glorifies God but the one who decides if it will glorify Him is God Himself. The closer you get to God the more you get to understand His will. We need to pray, "Thy will be done..."

For instance, Paul the Apostle who healed a multitude of people, when he prayed for his own healing God said no. You can glorify me better being sick. His sickness humbled him and kept him dependent on God. So sometimes God does not give us what we

ask. Prayer is not just a blank check for you to get anything you want. However, if what you want will bring glory to God you do have a blank check, so to speak.

God is able, God has the resources.

2. POTENTIAL IS ONLY LIMITED BY US, NOT GOD.

There is no limit with God but there is a limit based on us.

Our lack of faith and understanding will limit that potential. When the disciples asked why they couldn't cast out a demon out of a fellow Jesus said,

Matthew 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief**: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Matthew 17:21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

When something is not right in us, we limit God's ability to work through us.

III. THE PROMISES OF GOD'S POWER IN PRAYER.

There are some promises concerning prayer:

God promises to be with you in trials and temptations. I Cor. 10:13

God promises to give wisdom if you ask for it. James 1:5

God promises to help you through all circumstances of life. Phil 4:13

But I want to close with the greatest promise all.

Jesus promises salvation to anyone who sincerely calls on Him: There's a lot of things that are subjective in this matter of prayer. There are some things God may have for me that He doesn't have for you. But there is one promise He has for everyone. This is the promise of salvation.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Now this is the greatest promise to all mankind. Our Lord is willing to receive you if you truly do see your need and call on Him! This is His will..

II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

Which brings us to this invitation. This week I put together a video taken from a tract that I wrote called **THE CURE**. This is as clear of a presentation of the gospel that you will ever hear. If you are not sure of eternal life please heed the message that is presented in this video, "THE CURE"

This documentary we have uploaded to our YOUTUBE channel by itself, so you can share it with others. Here is the thing. Right now we are in lockdown because of fear of this virus spreading. Someone shared how just one person who gets infected with this virus and spreads it to two others and those two spread to two others.. in a short period of time thousands would be infected.

I said in our prayer letter, wouldn't it be nice if the gospel message could go viral like this virus. It could if we all would just share the gospel with two others and in turn the two we shared it with would share it with two others. Of course the problem is that the virus just does it's thing by itself but we have to purposely share the gospel. Let me encourage you to share our Gospel Tract Video with at least two other people. I know whoever watches the video will have heard a clear presentation of the gospel.

Without further ado, I am going to end with the video tract that we just put out called "The Cure". I hope you will consider the message of this video if you have never received the Lord. If you do know Jesus as your personal savior let me encourage you to share the link to this video with others. This is one way you can obey the great commission of the Lord during this lockdown time and pandemic.

THE CURE VIDEO

Close in prayer.