



NEW CROSSING CHURCH

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Prayer Series: Upward. Inward. Outward.

Study 8: Prayer and the Spirit of God

Note: You can listen to or watch the sermon of the same title, Jerry Disch, Mar 6, 2022

“Prayer, therefore, is not simply our cry of desperation or our grocery list of requests that we bring before our heavenly Father; prayer is an activity inspired by God himself, through his Holy Spirit. It is God siding with his people and, by his own empowering presence, the Spirit of God himself, bringing forth prayer that is in keeping with his will and His ways.” Gordon Fee

I. Prayer of faith

The Holy Spirit is present in our lives to aid us in doing the ministry God has called us to, i.e., praying for others.

1. Read James 5:14-16 and Acts 3:6-8. What do these passages tell us about faith and prayer?
2. Read Mark 11:22-24 and 1 Corinthians 13:2. Is there a time when you experienced mountain-moving faith to pray a specific prayer, and saw God answer that prayer? Jesus desires our lives to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God and mountains can also be the things that stand in its way. Is there a mountain in your life that needs a prayer of faith to move it?
3. If prayer by itself is powerless, what moves the mountain? What's the role of faith?
4. How does a feeling of unrighteousness interfere with our prayers? How does 2 Corinthians 5:21 address this?
5. Take a few minutes to ask God if there is an area where he wants to raise up supernatural faith in you to pray bold prayers? Share and pray for these areas together.

II. The Spirit's help in prayer

The Holy Spirit is present during our prayer times leading us, and praying with us to bring about the will of God for a given situation we are praying for.

6. Read Romans 8:26-27. “Ought” means “that which is necessary in the nature of the case.” There are times we don't know exactly what we should pray or we run out of words but still have a burden to pray. How does the Holy Spirit help us pray (i.e. intercede for us) in line with God's will?
These verses could sound as if the Holy Spirit takes over and prays instead of us. How does the Holy Spirit collaborate with us in prayer?

7. Read John 11:33-35, 41. Jesus thanked God for hearing his prayer for Lazarus, but as far as we know he had not actually prayed any words out loud. Have you had times that you did not have words for your prayers and you felt the Holy Spirit “groaning” on your behalf? How could you make more space in your prayers for the Spirit to help you intercede?

III. Watchful prayer

The Holy Spirit is present during our prayer times helping us to be watchful for the Word of the Lord and watchful for the adversary's schemes.

8. Read Colossians 4:2 and Ephesians 6:10-12, 18. What kinds of things is your brain most watchful or alert to in life?
9. Read Ephesians 6:18. What does it look like to be watchful in this way? Being watchful takes an investment of time - how does being watchful fit into your life?
10. Read Matthew 26:38, 40-41. What difference did being watchful make for Jesus (compared with the disciples sleeping)? What difference can being watchful make for us?
11. Read 1 Peter 5:8 Peter who slept instead of watching with Jesus in the Garden now instructs us to be sober-minded and watchful against the devil. What in our culture makes it easy to be spiritually sleepy instead of sober?
12. Take some time to pray “beady-eyed and watchfully” together and ask God to show you where you need to be on the alert against the enemy for yourself, others, and the church.