

Pray Specifically When Praying for People

Once you get the revelation of prayer, your life will be so different for you. If you are praying for souls, stand on God's Word until you see the answer. Prayer is the life of the Church. We challenge you as a Christian to give yourself to prayer. We believe we are only in the beginning of the prayer conquest – [the great prayer fight of faith] that is to end this dispensation.

Learn the secret of intercessory prayer – praying for the lost and backslidden. Pray for men and women by name. Do not just lump them together and put them into a group. Do not just pray that God will save souls. Actually, praying like that is not scriptural because God has already done that through Jesus' redemption at the cross. We must claim people's salvation and pray for the Lord of the harvest to send laborers to them [Matthew 9:38; Luke 10:2]. Claim a harvest of souls in specific countries. Pray for people by name if you can. Call out their names to God and claim their souls for God's kingdom in the Name of Jesus.

A pastor had a unique prayer meeting. He told his congregation that when they came to church to write on a piece of paper the name of the person they most wanted to get saved.

If it was a couple, they were to write down both names. If the person had never been saved, they were asked to put a small letter "s" beside their name. If the person was backslidden, they were supposed to leave the space beside the name blank. They were then to bring that paper to their prayer meeting.

On their prayer meeting night, it had snowed four or five inches and there was sleet on the ground. The local highway department encouraged people to stay off the roads unless it was an emergency. The pastor didn't expect anyone to come to the meeting because it was hazardous to drive and there was no equipment in that town to remove the sleet. In spite of the bad weather nineteen people showed up for that prayer meeting.

The pastor collected the names and put them in the offering plate, mixed up the names and then passed the plate around so each person could take out a name. The pastor drew one and spoke out the name, and then asked everyone to stand.

He quoted Matthew 18:19 which says, *“...if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”*

As he drew out a name the pastor told the people he was going to pray for that particular person to be saved during the meeting. He had asked people not to put the names of those who lived far away on their paper. He wanted them to pray for local people to get saved during the meeting, (although they were concerned about others far away and would pray for them later).

He asked everyone to listen intently to what he was about to pray and then to agree with it. He asked that no one pray out loud except himself so people could hear him well enough to agree with him. When he finished his prayer, the people agreed with it out loud. He told them to lift their hands and thank God that the person they had just prayed for was saved.

He then told the people not to pray for that person anymore; but if they thought about it, they should say that the matter was already settled, and the prayer was answered. They should then thank God for the answer. They went right down through the list of names, praying for each one by name. Sometimes just one person would pray out loud, and other times they all joined in together and prayed.

All but two of the people that they prayed for that night got saved during that meeting! The pastor had never had that much success in praying for souls in all his life. He began to see the power in the prayer of agreement, and he began to get hold of a few prayer secrets.

The pastor held a meeting about six years later and he saw a woman who had been in that church he had pastored. Her husband had not been saved but was one of the ones they had prayed for that night at church. All the others that had been prayed for had gotten saved within a month's time of their prayer meeting except for the two mentioned. Those two were saved before a year was out. They had a one-hundred percent batting average on that prayer meeting!

After the meeting the woman and her husband wanted to talk to the pastor. The husband said he wanted to hug the pastor's neck because he now was his brother in the Lord.

So, pray for men and women by name. Do not just group them together. Also, pray for ministers; do not criticize them. God knows that it is hard for ministers in this day to stand before their congregations without suffering persecution.

It is sometimes hard to face the criticism that those in ministry face. The same spirit that is in the world will try to creep into the local church and come against the leaders. So, pray; don't criticize. Criticism will not get the job done. Praying will. Pray for Christian workers as well. As you pray for others the dew of heaven will fall upon your own soul!

God's Word Does Not Fail

When we come to God according to God's Word, God's Word does not fail. Jesus said in **Matthew 18:19**:

“Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, IT SHALL BE DONE FOR THEM of my Father which is in heaven.”

Did Jesus say it, or did He not say it? Jesus did not say it **might** be done. He did not say there was a **possibility** that it could be done. He did not say **if it was the will of God** that it would be done. He said it **WOULD BE DONE**. Of course, you will not get any results unless you are praying according to His will.

A preacher held a meeting that ran for six weeks, right up until it was Christmastime. The pastor that had him preach said to him, “How are you scheduled?” He told him he was supposed to start another meeting right before Christmas, but the pastor wanted him to stay longer at his church.

The pastor said that his church made a big payment every year in December on the church property. They did it then because most of the people in that church were farmers and they always had more income at harvest time.

Every Sunday night in December they took up an offering for the property and the pastor said if the preacher would stay that they would have to take up an offering on the mortgage first, and they would take up an offering for the preacher. The pastor said he knew the preacher would be needing extra money because it was near Christmas, and he could not give the preacher any more than he had been getting. He said it was doubtful the meeting would run as good as it had been running. The pastor finally said that if the preacher would stay that he would at least guarantee him as much money as he had been getting.

The preacher told him that he would agree to their taking up the special offering for the property first, and then they could take up an offering for the preacher separately. The preacher told the pastor that he would do the believing and act in faith that he would receive the money he needed.

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

MINISTRY SCHOOL 3RD EDITION

SESSION 66 – PRAYER PART 9

PRAYING FOR RESULTS PART 2

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The preacher contacted his wife and told her he would be staying longer and wanted her to open her bible to **Matthew 18:19**. He told her that he would do the same thing where he was. He told her to lay her hands on the bible and say, “Lord, my husband and I claim so much money” and the preacher would do the same. Together, they claimed fifty percent more than the preacher had been getting because they needed the extra money for Christmas and for the time following the Christmas holidays.

Sunday night came and the pastor received the offering for the preacher and received three dollars more than he and his wife had agreed on. The next week the preacher contacted his wife and asked her to pray again on the following Sunday afternoon as she had before. Together they claimed the same amount that they had before and received \$1.49 above what they had asked for.

On the Sunday night before Christmas, the church sponsored a Christmas program, and the preacher gave his message afterwards. The church took up an offering for the preacher, and later at the parsonage the pastor asked the preacher how much he had received that week. The preacher told him that he did not know. He said the ushers had probably forgotten to count it.

The pastor found the offering plates and the money had not been counted. They took them to the parsonage and started counting the offering. The pastor had half of it and the preacher had the other half. They totaled it up, and the offering came up \$20 short of what the preacher and his wife had claimed.

The preacher and his wife had already claimed the entire amount, so he told the pastor that it had to be there. He told him that he and his wife had agreed on **Matthew 18:19** for a certain amount, and that if their prayer which was based on God’s Word did not work, then he would have to go to every church where he had preached on the subject and tell them that Jesus is a liar and the bible is not true. He was being honest with the pastor.

Now, we do not imply that you are to expect the blessings of God to just fall on you like cherries off a tree, because there are times when you are going to have to stand your ground in faith on God’s Word. You must stand your ground against the devil.

Back to the preacher. The pastor said that they must have missed it. The preacher told him he didn’t miss it because God’s Word never fails! So, they counted the offering again.

If a bank is out of balance at the end of the day, they would have to find out where the shortage is. Even if they are off a little bit, they will spend time and money trying to figure out where the shortage is because that kind of accuracy is important.

The preacher then remembered that the pastor's wife had bought a bible from him and had paid him for it before church. She had given him an envelope which he had put in his pocket and had forgotten about it. She had included the \$7.50 for the bible, which was the wholesale price, plus a personal offering for the preacher. She did not want to record it through the church treasurer as it was a personal offering.

In the envelope was a \$25 offering for the preacher. The preacher told the pastor about the offering, and after counting that offering, he had \$5 above what he and his wife had claimed. The preacher knew the money had to be there because God's Word works!

We must stand our ground on God's Word and declare what we pray for according to God's Word. We must always look the storms that come in the face, like the Apostle Paul did when he was on board the ship that was about to sink. The angel of the Lord appeared to Paul and told him their lives would be spared [Acts 27:1-25]. Jesus' Word is more sure than the word of an angel. God's written word is even more sure than the word of an angel.

Yes, storms will come to you also but look that storm in the face in the Name of Jesus. Look contradictory circumstances in the face and say as Paul did in Acts 27:25, ***"I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me."*** You will find out that the devils and demons will limp away in defeat in their attempts to oppose you, and the answer to your prayer will come. Stand your ground because God hears and answers prayer!