

Why should we pray?

Forgiveness and Healing

- **James 5:14-16** Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Wisdom

- **James 1:5** If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Comfort etc.

- **Psalm 119:76** Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.
- **Strength**
- **Encouragement**
- **Direction**
- **Peace (which is a fruit)**

To Abide in Him

- **John 15:1-8** I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye *are* the branches:....

Abiding in Him

- He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Abide?

- Abide means to **STAY OR DWELL** in Him.
- Abiding in Him comes through a few avenues:
 - Reading His Word
 - Fellowship with Christians (due to a unity with Christ)
 - **PRAYER**

Fruitfulness vs Fruitlessness

- We hear Jesus talking here about lives that are going in different directions
 1. One is a life of barrenness- emptiness and shame
 2. The other is a productive and fruitful life

Fruitlessness/Barrenness

- If I'm not abiding in Him then I am barren
bar·ren
- 1. not producing or incapable of producing offspring; sterile: *a barren woman.*
- 2. unproductive; unfruitful: *barren land.*
- When we are barren we have 2 choices to make. We can say "what have you done for me lately" or we can be driven to our knees.

Give me children or I die

- **Genesis 30:1** And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die.
- There is no question about the agony and shame that is in Rachel's voice
- She's not alone...

Barrenness

- Sarah—Isaac (**Genesis 17:19-21**)
- Rebekah— Esau & Jacob (Israel)(**Genesis 25:21**)
- Rachael— Joseph (**Genesis 30:1**)
- Manoah's wife— Samson (**Judges 13:2**)
- Hannah—Samuel (**1 Samuel 1:1-20**)
- Ruth— Obed (the grandfather of David)(**Ruth 4:13**)
- Elizabeth—John the Baptist (**Luke 1:5-25**)

Barrenness

- Each of these women experienced fruitlessness of the womb...
- Barrenness is an opportunity to seek His face and watch Him work the impossible

Barrenness

- When we see fruitlessness there is a seed that is snuffed out and not able to produce fruit.
- Satan has tried to crush the seed since the fall in the Garden of Eden.
- The body of Christ represents the implantation of **The Seed (Christ)**. Satan is still working to destroy the seed

Abiding Through Prayer

- Satan wants to destroy that which has been born within us.
- When we abide in Christ, the enemy can not touch the seed and this is when we demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit.
- Prayer is not only important for wisdom, healing and the like, but it is the avenue in which the fruit of the Spirit is able to grow.

From Barrenness to the Fruit of the Spirit

- Barrenness can be the soil in which a desperation for God can grow
- Desperation drives us to prayer
- Prayer is the soil in which the fruit of the spirit can grow.

What Fruit?

- **Galatians 5:16-24** *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

What Fruit?

- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.
- **This is the fruit that Jesus tells us that we should be bearing—His Fruit**

Break Through the Ceiling

● **Mark 2:1-12**

Prayer Learned By Praying

- There is no way to learn to pray but by praying. No reasoned philosophy of prayer ever taught a soul to pray. The subject is beset with problems, but there are no problems of prayer to the man who prays. They are all met in the fact of answered prayer and the joy of fellowship with God. We know not what we should pray for as we ought, and if prayer waits for understanding, it will never begin. We live by faith. We walk by faith. Edison wrote in 1921: "We don't know the millionth part of one per cent about anything. We don't know what water is. We don't know what light is. We don't know what gravitation is. We don't know what enables us to keep on our feet when we stand up. We don't know what electricity is. We don't know what heat is. We don't know anything about magnetism."

• We have a lot of hypotheses about these things, but that is all. But we do not let our ignorance about all these things deprive us of their use." We discover by using. We learn by practice. Though a man should have all knowledge about prayer, and though he understand all mysteries about prayer, unless he prays he will never learn to pray.

• There have been souls that were mighty in prayer, and they learned to pray. There was a period in their lives when they were as others in the matter of prayer, but they became mighty with God and prevailed. In every instance there was a crisis of grace, but it was in the discipline of grace that they discovered the secret of power. They were known as men of God, because they were men of prayer.

Some of them were renamed, like Jacob and Simon and Saul. They were called "Praying John," "Praying Mary," "Praying Bramwell," and "Praying Hyde." Our Methodist fathers were mighty in prayer. They saved England by prayer. They shook the gates of hell by prayer. They opened the windows of heaven by prayer. How did they learn to pray? They learned to pray by being much in prayer. They did not talk about prayer; they prayed. They did not argue about prayer; they prayed.

Samuel Chadwick—Rapture Ready