

## Our Prayer Closet

When a person gets out of love, they open themselves up to sickness and disease. When a person gets out of faith, they lose out on receiving more from God. When a person disobeys God by not doing the Word, or by not following the inward witness, they lose their divine protection.

2 Corinthians 4:3,4

**Satan is the god of this world But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**

John 10:10

**The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

Acts 10:38

**How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.**

1 Corinthians 5:5

**To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.**

1 Corinthians 15:26

**The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.**

Hebrews 2:14

**Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;**

1 John 3:8

**He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil**

We have a lot more spiritual power and authority than we realize as the church, but so many times, we get caught up with other activities and spiritual things are laid aside and neglected. But, a constant, daily prayer life keeps us in constant fellowship with God, Who desires more than anything else that we be protected and blessed. We know this because of the 91<sup>st</sup> Psalm, 3 John 2, and James 1:17.

When a believer gets out of fellowship with God, the first thing that they forfeit is their new covenant benefits. Satan is here on this earth to do everything he can to destroy your life and those whom you love the most — and that's where intercessory prayer comes in to help you set up a hedge of protection around your loved ones. God is always looking for someone who will put the time in prayer (Ezekiel 22:30). Intercessory prayer is one way to plead the case for another, especially if they're living in sin

and /or disobedience to God. Interceding for others is, many times, the only thing that many dear ones have going for them, whether they realize it or not. That is what Abraham attempted to do for Sodom and Gomorrah. We must always remember that Satan is on the prowl, looking for someone to destroy (1 Peter 5:8). We must not be ignorant of his devices and methods of attack. Those dear ones whom we know and love, who are not serving God, or who are not saved, or who are involved with someone or something that they shouldn't be, or who've been lured out into the world by the devil, are people for whom we need to intercede, by putting quality time in prayer.

We receive mighty blessings from God through obeying Him. Do you remember in the Old Testament, that as long as Moses' hands were lifted up, the battle went in Joshua's favor? Well, that's another benefit for the body of Christ — as long as we're loyal and faithful to God in intercessory prayer, things work out for our good and for our welfare. Get yourself a prayer closet -- someplace that you can go to and pray, getting on your knees. Begin to pray and intercede, seeking God until you know in your spirit that you've had a breakthrough, and just keep reinforcing that day and night. We must have time every day when we get on our knees and bow before God to pray, where it is just yourself and God, and no distractions. It is true that we can pray anywhere (1 Timothy 2:8), but nothing will ever take the place of getting alone in isolation with God in prayer, where you can commune and fellowship with the Father God. Then the Holy Spirit will be able to pray through you with utterances and groanings and travailing for that dear one who's lost in sin, or for that wayward Christian who's backslidden.

Isaiah 66:8

**...for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.**

Romans 8:26-28

**Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.** <sup>27</sup>**And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.** <sup>28</sup>**And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.**

Galatians 4:19

**My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,**

We all get in these situations, and some of us find ourselves in them every day, when we have to shut down everything else and just go to our place of prayer. When I first received Jesus as my Lord and Savior, I heard preachers preach about having a prayer closet and how important it was to fast and pray "until God showed up". What they meant when they said "until God showed up", was that you just knew in your spirit, because of an inward witness and peace in your heart, that you got what you prayed for. So, I got myself a closet and I started going in there and praying. *Little did I realize that the closet had a trap door in the floor that was just held together by a couple of nails.*

I was in there praying that Jesus would appear to me and tell me what to do. Or, if Jesus chose not to come, I hoped that He'd send an angel, because I'd prayed so much. I'd heard people preach on how Jesus appeared to them, or that they had an angelic appearance, or vision or trance. These things are all scriptural, but you cannot make them happen. They only happen as God chooses, but prayer does set an atmosphere for God to move. We see these appearances many times in the book of Acts, as when Jesus appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus, or when Ananias had a vision in Acts 9:10 and when Peter had one in Acts 10:9. (See also, Acts, chapters 12, & 27 and Acts 10:7).

One thing about the early church (that we see in the book of Acts) is that they were people of prayer. They were so effective in prayer, that when they began to pray for Peter, who was in jail about to be

executed the next day, they prayed so fervently that God sent an angel to get Peter out of jail. In Acts 16:15, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God when they were in jail, and God sent an earthquake to open up all the doors. Not one person was hurt, and the jailer and his whole family got saved! I believe that **prayer** is the only thing that is missing in the church today. I believe that we're so far behind in prayer, which it is going to take some time to catch up. We need to be so effective in prayer, and so available to pray, that God can call on us any time.

So, I got in my prayer closet and closed my eyes, and began to pray. It was then that I heard a noise; I got so scared, and so excited that I thought Jesus or His angel was coming into the prayer closet. I was afraid to open up my eyes, so I closed them tighter. Then, the trap door opened up, and I fell all the way to the ground! There I was, lying underneath the house, and looking all the way up to the closet. This happened three times. I would get up and re-fix the floor, and it would give away again. I finally realized that I had to find another prayer closet.

Did you ever notice that when you commit to prayer, all kinds of things begin to take place? It is all because the devil does not want you to fellowship with God. He's jealous and envious of the relationship that you have with God. Why else would he say to Jesus, after He'd been praying and fasting, *"Fall down and worship me and all shall be Thine"*? The number one thing that we, as believers, all need to do in our lives is to develop our prayer life and then maintain it throughout the rest of our lives. We should pray so much and fellowship so much with our Father God that everywhere we go, the presence of God manifests and people are convicted. Prayer people are the most convicting people in the body of Christ. When you're in sin, they make you feel dirty.

***Brothers and sisters, we have got to get back to prayer, so God's will can be done in our lives and in this world!*** You may not realize how much God your Father delights in the time that you spend with Him in your prayer closet. It shows God that there's nothing more important in your life than being with Him. Many people spend most of their Christian lives ignoring God.. They know their pastor, they know their minister, they know their fellow church members, but they do not know God. It is in our prayer closet that we get to know God. I trust that you've been putting more time in prayer.

I look forward to sharing with you tomorrow.

Your brother in the Lord,

**Brother Rich**

**Remember, *God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers* (3 John 2).**