

SUNDAY, 26 MAY 2013

**PERSISTENT PRAYER**

PS STEPHEN BENNIE

A long-time elementary school teacher in a Christian school likes to tell the story about teaching the subject of prayer to her class. When doing so, she makes reference to the passage in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 that challenges us all, "Pray without ceasing." One year, after having taught the section on prayer, she was approached by one of her students following that morning's chapel service in which she had offered one of the prayers. "Mrs. Capeheart," the student said, "I'm sorry I sneezed during your prayer today." Mrs. Capeheart, a bit bewildered by the student's confession, responded by assuring the student that sneezing during a prayer was ok, but she appreciated his concern. To which the student replied, "Well, I know you like us to pray without sneezing."

SONG: BECAUSE HE LIVES I CAN FACE TOMORROW...

Luke 11:1 to 13 and 18:1 to 8

Key verses: Lk 11:8 and Lk 18:1, 5

Read Lk 18: 1 again - "THAT MEN ALWAYS OUGHT TO PRAY AND NOT LOOSE HEART"

These two parables bring out three specific realities of the Kingdom of God.

FRIENDSHIP; JUSTICE and PERSISTENCE

There are some things you cannot get merely because you are a friend of God.

There are some things you cannot get merely because you serve a God who is Just.

There are some realms you can only enter into through persistence.

Hannah prayed persistently for a child.

Blind Bartemeaus cries out persistently till Jesus stops and heals him of his blindness.

Jesus prayed through the night, and His disciples ask Him to teach them to pray.

Your persistence demonstrates you are a friend of God. It demonstrates your intimate knowledge of the justice of God.

Persistence is profound.

Many have stopped a day short of their breakthrough.

Jesus says, "MEN ALWAYS HAVE TO PRAY AND NOT LOOSE HEART"

Once we have anchored in to the will and purpose of God, you don't loose heart.

In history we see there are people who got immediate breakthrough. In Mark 6 we see everyone who came to Jesus got healed.

But we all need to come to that place where we are so focussed on God, so focussed on what He can do and pray and not lose heart!

Psalm 27: 4 "One thing have I desired, that will I seek after..."

Have we reduced our life to that one desire???

My One Desire: To glorify God and bless the lives of people.

Bill shares a story of him being interviewed by Rick Joyner (morning star ministries). Bill is talking about Redding becoming a cancer free zone. And Rick turns to the audience and says, "Pray for Redding, that they get the breakthrough, when they get the breakthrough it will be our breakthrough".

Romans 12: 15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

I know some of us are going through some real serious issues.

We need to lock into something we know is the heart of God.

I don't know why and how! Some get their breakthrough easily. Some get their breakthrough only through persistence.

I know some things come through friendship; some things come because we have appealed to divine justice, but there is a realm we cannot touch apart from persistence.

History is shaped by those who pray OR History is shaped in the absence of those who could have prayed.

We live in a culture of instant gratification. We stay as far as possible from pain. We avoid persistent prayer. It is painful to pray with persistence. We need to learn to weep with those who weep.

We carry another burden until there is a breakthrough.

Persistent prayer can change attitudes and mindsets over entire communities just by persistent prayer.

We need to win battles on the knees.

How many of you have this sense that you are not praying enough?

I've not met anyone so far who has this sense that they pray enough!!!

We all know there always more to pray!!!

Let's get to know what assignment God has for us.

I Tim. 2:1,2

Let's go to the book of Acts. Here are some profound moments that came in response to prayer.

Acts 2:1-4 The outpouring of the Spirit. The most significant moment in Church history came in response to prayer. They prayed 10 days.

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to prayer. Prayer birthed a significant move of God and is sustained by prayer.

The reason people get bored in prayer is because people pray to God and not with God!!! - Bill Johnson

Many times we don't know how to pray as we should. Therefore the Holy Spirit has been given to us to pray through us through groaning that are too deep for words.

The secret is not praying fancy prayers that come out of some revelation knowledge.

It is praying in such a way that it rocks our inner man.

Praying in such a way that you are moved. If it does not move you, how can you expect it to move Him?

Feeling the pain, the need internally before we get the breakthrough!!!

We need to be willing to carry that burden in prayer until we get the breakthrough!

We need to become people who are qualified to make decrees that shape history!!

The ones who qualify are the ones who wage the battle in the secret place where no one is watching

There are times when we need to be locked in before the face of the Lord, before

His throne of Grace as though I need to persuade Him!!!

He has given us the keys of the kingdom!

Acts 10: Cornelius and his household is saved because of one man's hunger for God! (Your pursuit of God can be a blessing to everyone who knows you)

Cornelius' act of obedience brought salvation to his household.

Let your act of obedience bring reward to your people! (What you sow you reap)

ACTS 12:1-16

Herod had already killed James. In the absence of prayer.

Is it God's will that there be martyrs? No. But in the absence of prayer there will be.

When we pray for our leaders we can live peacefully. It is a way for us to get out of danger.

We have this guarantee from the Lord = Galatians 2:20 - God causes all things to work together for good...

Everyone has had loss in this room. Take your loss and bury it in divine justice, let it bring diving increase.

James died in the absence of prayer. Peter lived in the presence of prayer.

What do you do if you are James' relative? Rejoice that a seed is buried into the ground and there will be a supernatural increase out of that loss. Celebrate that God causes all things to work for his good and our good. There will be an increase.

What do you do if you are Peter's relative? Celebrate the fact that his life was spared.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, Weep with those who weep.

The hardest thing to rejoice with those who rejoice is when you are the one who is weeping.

This command is there because it is hard. If everyone got the same blessing this command was not needed!!!

Life unfolds in strange ways. Sometimes the very breakthrough you've been praying for someone else got it!

Let's feed on Psalm 27. It will feed our souls when we are pursuing a breakthrough at any moment.

Let's PRAY!!!



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>