

Introduction: Prayer

East Stanley Jones said: *"It's in prayer that you align yourself with the purpose and power of God and He is able to do things through you that you couldn't otherwise do. This is an open universe, where some things are left open contingent upon your doing them and they will never be done except that you pray."* **R.A. Tory said:** *"There have been great revivals without preaching, but there have never been a mighty revival without mighty praying."* **Andrew Murray said:** *"God's intense longing to bless seems in some sense, to be graciously limited by His dependence on intercession. God regards intercession as the highest expression of His peoples' readiness to receive and to yield themselves wholly to the working of His almighty power."* **Meaning: If we are not praying, we are not ready to participate in what God is getting ready to do. If we are not praying we are not ready to be filled with His Spirit. If we are not praying, we are not ready to be instruments in His hands in the coming revival.**

Text: **Colossians 4:2 (NKJV & NLT)**

Outline:

I. **Proskartereo (Greek word)**

A. The Hard work of Prayer: to persevere even in difficulty. To be devoted to it even when it's hard. To have a constant readiness and care for – paying close attention.

Jesus said it this way: **Matthew 7:7 (NLT)** *"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you."*

B. Watching – Alertness: Another set of eyes open on the inside of you. Your ability to see can tap into God's perspective of sight. You will see angels coming and going (like Jacob). You will see oppressions. You will see the enemy working and God working. Prayer will open up perceptions that could not be opened except by prayer! You will see waves of glory and God seated on the throne and truths about yourself that you couldn't see before.

- One reason people stop praying is because they get glimpses of things sometimes that they did not want to see...or they do not want to deal with. Even though we know, if we allow God to help us deal with them, we will not only be more alert in this life...we will be thankful that God helped us overcome it! (Door would be open for the word. vs. 3 NKJV NASB)
- Paul is asking in Colossians 4: God open up opportunities for me to preach

the Gospel that I will be able to say in the way God wants me to say it. It is prayer that opens up the doors for the proclamation of the Gospel. (Did you know there are people in our lives that do not even want us praying for them. But when I kneel before Almighty God, posturing myself in a posture of dependence and vulnerability, I am free to pray for anything and for anyone that I want!) God can **open doors** that man can't and that we have given up on opening!

Colossians 4:5-6 (NLT)

- Prayer is the hard work of Seeing things we would not see if God did not show us! Waking up and seeing things about our towns & regions that will have to change for God to be able to save souls...for strongholds to be broken! We must pray AND believe that this coming year will be a year of Salvations...that God wants to take home as many, in the name of His Son, as He can! But we must pray!

II. **Prayer Intervention.**

A. Prayer Opens the Door, but you must Open the door to Pray: The message of evangelism, the Gospel doing its' power, rides on the beauty of the transformed church. We don't merely have the message; we are the message. We have a "go ye gospel" yet we have "come to" churches. We can't just stuff it inside the walls of the church. We must live and act and behave like Jesus Christ!

- That requires us to be more than we can be on our own. WE can't without transformative prayer! We must pray and believe! We must pray and expect! We must look for every opportunity and see God do a work through us! Who else is going to do it?

- Are the Muslims going to do it? They pray 5 times a day.
- Will the government do it? They are promising more and more to us aren't they...they want to save people right?
- Won't Christians do it? Among those who just label themselves, the hypocrites, and the many denominations on every corner...it don't seem to be getting done.
- **It must be the blood bought church! The Church of the living God! The remnant! Who are not afraid to pray! They will pray because they believe it moves the Hand of Almighty God and God will perform it!** *Philippians 1:6*

"Man was never meant to live out of a book, but rather out of daily communion with Me. The book was added because sin broke our daily communion (Gen. 3), and then My voice was rejected in favor of living out of laws (Deut. 5:23-33). However from the beginning, it was not so.

So return to My original intent, communion with Me. For the word spoken in daily communion is the word I stand unreservedly behind. It is the appropriate word for the moment you are in. My word at that time is like apples of gold in settings of silver (Prov. 25:11). It is a word of wisdom, or a word of knowledge, given by My Spirit which is exactly right for the moment you are living in (1 Cor. 12:8)."

B. Prayer Mission: What does purposeful prayer look like? What can help our prayers become interventions?

When you see a:

- bicycle; or a child's toy - pray for the youth and the children.
- Broken-down house; a run-down building - pray for provision, protection, that the families would be made whole, that the scars of poverty on the young would be healed.
- Discouraged countenances, etc. – pray against a spirit of loneliness, depression, spirit of suicide.
- Moving vans - that if the move involved a divorce or fractured family, they would be healed; that wherever they go, they would find themselves near, next to, Christians; that they would resolve to find a church home in the next city.
- Homes for sale - that God would move a Christian family into the neighborhood.
- Churches - for the pastor, leaders, for revival, renewal & an awakening in America – that churches would be full of people seeking God, for unity with other Christians. Pray against a spirit of division!
- Drug deals going down - for protection of kids, for salvation of dealers, for God to cut off the drug supply, for God to expose corruption and bring a string of arrests crippling the drug industry, that those needing drugs to survive another day would find peace in Jesus Christ.
- Banks - for the blessing and favor of God on the city, financially; and for means to meet Kingdom goals to come to the Church.
- Elderly - health, vitality, for a sense of meaning in the latter years, that they might know Christ, that financial pressures would be relieved.
- Hospitals or health clinics. Pray for health and healing.