

Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church: Wednesday Bible Study- September 27, 2023

Book Review: Help Is Here: Fresh Strength and Purpose In the Power of the Holy Spirit

Supplement: Key Points regarding the relationship between prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit-from the book: Draw The Circle by Mark Batterson

You will recall in our study of Batterson's book the many connections between prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. Some of them are referenced in this document as reminders and background for our deeper study on the power of the Holy Spirit in Lucado's book.

Romans 8: 26-27

“ 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.”

“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.”

1. Creation groans (Romans 8:19-22), and we groan within ourselves(Romans 8: 23-25); in the same way, the Spirit groans(Romans 8: 26). The Spirit groans on our behalf, because He is the one who has come along side to help us (Paraclete).**The Holy Spirit can feel what we feel.**
2. The Holy Spirit possesses **power** we do not. At the end of our strength, we groan and that's it. There is nothing more. The Spirit groans with a **purpose** He intercedes on our behalf, praying with **wisdom** we do not possess, requesting for us what we are too shortsighted to perceive . The Holy Spirit groans His intercession in heaven so that our minds and the mind of the Father will **unite** to accomplish His will.
3. The believer's infirmities are not necessarily sins, but weaknesses. Infirmities/ weaknesses can keep believers from knowing what to pray for. The Holy Spirit intervenes and intercedes for believers in times of human weakness.
4. The word “Helpeth” portrays one person helping another person carry a heavy load, like the heavy load of not knowing what to pray for.
5. The groans of the Spirit cannot be uttered, they are inexpressible in human words, but altogether intelligible to the mind of God. It is the Spirit who is interceding with groanings which cannot be uttered **not the believer.**

6. God the Father also knows what is the mind of the Spirit. The word for “Mind” refers to the thoughts and purposes of the Spirit. The Spirit knows what is best for believers, he knows believers perfectly and he knows the Father perfectly. Therefore, the Spirit could never make a mistake when interceding on behalf of believers.

7. The Spirit makes intercession for believers according to the will of God, the Spirit pleads, makes petitions and appeals for believers to the Father. The Spirit is always in perfect agreement with the Father. **The Spirit always prays in the Father’s will. All prayers offered in the will of God receive a positive response.**

8. The true purpose of prayer is to get into God’s **presence** so He can outline His agenda for us.

9. The primary purpose of prayer is not to change our circumstances; the primary purpose of prayer is to **change us**. But either way, the chief objective remains the same **to glorify God in any and every situation**.

10. The purpose of prayer is not to get what you want; the goal of prayer is to discern what God wants, what God wills.

11. The purpose of prayer is not to give orders to God ; the purpose is to get orders from God.

12. The plans of God are revealed in the **presence** of God.

13. If you pray to God **regularly** , **irregular** things will happen on a **regular basis**.

14. Can our prayers change our circumstances ? Absolutely ! But when our circumstances don’t change, it’s often an indication that God is trying to change us.

15. The greatest tragedy in life is the prayers that go unanswered simply because they go **unasked** .

16. Bold prayers honor God and God honors **bold prayers**.

17. Prayer is the difference between you fighting for God and God **fighting for you**.

18. Don’t seek answers; **seek God** . And the answers will seek you.

19. Sometimes God’s no simply means not yet.

20. If you want to break the sin habit, you have got to establish a **prayer habit**.

21. The surest way to get into God’s **presence** is by getting into His **word**.

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