

THY KINGDOM COME PART I
“HOW DOES PRAYER WORK”
DECEMBER 31, 2017

INTRODUCTION

- Prayer is something almost all of us do some time, but few of us feel like we do it well.
- Jesus guys felt the same - Luke 11:1-2
- We all need someone to teach us when it comes to prayer.
- Reality - sometimes prayer works the way we want and sometimes it doesn't.

I. ASKING IS CRUCIAL

- Importunity means keep asking, literally shameless insistence.
- I Kings 18:42-45, “Elijah...bowed low to the ground and prayed with his face between his knees...Seven times Elijah told him to go and look. ⁴⁴Finally the seventh time, his servant told him, ‘I saw a little cloud about the size of a man’s hand rising from the sea.’ ...⁴⁵And soon the sky was black with clouds. A heavy wind brought a terrific rainstorm...”
- Prayer is a partnership, us and God. Our choice to pray matters!

II. A HEART ISSUE

- James 5:16-18, “...The effective prayer of a righteous person has great power...”
- Effective prayer = Energeo, energized prayer
- Elijah is just a person like us!
- David was a person like us.

- David understood God’s heart yet he often cried out to God over long periods of time.
- Psalm 61:1-3, 22:1, 36:7-8, 42:3-6 - Heart cries

III. PROBLEM WITH HEART CRIES

- There has got to be trust and trust only comes when we know who we are praying to.
- If God is your Father and He loves you don’t you think it would make sense that He would hear the cry of your heart?
- “Our Father” - Prayer is partnership with your Father. You cannot partner with a stranger. Takes relationship.
- Two problems:
 - First God is so great.
 - Second if He is so great He probably doesn’t care about me!
- This is the love issue...God is crazy about you.
- The heart of God is found in Hebrews 1:3, “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being...”
- Exodus 34:6-7, Psalm 36:7-9
- Who do you pray to? This God who is crazy about you and controls the universe? Who gave His Son to save your life or someone else?
- If He is your Father why do you pray like an orphan instead of a son or daughter?

CLOSE

- Luke 15:11-24