

Pathway to Power

(Psalm 16:11)

“The pathway to power is as simple as 1, 2, and 3.”

I searched the Bible some time ago, looking for things God does in ministry that are not prompted by prayer. Do you know what I found? Nothing! John Wesley said, “*God does nothing but in answer to prayer.*” Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 4:20, “*The Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.*” The pathway to God’s power is through prayer.

Prayer is the way:

- *You defeat the devil (Luke 22:23; James 4:7).
- *You get the lost saved (Luke 18:13).
- *You acquire wisdom (James 1:5).
- *A backslider gets restored (James 5:16-20).
- *Saints get strengthened (Jude 20).
- *Get laborers for the harvest field (Matt. 9:38).
- *The sick are healed (James 5:13-15).
- *We accomplish the impossible (Mark 11:23-24).

Why is the church not seeing God work His power through us? Quite simply, we are not praying (James 1:22-25). No time in history, have we had more “things” to fill our time as we do today. We are so busy with so many other things that we fail to take time to pray. R. A. Torrey said, “*Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God’s infinite grace and power. All that God is and all that God does is at the disposal of prayer. BUT we must use the key.*” Prayer takes discipline. Prayer takes time. In his book *Too Busy Not to Pray*, Bill Hybels writes that “*if we are too busy to pray, we are simply too busy.*” (Luke 10:38-42)

The Lord has shown us the path to His power. In Psalm 16:11, we read “*You have made known to me the path of life; you fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*” The pathway to power is as simple as “1, 2, and 3.” We must regularly walk these three paths with God to unlock the storehouses of God’s infinite power (John 14:12-14). As Paul wrote, “*Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!. Amen.*” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

1st Pathway-Solitary Prayer.

Prayer is, first of all, about spending time with God. Simply being together is a necessary part of any growing relationship. Jesus modeled prayer (Mark 1:35, “*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.*”). If we look at Jesus’ pattern of prayer, we see a person who practiced solitude and who practiced retreats. We see a model of intentional withdrawal from the world and ministry for spiritual purposes. I have made it a goal to seek the Lord in solitary prayer in three ways:

Depart-Daily (Luke 5:16, Matthew 6:6)

Withdraw-Weekly (Mark 6:46; Luke 6:12)

Abandon-Annually (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1-3; Jeremiah 33:3)

There are a number of acronyms that can guide you as you meet the Lord in prayer. My favorite is P.R.A.Y.

Praise-Praise and worship God for who He is and what He has done (Psalm 100:4).

Repent-Repent and confess your sins to God (1 John 1:8-9; Psalm 51, 66:18).

Ask-Appeal to the Lord on behalf of yourself and others (Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6).

Yield-Yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit (Psalm 143:8; Matthew 26:39).

2nd Pathway-Pray with Partner.

Jesus often prayed with his disciples. And Paul wrote, "*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful*" (Colossians 4:2). Prayer is our opportunity to connect with God, our Creator. It is a wonderful privilege to be able to approach Him together with another person, especially as a couple. Yet most couples do not pray together regularly (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 1 Peter 3:7). When you pray as a couple, you are not only communicating with God, but also with each other. You can learn so much about one another by sharing prayer requests and listening to each other pray. If you are not married, meet regularly with an accountability partner to spur one another in your walk and to pray together (Hebrews 10:24-25).

The acrostic **B. L. E. S. S.** can guide and encourage you as you pray with your spouse for other people.

Body-physical health, protection from injury, rest and strength (Isaiah 41:10; 3 John 2).

Labor-work, business, employment, school (1 Samuel 18:14; Colossians 3:23).

Emotions-joy, peace, hope, strength to have victory over depression and anxiety (Phil. 4:6-7).

Social Relationships-love, marriage, family, friends, co-workers (Acts 24:16; John 13:34-35).

Spiritual Relationship-Salvation, Walk with Jesus, Church (Ephesians 1:17; 1 John 2:6)

3rd Pathway-Pray with Prayers (People who Pray).

Of all the activities to which the church is called, prayer is the most important (Isaiah 56:7; Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46). The key to building a praying church is to build a praying people. Prayer has been a fundamental component of the Christian's life and worship since the disciples asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray." As you walk the path of solitary prayer and the path of praying with a partner (spouse or accountability partner), you will be equipped to pray the path with three or more (Matthew 18:19-20; Acts 1:8, 12-14). In Isaiah 56:7, God says that His "house" shall be known as a "*house of prayer.*" Being a house of prayer is more than simply believing in prayer or having an interest in prayer BUT being a house of prayer means that the church's primary identifying mark is **prayer**. Richard Foster wrote, "*I would love to see our churches become houses of prayer. I know you would, too. All too often, however, they are places for everything and anything except prayer.*" Numerous prayer aids are available to guide our discipline of prayer throughout the week.

Sunday-**S**ervants of the **L**ord. Pray for different spiritual leaders of God's church.

Monday-**M**issionaries. Pray for the different missionaries throughout the world.

Tuesday-**T**he **L**ost. Pray for the salvation of those who are lost.

Wednesday-**W**orker for the **H**arvest **F**ield. Pray that the **L**ord would raise up of workers.

Thursday-**T**he **B**ody of **C**hrist. Pray for those in your church family.

Friday-**F**amily. Pray for your family and extended family members.

Saturday-**S**ervants of **G**overnment. Pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-8).

