

Introduction:

- Chuck Pierce - Head of the Year 5783 "The War for Divine Recovery: A Year to Open Up New Supply Routes!"
 - 5783 Is the number of the New Year for the Jews.
 - Recovery and Supply Routes are the significance of these numbers, 5783.
 - These are two things that I believe our Strong and Courageous fast has been about. If we get the Word into us and stand strong and courageous in it, we should see these things come about. Fasting increases faith, because it increases time in prayer. Fasting increases faith because it increases time in the Word.
- Lets go to our text: Acts 9:10-15. *"The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again.""* (Acts 9:11-12, NLT)

I. The World Is Threaded With Prayer.

- A. It amazes me the God activity in the earth even when there seems to be none. He is still working even when I cant see Him. There will always be some little 'granny' crying out to God for family, friends and faith in the earth. There will always be some missionary consumed with the vision of taking a nation and desperately crying out to God. There will always be some desperate mother crying out for her children. A father crying out for food for his family. All of these prayers count and they weave a golden tapestry of God activity across the world.
- B. In any act of prayer the first thing that must be activated, released, and increased is faith.
 1. Any man who prays must, in pure helplessness cry out in faith. He must believe!
 2. Prayer is simply faith, but it speaks because it believes!
 3. "When faith ceases to pray, it ceases to live." Works of E.M. Bounds. p.13. Show me a man who genuinely believes and I will show you a man who prays. Faith does the impossible! Because with God all things are possible for those who believe.
 4. *"And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."* (Mark 11:22-24, ESV)
 5. Only God can move mountains but faith and prayer move God.
 6. When Jesus could see that Peter was going to deny Him three times, He told Peter, *"I have prayed for your faith."* Lk 22:31 Jesus knew that when faith breaks down the whole spiritual structure is threatened. 1 Peter 1:5 show that faith is the foundation. Faith acts in response to what God has said.
- C. In Acts 9:10, Ananias has a vision. In the vision he sees Jesus and hears Him call his name. Note: Ananias is not mentioned again until Acts 22, and Paul is sharing his testimony. He is a 'nobody' who was somebody because he listened to God. His obedience made all the difference in the the Apostle Pauls life. Ananias hears his name and answers: Here I am!

1. Immediately a conversation with the Lord begins. That conversation is called prayer.
 2. Call has called many a man into the place of prayer through vision and by calling their name.
 - a) IE. - Ananias/ the boy Samuel/ Moses and the burning bush/ Saul the persecuting pharisee. They all heard their name spoken and answered.
 - b) God also calls men to prayer through their pain.
 - (1) Hezekiah, is sick, 2 Kings 20 and calls on the Lord,
 - (2) David in his guilt and shame with Bathsheba,
 - (3) Abraham in his childlessness,
 - (4) the father who brings his son to Jesus.
 3. “*Here I am*” Ananias responds. (You have my full attention.) The prayer thread begins!
 - a) Prayer done out of habit - does not necessarily have the attention of God.
 - b) Prayer is something intentionally done with the heart engaged with God.
 - c) It is good to have a habit of prayer but not to pray out of habit. If your prayer life is out of habit only, there is a good chance that it will be lifeless repetitious prayer.
 4. Look at the detail that Ananias gets from the Lord:
 - a) Go to straight street.
 - b) Go to house of Judas.
 - c) Ask for Saul of Tarsus
 - d) He is praying right now. A second thread of prayer is being woven into the fabric of God history...Saul is praying!
 - e) He has had a vision of you, Ananias, coming and laying hands on him so he can see.
 5. “Lord I have heard about Saul, he is bad” ...Jesus responds, “...*Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.*” (Acts 9:15, ESV) God has chosen so many ‘rotten people’ out of the earth to be his anointed vessels. Prayer works! It makes a difference.
- D. Any time God does something in the earth He does it through a man.

II. God Is Calling Men To Pray

- A. Men, God is calling you to be men of prayer. “*Praying men, means much more than men who say prayers! Much more than men who pray by habit.*” EM Bounds; The Complete Works of EM Bound On Prayer P. 331. “*True prayer is a way of life, not just for use in cases of emergency. Make it a habit, and when the need arises you will be in practice.*” Billy graham
1. Praying men are men who step out in faith to do the impossible.
 2. They are men who pray for the impossible because it brings glory to God.
- B. Jesus was a perfect picture of a man with a prayer life. “*Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”*” (Luke 11:1, ESV) Mt 6:7-ff
1. Teach us to pray is a desire to be like Jesus. The disciples saw something in Jesus that they wanted to be like.
 - a) He had a passion for prayer.
 - b) He got results in prayer.

- c) He seemed to be very strategic in the place of prayer. Direction, strength, encouragement, etc.
- 2. Teach us to pray is a desire to be equipped at something they did not see themselves well versed in. Guys, you just have to step out and start. Prayer can be taught, but it must be caught by spending time with praying people. I.e. Me being taken to prayer meetings.
- 3. Teach us to pray is a desire for a door to another world to be opened up to them.
- C. Hell resists prayer and praying men.
 - 1. *“And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.”* (Luke 18:1, ESV) When Jesus spoke these words to his disciples He was calling them to be praying men.
 - a) Jesus was not teaching that we can annoy God until he answers.
 - (1) He was teaching that we must be persistent and not give up in the place of prayer.
 - (2) Are you able to continue trusting in the Lord in the midst of injustice and delayed answer to prayer?
 - b) *“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.”* (Luke 18:10, ESV) What do we learn?
 - (1) God listens to heathen prayers! It is about the heart. The tax collector humbly approached God.
 - (2) Acceptance before God is not achieved by good deeds, piety or self righteousness. The proud will be humbled and the humble will be honored.
 - 2. Daniel 10:12-13 shows how an arch angel was held up by the Prince of Persia. This is why we must be persistent in praying: continually asking, seeking, knocking.
 - a) Daniel humbled himself in the presence of God,
 - b) He did not let up until he had an answer.
 - 3. Hell will resist you if you start to pray. But you have the upper hand! You have the authority to make the devils life miserable! Do it!

III. Praying Men In the Bible

- A. Job 1. Job prayed for his children continually. And he continually sought God in the midst of all of his pain. He lost his family, his wealth, his livestock but still would not curse God. He refused to blame God.
- B. Moses -
 - 1. Moses was quick to forgive and pray for his sister when she spoke evil of him. Nu 12:13.
 - 2. Moses interceded for Israel. Ex 32:9-14
 - 3. Moses wanted the presence not just the blessings of answered prayer. Ex 33.
- C. Elijah,
 - 1. prayed and drought ensued.
 - 2. He prayed and called down fire on his sacrifice.
 - 3. He prayed again and the drought was lifted.
- D. Jabez, (his name means, he brings pain) *“Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, “Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and*

that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!” And God granted what he asked.” (1 Chronicles 4:10, ESV)

E. Daniel 9:3-4, I have already spoken of.

F. David - *“Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!”* (Psalm 4:1, ESV)

G. The apostles - gave themselves to the word and to prayer. Acts 6:4

H. Cornelius - acts 10, and angel shows up to let him know his prayers have been heard and his giving taken note of.

Conclusion:

- God is calling men to prayer.
- Prayer draws men to Christ. It weaves God into the picture.
- Strip the men of the Bible from prayer and what do you have????