

RESPONDING TO THE TIMES

Understanding the times & how we should respond!

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

**Jesus' Instructions to Us
Concerning Prayer – Pt. 2**

TCOLCC 2022 Theme:

NO RESERVE!

NO RETREAT!

NO REGRET!

But none of these things move me,
neither count I my life dear unto myself, so
that I might finish my course with joy, and the
ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to
testify the gospel of the Grace of God Acts 20:24 KJV



RESPONDING TO THE TIMES

Purpose of Study:

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES & HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND

As we transition from our study of Revelation our focus shifts to finishing the work of Jesus in the earth & preparing for our eternity with Jesus, as His Bride.

1 Chronicles 12:32a –

32 And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do;

RESPONDING TO THE TIMES

OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE:

FINISH STRONG!!!

**FORGE FORWARD TO COMPLETE OUR KINGDOM WORK
BY UTILIZING PRAYER & THE WORD OF GOD!**

NO RESERVE * NO RETREAT * NO REGRET

RESPONDING TO OUR TIMES

The Spiritual Disciplines are tools to help us grow in our development with Jesus. God was manifested as one of us in order to:

- ❖ *Bring us Salvation*
- ❖ *Develop a relationship with us – NOW & THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.*

The tools of Spiritual Discipline to help us are:

1. Prayer (Individual & Corporate)
2. The Word of God
3. Fasting
4. Meditation – on The Person & Works of Jesus
5. Solitude – Spending time alone with Jesus

This list is not all inclusive but will serve to help us in our response to understanding our times. (The Times in which we are now living.)



Jesus' Instructions to Us – Concerning Prayer



- Matthew 7:7-11 - ⁷ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: ⁸ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. ⁹ Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?



Jesus' Instructions to Us – Concerning Prayer



- Luke 11:9-13 - ⁹ And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. ¹⁰ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. ¹¹ If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? ¹² Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?



Jesus COMMANDS us to Pray – This is not just a suggestion!



- Luke 18:1 - ¹ And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
- Mark 14:38 - ³⁸ Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

Saints,
DON'T STOP
PRAYING!

THREE KEY WORDS

Ask

Seek

Knock

ASK – Desire is expressed.

The greatest travesty in the life of a Born-Again Believer is NOT *Unanswered Prayer* – BUT RATHER: *Unoffered Prayer*.



Ask
Seek
Knock

James 4:1-2 - ¹ From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? ² Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Mark 14:38 - ⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

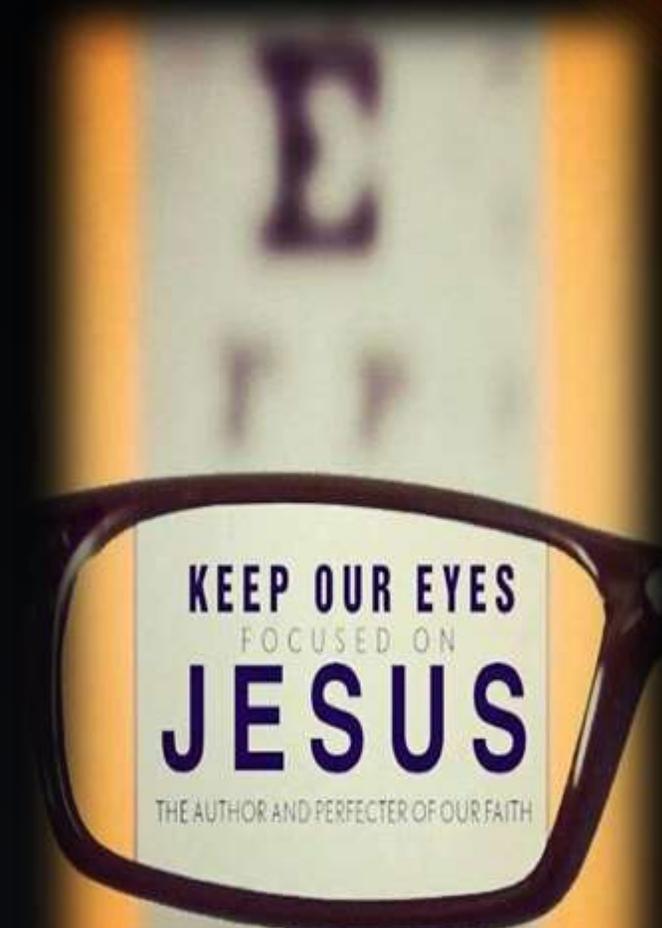
We don't pray to impress Jesus or to inform Him...

WE PRAY TO INVITE HIM IN!

❖ **WHY:**

1. **Fellowship** – we are laborers together with God. (2 Corinthians 6:1)
2. **Spiritual Development** – Helps us to grow & mature in Jesus. (St. John 15:7)
3. **Prayer is Jesus' way of causing us to be DEPENDENT UPON HIM!**

Satan cannot stop Jesus from answering our prayers, so he works on us to keep us from praying. **DON'T GET DISTRACTED BY THE ENEMY!**



SEEK – Direction is sought.

1. Seeking The Purpose of Jesus

- Asking is ALWAYS linked to seeking.
- We can ask for personal needs, but not selfish needs.
- James 4:3 - ³ *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*

2. Seeking The Presence of Jesus

- The Gift without The Giver is unacceptable.

3. Seeking The Power of Jesus

- James 5:16 - ¹⁶ *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*



KNOCK – Determination in Our Prayers

Persistence –

KEEP ON ASKING * SEEKING * KNOCKING –
until Jesus answers!!!

- Hebrews 4:15-16 - ¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.



KNOCK – Determination in Our Prayers



Persistence in Prayer is Spiritual Warfare. We FIGHT ON OUR KNEES as Soldiers of Jesus!

It is a true demonstration of our faith, when we lay hold of Jesus and refuse to let go until we see the results of our toil – the answer response of Jesus. We are demonstrating Faith.

Biblical Examples:

Jacob

➤ Genesis 32:22-31

**Genesis 32:26 - ²⁶ And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.*

The Blind Man

➤ Luke 18:35-43



Biblical Examples:

The Syrophenician (Canaanite)

➤ Matthew 15:21-28

The Unjust Judge

➤ Luke 18:1-8

Lessons from this passage

Contrasting the Unjust Judge to Our Righteous Judge – Jesus

1. Jesus is our Righteous Judge:

***Holy * Righteous * Merciful * Full of GRACE & Truth * HE IS FOR US!**

2. The Judge – acting only to find relief for himself – administers avengement for the stranger.

3. Jesus acts and advocates on behalf of His Own – His Elect



Jesus then assures His Disciples in this parable that He will avenge our adversaries and injustices against His Elect speedily.

- That in all wrongs, afflictions, persecutions, injustices done against The Children of Jesus, should move us to fervent prayer – realizing that **VENGEANCE BELONGS TO JESUS ALONE!**
- The timing of God's Vengeance is in His Hands – ALONE. Jesus may forbear our enemies for what may seem to be a long period. **WE MUST ALLOW OUR PRAYER TO TRANSFORM** not derail this process.
– **LOVE OUR ENEMIES** – *Pray for them that despitefully use you and say all manner of evil against you for my sake – Rejoice and be exceedingly glad – for great is your reward in heaven.*





Luke 18:8 - ⁸ I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Jesus closes out this parable with this question and challenge to us as His Born-Again Believers: ‘ Nevertheless’ – Notwithstanding – though Jesus will avenge the injustice and afflictions against His children for His Namesake – will He find His Elect – that remnant – yet being faithful when He returns?

The danger is not in Jesus not being faithful – He will SURELY be true to His Words & Promises. The danger is in us – His Elect & Afflicted People who will be discouraged & not persevere in prayer.



ANSWERS TO PRAYERS



1. Sometimes Direct – We receive what we Pray / Ask for –
(ALWAYS according to The Will of Jesus)

2. Sometimes Different – Jesus doesn't give us what we ask for – He gives to us according to His Will for us

- ❖ This is better –
 - For our Good
 - For His Glory –

➤ Romans 8:26-28 - ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

ANSWERS TO PRAYERS



3. Sometimes Denied – When it is NOT according to His Will.

4. Sometimes Delayed -

- Luke 11: 5-8 - ⁵ And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶ For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? ⁷ And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. ⁸ I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity (persistence and determination) he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.



When Should We Stop Asking / Seeking / Knocking



1. When you receive what you have asked for.
2. When you don't have the answer in your hand – but you have consolation in your heart / spirit / soul – HIS WILL
3. When Jesus says “NO”!
 - 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 - ⁸ For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹ And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

- 1 John 5:14-15 - ¹⁴ *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:* ¹⁵ *And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

When we pray – we should recognize and accept The Truth that we are finite, limited and prone to selfish motivations. In prayer, we are appealing to an **INFINITE, OMNIPOTENT, OMNISCIENT GOD** who loves us unconditionally and has perfect knowledge of what is best for us according to His Will & Purpose for our lives. Let us learn to accept His Answer / Will – **NO MATTER HOW DIFFERENT IT MAY BE** compared to what we may ask for.

- **2Kings 20:1-21**

- 1 John 5:14-15 - ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

There is NO substitute for Prayers / Praying

When we Pray –

- We pray to a Father who loves us and will hear us.
- He is also The King who is able & willing to answer us.



KEYS TO A N EFFECTIVE PRAYER LIFE



- *Designate a daily time & place*
 - *Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving & His Courts with Praise*
 - *Pray The Word of God*
 - *Allow The Holy Ghost to Guide You in your praying (Romans 8:26-27)*
- ***Philippians 4:6-7 - ⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.***



Alone with God - by - Johnson Oatman, Jr

When storms of life are round me beating,
When rough the path that I have trod,
Within my closet door retreating,
I love to be alone with God.

Refrain:

Alone with God, the world forbidden,
Alone with God, O blest retreat!
Alone with God, and in Him hidden,
To hold with Him communion sweet.

What though the clouds have gathered o'er me?
What though I've passed beneath the rod?
God's perfect will there lies before me,
When I am thus alone with God.

'Tis there I find new strength for duty,
As o'er the sands of time I plod;
I see the king in all His beauty,
While resting there alone with God.

And when I see the moment nearing
When I shall sleep beneath the sod,
When time with me is disappearing,
I want to be alone with God.

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