

POWER EQUALS PRAYER

Mark 11:24

Introduction: It is the custom with a particular religion in a certain country to worship a very unappealing idol and the worshipers sling mud balls at their idol with prayers written on slips of paper rolled up in the mud into little balls. When thrown, if the mud balls stick, they are assured of their prayer being answered but if the mud ball falls off, then their prayer has been rejected by their god/idol.

1. Christians may be quick to smile or shake their head at this practice of slinging mud balls with prayers on slips of paper inside the mud balls, hoping to get their god to answer the prayer, however it is a fact that most Christians know very little about real, prevailing prayer.
 - Yet prayer is the **KEY** which unlocks God's store-house.
2. It isn't saying too much to say that "all real growth in the spiritual life depends upon prayer." "All victory over temptation, all confidence and peace in difficulties and angers depends upon prayer."
 - "All spiritual strength in times of great disappointment or loss depends upon prayer."
3. What Christian would quickly say that he/she believes in prayer, but how many actually believe in the **POWER** of prayer?
 - Why are so many Christians living defeated lives? (Little prayer)
 - Why are so many Church workers so often discouraged and disheartened? (Little prayer)
 - Why are there so few professions of faith in our time? (Little prayer)
 - Why isn't **OUR OWN** Church (any Church) on fire for God? (Little prayer).
4. Has Jesus lost something through the years?
 - Can Jesus no longer save the lost?
 - Can Jesus no longer heal the sick?
 - Can Jesus no longer answer prayer?
5. **NO!** Jesus hasn't lost anything!
 - Yes, Jesus can still save the lost.
 - Yes, Jesus can still heal the sick.
 - Yes, Jesus can still answer prayer.
 - **BUT** - Jesus is hindered. Jesus cannot save, He cannot heal, He cannot answer prayer **UNLESS** His people pray more - **THAT'S US!**
6. We can be assured of this: **THE SECRET OF ALL FAILURE IS OUR FAILURE IN SECRET PRAYER!**
7. Have **WE** ceased to believe in prayer? Isn't it true that the great majority of **OUR VERY OWN** members never attend prayer meetings? They never even think of coming?
 - Why? Who is at fault?
 - We hear: **"...it's ONLY a prayer meeting...."**
8. So, is attending a prayer meeting a joy or just another duty?

9. We should never criticize anybody's "prayer" methods for all we have to do is to look back upon our own past and remember how much prayerlessness there has been in our very own lives.
10. The time has come for this Church and ALL Churches to get serious about prayer.
11. So, do YOU really believe that prayer is power, that power comes from prayer?
 - Is prayer the greatest power on earth or is it not? YES or NO?
 - Does prayer "move the hand that moves the world?"
12. Then let US put prayer to the TEST!

CONCLUSION:

- Pastor, your own concluding comments/remarks.