

THE ENERGY OF PRAYER

Mark 9:20-29

Introduction: The disciples tried to heal a child and failed. It would seem that God would have had mercy on their efforts, after this was an innocent child. What did they do wrong? How did Jesus so easily heal the child? Jesus told the disciples where they were weak, where the cause of their failure was. He gave them the way to have great force with God - prayer.

I. THERE ARE TWO MOODS OF PRAYER

1. The easy, inevitable, natural mood, as we walk with God, while certain of His presence,
 - or when in the depths of sorrow, when all mankind calls upon God or anybody, some unseen power somewhere, sometime in life.
2. The difficult, mysterious, unanswered times. The "why should we have to pray?" times.
 - Jesus answered the "why" of His disciples as to their failure to heal the child.

II. PRAYER GENERATES GOD'S ENEGERY

1. Prayer makes us more deeply conscious of God.
 - Rush and hurry of life occupies our thoughts.
 - Nothing grabs and holds us and points us to God in our normal life.
 - Only an awareness of God's presence can stir our hearts.
 - Prayer makes us sure that God is with us.
2. Prayer brings us into sympathy with the mind of God.
 - We have become numb and dull to tragedies in life.
 - We have become deaf, blind and insensitive to the lost around us.
 - Only when our minds unite with God's do we think, see and hear like God.
 - Thus in prayer our hearts are touched and motivated to act as Jesus did/would.

III. PRAYER SURRENDERS US TO GOD'S ENERGY

1. The highest thing we can give God in prayer is NOT praise, etc. - IT IS SURRENDER!
 - It is as a flower opening up to the morning sun.
2. God limited Himself when He made us.
 - God has chosen US to do for the world what He could have done instantly.
3. We also can limit God by our refusal to obey.
 - Our greatest limitation is our lack of prayer. When unsundered, God cannot work in us.
4. Every great person of God has always been a praying person, surrendered.

IV. PRAYER WORKS ON THE WILL OF GOD

1. God's ways and powers are not fixed in stone, so to speak.
2. Man's actions cause God to go from plan A to plan B, etc.
 - Remember Abraham and Sodom, Moses and disobedient Israel.
 - Hezekiah and death.
 - A person in prayer can touch God's heart.

CONCLUSION:

1. Pray when there is sickness, weakness, business needs, school needs, confusion, sin - PRAY
2. God doesn't always answer the way we ask but the way He knows is best for us.
3. **TEXT** - "*...have not because we ask not....*"
 - The power of God is ours, but it comes His way.
 - Our part is to do much praying.