

THE POWER OF PRAYER

James 4:2

Introduction: Seven (7) words in our text contain the secret of the poverty and powerlessness of today's Christians, today's preachers, today's Church. Why? Little progress in the Christian life; little victory over sin; so few being led to the Lord Jesus; so slow in growing in Jesus Christ's likeness - why? (*TEXT*)

Why? Preachers have little fruit in their ministry; so few converts; members don't grow in the Lord Jesus Christ - why? (*TEXT*)

Why? The Church is making such slow progress if any in the world; the Church is making little headway against sin, the world and Satan - why? (*TEXT*)

I. THE EARLY CHURCH'S VICTORY

1. The early Church was in constant victory and steady progress. (*Acts 2:47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7, etc.*)
2. How different today. Have revivals and then spend the rest of the year slipping back to where things were before the revival.
3. The difference:
 - opposition? Today's opposition is mere child's play to what the early church had, yet the early Church grew and was victorious.
 - reason? *Text*

II. STEADFAST PRAYER IS EFFECTIVE

1. *Acts 2:42* - All of the assemblies of the early Church were praying assemblies.
2. *Acts 6:4* - There was a praying ministry.
3. Church leaders and a Church family who pray together will defeat Satan.

III. TODAY THERE HAS BEEN A DEPARTURE FROM PRAYER

1. We do not live in a praying age.
 - The most notable thing different in the Church and leadership of today is the matter of prayer.
2. We live in an age of rush, hurry and hustle.
 - Man's efforts, determination, confidence is to achieve doing things.
3. The Church has never been so "organized" as it is today.
4. Satan looks at our Churches today and must laugh.
 - He doesn't care what we do since we don't pray.

5. Prayer has as much power today as it ever has had.
 - God hasn't changed, but we have!
 - Prayer can do anything that God can do.

IV. PRAYER WILL ALSO PROMOTE OUR OWN PERSONAL HOLINESS

1. Growth into the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ will be in exact proportion to the time and heart one puts into prayer.
2. Some put so much heart into prayer that they don't use as much time as others. (*Jeremiah 29:13*)
3. Any blessing any believer enjoys may/can be yours as well.
4. Prayer is the hand that takes the blessings from God.
5. *Psalms 139:23-24; 19:12-13; 24:4-5; 2 Corinthians 3:18*
6. "Take Time To Be Holy..."

V. PRAYER WILL BRING THE POWER OF GOD INTO YOUR/OUR WORK (*Isaiah 40:31*)

1. It is our privilege to have God's power in service.
2. Our relationship with Jesus Christ is supernatural from the very start, through life to the finish. (*1 Corinthians 12:11*)
3. God never commands the impossible (nothing is impossible with God anyhow).

CONCLUSION:

1. If Church leaders and Church families would spend more time before God in prayer, there would be more times of power and victories.
2. So, how is your prayer life?