

Some Ideas for Effective Prayer

The crisis that has happened may not have been initiated by God, but He has allowed it. He has the wisdom and the power to turn this on its head and use it for good. He is sovereign and rules life. So, let's approach Him to use this for good and His glory.

Today, let's talk about where much of the battle lays, in our minds. We NEED proper thinking about all of this. We can't just "try hard" and have the right mind set or be used the right way. In fact, we don't naturally want to read our Bibles or pray. Today, I want to start by sharing one of my favorite prayers. I figure we can't go wrong if we're properly praying Scriptural truths.

The battle is in the mind. That's why Paul tells us that one of the keys to the Spirit's power is a mind set on the Spirit (Rom. 8:4-6). The problem is that our body is "dead" and doesn't cooperate with us (Rom. 8:10). In fact, our flesh "wars" against our Spirit so that we don't do what we're supposed to do (Gal. 5:16). So, how do we have peace today? Much of it involves God's perspective. After all, "the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace" (Rom. 8:6).

Since I'm not inclined to pursue that naturally, each day I try to start with a couple of prayers based on the mess I'm in and prayers for help we see in the Word. Here are a couple of suggestions.

In Psalm 119:36 David writes, "Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness.". Love it. I often ask God to incline my heart to Him, while I confess I need His help.

Then, I try to pray the concepts or Romans 8:1-11 along with the goal of that passage which emerges in Romans 12:1-2 which reads, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

How do we pray, then?

My part is to set my mind on the things of the Spirit. His part is to give life to my "dead" body. But even obedience is enabled by Him. So then, I pray something like this, "Father, give me grace to set my mind on the things of the Spirit. And by your Spirit give life to this dead, uncooperative body I'm in. Thank you that you will!"

"Then, Father, give me grace to present my body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to You, which is my reasonable service. And, Father, help me not to be conformed to this world, but instead to be transformed by the renewing of my mind, that I may prove what

is that good, acceptable, and perfect will of God to myself and a world that so desperately needs it.”

Remember this:

- God **will** answer prayers according to His will.
- Everything He commands is according to His will.
- We can't face Coronavirus or anything else apart from Him.
- Is it possible that God is using this to move others to Him?
- Is it possible God is using this to move **us** toward Him?

I love what a friend handed me in chapel years ago,
“The Lord may not have planned that this should overtake me, but He has most certainly permitted it. And so, by the time it reaches me, it has the Lord's permission and therefor all is well and He will cause it like all of life's circumstances, to work together for good”.

Amen!

If you want more great advice on facing the shut down without shutting down, Denny Hartford gives some great advice in his article about “Hunkering Down” the right way on their website at vitalsignsministries.org or you can just follow this link.

<https://vitalsignsblog.blogspot.com/2020/03/alternatives-to-great-hunkering-down.html>

These are times we are needed. We are needed by our spouses, our friends, our children, our parents, our nation, and even this world. God hears YOUR prayers! You matter in this battle!

Stay strong! Our God is on the move! Let's start our days recognizing that we can't meet life without Him!

Pastor Dan