

Prayer: What we need to know...pt.3

Sermon Notes: Ephesians 1:19-23

Week 21 – 2010

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon ***What You Need to Know About Prayer...pt.3***, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. "Ignorance is bliss" so the saying goes. Do you think this statement is true? Is there anything you know now that you had wished you knew ten or twenty years ago? What is it and how would you have benefited from knowing what you know now, back then?

2. When we experience powerlessness we often give in to fear and anxiety. Looking back in your life, can you share a time when you felt powerless? How did you make it through that time? Would you have dealt with that situation any differently had you known more about the "immeasurable greatness of His power toward" you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The truth that people need to know the power of God that is at work in them is reflected throughout the Bible. After reading these passages, discuss the reasons we might benefit from knowing more of God's power working in us. Also, how does God's power in us help us?

Ephesians 6:10-13

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses.

Colossians 1:28 f.

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Isaiah 40:28-30

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

Can you think of any other biblical instances that show us our need to know of God's power which works in us?

2. Isaiah wrote one of the most eloquent passages about the power of God. Read Isaiah 40:10-28 taking note of the various things he says about God. How is God described? What are the ways in which His power is described?

When you have finish considering the passage and the questions above now consider: how has this passage influenced your view of God? In what

ways does it put a problem you are facing right now into a clearer light?

Which of these attitudes or actions comes most naturally to you? Which is most challenging for you?

3. The following two verses put our discussion of the power of God into the form of a prayer or benediction. What is the hope of these verses? How might this verse change the way you pray? What does this verse tell us about God?

Ephesians 3:20

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Memorization of Scripture helps fix the truth of God’s word in our hearts and minds. Why not commit Ephesians 3:20-21 to memory this week.

TAKING IT HOME

- 1.** As you look back on the sermon is there a step you need to take in order know and understand more about the power of God that is at work in you?
- 2.** Clearly Paul’s prayer indicates that “ignorance is not bliss!” Is there one area in your life when you need to grow in your knowledge of the power of God that is at work in you?

PRAYER REQUESTS

