

7-25-21

Sermon- Prayer in Partnerships

Scripture- Ecclesiastes 4:7-10, Matthew 18:19-20, CTW:PS 23

Hymns- 630, 631, 632

Theme- There are many references in Scripture about partnering with others in our prayer life. What direction have you taken regarding prayer with and for others? What do we need to have in common in order to have prayer fellowship with one another, and how could this be helpful for you to find a prayer partner?

## **I. Introduction: Praying with others is both powerful and practical to get answers to prayers.**

### **A. Principles of Prayer in Partnerships**

1. That two people praying together is both a powerful and practical way to get answers to prayers.

2. Praying with a prayer partner challenges you to pray for even bigger things. You function in a state of blessedness and discipline that will bring you even closer to the throne of God.

3. We need to apply the power of prayer in partnerships and when we do that we automatically have a witness who will help both of you see God actively work in your lives.

4. Mutual accountability occurs between partners...you will help each other remain steadfast in your life of prayer.

5. You and your prayer partner will be strengthened in your faith and you will gain confidence to fulfill the great commission in your lives.

### **B. First Some Threshold questions we all should look at concerning our search for a partner:**

1. When you were young, who was your really close friend?

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2. Why were they a close friend?

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3. Who is your closest friend now (besides your mate)?

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4. What is the basis of your friendship?

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## **II. The Lessons of the Relationship**

### **A. It helps to Check in With Solomon, said to have been the wisest man ever.**

1. Look at what he said in **Ecclesiastes 4:9**? "Two [are] better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor."

- a. To keep from being discouraged.
- b. To keep from quitting.
- c. To help you reach a goal.
- d. To encourage you to go on.

2. What can we learn from **Ecclesiastes 4:10**? "For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him [who is] alone when he falls, for [he has] no one to help him up."

- a. The strength of one can carry his friend.
- b. The strength of one overcomes the weakness of another.
- c. It's hard to make it alone.
- d. We all need to be picked up sometimes.

3. What can we learn from **Matt. 18:19**? "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven."

- a. Nothing is off limits to two people praying together.
- b. The key is to agree on what to ask.
  - Agree on God's will.
  - Agree on need.

Agree in faith-prayer.

Agree that God can do it. Many fall short on the mark for this one...they are not sure of the power of God, they don't want to bother Him, and we all hate getting NO as an answer!

c. When agreement is reached, they can get anything, so long as it is God's will for their lives in accordance of His plan...so as they go along in their partnership, they will receive strength that they may not receive if they remain in solo prayer.

d. The promise is available to us, but we must make an affirmative decision...notice where it says "if the two of you agree".

e. Put simply, the faith of another person may build up your faith.

**4. What can be learned from Christians praying for Peter's safety and/or release from prison? "Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church" (Acts 12:5).**

a. God answered before they quit praying.

b. They did not give up, i.e., "without ceasing."

c. They prayed together at one place and at one time.

d. They prayed fervently which means, "Showing great emotion or zeal." When was the last time you prayed fervently? Why were you so zealous to get an answer?

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**D. Henry Nowen gives three principles for praying with others.**

a. Make sure the thing for which you pray is God's will.

b. Understand there is "value in the volume of prayer."

c. Praying with another person that you TRUST builds your faith.

**6. Which of the three above principles is hardest for you? Which of the three above principles is easiest for you?**

**a. TRUST...Jesus said in John 14, that if we trust in God and in him, our hearts should not be troubled, and we will be successful in the endeavor.**

**7. Growing your faith is a process. Part of the process is to see that there's power in numbers and agreement.**

**8. So your faith grows when you effectively pray with another. Notice in Matt. 18:19. "If you agree . . . it shall be done."** You have grown when you know you have the answer before you ask.

**III. In Conclusion, I give you Paul and Silas, who were champions of partnership prayer!**

### **A. Paul and Silas in Prison**

<sup>16</sup> Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." <sup>18</sup> She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

<sup>19</sup> When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. <sup>20</sup> They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar <sup>21</sup> by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

<sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup> When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. <sup>27</sup> The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

<sup>31</sup> They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." <sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. <sup>33</sup> At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. <sup>34</sup> The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

### **B So, I ask you again...**

Who would you like to be your prayer partner?

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When and where would you like to pray with them?

\_\_\_\_\_.

Pray to God that He might show you who your prayer partner could be! Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust God and his Son Jesus to have a plan. We can truly do all things through He who empowers us!

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, we will continue our journey as we examine group prayer.

**Read Romans 12 and Acts 2: 42-47**

