

Life Group #37
The Power of Prevailing Power
(From David Manuels' Message)
Oct. 31/Nov.1 2009

WELCOME: (15 minutes)

WORSHIP: (15 minutes)

An idea:

All of life is about worship-- working, relating, playing etc., **all in the presence of God.** Worship can be singing, meditating, being silent and listening, reading the Word. In worship then there is also prayer. Sometimes it is helpful to think of prayer as four key elements, the acronym: **ACTS, i.e. Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication.**

Two of these that could be part of worship is **Adoration and Thanksgiving.** This is not prayer praying for our needs, but centering our expression on God. Sometimes it is helpful to enrich our prayer by knowing the names of God. Before you enter into adoration and thanksgiving you could survey the names of God from the Psalms. Then you have a bigger picture of God and can express oneself better:

Identify the name of God; you can use your own description. It's more important that we know what it means, rather than just knowing the name. It's not necessary to do a study of the Psalm. For now, just do a survey – the name(s) of God, and some of the meaning of the name. Then share the names with the group before going to group prayer.

- Psalm 3
- Psalm 5
- Psalm 7
- Psalm 8
- Psalm 11
- Psalm 13
- Psalm 18
- Psalm 19
- Psalm 24
- Psalm 27

- Psalm 31
- Psalm 34
- Psalm 42
- Psalm 46
- Psalm 48
- Psalm 62

WORD: (45 minutes)

“The Holy Occupation of the Church: Prayer”

- **When Jesus spent time in prayer, there were results:**
 - Luke 6:12, 13, 17-19 – “Power was coming from him and healing them all.”
 - Luke 22:39-46 – Jesus struggles with the Father about his coming death
- **The disciples followed Jesus’ example:**
 - Acts 1:14 – Jesus’ followers were “constantly in prayer.”
 - Acts 4: 27-31 – “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke the work of God boldly.
- **Prayer is the holy occupation of the church:**
 - I Tim. 2:1 – “I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayer, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.”
 - Rev. 5:8 – The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”
- **We are never alone when we pray:**
 - Matt. 6:6 - We pray in the presence of the Father – “Close the door and pray to your Father”.
 - Heb. 7:25 - We pray with our Risen Lord. “He always lives to intercede for them.”
- **Prayer is power demonstrated in the life of our Master, Jesus:**
 - Mark 1:32-35 - **Against the power of darkness**
“He drove out many demons.....Very early in the morning...(he) went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”
 - Luke 5:16-17 – **Against sickness and disease**
“Jesus often withdrew...and prayed....and the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.”

- Mark 9:14-29 – **Against the power of unbelief**
“.....His disciples asked him (Jesus) privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

Things to ponder together: This is a pretty big sandwich!

- What was one of the teachings about prayer that hit you most powerfully?
- What was one of the teachings that were pretty new for you?
- If you were to grab onto one thing to pray more effectively, what would that be?

Oswald Chambers:

“He wants us to pray. Always and about everything... He wants us to **talk to Him**, but **not about Him**. He wants us to talk to Him about believers **before** we talk to unbelievers about Him. Prayer is our business, our only business. Prayer is our holy occupation. **Plain and simple.**”

- Is prayer really that important – our **only** business?
- What gets in the way?
- What could be baby steps we could take to make it our “only business”?
- **Allow time for prayers of confession where we are convicted about prayer.**

WITNESS: (15 minutes)

- Who are the family, friends, co-workers that are unbelievers that are on your heart?
- What is our level of urgency for these folks?
- **Take time to pray** to “talk to Him before we talk to unbelievers about Him.”