Prayer can accomplish what a willing God can accomplish. It is a beautiful, mysterious, and awe-inspiring gift. There is no greater privilege for anyone than being able to personally talk with and speak into the ears of Almighty God. There’s not an issue we’re facing that prayer cannot address because nothing is too difficult or impossible for God to handle. And there is no greater legacy we could embrace or leave behind us than one of faithfulness in prayer.

It should not surprise us, then, to discover that the greatest and most spiritually successful men and women in the Bible were always people of prayer. Abraham walked by faith but was guided by prayer, and the nations of the world have never been the same because of it. Isaac’s intercession on behalf of his barren wife resulted in the birth of Jacob, who became the father of the nation of Israel. (Gen. 25: 21) Moses spoke with God “as a man speaks to his friend,” receiving God’s guidance and revelation for his leadership decisions. (Exod. 33: 11) The world still has the Torah and the Ten Commandments as fruit of it.

David talked to God “morning, noon, and night” (Ps 55: 17 hcsb) and wrote the longest book in your Bible because of it. The Psalms are filled with a plethora of passionate prayers set to song. Nehemiah’s intercessions resulted in Israel miraculously rebuilding the city walls of Jerusalem in incredible time. You can visit this city, as we have, and see a portion of Nehemiah’s wall still standing today. Daniel so cherished talking with God that he prioritized it three times a day and was willing to give up his life rather than give up his prayer time.
From Joseph to Jeremiah, Hannah to Hosea, the Scriptures are replete with people who discovered God really does listen and respond to those who approach Him in faith. Elijah was basically a walking example of answered prayer and became an inspiration for New Testament believers. (James 5: 16– 18)

Yet Jesus Christ remains the ultimate model and Master of prayer. At His birth, Jesus and His family were greeted in the temple by Anna, a widow who served God in prayer day and night. At the start of His public ministry, He rose up out of the water at His baptism, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended “while He was praying”. (Luke 3: 21– 22)

Before choosing His disciples, Jesus spent all night in prayer to God. As they followed Him, they discovered His private habit was to rise early and pray before the sun rose. (Mark 1: 35) Even as His popularity was exploding, He would “often slip away to the wilderness and pray”. (Luke 5: 15– 16)

His first fully recorded sermon in the Scriptures explains the fundamentals of how to pray (Matt. 5– 7). He taught and challenged His first fully recorded sermon in the Scriptures explains the fundamentals of how to pray (Matt. 5– 7). He taught and challenged His followers to “watch and pray” (Mark 14: 38 nkjv) and to pray instead of giving up (Luke 18: 1). He angrily threw the money changers out of the temple, shouting, “My house shall be called a house of prayer” (Matt. 21: 13).

He gifted the world with the greatest model prayer of all time (Matt 6: 9– 13) and later prayed the most powerful high priestly prayer of all time (John 17).

Before His betrayal and crucifixion, Jesus knelt alone in the Garden of Gethsemane and prayed so deeply and desperately that His sweat literally became drops of blood (Luke 22: 44). Even while suffering in agony on the cross, He prayed out loud three times between His final breaths. Then after ascending into heaven, He sent His Spirit to fill believers and specifically call us to more effective prayer (Rom. 8: 15– 16). Now as our High Priest,
Jesus stands at the right hand of the Father and ever lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7: 23–28).

Andrew Murray wrote, “Christ’s life and work, His suffering and death, were founded on prayer—total dependence upon God the Father, trust in God, receiving from God, and surrendering to God. Your redemption is brought into being by prayer and intercession. The life He lived for you and the life He lives in you is a life that delights to wait on God and receive from Him. To pray in His name is to pray as He prayed. Christ is our example because He is our Head, our Savior, and our Life. In virtue of His deity and of His Spirit, He can live in us. We can pray in His name because we abide in Him and He abides in us.”

The launch of the New Testament church and all of Christian history can only be understood through the lens of powerful prayer. Peter constantly relied on it, and Paul was practically addicted to it (Phil. 1: 4–5; 1 Thess. 5: 17).

The greatest Christian missionaries of all time were also men and women of prayer. Hudson Taylor had an unprecedented impact on China in the late 1800s, resulting from his establishment of the China Inland Mission. He started 125 schools and introduced untold thousands of people to faith in Christ. In a book written by his son and daughter-in-law, they reveal that Hudson Taylor’s Spiritual Secret was that he obediently walked closely with God in prayer. Howard Taylor wrote of his father, “For forty years the sun never rose on China a single day that God didn’t find him on his knees.”

In England, a humble man named George Müller led the Ashton Down Orphanage in Bristol and took care of more than ten thousand orphans throughout his life. He did so without ever asking anyone for money. He would pray in secret and then watch God provide in public. When he died, he’d recorded detailed accounts of more than fifty thousand documented answers to prayer in his journals. His example and teachings on prayer have blessed millions around the world.
One of them was England’s great preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon. Thousands gathered each week to hear the powerful, expository messages of this “Prince of Preachers,” who taught and wrote extensively on the power of prayer. When visitors came through his New Park Street Church, he would often walk them to the basement prayer room where people were faithfully on their knees interceding to God for Spurgeon and their community. Spurgeon would declare, “Here is the powerhouse of this church.”

In the United States, John Wesley and Jonathan Edwards helped usher in the Great Awakenings in the 1700s that radically changed the culture of America from rampant wickedness to a contagious pursuit of God. Their strategy included preaching God’s Word while calling and uniting believers together in sincere, extraordinary prayer.

And these examples are only a drop in the ocean of people through the years who have found and experienced God on their knees.

We have each been given a rich legacy of the power and importance of prayer, both in Scripture and throughout Christian history. And these examples are only a drop in the ocean of people through the years who have found and experienced God on their knees.

We have each been given a rich legacy of the power and importance of prayer, both in Scripture and throughout Christian history. No church program, religious event, political effort, or humanitarian cause can trump the awesome power of what God can do in response to the prayers of His people. What would happen if believers and churches today followed the great people of the Bible and in Christian history and began to pray powerfully and effectively? What if we decided to get right with God and begin humbly seeking His face in faith for revival and spiritual awakening like they did during the first and second great awakenings? What might God do through us? Through you?

Are you ready to pray for it?

HOMEWORK:

1. What ‘LEGACY’ is?
   ✰ Law: A gift of properly, especially personal property, as money, by will; a bequest.
   ✰ Anything handed down from the past, as from ancestor or predecessor.

2. Your prayer can ______________________ what a willing God can ______________________.

3. It is a greater privilege for you who being able to ____________ with God and ____________ into the ears of the Almighty God.

4. You will discover that the greatest and most spiritually successful men and women in the Bible were always what?

THE LEGACY OF PEOPLE OF PRAYER:

✰ Abraham
✰ Isaac
✰ Moses
✰ David
✰ Nehemiah
✰ Daniel
✰ Joseph [son of Jacob]
✰ Jeremiah [the major prophet]
✰ Hannah [a mother of Samuel]
✰ Hosea [the minor prophet]
✰ Jesus Christ, the ultimate model and master of prayer
✰ Anna, the prophetess
✰ Jesus’ disciples
✰ Peter
✰ Paul
✰ The greatest Christian missionaries
✰ Hudson Taylor—his mission in China
✰ George Muller—his mission of Orphanage in England
✰ Charles H. Spurgeon—his church prayed for him
✰ John Wesley and Jonathon Edwards—the Great Awakenings in 1700’s
Romans 8:15 TLB—And so we should not be like cringing, fearful slaves, but we should behave like God’s very own children, adopted into the bosom of His family, and calling Him, “Father, Father”. For His Holy Spirit speaks to us deep into our hearts and tells us that we really are God’s children.

5. After Jesus went home with His Father, He sent His Spirit to fill you—the believers and specifically call you to more what?

Hebrews 7:23-28 TPT: As additional proof, we know there were many priests under the old system [Old Testament], for they eventually died and their office had to be filled by another. But Jesus permanently holds His priestly office, since He lives forever and will never have a successor! So He is able to save fully from now throughout eternity, everyone who comes to God through Him [Jesus], because He [Jesus—the High Priest] lives to pray continually for them. He is the High Priest who perfectly fits our need—holy, without a trace of evil, without the ability to deceive, incapable of sin, and exalted beyond the heavens! Unlike the former high priests, he [man] is not compelled to offer daily sacrifices. They had to bring a sacrifice first for their own sins, then for the sins of the people, but He finished the sacrificial system, once and for all, when He [Jesus] offered Himself. The Law appointed flawed men as high priests, but God’s promise, sealed with His oath, which succeeded the Law, appoints a perfect Son who is complete forever!

6. Andrew Murray commented:

☞ Christ’s life and work:
  ❘ His suffering and death,
    o were founded on ________________:
      ❘ total ________________ upon God the Father
      ❘ ________________ in God,
      ❘ ________________ from God,
and ______________________ to God.

Your redemption is brought into being by ______________ and _______________________.

The life He [Jesus] lived for you and the life He [Jesus] lives in you is a life that ______________ to wait on God and receive from Him.

To pray in His Name is to pray ______ He [Jesus] prayed.

Christ is our _______________ because He is our Head, our Savior, and our Life.

In virtue [power] of His deity and of His Spirit, He can live in us. We can pray in His Name because we ______________ in Him and He abides in us.

7. The launch [a heavy open boat propelled by oars or by an engine] of the New Testament church and all of Christian history can only be understood through the lens of ____________________________.

8. And these examples are only a drop in the ocean of people through the years who have found and experienced God on their ______________. Like Hudson Taylor commented “For forty years the sun never rose on China a single day that God didn’t find him on his knees.”

Y N NS: Are you willing to kneel your knees before God so you can find God and experience Him through your pray for your deaf church? or community? or deaf missionaries? or your pastor? or your city? How long?

9. You have been given a rich legacy of the power and importance of prayer, both Scripture and throughout Christian effective prayer warrior for what? _______________________

10. Y N NS: Can your church program, your religious event, your political effort, or humanitarian cause TRUMP [put down hard]
the awesome power of what God can do in response to the prayers of His people?

11. What would happen if you—believers and your church today follow the great people of the Bible and in Christian history and you—believers begin to pray powerfully and effectively?

12. What if you—your church people today decide to get right with God and begin humbly seeking His face in faith for revival and spiritual awakening like they did during the first and second awakenings [1700’s]? What might God do through us? Y N NS: And through you?

13. Y N NS: Are you ready to pray for it?

**PRAY:** Father, I come before You and thank You for the great legacy of prayer that has come before us. I ask You to pour out Your Holy Spirit on me and Your church. Draw me into a daily, more intimate (deep relationship with God) walk with You. May prayer become as natural to me as breathing, and may You work through my prayers to help bring about Your kingdom and Your will in my heart, my home, and my generation. In Jesus’ name, I pray, Amen. Dear Jesus Christ, the High Priest who forever lives to pray for me. I thank You that Your blood has redeemed me and made me as Your king and priest to ministering to Your Father who is in Heaven. Your example inspires me now today I totally depend upon You my God only and alone. I trust in You. I wait upon You. I receive the message from You alone. I totally surrender all myself to You. Allow the Holy Spirit who begins to work in me and pray through me. Now I abide in You continue and You abide in me. Teach me in Your powerfully praying way in me. Amen. Give me Your passion. Hallelujah to the Lamb. Amen.