

CAYA Series – “Understanding the Purpose and Power of Prayer”

CHAPTER 10 - “THE POWER OF THE WORD”

God wants to use His power in the world. However, for Him to do so, we must understand how to appropriate His Word. We must understand the power behind prayer: God’s Word, the name of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

The heart of prayer is asking God to intervene in the world to fulfill His eternal purposes for mankind. True prayer is calling forth what God has already purposed and predestined—the establishment of His plans for the earth. That means that whatever we ask God to do in our lives, in the lives of others, or in the world, must be based on His will. God’s purpose is to be both the motivation and the content for our prayers.

It is through God’s Word that we can know, believe, and agree in faith with God’s will. Without His Word, our prayers have no foundation. They are based merely on our opinions, desires, and feelings rather than on “the living and enduring Word of God” (**1 Peter 1:23**). Such prayers are powerless to effect change.

Prayer is actually very simple. It is speaking the Word to God exactly as He gave it to us. Our power in prayer is the Word of God. It’s our job to learn how to handle it properly and responsibly (**2 Timothy 2:15**).

GOD HIMSELF IS SPEAKING IN THE WORD

God Himself is speaking in the Word, because the Word is who He is (John 1:1). Therefore, God’s presence becomes a part of our prayers when we speak His Word in faith. The power of God’s Word is so great that if our faith is the size of a mustard seed, mountains can be moved.

THE WORD REVEALS GOD’S NATURE

Everything God says is a revelation of His character and purposes. That is why the fulfillment of His Word is a matter of personal integrity for Him. A cardinal principle of answered prayer is belief in the trustworthiness of the One to whom you’re praying. The Word will work in your life only as you believe it. If you do not believe Him, you reveal that you do not trust Him. Your belief is evidence that you trust God. Belief is trust in action.

THE WORD IS ALIVE

There is power in the Word because it is life itself: “The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life” (**John 6:63**). “The Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to the dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (**Hebrews 4:12**). The Word is alive—that’s how powerful it is!

If we want the Word to work powerfully in our lives, we have to make sure it is inside us. Jesus said, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide (are living) in you, you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you” (**John 15:7**). There are two conditions to answered prayer: “If you abide in Me,” and “If...My words abide in you.” Then what we ask for and desire will reflect His words. If you are filled with the Word, then you won’t ask for just anything you feel like. You will ask on the basis of His Word, which is the thing He watches over to fulfill.

THE WORD BUILDS FAITH

The Word is also powerful because it produces in us the thing that pleases God and causes Him to respond to our requests: faith. Faith is the result of dwelling in and on the Word of God. When the Word of God is lived and practiced in our lives, it becomes power to us. For the rest of your life, your goal should be to build your faith because the Bible makes it clear that faith is how we live: “The righteous will live by his faith” (**Habakkuk 2:4; 2 Corinthians 5:7**). You have to work on this thing call faith—faith in God and His Word. Your faith needs to be fed. Feed it by filling it with God’s Word, and then make sure you act on that Word.

Believing God is simply taking God at His Word, making requests based on His Word, and then acting as if you own the title deed to what He has promised. God says, “You aren’t supposed to live by what you see, but by what I told you” (**2 Corinthians 5:7**). That means what you know is more important than what you see. Much of what you see contradicts what you know from God’s Word. When you walk according to what you know, it will overcome what you see.

If you have faith in God’s Word, God will take what is ‘impossible’ and make it seem like an everyday thing. Your “problem” circumstance excites God because He knows you have to rely on faith, which will enable you to receive His promise. God knows what things look like to you. He gives you the promise ahead of the blessing so that when it comes, you’ll know it came from Him.

You can be sure God always hears your prayers—100% of the time—when you pray according to His will. Who does God hear when you pray His Word? He hears Himself. God will hear you when He hears the words He Himself has spoken. God watches over His Word to fulfill it.

God's plans for your life is even bigger than your plans. However, to enter into that plan, you have to believe in it and affirm it by what you say.

THE WORD SAYS MUCH ABOUT PRAYER

The Bible is the greatest book ever written about how God answers the faith-filled prayers of His people. **Hebrews 11:1** says the "the ancients" were commended for the fact that they did not live by what they could see but by what God told them. They believed and acted upon it, and it worked. The men and women of the Bible were not super-saints. They were people just like us. It is through the powerful examples of believers in the Bible that we are encouraged to have faith that God can and will intervene on our behalf.

THE WORD PREPARES THE PRAYER FOR PRAYER

The Word gives power in prayer by enabling us to prepare for it and maintain communion with God. **Psalms 119** tells us that when we wholeheartedly embrace the Word, it will keep our lives in line with God's will so that nothing will hinder us from walking in His ways and receiving answers to our prayers: "Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart. They do nothing wrong; they walk in his ways...I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (**vv. 2-3, 11**).

What a tremendous gift the Word of God is to us! It gives us the power to know and do the will of God, the power to pray with certainty and boldness in all situations, and the power to know that God hears us when we pray according to His will. "And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him" (**1 John 5:15**).

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father,

*You have said that those who hear the Word and receive it, those who allow it to sink into their hearts, are like good soil (**Matthew 13:23**). Yet the power is in the Word. It is the Word that will bring forth good*

fruit in us and spring up within us to everlasting life. We ask You to fulfill Your Word in our lives. Make us good soil that brings forth good fruit. Your Word has caused us to believe that you will answer prayer offered in faith and according to Your will. We set ourselves in agreement with You that everything we pray will be answered "yes." We will both expect and prepare for the answer. Give us the confidence that if You said it, You will do it; if You promised it, it will come to pass. Thank You for Your Word. Thank You for the faith that You have given us. Help us to expect a miracle. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our High Priest, who sits at Your right hand and intercedes for us. Amen.

[Individual/Small Group Activity]

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BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

What information presented in Chapter 10 impacted/influenced each team member the most? (It could be a principle, revelation, understanding, insight or obstacle, etc.)

1. Give your reflections on “the Word is alive” in any one the following scriptures: ***Deuteronomy 32:46-47; John 6:63; I Peter 1:23-25; Hebrews 4:12***
2. What does it mean to “abide in Jesus?” (*top of pg. 191*)
3. What does it mean to have His words abiding or living in you?
4. Give your reflections on living by faith in any one these scriptures: ***Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17, Galatians 2:20; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38, 2 Corinthians 5:7.***
5. What does it mean, “When you walk according to what you know, it will overcome what you see?”