

Perfecting Prayer—Dangerous Prayers (Praying Through) [Lesson 4-b]

Are We There Yet Sermon Notes: Pastor Mike Bayer VillageAlive.com

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Ready for Answered Prayer?

Dangerous Prayer: The kind that when answered makes you sorry you ever asked!

Examples:

Lord, teach me humility...

Lord, teach me how to trust you more...

Lord, show me how to be more like you...

KEY THOUGHT: Answered prayer is **SELDOM** the end of an issue. Why?—because life is a process that goes on until I breath my last breath. That is why I need to learn how to **PRAY THROUGH!**

From Fridays message
(left hand side of outline)

We must likewise be willing to 'press in' with **PRAYER** and **PRAY THROUGH** until we see the manifestation of answered prayer.

Exodus 14:13
Pharaoh behind the Red Sea in front!

1. The Israelites prayed a dangerous prayer and God answered them. *Exo 2:24*

Exo 2:23 Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. **Exo 2:24** So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. **Exo 2:25** And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged *them*.

God answered their prayer—but it was only the first step in a LONG process...

2. God's answer caused them to later wish they had never prayed and God had never answered. *Exo 16:3*

After crossing the Red Sea—God changed bitter water in to sweet they started complaining about no food.

Exo 16:2 Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. **Exo 16:3** And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat *and* when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Price of Answered Prayer

1. Like the Israelites, we don't know what our 'dangerous prayer' is going to require.
2. He may part a couple of seas to get us going but there is a good chance there will be a desert ahead.

We often forget that when we pray and God answers it will often require more faith to live the answer than it did to make the prayer in the first place.

What to Expect

1. Don't be surprised by the heat. *James 1:2-4*

Jam 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **Jam 1:3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. **Jam 1:4** But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

The Greek word for 'count it' is *hēgeomai* to *command* (with official authority); figuratively to *deem*, that is, *consider*: judge, have the rule over, suppose, think.

It is in my power to change my thinking—or perspective about the issues of my life. When I am going through a trial — I need to 'command' joy or make a personal judgment for JOY. I must DECLARE JOY over what I feel fearful of.

Caution: James does not suggest we live in denial about our problems—he simply is saying that we see them for what they are—opportunities to grow in Christ.

This is where I really NEED to pray through!

2. Often things get worse before they get better as freedom often takes longer than expected. *Daniel 10*

Dan 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message *was* true, but the appointed time *was* long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision. **Dan 10:2** In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. **Dan 10:3** I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

Dan 10:12 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. **Dan 10:13** But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

Daniel prayed through, with fasting and prayer for 21 days.

Because we have not seen the manifestation of answered prayer—do not be discouraged!

God is undertaking the answer from the FIRST day you started praying!!! But keep on praying....

3. Faith is tested to the breaking point so that it is proven unshakable and unbreakable. *Heb 11:6; Gen 22:12; Heb 11:17*

Abraham was a man of prayer and faith—he and God talked a lot.

Heb 11:6 But without faith *it* is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Gen 22:12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me."

Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*,

- When God answers DANGEROUS prayers—our FAITH may be tested beyond what we thought was possible. But without faith—it is impossible to please God.
- Answered prayer usually gives us temporary FAITH boost—but God demands more than **quick-fix prayer and faith**—He's in it for the LONG HAUL.

4. You may wonder if the pain you are enduring is worth it. (*It is*) At some point in time, this is how we'll see it:

*For our light affliction,
which is but for a moment,
is working for us a far more
exceeding and eternal weight
of glory, while we do not
look at the things which are seen,
but at the things which are not seen.
For the things which are seen are temporary,
but the things which are
not seen are eternal.
2 Corinthians 4:17-18*

Praying through is SERIOUS WORK...

A.W. Tozer

The Bible was written in tears and to tears it will yield its best treasures. God has nothing to say to the frivolous man. It was to Moses, a trembling man that God spoke on the mount, and that same man later saved the nation when he threw himself before God with the offer to have himself blotted out of God's book for Israel's sake. Daniel's long season of fasting and prayer brought Gabriel from heaven to tell him the secret of the centuries. When the beloved John wept much because no one could be found worthy to open the seven-sealed book, one of the elders comforted him with the joyous news that the Lion of the tribe of Judah had prevailed.