

Praying To Get Results

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Greeting | Introduction

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

[1 Corinthians 13:13]

Faith

My time on earth, in this body, is the only time that I will ever need to, by faith, trust God for anything. For when faith becomes sight, as I am face-to-face with Him, why would I need faith any longer?

Hope

My time on earth, in this body, is the only time that I will ever need to hope in God for anything. For when I see Him face-to-face what will I have to hope for, in Him I have everything?

Love

My time on earth, in this body, is the only time that I will be able to love the invisible God, whom I have not seen, for when I see Him face-to-face His love will be made perfect in me.

God is love! God is eternal! Therefore love is eternal! And that is why love is the greatest!

The love of Jesus Christ makes all things possible for us!

John has asked me to cover three topics tonight:

1. How to hear God
2. How to move in the Holy Spirit
3. How to get baptized in the Holy Spirit

My Biblical view is that, "It's all of God and therefore it's all of grace!"

How to hear God

- To hear someone you have to know his or her voice, and so to hear God you have to know his voice.

I know my wife's voice, I know my son Tony's voice, and I know my son Matthew's voice.

I know all of their voices because I have spent a lot of time with them, listening to them speak.

And I know God's voice no differently. I know Him through His word. And I know Him through prayer.

God is a communicator! (Hold up Bible) Does God want me to know Him? Absolutely!!!

So, because I realize the importance of hearing His voice, I have formed a plan for myself to read through the Bible each year. I have done so for over 30 years now. Guess what, I am still learning about Him, about His love, and grace, and mercy, and good intentions towards me. My daily prayer, "Show me wondrous things from your word! Speak to me through your word! I want to know you!" HE ALWAYS DOES!!! (Faith comes by hearing . . .)

So I have hidden His word in my heart. In other words, I have internalized God's word. It is the lamp to my feet, and the light to my path. God's word is my counselor and my guide. It's how I know the difference between good and evil, between light and darkness, between the truth and the lie, and between life and death.

The truth of God's word makes us free!!!

How important is it to know that?

In John 8:31 & 32, "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

According to this verse, what is it that makes you free?
It's the truth right?

Dear ones Jesus is saying it's the truth that you know that makes you free. And so as we continue to abide in God's word the truth is revealed to us.

Truth that we don't know cannot make us free!!!

Nor can we pray scriptures that we do not know!

So as I continue in His word I know His voice as opposed to all of the voices that are currently screaming out-loud in this upside-down world in which we are now living.)

Hear Jesus' word in John 10:1-5, **1"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."**

(My experience with sheep when on an Ireland Missions Trip)

How about the experience that Peter, James, and John had with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration?

Remember they saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus about His departure? So, Peter, who was always one to put his foot in his mouth, said, In John 17:4-8, "**Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.**" 5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!**"

6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. 7 But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." 8 When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

There is only one voice that we should be listening to today and that's the voice of JESUS!!!

I also know God's voice through prayer - There have been times for me when I became discouraged about praying so I foolishly stopped praying.

One day I was talking to the Lord about that, and I said to Him, "Lord I don't think that my prayers count for much."

He said right away, "Michael trust me, they count for more than you know! I want to hear from you!" Then He showed me a vision of 2 High Wingback chairs with a fireplace in between.

(Describe the meaning of the vision) I get up fairly early to pray and to devotionally read His word. My understanding of His heart towards our time together, has made it as easy as breathing for me calm my heart and soul as I sit with my most wonderful friend Jesus. I know His voice!!!

Here's what I can tell you about knowing God's voice through prayer:

1. Sometimes He will speak to me concerning my sin(s)
2. Sometimes He will give me instructions; things to do, or specific people or needs to pray for.
3. Sometimes He just likes to tell me that He loves me. (This Saturday past I was talking with Him how I have never believed in myself . . . He said to me, "Michael, I believe in you!") (School chart when I was growing up.)

In every case, the voice that I have come to know as God's voice never goes against His voice in the written word. As it is written, "**So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it**". (Isaiah 55:11)

He cannot deny Himself!!! (God is not a man . . .)

There was a day that I was praying, after having gone on a couple of mission's trips to Baja California (where I heard crying in the Spirit), and I heard the voice that I call God saying, "**Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?**" Of course that is the same word spoken by the Lord to the prophet Isaiah. (Isaiah 6:8b)

Was it God's voice or not?

All I know is that I responded to the voice and I ended up as a weekend missionary to Baja California for almost 12 years.

The voice that I heard in God's word is the same voice that heard in prayer.

The voice that I hear in the word and the voice that I hear in prayer never contradict one another. They are one voice!!! (Mexico; the widow's two mites) Luke 21:1-4 Was it God? Of course!

This is the safest test that I know for the question, 'is it God or not?

Test every voice that calls itself God, by the scriptures!

One more thing Church family, I believe that the voice that I heard, that said, "**Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?**" is a voice that was spoken to the general population. When I heard the voice, I didn't look over my shoulder to see who else heard it, but my response was, "**Here am I! Send me.**" No one else heard the voice, or if they did they either ignored it or discounted it. In all of those years that my wife and I went only a few groups came, so few that you could count them on one hand.

When you hear God's voice don't look over your shoulder to see if He is talking to someone else. **YOU RESPOND!!!**

I believe that hearing God's voice depends on the state of our ears, I. e. is our spiritual antenna tuned to God's Biblical frequency. Amen!

II. How to move in the Holy Spirit - Moving in the Holy Spirit is all about being filled with the Holy Spirit, and being yielded to the Holy Spirit.

"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8)

I am picturing my ministry life as a sailboat with its sail up and ready, and then letting the wind determine my course. (It's how I ended up a weekend missionary to Baja for all of those years) (I didn't even know the language and had to preach through an interpreter.) (Share about that)

EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE!!! People were saved, people were delivered, people were healed, people were fed, and people were clothed.

Isn't this what Jesus did, and also told His disciples to do?

Here are some important thoughts for us consider with regard to moving in the Holy Spirit, in prayer ministry:

Our Access

By the blood of Jesus, and through the veil of His flesh (Hebrews 10: 19 & 20) God has suffered a lot of pain to give us this access. (Adam and Eve's sin)

By praise and thanksgiving (Psalm 100:4)

Three Requirements For Answered Prayer/There are more

1. Have faith in God. (Mark. 11:22)
2. Have a believing heart. (Mark. 11:24)
3. Have a forgiving heart. (Mark. 11:25)

If these are in place we can expect to receive what we have asked for.

Preparation

- Don't give God your leftovers! (Matt. 6:33)
- Keep your heart cleansed (Luke 19:45 & 46) (Thieves out)
- Keep your sin account short/stay prayed-up (1 John 1:9)
- Ask to be in God's will (Matthew 26:42)
- Pray always in the Holy Spirit (Jude 1:20) (As opposed to the flesh)
- Ask for gifting (1 Corinthians 14:1a) (packages in heaven)
- Pray effectively with fervency (James 5:16b) How? (Always pray for others as though you are praying for your own needs; Sally's operation)
- Pray consistently (Ephesians 6:18) (Until He says, "My grace . . .")
- Prayer journal (1 Samuel 7:12) (Ebenezer Stones)

What I am about to say next about praying I don't have to think about; it has become like breathing is to me.

1. I know whom I am praying to, and why I can pray to Him.
2. I believe that He wants to hear from me.
3. I believe that if I am yielded to His Holy Spirit that I can pray according to His will. And along with that, if I don't know how to pray, the Holy Spirit will pray according to the Father's will, for me.
4. I believe that He wants to lovingly be gracious and merciful to me and to those that I am praying for.
5. I remind myself of these truths; God is love! God is good! God is merciful! God is faithful! God is powerful! And, God is for me!
6. I trust Him with the results. I am only responsible to pray in faith, and am not responsible for the outcome.

7. I do prayer-closet prayer, I do group prayer, and I do hands-on prayer. In each case I'm praying to the same God.
8. I am mindful that I pray on two levels or plains; the temporal, and the spiritual, that is, I gather information how to pray in two ways:
 - a. The temporal: I get information on how to pray on the temporal level, or plain, by simple observation, by questioning, and by personal life experience. (Lame man in the pool of Bethesda) (Example: One Sunday) (Missionary from Mexico at Men's Prayer meeting)
 - b. The spiritual: I get information from the Holy Spirit, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit on how to pray and what to pray for. These gifts include but are not limited to the following; **word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discerning of spirits, prayer of faith, and prophecy.** (Woman at the well of Samaria) John 4:3-32 (Example: the same Sunday) (Missionary from Mexico/word of knowledge & word of wisdom) (Men's prayer meeting/brother getting married)
9. I am available to pray 24/7 365. I offer myself as a living sacrifice, daily. I ask for the mind of Christ that loves, obeys, and serves Him only. I ask that I not have a judgmental, critical, or condemning spirit.
10. I always thank Him for His answers
11. I thank Him for sending Jesus who makes prayer possible.

Praying in Prayer Teams

Why Teams

Unique gifts/experiences

More power - Two are better than one (Ecclesiastes 4:9,10 & 12; Mark 6:7; Luke 10:1)
 (Example: Ireland vacation for Judi and I) (Visit to Mental Hospital; Sheep Breeders wife)
 (Judi's word of knowledge, my word of wisdom)

Who?

Spirit filled, loving, compassionate, bible-believing people who know who they are in Christ
 (Acts 19:13-16) (Seven son's of Sceva)

How?

With God (Joshua 23:10)

One by one (order/unity 1 Corinthians 14:40)

Prayer Etiquette/Do's and Don'ts of Hands-on and group prayer

1. Keep prayer time a sanctuary; do not disclose anyone's prayer requests, sins or anything they may share, with anyone else.
2. Remember, that as pray-ers, we are only temporary assistants to the Holy Spirit. The outcome is up to God and not to us.
3. Use appropriate conduct when praying for the opposite sex. Men should never pray for women alone. Women should never pray for men alone. Sometimes women should only pray for women and men should only pray for men. Discernment and wisdom will know the difference. (1 Corinthians 14:40)
4. Watch where you are placing your hands when laying on hands. We are to avoid even the appearance of evil. (1 Corinthians 14:40)
5. Never disagree in prayer with another's prayers. It quenches the Spirit and breaks the power of exponential unity, that is in group prayer. (Acts 1:14) It is not necessary to repeat what someone else has prayed. What is necessary is agreement.
6. Pray the scriptures and plead the blood.

In Isaiah 59:16, it is written, **"Then the LORD saw it . . . And wondered that there was no intercessor."**

I pray that will not be written of us. Amen.

Prayer, effective prayer, takes time and energy. (Don't hurry)

Pray the scriptures and plead the blood! For this is a principle that is a sure recipe for success in our prayer lives. (Jesus did on the cross as He was bleeding) (In Matthew 27 He was quoting Psalm 22)

Remember that two of the requirements for answered prayer are having faith in God and having a believing heart.

I think that what the Holy Spirit wants us to grasp is the interconnectedness of our having faith in God, and believing that we have already received that which we have asked for.

In other words "Having faith in God" is a faith in action that believes God, and by the eye of faith, sees that which has been asked for as though it already exists and before it exists to our physical sight.

So the principle could be stated, “IF YOU PRAY FOR RAIN CARRY AN UMBRELLA!” (I was teaching this principle to the Marriages)

Carrying the umbrella after I have prayed for rain is an object lesson of what faith in action looks like.

Amen!

How to be baptized in the Holy Spirit

We receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit the same way that we receive Salvation. It's by grace through faith! Again, it's have faith in God.

Dear ones, its all grace!!!

[Luke 11:9-13]

9 “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

This is a foregone conclusion for us . . . It is readily available to all who ask.

SO, JUST ASK!!!

“How much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Let us by faith, hope and love lift up our souls to receive His anointing along with His good gifts!

I believe that Father God wants to have a prayer ministry time with us.

Heavenly Father, In Jesus' name we ask that You rain down on us with the Holy Spirit.

Let's pray!