

FAST Lesson 4C: A Real Man Builds Relationships – Corporate Prayer

John Kain, 2009

- I. Prayer is mentioned in the first book of the bible when men began to call out to God, and it is also highlighted in the last book of the bible as precious to Jesus and as part of the offerings of worship to him.
- II. Prayer is both talking to and listening to God. It may involve our expressions of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, or a request for things that we want for ourselves or for others.
- III. Why pray? Because God has chosen to meaningfully engage his people in the process of accomplishing his goals. He has factored our prayers and his will into one plan (see FAST Lesson 5D for a discussion of how God's will and our free will can operate together).
- IV. When we pray we are not controlling God's actions or manipulating his power. By prayer we express our dependency on God and submit ourselves to his will.
- V. We successfully connect with God in prayer when we approach him with contrition (deep and genuine feelings of remorse for past sins), wholeheartedness (unreserved enthusiasm and commitment to him), faith (devotion and trust in him), righteousness (justifiable and correct motives), obedience (compliance with his ways), and clear thinking (capable of using our mind to reason or reflect).
- VI. Prayer is not talking to each other, it is talking with God. But prayers spoken out loud to God in a gathering of believers are powerful. When fathers and sons agree together in prayer, powerful outcomes can be expected.
- VII. An authentic man prays out loud with other believers – confident and yet humble, concise and yet complete, he addresses God with others who are also seeking him.

“Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time **men began to call on the name of the LORD.**” (Genesis 4:26)

“And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden **bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**” (Revelation 5:8)

“**Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.**” (1 Chronicles 16:11)

“**Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;** knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7)

“Again, I tell you that **if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.**” (Matthew 18:19)

“if my people, who are called by my name, will **humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.**” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

“**Delight yourself in the LORD** and he will give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)

“You will seek me and find me when you **seek me with all your heart.**” (Jeremiah 29:13)

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, **believe that you have received it,** and it will be yours.” (Mark 11:24)

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. **The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.**” (James 5:16)

“Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, **we have confidence before God** and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.” (1 John 3:21-22)

“The end of all things is near. Therefore **be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.**” (1 Peter 4:7)