

## The healing Prayer

How to deal with pain? It's been an interesting ride over the last few weeks. Let's start at the beginning. I am in a life group at church. This particular group loves to focus on the Bible. Our Pastor is special. He has lived the Spirit filled life. This man has seen miracles and lived on the edge for God. It's no wonder that he has been teaching us on healing. Not just healing but how the Bible offers us healing. Trust me when I say there have been some interesting conversations.

I suppose there is a good reason why I don't go for prayer very often. I'd like to think that God is not a dispenser of what we are praying for. If the Lord knows then why pray. Yet, prayer is somehow more than that. Although God knows, we are to pray. It's not a command but a conversation. I do believe that prayer has a way of giving us clarity more than God doesn't know. What if the answer is clear but we can't see it? Maybe praying to God is a rhetorical question. If I was a betting man, prayer is the act of wanting the Lord more than wanting to fight through things myself. I can do a better job of seeing what God sees.

With all this said, I have a mouth problem. The pain has been dandy. I did go for prayer so it must have been a doozy. Two pastors and my wife prayed for me. I do talk with God a ton. Yet, I did not fast or do the things some people do it get clarity. There is a piece of my spiritual life that I refuse to let help me. In our group, a man felt that older people should not be offered healing. They are dying anyways so why bother. Yet, why not offer hope, comfort, and joy in your last days? Is the fear of death or struggling pain a reason not to seek help from God?

What does God say? Hebrews 4:6 *"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* There are hundreds of

prayer verses. Do you want to claim healing or power? Yet, why are you praying? Is it to gain for yourself? What if God wants us to ask because only, He can act? I know someone who does not believe in medical help. Yet, God could send you an antidote or a doctor? He could just heal you. What if perseverance was key. Your story helps another person's life? I have been studying prayer in the Bible. It seems that most of it elevates God and gives Him permission to be God. Our joy and comfort are in knowing God is good and God loves us. Something will happen when we pray.

I read Psalm 91. I do believe God is working on my prayer. Yet, I suspect He is working on my faith more. It's simple: trust in the Lord. I think that half the time we just don't trust enough. Does everything have to be a miracle? What if the declaration "God is patient and slow to anger means something?" What if some prayer takes time? I am healed a little. Yet, it needs more time. My mouth has received answers that are favorable. However, total healing will take time even if I want it now. In reality, the pain is moving in the right direction. God is acting.

So, do I still need to pray? God is clearly working on my request. I say yes. Continue to conversate with God. What if turn left here will be followed by turn right there? Is the answer you seek just one way to get the job done? I read the story of a young man who was consumed with dating. He wanted to be married. One day his girlfriend dumped him. This boy was devastated. He was in ministry and was silently crying in a closet in his office. He could not see that his future wife was just down the hall at another desk. What if the real answer is piggy backing on the first answer?

I love songs that say God gives hope a place to stand. That if we step out in faith before He answers? That good things will come to those who pray. The Bible is full of those statements. Yet, underneath it all is prayer. Time with God alone. Jesus asked us to pray in private to not be

seen. Yet, we think that is more noble than in public. I feel that we miss the point. Praying in private limits distractions. What if the intent of your prayer changed when you're not distracted? On the other side what if public prayer is a declaration to the world that God is your source. That we need other Christians to come along side of us. To live in community like God desires. I like it that my pastor said one person + one person + God makes one.

In the end, we need to take us out of the prayer life. Look at these statements. "I don't deserve prayer." "I will only pray when I need it." "God will only act when I am faithful." Maybe you should kneel or wear a cloth over your head. What if I pray in private? What if I seek the Lord. Ok, the letter "I" is all over those phrases. What if taking your focus off the "I" is the real answer. That talking with God all the time is the key. To know His voice because it's mainly quiet. To know that God is always listening and working. Maybe just knowing God is good, faithful, and trustworthy is enough. Why was Jesus sleeping during the storm on the boat? It's because God's character was never in doubt. How did Jesus know that? It's because He had prayed before and rested in faith that God will be God. Maybe it's time you prayed about why you pray before trouble forces your hand.