

“The Power of Praying Together”
“Seeking God”— Part 4
Matthew 18:19-20

1. The importance of asking

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

...You do not have, because you do not ask God.

James 4:2

**“God will usually not answer prayers
that don’t get prayed.”**

2. The power of two or three

"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. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:19-20

...they raised their voices together in prayer to God...

Acts 4:24

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 4:31

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

Acts 12:5

3. Exercising spiritual authority

..."All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

John 14:12-13

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7

**“Could it be we often forget to pray for
spiritual power, more love, and self discipline?”**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:10-12

**“Spiritual warfare is at play
far more often than we think.”**

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Ephesians 6:13-18

The Belt of Truth:

The Breastplate of righteousness:

Feet fitted with the gospel of peace:

Shield of Faith:

Helmet of salvation:

Sword of the Spirit:

Prayer:

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Colossians 4:2-4

“Seeking God”

Personal and Small Group Study

Read: Matthew 7:7-8 and James 4:2

1. What does it say to you when Jesus uses repetition of thought, at the same time using different words when you read Matthew 7:7-8? (ASK, SEEK, KNOCK) Is Jesus emphasizing importance or something else?

2. Have you ever had things you know you needed to pray about that went un-prayed for? Did you rationalize, “God knows what I need so He can take care of it even if I don’t pray about it.”?

Why are Matthew 7 and James 4 so important for our prayers and our lives? What is there in the power of asking?

Read: Matthew 18:19-20

3. What have you noticed are the benefits of praying with other people?

4. When you are praying with others, have you noticed that others sometimes pray differently about the same situation? How has that affected your prayers?

Read: Ephesians 6:10-18 and 2 Corinthians 2:3-4

5. How often are you aware of the spiritual battle taking place around you? Is the armor of God useful to you or just a good Sunday School lesson? What practical tools did you hear from Amy Williams? What new tool will you put into practice?

“Prayer lays the ground work, softens the soil, pushes back the enemy, and brings Jesus into the fight. Prayer engages the battle on the spiritual level. Prayer is evidence that we are not doing things in our own strength. We can do all things through Christ and that is the power of prayer.”