

## A Pastor's Heart

### Encouragement from Pastor McGill

#### Did you Really Pray Today?

**Ephesians 6:18** *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

I believe this is an area that can be improved in almost every Christian life. We talk about prayer and we know we need to pray but how many people really pray following the biblical examples in scripture? As a young boy I would just repeat the words and not really believe that anything would happen. I hoped a lot but really had no faith that what I would pray would actually happen. I prayed because I was supposed to pray. So did I really pray? As my relationship grew with the Lord and I began to get into much trouble, I began to seek God and solicit His help to get me out of various situations. It was through suffering, pain, sorrow and bad choices that I began to seek knowledge in this area. By receiving correct biblical teaching I finally learned how to really pray. First I prayed from my heart. We must be real with God about what's in our heart. We must make sure that we have nothing against another person in our heart when we pray.

*Mark 11:24-25...Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them....And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*

No act that a person has committed against you is worth you losing favor with God. Let it go and truly forgive them in your heart. If you still get a negative emotion when you think about them, you haven't forgiven them. It's like being delivered. The things you have been delivered from, you can testify about. Those things that you haven't let go of; you still carry the guilt and shame and don't want to talk about it. Let it go today. It's a form of bondage.

Secondly, I believe what I am praying for will manifest at the right time. This belief produces an image in my mind that I can see. I see my prayer going to the throne of God and I see it not returning void. I pray until I see it return. It is this kind of praying that has produced results in my life. This is the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous that avails much. **James 5:16**

Finally, I make sure that my prayer is not selfish. Remember Hannah's prayer for a male child did not manifest until she was willing to give him to God. The blessing of God always benefits more than a single person. Take time out today to REALLY Pray! Make it a great day.

**Blessings and Peace,**

*Pastor McGill*