

GREATER BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

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BIBLE STUDY TOPIC: PRAYER THAT GETS RESULTS

Scripture: Joshua 1:7-9

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- I. Are you receiving favorable results in your prayer life?
 - Negative results in prayer are when one prays apart from the Word of God.
 - A lack of confidence in prayer comes from not knowing God's Word.
 - God does not respond to emotionalism and repetition; He responds to His Word.
- II. Prayer is probably one of the most misunderstood and potentially frustrating topics because many people don't know how to get results when they pray.
 - The simplicity of prayer has been lost in many people's lives and turned into a religious tradition that has a form but no real power.
 - Prayer is not meant to be a burden or to be used as a badge of holiness. Instead, it is a gift from God that, when used properly, should yield great victory in your life.
- III. In many cases, the missing element in prayer is confidence.
 - But why do people lack confidence in prayer?
 - Because they don't know the will of God concerning their prayer request.
 - God's will is simply another way of describing what God wants to have happen. It is what He desires for your life as outlined in His Word.
 - If you don't know God's will for your life, you will tolerate the life you have when it could be so much better.
- IV. There are only two places to go to discover what God wants for your life- the Bible and His presence.
 - When we pray, our prayers must line up with His Word. The only prayer that God will hear and answer is a prayer that is based on what He has said in His Word.
 - For example, if you need healing, instead of asking God to heal you, begin to confess **1 Peter 2:24**, which declares that the stripes of Jesus have already healed you. If it is financial prosperity that you need to become a reality in your life, find scriptures on wealth and declare them in faith.

V. Your first step in prayer is to discover the promises of God in the Bible.

- Then you can release your faith by saying it in prayer.
- Jesus walked in the most powerful ministry ever known to man because He practiced the presence of God and had a strong prayer life.
- The scripture says He often took time away from other people to pray and spend time with the Father (**Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12; Luke 9:18**).
- This was one of the keys to His ability to perform miracles and other great works.

VI. Joshua 1:8 says, **Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.**

- Simply repeating the scriptures is not enough. The key to success in your prayer life is meditation.
- To meditate on the Word is to ponder, murmur, or consider it in your mind until you have gotten revelation out of it.
- When you discover the deeper meaning behind a scripture, and God speaks to you personally about it, you have the ammunition to take it with you in your prayer time and boldly release your faith when you confess it.

VII. People often get confused and frustrated because they don't know what God has already said in His Word.

- How can you pray for healing when you don't know God wants you to heal? How can you believe God for an increase in your finances if you don't know God wants you to prosper? The truth is, you can't.
- When you don't know what God has said about your situation, your prayers will be fear-based and won't get results.
- The beauty of prayer is its simplicity. Prayer is simply saying to God what He has already said in His Word.

VIII. The Bible covers every problem that you will ever have.

- What does God's Word say about your bills, marriage, and children? Find out what God says, and then your prayers will be effective.
- Many people cancel their prayers once they've prayed according to the Word because they look to their circumstances to see if anything has happened right away.

- However, just because your problem or situation hasn't immediately changed, it should not hinder your confidence that God has heard and answered the prayer you prayed according to His Word.
- Finally, the most powerful prayer comes from the heart of a person who knows that God loves him or her enough to answer the request they've made.
- It's ridiculous to think prayer will yield results if you don't believe the God you're praying to, first, loves you.
- Even naturally, a child who doubts his or her parents' love will be hesitant to ask for or expect things from his or her parent.
- God loves you and gives you His Word so that you can have great results in your prayer life. Pray confidently in the Word, knowing God loves you and will answer your prayers.