



The Power of Prayer

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Focus If we will pray according to God's kingdom and for God's glory, then God's power will operate through us.

Open What was your favorite childhood toy or game?

Read The Lord's Prayer is a pattern that teaches us how to pray. The portion to memorize for this is week is the second part of Matthew 6:13: "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

Prayer is about the kingdom of Heaven. Acts 1:1-6 shows us that Jesus' disciples had a hard time understanding the kingdom of Heaven. Even after spending three and a half years with Jesus, witnessing His death and resurrection, and spending forty more days with Him, they were still looking for their own importance in an earthly kingdom. We have the same tendency to think that life is about us. If we want to see God's power released through our prayers, we must come to the place where it's not about us, but about God and His kingdom.

We live for God's kingdom only through His power. Like the disciples in the New Testament, we receive God's power and boldness when we are filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; Acts 4:31). We are filled with the Holy Spirit when we pray. We must pray to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit each day.

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, God gives each of us gifts (things that we are good at) to be used for the honor and glory of God (1 Peter 4:11). When people honor us and try to give us glory as we minister in those gifts,

we need to follow Jesus' example and turn the glory back to our Heavenly Father. "For of him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen" (Romans 11:36).

Talk

1. Practice reciting Matthew 6:9-13 together as a group. Say it together aloud.
2. Can you relate to the disciples' difficulty in understanding that our lives are about the kingdom of God? What are some actions and attitudes that come from a self-focused life? On the other hand, what are actions and attitudes that show a kingdom-focused life?
3. Which of the following describe you?
 - a) I don't know much about the Holy Spirit.
 - b) I want to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
 - c) Sometimes I take the Holy Spirit for granted.
 - d) I usually pray daily to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
4. Read Acts 1:8 and Acts 4:31. Tell the group about a time that you or someone else prayed or spoke God's word boldly. What happened as a result?
5. God's gifts are about His purpose, through His power, and for His praise. What are some of the gifts God has given to various members of your group? Now thank God and give Him glory for the gifts He has given so that we can minister to each other.

Live

In what area of your life do you need to pray for God's will to be done by the power of the Spirit? Commit to praying about it every day this week. Make notes in your journal as you see God begin to change this area of your life. Be prepared to tell the group about answered prayers!

Pray

Thank God for bringing you into the kingdom of His Son. Praise Him for giving you the Holy Spirit, His power and His gifts. Ask Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit again today.