

Experiencing Power Through Prayer

“Power For Fulfillment”

(Part 3)

Intro: Be the Fuel video: Prayer is the fuel that empowers us to fulfill all God has called us to be and do! So, what does it look like to pray so that we spiritually fulfill God’s agenda?

- **Webster:** Fulfill = to bring into actuality – to carry out. As a follower of Christ, there are just certain things we are to fulfill...certain spiritual realities we are to bring into actuality in this life. To not just talk about what God could do, but to be used by God to fulfill what He desires in our generation. To be tools for His Kingdom purposes.

II Thess. 1:11 “So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.” (NLT) If our faith is prompting us, we need to realize that this is God prompting us. What will God prompt us to do? To fulfill?

- There are 3 key areas of responsibility that God wants to empower our lives to fulfill. Praying for the power to accomplish / fulfill these tasks is how we partner with God.
- Let’s not leave the work of God unfinished! Let’s be committed to its fulfillment. 3 ways to pray for power for fulfillment.

I. Pray for Power To Fulfill God’s Will

- Notice the power of praying God’s will.

I John 5:14-15 “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” (NIV)

- This is an amazing promise, yet this verse makes it very clear that the power of answered prayer is praying according to His will. How does one do this? What’s God’s will? Isn’t that rather confusing? That’s easier said than done?

A. God’s word is His will for your life

II Tim 3:16-17 “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” (NLT)

1. God’s will doesn’t have to be such a mystery. He wrote it down for us. When you are reading the pages of scripture you are reading the will of God for your life. As it describes relationships / your marriage / purpose / values / peace / stress / money / forgiveness / use of your time / you can know with absolute confidence this is God’s will for your life!
2. This is not a book filled with the suggestions of God. It is a book filled with the absolute truth of the word of God that will NEVER fail you if you choose to follow it.

Jer. 1:12 "The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, because I am watching to make sure my words come true." (NCV)

3. God is out there making sure His word comes true. Making sure it fulfills everything it says it does. Empowering those who follow it to accomplish and experience every promise on every page.
4. The more you know of God's word the more focused your prayers can become. The better you can pray. The more confidence you can pray with. The more expectation you can pray with.
5. You can know without any doubt that you are praying right in the middle of the will of God if you know the word of God! You can pray with confidence knowing He hears / sees / and is going to answer! Knowing there is power.

B. Praying God's word results in power for fulfillment

Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." (NLT)

1. The word of God is a supernatural book. It's alive...it's powerful...it's sharp. The bible doesn't have power because the words are like some magical incantation. The word of God has power and authority in the natural realm and in the spirit realm because it is the literal word of God.
2. Because God spoke it, His word carries power and authority to fulfill...to bring into actuality. Therefore, praying the word of God results in power...even unleashes God's power to fulfill His will. King David understood this...

Ps. 119:147-148 "I rise early, before the sun is up; I cry out for help and put my hope in your words. I stay awake through the night, thinking about your promises." (NLT)

3. Praying God's word is how we do this. It is how we put our hope in God's word...it is how we think about His promises. It is how we can pray with such boldness and confidence because we know God wants this to be a reality. Praying is how we partner with what God already wants to do.

II Peter 1:4 "And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires." (NLT) See the power of His promises?

4. With confidence we need to grab these promises and ask God to fulfill them in our lives and in lives of the people around us. I can't tell you how many times I have reminded the Lord of His promises when things get tough. "Lord, remember...You promised!" (When Lisa and I were down to our last \$1.50.)
5. Walking in God's will is not an easy course to follow or fulfill, BUT it's much more attainable as we pray in agreement with what God wants to do. That's where we experience the power.

- Provide a list of promises to pray. Copies are on the table in the hallway.

II. Pray for Power To Fulfill Your Destiny

Jer. 29:11-13 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (NIV)

- God has a specific plan for your life...a destiny He wants you to discover, walk in and fulfill. How do we do this?
 - A. Pray that God would open your eyes to see it

Ps. 119:18 "Open my eyes to see the miracles in your teachings." (NCV)

 1. So many people just simply refuse to believe what God has plainly declared in His word. They choose to keep their eyes shut to the miraculous word of God. They see scriptures like Jer. 29 and think they apply to everyone else but themselves.
 2. Some people have their eyes shut to their destiny because they never knew they had one, while others choose to keep their eyes shut for fear they will have to rearrange their life in order to follow it. Both people live a life without power.
 3. It is humility that opens our eyes to see what God has in store for us.

James 4:10 "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor." (NLT) Humility says, "Lord, my life is yours...I'll follow whatever your agenda is for my life...I will embrace whatever it is you want to show me."
 4. This is the response where God's lifts us up to see and walk in the destiny He has for us. Many people complain and say, "I don't know what God wants me to do? What is my destiny? My response would be "Are you surrendered?" Why should God reveal something to you that is precious and amazing when you have no intention of submitting to it anyway?
 5. If you really desire to fulfill your destiny God has for you, humble yourself before Him and ask Him to open your eyes. You just may be amazed at what He shows you!

Eph. 2:10 "He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing." (Message)
 6. Why would you want to miss out on joining Jesus in the work He does?

B. Pray that God would enlarge your heart to follow it

I Cor. 2:9 "That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." (NLT) Not just in the next life but in this one too!

1. The destiny that God has for each of us will always be beyond anything we thought or imagined. It will be tailored made just for you with your gifts / abilities / and your potential in mind...yet it will also be God-sized. It will never be something you could accomplish without God in your own strength.
2. We have to get past telling ourselves what we're not capable of. This is natural

thinking. We constantly look at ourselves in the natural instead of the spirit. We evaluate ourselves by measuring our human resources and then draw the wrong conclusions. “I could never do that!” (If I had a dollar...)

3. This is why we need to pray that God would enlarge our minds / hearts / and our wills to follow it. My life is an example of this. I grew up in this town – had a very small and limited perspective about God and myself – Over the years of following His plan for my life, God has just obliterated my old thinking! (explain)
 - God just continue to enlarge my thinking (How I think about the ministry of Foothills and all God wants to do just keeps getting bigger!)
 - We may live in small town USA, but we don’t have a small town God. And His destiny for your life will be beyond anything you thought. Therefore pray for the power to fulfill everything God asks you to do.

III. Pray for Power To Fulfill The Impossible

James 5:16-18 “The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.” (NLT)

- This is a great example of impossible praying. Not that we should be praying for droughts (although in Oregon in February, the thought has crossed my mind), but it’s an example of prayer having great power!

A. God loves impossible praying

- Why do I say that?

Eph. 3:20 “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,” (NIV)

 1. This is who God is. This is what God likes to do. If we are ever going to experience these results from God, how is this going to happen praying weak anemic prayers that expect nothing (or very little) from God?
 2. Praying for things that seem impossible to us in our humanness is a demonstration of our faith / it reveals what we believe about God / it reflects what we believe about our role in this life. And I believe God loves it!
 3. 2 weeks ago I used the phrase; “Pray big or go home”. If we want to see God’s power for the impossible, then we need to pray big! God’s just waiting for a group of people to have the faith to pray big so He will demonstrate His power in impossible situations.
- Let’s be that group of people! I don’t want God to have to look anywhere else. Why do I say this?

B. God has called us to an impossible mission

- Foothills exists to do the impossible through the power of our great God!

- Our purpose statement is impossible: (share) 1000's of unchurched? There is approx. 28,000 unchurched people in a 10 mile radius around Molalla. That's impossible!
 1. The impossible is happening already. Why do I say this? What I am about to share is not to toot our own horn folks. God has accomplished all this. He birthed this church and He is sustaining this church. Anything good has come from Him not from our ingenuity.
 2. No church in the history of Molalla has traveled where we are going. (2 weeks ago I talked about our role as God's point of the spear)
 - No church has ever grown to our numbers nor anticipated future growth.
 - No church has ever made inroads into the community.
 - No church has ever had the influence that God has given us.
 - No church has ever set out to have a ministry for every need in our community.
 - No church has ever embraced the impossible mission of complete community transformation (not about just getting people to come)
 - This community has yet to see a church so sold out to this that we pray until it happens!

II Chron 7:14-15 "Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place." (NLT)

3. This is a promise I take to the bank. "God, you promised!"
 4. I have a sense that we are only the verge of another move of God here at Foothills and in our community. It is time for us to fulfill the next stage of our journey with Jesus!
 5. It is going to require us to pray like never before. It is going to require us to live by faith. It is going to require tremendous trust. This is why we have to pray. This is not going to be the time when we stumble and fall as a church. It's time to pray for the power to fulfill!
- I close by inviting you to some prayer events scheduled for this summer.
 - July 21st Worship and Prayer event
 - July 28th Pray on site
 - Aug 4th Pray off site