

# Prayer School!

## Part 1: "First and Foremost Prayer!"

Video: Without prayer

Never in modern history has it been so important to be connected to God thru "prayer..." To be able to clearly "see" the madness sweeping in on society, government, even the church... To clearly know the mind of God and to "see" what He would have us do in response to our times!

### Two Orders of Business:

USPC highlighted Dr. Ed Young Sr. and his call to his congregation to make their voices heard regarding Christian persecution by ISIS... [president@whitehouse.gov/contact/](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov/contact/) Comments line: 1-202-456-1111 The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Av NW, Washington, D.C. 20500

Midlothian update: Relaunched in October w/12... up to forty! \$200 in the hole... now \$17k in the bank! Big "givers"/believe in the project. Rapid population growth! In town jobs center on the three concrete plants ("Concrete Capital of Texas")... The rest are commuters to Dallas/Ft. Worth... Scheduled community launch in newer facilities, Fall 2015

### Getting Schooled on prayer... Most often, prayer is thought about, in terms of...

**Prayer closets:** "When you pray, don't be like the actors, for they love to pray out in the open to be seen by men. They have all the reward they're going to get. When you pray, enter into your closet, shut the door and pray to your Father which is in secret and He will reward you openly!" **Mt 6.6** We heard: "Enter in, shut the door and pray to your Father *which is in secret* and He will reward you openly!" **Mt 6.6** And took it to mean *a place* of prayer, which Jesus didn't know anything about! Highways, mountains, valley's, pathways, dialed in/shut in with God! He was talking about *a contrast, a quality and the focus* of the pray-er!

**If you don't have an inner, intimate, prayer life with God we don't really care about your public persona!**

**Hour of power:** "What, couldn't you pray with Me for one hour?" **Mt 26.40** We make it about *time*... when He makes it about *compassion, sympathy, need!* That was just His first hour... He prayed two more times/unknown time! Just another demonstration that the spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is tempted to weakness!

Temptation... If I can just make it thru an hour of praying, I will have "PERFORMED" well! Prayer isn't about a performance! If I perform well, I will be loved by God and honored by men! When we respond to God's love for us, by drawing near, *His presence makes deposits in us that men can see and will honor!* "Submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you! Draw near to God!" **Jam 4.7,8**

**Formulated prayers:** "Our Father!" **Lk 11** "When you pray say..." is the response to "Teach us to pray" not "Give us a prayer!" **They already had dozens of ritual prayers... They wanted the power they clearly saw released in Jesus connection to God!** And Jesus taught them, and showed us, the way to tap in...!

**"Our Father..."** What a radical idea that was for them! These were the people who wouldn't even say the name "God" for *respect*... Fearful of *misuse!* Penned Him "Elohim." Called Him "Adonai." Jehovah/Yahweh (YHWH) too sacred! Never considered calling Him "ABBA!" "When you pray SAY, Our Father..." Signaled a very different day! But this was the secret of Jesus power... Connection with God, hearing His voice, carrying out His will... *communication!* So different from *petitions of prayer!*

**And Jesus was connecting US with GOD as our Father; familial, intimate...** "received the Spirit of adoption to cry Abba!" Rom 8.15 "as sons God sent the Spirit in our hearts crying Abba!" **Gal 4.6**

**Pathway to powerful prayer...** "Teach us to pray, like You pray and get results... because we don't..." You begin by connecting: "our Father..." Puts us in proper place/order... God is Father/we are children! He is in heaven/we

are on earth! He is heavenly/we are terrestrial! You keep connection! “ask, and keep on asking... seek, AKOS... knock, AKOK...” **And ask Him for the Holy Spirit!**

**Power-filled Prayers!** “We need prayer power and results...” “You need connection and the Holy Spirit...” **Luke 11** In fact... “don’t even try to do this without the Holy Spirit connection...” **Acts 1.4,8** And when the Day of Pentecost... **A2.1-4** Tongues of fire sat on them... **LIGHT!** And they began to speak... **CONNECTION!** And 3k souls came to salvation... **RESULTS!** He that speaks in an unknown tongue speaks to God... **COMMUNICATION! 1C14**

**True Prayer... *Begins with an intimate pulling up near to God, wherever we find ourselves...*** We can be worldly in a closet or intimate in a crowd! ***Has an outward effect on our lives for all to see... Is a “timeless” conversation that resists every kind of boxed formality... Places us where we belong... Engages the Holy Spirit who knows the mind, heart of our Father!***

**True prayer is clearly... fundamentally... a close connection with God...**

**And only by coming out of the “boxes” of religious ideas can we clearly see the world around us and walk in the power of prayer!**