NEVER SETTLE FOR THE APPEARANCE OF BEING CLOSE TO GOD WITHOUT THE SACRIFICE OR THE SUBSTANCE...OR THE GENUINE BENEFITS!

KEY THOUGHTS ON PRIVATE PRAYER

PRAYER TAKES TIME

- PRAYER DOES NOT WASTE TIME. PRAYER SAVES YOU TIME.
- THE BUSIER WE ARE, THE MORE WE NEED TO PRAY, JESUS PRAYED DAILY AND MODELED CONSISTENT PRAYER IN HIS LIFE. IF WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO PRAY, WE ARE SAYING THAT WE ARE BUSIER THAN JESUS.

PRAYER IS A HABIT

- PRAYER IS THE FOUNDATIONAL HABIT OF A HEALTHY SPIRITUAL LIFE.
- ALL OTHER HABITS AND ROUTINES SHOULD BE STACKED ON PRAYER. IT IS ALSO THE HARDEST TO DEVELOP BECAUSE IT INVOLVES THE UNSEEN WORLD. WE MUST PERSIST IN PRAYER TO BUILD THIS LIFE-CHANGING HABIT.

PRAYING ON A TRACK GIVES YOU PURPOSE AND RHYTHM

- THE #1 REASON PEOPLE DON'T BUILD A PRAYER LIFE IS THEY HONESTLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
- PRAYING ON A "TRACK" KEEPS YOU FOCUSED AND CLEAR, WITHOUT A TRACK, YOUR MIND RUNS AIMLESSLY; YOU CAN BECOME BORED, AND YOU EVENTUALLY STOP ALL TOGETHER.

"PRAYING ON A TRACK HAS CHANGED MY PRAYER LIFE."

PRAYING IS YOUR FOUNDATION

- PRAYER IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. WE SHOULD ALL HAVE THESE 3 TYPES OF PRAYER IN OUR SPIRITUAL ARSENAL:
 - PRIVATE PRAYER

 - CORPORATE PRAYER & WORSHIP (CHURCH & CIRCLES)
 SPECIAL TIMES OF PRAYER, FASTING, AND WORSHIP (PREPARE, TIMES OF GREAT CHALLENGE, ETC)

THE PRAYER OF JABEZ

"JABEZ CALLED UPON THE GOD OF ISRAEL, SAYING, "OH THAT YOU WOULD BLESS ME AND ENLARGE MY BORDER, AND THAT YOUR HAND MIGHT BE WITH ME, AND THAT YOU WOULD KEEP ME FROM HARM SO THAT IT MIGHT NOT BRING ME PAIN!" AND GOD GRANTED WHAT HE ASKED." (1 CHRONICLES 4:10)

1. PRAISE - "JABEZ CALLED UPON THE GOD OF ISRAEL"

"FATHER, I PRAISE YOU TODAY AND CALL UPON YOUR NAME BECAUSE YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WORTHY."

 ALWAYS START YOUR TIME WITH GOD WITH PRAISE. THIS SETS HIM IN HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN YOUR LIFE AND OPENS YOUR SPIRITUAL EYES TO SEE GOD IN GREATER WAYS AS YOU PRAY.

2. PERSONAL ABUNDANCE - "BLESS ME INDEED"

FATHER, GIVE ME THE ABUNDANCE I NEED TO HAVE ALL MY NEEDS MET AND AN EXCESS WITH WHICH TO BLESS OTHERS.

 YOU CANNOT BLESS OTHERS IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN BLESSED. IT IS NOT UNSCRIPTURAL TO PRAY FOR FINANCIAL BLESSING AS LONG AS IT IS IN THE CONTEXT OF BLESSING OTHERS AS WELL.

3. INFLUENCE - "ENLARGE MY TERRITORY"

FATHER, CONTINUALLY STRETCH MY BOUNDARIES OF INFLUENCE SO THAT I MAY BRING MORE AND MORE PEOPLE TO CHRIST.

• GOD HAS DETERMINED OUR OFFICE AND GIFTS. HOWEVER, HE HAS NOT "PRE-DETERMINED" ALL OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR HIM. WE MUST PRAY FOR THOSE GIFTS TO BE FULLY MAXIMIZED AND OUR POTENTIAL TO CONTINUALLY GROW AND EXTEND FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

4. PRESENCE OF HOLY SPIRIT - "LET YOUR HAND BE WITH ME"

"FATHER, I REFUSE TO MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT YOUR SPIRIT GUIDING ME. EMPOWERING ME. AND ANOINTING ME. I NEED YOU TODAY."

 MOSES SAID, "IF YOUR PRESENCE WILL NOT GO WITH ME, DO NOT BRING US UP FROM HERE" (EXODUS 33:15).

5. PROTECTION - "KEEP ME FROM EVIL"

"FATHER, I BELIEVE I DWELL UNDER YOUR WINGS WITH DIVINE, ANGELIC PROTECTION FROM THE ASSIGNMENTS OF SATAN TO DESTROY ME."

- FATHER, I BELIEVE I DWELL UNDER YOUR WINGS WITH DIVINE, ANGELIC PROTECTION FROM THE ASSIGNMENTS OF SATAN TO DESTROY ME.
 - SATAN NEVER STORS IN HIS ASSIGNMENT AGAINST YOUR LIFE. WE MUST DISCERN HI THOUGHTS AND TAKE THEM CAPTIVE TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST.

THE LORD'S PRAYER PATTERN THE PATTERN OF JESUS

MATTHEW 6:9-13

1. OUR FATHER...HALLOWED (HOLY) BE YOUR NAME" - WORSHIP HIS HOLY NAMES

PRAYER THROUGH PSALM 103. THE POWERFUL NAMES OF OUR GOD

2. "YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE" - TAKE TIME TO SURRENDER TODAY

- HIS KINGDOM IS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT, HIS DIVINE CHARACTER IN CONTROL OF YOUR

3. "GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD" - LET YOUR NEEDS BE MADE KNOWN TO HIM

4. "FORGIVE OUR DEBTS" - FORGIVE OTHERS IN ADVANCE WHO WILL OR HAVE OFFENDED YOU

- "STANDING IN THE GAP" BEFORE GOD FOR MERCY FOR YOUR FAMILY, YOUR CITY, STATE, AND
- OR BLOCK UP THE WORK OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE.

5. "LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION... DELIVER US FROM EVIL" - DO WARFARE AGAINST THE POWERS OF DARKNESS

- PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD. PIECE BY PIECE (HELMET, BREASTPLATE, WAISTBAND.

