October 2, 2022 **“*Pray In Power*”**  Pastor Billy Burchfield

**Pray In Faith:** **Luke 22:42**, “*Not my will, but Thine be done*.” Faith is believing that God will do what He has promised to do and then acting accordingly. When we pray for something specific, we may or may not be praying in God’s will.

To pray in faith means to tell God boldly what is in our hearts (“Lord, this is what I want”) and then trust that God will do what is best (“not my will, but Thine be done”). If we are praying for (power in sharing the Gospel, victory over temptation and sin, that God’s name would be glorified in our lives) things that will glorify God we know that we have what we are asking for because we are praying the will of God, and thus we have confidence in our prayers.

**For Powerful Praying, You Must Be In Right Standing:** **James 5:16**, “*the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much*.” To be righteous means to be in a **right** relationship with God. That is a ***prerequisite*** to powerful praying. Before we are saved, we are guilty before God, but the moment we trust in Jesus for salvation, God declares us not guilty. Our standing before God permanently, irrevocably changes from sinners deserving of hell to believers deserving of heaven. That’s *judicial righteousness*.

Judicial righteousness changes our relationship with God. Gal. 4:6 explained it this way, “***Because*** *you are sons, God has sent forth* ***the Spirit of His son*** *into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father*`” Abba is Aramaic for “***Daddy***.” God is now our Papa. That gives us confidence in coming to God.

**Obedience To God’s Commands: 1 Peter 3:12**, “*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil*.” The term “***righteous***” in the Bible sometimes refers to *ethical righteousness*, or *practical righteousness*. This is the way act after we’re saved. **Judicial righteousness** refers to our “***right standing***” before God; **Ethical righteousness** refers to our “***right acting***” before God.

A **prerequisite** for answered prayer is **obedience to God’s commands**. God hears and answers the prayers of those who obey Him, and He turns away from the prayers of those who disobey Him. In **1 Peter 3:11**, God said, “*Turn away from evil and do good*.” Verse 12 is quoted above.

**Ethical Righteousness Is Obedience To God’s Commands; A Prerequisite For Powerful Praying: 1 John 3:21-23**, “*Beloved, if* ***our heart*** *does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. 22And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because* ***we keep His commandments*** *and* ***do those things that are pleasing in His sight****. 23 And this is His commandment: that we should* ***believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ*** *and* ***love one another****, as He gave us commandment*.” Smoldering disobedience to God’s will and powerful praying do not mix. God honors the prayers of the righteous.

**Prayers That God Will Answer: Matt. 6:10**, “*Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*.” **If** we pray in the will of God we know He will answer. **1 Thess. 4:3**, “*This is the will of God, your* ***sanctification***…” Anytime you ask God for something that **sets you apart** ***for service*** or ***from sin***, you know He will answer. **This kind of prayer** **glorifies God**.

***Focus On* Glorifying God: Isaiah 6:2-4**, “*Above it stood* ***seraphim****; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said:* ***‘Holy, holy, holy******is*** *the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!’ 4And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke*.”