

School of the Supernatural Session 3
Praying from a Position of Righteousness
Lesson 15
Main Text: James 5:16 (NKJV)

Key Concepts

- I. Introduction
- II. Why is prayer being devalued today?
- III. What is True Prayer?
- IV. The Purpose of Prayer.
- V. Conclusion.

- I. Introduction: In any area where the righteousness of God does not prevail, our faith will not be sufficient, because righteousness is the seat of faith. From situation to situation, action to action one's faith increases as he or she continues to move out and respond to what God is telling them to do. (Romans 12:3,6)
- II. Who is considered Righteous? Those who remained aligned with God's nature and character through Christ.
 - A. When we are not aligned with God, His name and word, we become easy prey.
 - B. The Son, Jesus Christ, made us righteous before the Father.
 - 1. Romans 3:21-22
 - 2. Matthew 26:28
 - C. In any area of our lives which we are not standing in the righteousness Jesus won for us, the enemy will have legal right to accuse us before God.
 - 1. 1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV); Ephesians 5:22-23 (NKJV)
 - (a). If a man mistreats His wife, he won't receive an answer to his prayers in the area of family because his position of unrighteousness will hinder his prayers.
 - (b). If a woman doesn't submit to her husband, or doesn't give him his place as the head of their home, she will

be in an unrighteous position before the Father.

- (c). Same way in a business, if a business person abuses their employees, not paying them a fair wage or respecting their rights, they won't be standing in a position of righteousness in the area of business.
(Colossians 4:1 NLKV)
- (d). Before we ask something of God, we must examine ourselves to see if we are violating His commandments or not reflecting His nature.

III. Obstacles to Praying from a Place of Righteousness.

If we remove the obstacles to praying from a place of righteousness, we can be assured that our prayers will be heard by God.

A. Iniquity

- 1. Isaiah 59:2 (NKJV)
- 2. The Word for iniquity in Hebrew indicates the bending or twisting of morality, to the point of perfecting it from the roots.
 - (a). Matthew 15:18-19 (NKJV)
- 3. Iniquity and sin (missing the mark) are two conditions that separate us from God, preventing us from being in right standing before His presence.
- 4. God will not hear, attend to, or answer a prayer made from a place of unrighteousness.
 - (a). Examples: 1) Examples: Those who twist the truth are living in a state of dishonesty (2 Peter 3:16; Psalm 56:5; Acts 13:10) Those who don't recognize authority and refuse to be accountable for their actions are perverting obedience. (Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1-3; Ephesians 5:21-27) Those who harbor unforgiveness, bitterness, or hatred are distorting God's love and their hearts are filled with rebellion (Mark 11:25, Matthew 6:14-15; Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:31-32)

5. A guilty conscience. How to overcome?
 - (a). We must go before God with a broken and contrite spirit, acknowledge our sin, repent, and ask for forgiveness.
 - (b). Psalm 51:17 (NKJV)
 - (c). We must learn to receive God's forgiveness through the blood of Jesus after confessing and forsaking our sins.
 - (1). Romans 8:1-2 (NKJV)
 - (2). Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)
 - (d). The Word encourages us to draw close to God. (Hebrews 10:22)
 - (1). God to God with a clear conscience.
 - (2). We can never enter into God's presence on the basis of our own meritss, intelligence, or personal abilities.
 - i. Job 29:14 (NKJV)
 - ii. Isaiah 61:10 (NKJV)
 - iii. We are righteous and the works we perform are righteous.
 - iv. Hebrews 10:19 (NKJV)
6. Self Righteous
 - (a). All believers have been called to be in a place of righteousness before God.
 - (1). 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)
 - (2). If Christ has made our nature righteous, then we have been empowered to do righteous works.
 - (3). Righteousness captures God's attention.

IV. How to walk in Righteousness.

- A. Practice Repentance as a Lifestyle
 1. Repentance brings us back into the presence of God.
 2. Proverb 28:13 (NKJV)
- B. We need to ask God if thee is any sin or iniquity in our lives to

remove it and lead me in your presence (Christ Jesus)

1. Psalm 139:23-24 (NKJV)

C. Seek First the Righteousness of God.

1. Ephesians 4:22-24 (NKJV)

2. Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

(a). Seek God First.

(b). Seek His Righteousness

(c). All things will be added to you.

D. Always watch and Pray.

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)

2. It is vital for believers who wish to maintain their place of righteousness to watch and be careful that their prayers do not weaken.

3. Our prayer time should grow and become the first and most important part of our day.

4. When we watch in the presence of God with a righteous heart, the Holy Spirit shows us any areas of unrighteousness in our lives, or where we have allowed the enemy to gain a foothold.