

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** The Power of Effectual Prayer

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Romans 11:36

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2389

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1) INTRODUCTION

a) Romans 11:36

i) This shows a divine triangle.

(1) In God's economy, there is a cycle:

(a) Things come, first of all, of Him.

(b) Then, they go through Him.

(c) They return back to Him.

(2) This is the cycle of victory that we have, and it is the theme of the entire Bible.

b) Everything starts with God, everything operates with God, and everything returns back to God.

i) Genesis 1:1

(1) Everything is of God.

ii) Revelation 1:8

(1) This divine triangle begins with God and continues and ends with God.

iii) Romans 11:36

c) We see evidence of this divine triangle in the material world.

i) God is the producer of creation.

(1) Colossians 1:16-17

(2) Our God is the power of creation.

(a) We believe in God by faith, but the atheist has more faith than we have as he believes that it all just happened and that everything came from nothing.

(b) There are scientists who reject the theory of evolution.

(i) Sir Fred Hoyle stated that random and impersonal chance does not create complexity and design.

(3) All things are by Him.

ii) God is the preserver of creation.

(1) Colossians 1:17

(a) By Him all things consist.

(2) Jesus is the glue of the galaxies.

(a) He is the one who feeds the sun with fuel.

(b) He is the one who guides the planets on their courses.

(3) If He were to take His hand away, everything would disintegrate.

iii) God is the purpose of creation.

(1) Colossians 1:16

(a) All things were created for Him.

(2) This world, this universe, is coming to Jesus.

(a) This is true in the physical world and in the spiritual world.

(i) You did not get saved (become a Christian) because you sought God but because He sought you.

1. Romans 3:11

2. The only reason we know God is because He sought us.

3. We love Him because He first loved us.

- a. 1 John 4:19
  - 4. By nature, we are all running from God.
  - 5. He takes the initiative; we have nothing to boast of.
- (b) We live the Christian life through the power that He gives, and one day we are going back to Him.
  - (i) It is the same in sanctification.
    - 1. It all begins with Him.
    - 2. There is no way we can live the Christian life apart from the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
    - 3. Holiness is not the way to God; God is the way to holiness.
    - 4. We come to God empty-handed, and God puts the desire in our hearts and fills us with the Holy Spirit.
  - (ii) Is the same in stewardship.
    - 1. We only bring to the Lord what He has already given to us.
    - 2. We do not have anything that we have not already received.
    - 3. It is of Him, through Him and to Him.
- d) With this divine triangle in mind, today's message will show us three transformational truths about effectual prayer.

## 2) THE ORIGIN OF PRAYER

- a) The origin of all effectual prayer roots in the purposes of God.
  - i) For of Him are all things.
    - (1) Romans 11:36
- b) The prayer that gets to Heaven is the prayer that starts in Heaven.
  - i) Romans 11:36
- c) Prayer is not some way to get Earth's will done in Heaven; it is God's way to get Heaven's will done on Earth.
  - i) God is sovereign, and we are sinful.
    - (1) There is no way that prayer would work if it did not begin with God.
  - ii) Though God is sovereign, His sovereign throne is a throne of grace.
    - (1) We can come to a sovereign God by grace.
    - (2) Grace means that God loves us before we loved Him.
    - (3) Hebrews 4:16
- d) Why do we pray? Why do we tell God what He already knows?
  - i) God gives us the privilege of working together with Him.
    - (1) 2 Corinthians 6:1
    - (2) What a privilege it is to work with God.
    - (3) God could do it without us, we could not do it without Him, and together we have fellowship.
      - (a) Prayer bonds our hearts to God.
  - ii) Prayer is also the way that God disciplines us.
    - (1) God is working on us.
    - (2) When we have prayers that are not answered, it causes us to examine our hearts.

- (3) Prayer binds us and bonds us to God.
  - (a) God does not want us to be independent of Him.
- e) All prayer begins in Heaven.
  - i) If you want your prayers answered, then you are going to have to hear from Heaven.
  - ii) John 15:16
    - (1) Jesus is the origin of the prayer.
    - (2) “In my name” means that Jesus signed the purchase order.
  - iii) Luke 5:4-7
    - (1) It began with “we” and ended in nothing.
    - (2) Listening to Jesus, they cast out their net and caught a boatload of fish.
    - (3) Prayer begins with God.
- f) Prayer is not about bending God’s will to our will.
  - i) Prayer is finding the will of God and getting in on it.
    - (1) We will not change God by prayer.
    - (2) God’s will is what prayer lays hold of.
    - (3) Prayer is not name it and claim it.
      - (a) Prayer roots in the purposes of God.

### 3) THE OPERATION OF PRAYER

- a) Prayer relies on the power of God.
  - i) Even if we know the will of God, we still need the anointing to pray.
  - ii) We need God in order to pray.
- b) God gives us the desire to pray.
  - i) Romans 3:10-11
  - ii) Our old nature does not want to pray.
    - (1) Romans 8:5-7
      - (a) The word “carnal” means fleshly.
      - (2) We can never train our old nature to love prayer.
  - iii) He has put His Spirit in our hearts crying, “Abba, Father.”
    - (1) Romans 8:15
  - iv) If we have no desire to pray, it is because we are not walking in the Spirit.
- c) God gives the direction to pray.
  - i) He teaches us what to pray for.
  - ii) Matthew 6:8
    - (1) God knows what we need and what we need to pray.
      - (a) Sometimes we ask God for things we want but don’t need.
      - (b) Sometimes we need things that we don’t want.
      - (c) Sometimes we think we need things that we already have.
  - iii) God gives us what we need.
  - iv) God knows what we need before we ask Him.
  - v) Some may ask why God doesn’t direct us more.
    - (1) The Bible shows us so many things that we know we ought to pray for; and yet, we don’t pray about these things.

- (a) Then why do we complain about the things we don't know?
- vi) John 5:19
  - (1) Jesus, in His humanity, did not originate His prayers; but He listened to the Father.
  - (a) When you come to God and abide in God, God will speak to your heart.
- vii) The prayer that gets to Heaven is the prayer that starts in Heaven.

#### 4) THE OBJECTIVE OF EFFECTIVE PRAYER

- a) Effective prayer roots in the purpose of God, it continues in the power of God, and it always results in the praise of God.
- b) God does not hear selfish prayers.
- c) John 14:13
- d) Praise and thanksgiving complete the triangle of prayer.
  - i) There is a petition.
  - ii) Then there is praise.
    - (1) Thanksgiving enjoys the gift, but praise enjoys the giver.
    - (2) Don't just merely thank God for what He has done, but praise Him, also.
- e) Romans 11:36
  - i) The purpose of prayer is to glorify God.
- f) Prayer goes into God's presence to carry something away; praise goes into God's presence to remain there forever.
  - i) This is why we are to pray in Jesus' name.
    - (1) John 14:13
- g) What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name?
  - i) It does not mean that when we pray for whatever we want that we can just say "in the name of Jesus" and think that somehow sanctifies the prayer.
  - ii) When we ask in His name, it means with His approval.
    - (1) Could Jesus sign His name to our prayer?
  - iii) It means with His authority.
    - (1) Is our prayer something that He approves and therefore gives His authority to?
  - iv) It means that our prayer is also for His acclaim and for His glory.
- h) When we pray in the name of Jesus, we should ask ourselves these questions:
  - i) Am I praying this prayer because God the Holy Spirit put this thing in my heart, either through the written Word or through His Spirit?
  - ii) Am I praying in the energy of the Spirit rather than the energy of the flesh?
  - iii) Is the desire of my heart that God would be glorified?

#### 5) CONCLUSION

- a) The divine triangle of prayer:

- i) There is a God in Heaven; for of Him.
  - (1) It all starts with God.
  - (2) He knows what things we have need of before we ask Him.
- ii) It is through Him.
  - (1) We pray in the Spirit, not in the energy of the flesh, as He gives us the desire and the direction to pray.
- iii) Then, the prayer goes right back to Him, and He is the one who receives the glory.
- b) Prayer is the Holy Spirit finding a desire in the heart of the Father, putting that desire into our hearts, and then sending it right back to Heaven in the power of the cross.
- c) Romans 11:36
- d) Almighty God is the purpose of prayer and the power of prayer.
  - i) He is the origin, the operation and the object of all true prayer.
- e) We will never pray in power outside the will of God.
  - i) And you will never know the will of God until you abide in Him.
  - ii) You cannot abide in Him if you are not saved.
    - (1) You cannot pray in the name of Jesus and God cannot speak to you in sweet communion, until you get saved.
- f) If you would like to be saved, you can give your heart to Jesus today.
- g) You can pray to Him now and ask Him to come into your life.
- h) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16