

# If My People: The Power of Prayer

May 5, 2019

## Scripture:

<sup>11</sup> Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's house. All that Solomon had planned to do in the house of the LORD and in his own house he successfully accomplished. <sup>12</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. <sup>13</sup> When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, <sup>14</sup> if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. <sup>15</sup> Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. <sup>16</sup> For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time. <sup>17</sup> And as for you, if you will walk before me as David your father walked, doing according to all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and my rules, <sup>18</sup> then I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to rule Israel.'" (2 Chronicles 7:11-18, ESV)

## From the Introduction:

In the Book of 2 Chronicles we are given a look into the life of the covenant community of Israel and the dedication of the Temple of the Lord, aka. Solomon's Temple.

I. \_\_\_\_\_

A. We must recognize our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Humility \_\_\_\_\_ us from pride.

II. \_\_\_\_\_

A. We must call out to God with a repentant  
\_\_\_\_\_.

B. Prayer \_\_\_\_\_ us to the Father.

III. \_\_\_\_\_

A. We must desire the God's purposes are fulfilled in  
our \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Seeking \_\_\_\_\_ us to the power of the  
Spirit.

IV. \_\_\_\_\_

A. We must be dependent upon God's mercy for  
\_\_\_\_\_.

B. Turning \_\_\_\_\_ us on the right path.

## **Remember:**

*<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 2:4-5*

## **Reflect:**

*Prayer could trigger the grace of God, provided that it was humble prayer that abandoned the brazenness of disobedience and came, cap in hand, into God's presence at the temple. – Gary Demarest*

## **Seek:**

In our passage, the Chronicler quotes the Lord as saying, "Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place." Although the passage references prayers made in the temple, what does this passage say to you about consecrating our homes and ourselves to prayer?

## **Share:**

Pastor Mark noted that before we pray, we must humble ourselves and seek God's mercy. Share with the group a time when you experienced God's presence in prayer as you earnestly sought Him.

## **Serve:**

1 Peter 2:5 reminds us that, just as the temple was built into a spiritual house of God, so also are we "like living stones being built up." In doing so, we will "offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God." In what ways can God use your "spiritual sacrifices" to reach others for the Kingdom?

## **Pray:**

Ask God to assist you to seek him humbly and prayerfully, by seeking Him and turning from self, in order that you might share His truth in the coming week.