



ENTERING THE BATTLE OF PRAYER

20 July 2025

Summary:

This Message explores the challenges of maintaining a consistent prayer life and the importance of seeking a deeper desire for God's presence. Brigitte shares personal experiences of feeling disconnected in prayer and emphasizes that prayer is a spiritual battle requiring determination and trust in God's promises. The message encourages Impacters to persevere in prayer, even when it feels difficult or dry, and to rely on the Holy Spirit to rekindle their desire for connection with God.

Key Points:

- Prayer is a spiritual battle that requires determination and persistence
- The desire to pray is a gift from God, stirred by the Holy Spirit
- Trust in God's promises, even when prayer feels unanswered
- Learn to pray by praying, even when it feels dry or difficult
- The Lord's Prayer serves as a guide for our relationship with God
- Pray without ceasing, integrating prayer into all aspects of life
- Ask for the desire to pray when feeling disconnected

Scripture Reference:

- Matthew 26:41 - "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
- Ephesians 6:12 - On spiritual warfare
- John 16:33 - "In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances..."
- Romans 8:26 - The Spirit's intercession in prayer

Stories:

- The Exodus story of Moses and the Israelites, highlighting God's provision and guidance
- Personal anecdote about Brigitte's children and their approach to prayer and scripture
- Story of Peter's denial of Jesus and subsequent restoration
- Analogy of a mother providing food for hungry children, relating to God's provision

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(For Individual Reflection)

1. How does the idea of 'chasing a feeling' in prayer resonate with your own spiritual experiences, and what are the potential pitfalls of this approach?
2. In what ways can we cultivate a deeper trust in God's promises, especially during times when we feel spiritually dry or distant?
3. How might viewing prayer as a 'battle' change our approach to our spiritual lives, and what strategies can we employ to persevere in this battle?
4. Reflecting on the story of the Israelites in the desert, how can we learn to trust God's provision even when it doesn't meet our expectations?
5. How can we practically incorporate the Lord's Prayer into our daily lives as a guide for living, rather than just a recited prayer?
6. In what ways can we create space for 'withdrawing to pray' in our busy modern lives, following Jesus' example?
7. How might our perspective on prayer shift if we view the desire to pray itself as a gift from the Holy Spirit?
8. What are some practical ways we can 'pray without ceasing' in various aspects of our lives, even in unexpected or challenging situations?
9. How can we balance the understanding that prayer is both a gift of grace and requires our determined effort on our part?
10. In what ways can our individual prayer lives impact and empower our community and ministry efforts?

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Opening Prayer:

Pray the Impacters prayer together as a group. Begin by asking God to open your hearts and your discussion and help you desire grow closer for prayer.

Key Takeaways:

1. Prayer is a battle that requires determination and effort.
2. The desire to pray is a gift from God through the Holy Spirit.
3. Trusting in God's promises is crucial, even when we don't feel His presence.
4. The Lord's Prayer serves as a guide for our relationship with God.
5. We learn to pray by praying, even when it feels difficult or dry.

Discussion Questions:

1. Brigitte mentions chasing a feeling in prayer. Have you ever experienced this? How do you balance seeking God's presence with trusting Him even when you don't feel anything?
2. Reflect on a time when prayer felt like a battle for you. What were the main obstacles you faced, and how did you overcome them?
3. The message emphasizes that "the desire to pray is the Holy Spirit helping you return to the Father." How does this perspective change your approach to prayer, especially during dry seasons?
4. Discuss the analogy of God as a parent providing for His children. How does this image help or challenge your understanding of prayer and God's responses?
5. The speaker mentions that "prayer isn't just what we do when we feel strong." How can we cultivate a habit of praying even when we feel weak or unmotivated?
6. Reflect on the statement: "True prayer means surrendering our hearts to God with filial trust." What does this mean to you, and how can we practice this surrender in our daily lives?
7. How does the Lord's Prayer serve as a guide for your own prayer life? Which aspects of it do you find most challenging or meaningful?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, set aside time each day to pray, even if it's just for a few minutes. Keep a journal of your experiences.
2. Practice reciting the Lord's Prayer slowly and thoughtfully, reflecting on each phrase.
3. When you feel distracted or lack desire in prayer, try simply asking God to give you the desire to pray.
4. Choose a Bible verse about prayer (e.g., 1 Thessalonians 5:17 or Romans 8:26) to memorize and meditate on throughout the week.
5. Share with a partner in the group and commit to checking in with each other about your prayer lives during the week.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His faithfulness even when we struggle. Ask for His help in developing a deeper desire for prayer and a closer relationship with Him.