

Introduction:

- I want to talk about praying for your spouse. I realize that there are a number of people here that are single as well.
- Like praying for our children and grandchildren, praying for your spouse is one of those subjects that we just assume is happening and that people know how to do it.
- The important thing is to just do it! Pray! Don't worry about being perfect. God knows our heart even as we pray.
- The Daily Mail reports that worshipers at a mosque in Turkey have been praying in the wrong direction for 37 YEARS! According to one news outlet, the mosque was built facing the wrong direction in 1981. To make matters worse, it is believed that this was the result of it being built based on the original mosque, which would mean that these worshipers have not been praying in the direction of Mecca, as prescribed, even longer than previously thought. **APPLICATION:** As Christians, we understand that it doesn't really matter what direction we face when we pray. God is everywhere. What matters is that we pray. That's what Jesus promised to bless when He said, *"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you"* (Matthew 7:7). If it's possible to pray in the wrong direction, it would be by praying for the wrong things or for the right things with the wrong motives. It would be to pray for our will instead of God's. *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us"* (1 John 5:14).

I. It Is Not Good To Be Alone

- A. *"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.'"* (Genesis 2:18, NLT)
- B. Observations:
 1. How sad it would be, to be married, and still be alone. (Companionship)
 2. How sad it would be, to be married, and have no help in reaching your destiny.
 3. How sad it would be, to be married, and not reach your full potential of being the image of God.
 4. Man was created to multiply and to bare the image of God in the earth. He was to have dominion over all of creation. Creation was 'wired' to submit to Adam's/ mans leadership in the earth. ***Maybe that is why all creation groans waiting the appearing of the manifest sons of God. (Romans 8:19)
- C. Why do we not pray?
 1. We are driven more by our emotions than by the Word of God.
 - a) anger
 - b) disappointment
 - c) rejection

2. We are led by what is familiar. Familiarity - we get into a holding pattern of prayerlessness. We make excuses: that is just the way he/she is. Relationships like muscle memory cause us to not even think about destiny, deeper relationships, or increasing in the image of God in our lives. IE. The devil will allow you peace as long as you do not reach your potential in Christ.
3. We are prayerless out of habit.
4. We are distracted - facebook, instagram.
5. We are discouraged - "God is not listening."

II. Prayer is our "Ace in the hole!"

- A. 'What is an ace in the hole?' Something that can supply a sure victory when revealed! Nothing like being able to pray and involve the creator in your life/lives. He is all knowing, all powerful, and everywhere present. If you had relationship like that with someone wouldn't you want them actively helping you. IE. I am not a gambler but if I had something that could assure me of victory, I would chance it. Watch this:
 1. Faith involves risk!
 2. Every time you take a step of faith you are stepping out in risk.
 3. But the reason we take the step/leap of faith is because we trust the One who cannot be seen. We know the One who is faithful.
 4. So because I am in relationship with the Living God why would I not want to pray over the one who is the most important relationship in my life outside of Christ.
- B. The Word Works for those who work the Word. Again we have the 'winning edge.'
 1. I want to pray in agreement with the Word of God over my spouse.
 2. *"The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life."* (John 6:63, NLT) Spirit and life - praying the Word over/into someones life releases the supernatural to work.
 3. The Word reveals to me the will of God. IE. A will - provides direction after a persons death as to how the estate is to be handled. The NT is the will and testament of God for our lives. IE. He was dead but now lives. So He an enforce His own will! WHoooHOOO!
- C. The prayers of a righteous person. *"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. ¹⁷ Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! ¹⁸ Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.* James 5:16-18
 1. Pray from a position of righteousness. Not your own righteousness, Jesus.
 2. Pray earnestly - the greek word means to ask with a 'please.' Ie. Man with leprosy. The man with the son who had siezures.

3. Expect results - Solomon prayed and fire fell. Elijah prayed and fire fell. 120 prayed and fire fell! There is power in your praying! Pray until the fire falls!

III. Pray With the End in Mind

- A. Remember why you are praying. It is not just about more peace in your life, less pain, and less trouble. Sometimes prayers end up being selfish prayers, just because we want it to be easier. I understand that, but what is the greater target.
 1. Dominion - God wants us to walk in and use the authority He has given to us.
 - a) To tread upon, to rule, to have dominion.
 - b) *"You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority—" (Psalm 8:6, NLT)*
 2. Image of God - you are to look like your Father. There is to be so much likeness that when someone looks at you they see 'god'! One who looks, sounds and acts like God.
 3. My redemptive purpose - You are not a mistake. God has plans for your life. Much of our prayer should be into the redemptive plans of God. If you do not know what that is...just pray the prayer, God knows!
- B. When you pray with the end in mind you are aiming at the target you are trying to hit.
 - a) What does it look like to pray without the end in mind?
 - (1) "Lord bless _____" "Lord help _____ have a good day." These are generalities. Not specific. And not aimed at an intended target.
 - b) It looks and sounds focused
 - c) It is measurable. You will be able to tell when it is happening.
- C. When we pray with the end in mind it is satisfying.
 1. Satisfying: *"We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne." (Hebrews 12:2, NLT)*
 2. Jesus power prayer with the end in mind. Jn 17:5; Jn 17:11;
 3. When we pray with the end in mind, passion fills our prayers!

Conclusion:

- Many people do not pray for their spouse because they really do not know what to pray.
- So I have included a hand out for you tonight. IT IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE it is a start.