

*God First: Building a Prayer-Centered Relationship with God – Week Four*

# ***Energizing Your Prayer Life***

*Selected Scriptures*

**Introduction:** Most Christians experience ups and downs in their communication with God. When prayer languishes, we need something to re-energize us. What do we do when we get mired in mediocre prayer?

## **1. *WHAT YOU MUST DO* – Address your attitude toward God. Are any of the common prayer-breakers present in your life?**

- A. First problem: You forget to pray. James 4:2
  - 1. Context: James addresses people caught up in the world's values.
  - 2. Problem: When your confidence is in what you see, you forget to pray.
- B. Second problem: You pray with bad motives. James 4:3
  - 1. Context: People pray selfish prayers. (Illus: Larry Lea).
  - 2. Problem: When you pray strictly out of self interest God will not answer.
- C. Third problem: You harbor unconfessed sin. Psalm 66:18
  - 1. James is not talking about a recurring sin problem that you are wrestling with.
  - 2. Nor is James talking about unconscious sin. 1 John 1:7ff
  - 3. James is talking about blatant rejection of God's values.
- D. Fourth problem: You experience unresolved conflicts. 1 Pet. 3:7; Mal. 2:13-14
  - 1. Peter warns husbands (1 Pet. 3:7); the principle also applies to wives.
  - 2. If we don't show respect to our spouses, our prayers will be hindered.

## **2. *WHAT GOD DOES* – Remember that God is working powerfully behind the scenes to energize your prayer.**

- A. God's first activity: God is always working to change your heart.
  - 1. Illustration: In *Blue Like Jazz*, Don Miller talks about his attitude toward himself, "KDON...all Don all the time."
  - 2. God's priority is his glory.
  - 3. God's priority is reflected in Matthew 6:33.
  - 4. Are you cooperating with his priorities?
- B. God's second activity: The Holy Spirit assists us in our prayer life. Romans 8:26-28
  - 1. Our problem: We're weak and we don't know how to pray. 8:26a
  - 2. God's solution: The H.S. intercedes with great emotion. 8:26b-27
  - 3. Our confidence: God is going to work everything out for good. 8:28
- C. God's secondary help: God's angels assist us in our answers to prayer.
  - 1. The example of Elijah.
  - 2. The example of Daniel.

## **3. *PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER* – Your prayer life gets energized when**

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