

This may be the most important message about prayer I've ever preached. I trust that our church family receives it, because it will change your life!

Blessings and favor always!

## **Part 10: Build Your Dream**

### ***Live the Life You've Always Wanted!***

#### **Texts:**

**James 4:14 (NKJV)** - "For what is your life?"

**Jeremiah 24:6-7 (NKJV)** - "For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land; I will build them and not pull them down, and I will plant them and not pluck them up. [7] Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart."

**Daniel 11:32 (NKJV)** - "The people who **know** their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits."

- A. I have a word to share with you today that I believe will change your life!
  1. I am convinced that 90% of believers live beneath their privilege for two reasons:
    - a. We don't truly understand the nature and heart of God and how much He loves us.
    - b. Because we don't understand God, we can't really know or understand how to pray. Consequently, we pray incorrectly.
  2. If you can grasp what I'm teaching today, I promise it will forever change your life.

3. Don't be like the fellow in this joke: "Leaving Church Early"

"I hope you didn't take it personally when my husband walked out during your sermon," an embarrassed woman said to her pastor after the service.

"I did find it rather disconcerting," the pastor replied.

"Well, it wasn't out of disrespect to you," insisted the church member.

"Fred has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

4. If you seriously consider what is written in God's Word, you'll discover that He is all about making dreams come true.

- a. To help us have a fulfilled life is exactly what Jesus came to do.
- b. Major themes in the Bible for believers to pursue are: a successful life, good health, a happy family, and a close relationship with our Heavenly Father.

5. Everyone has dreams. This series gives the steps to make dreams a reality: **See It! Say It! Pray It! Pay It! Play It! Stay It!** and **Sanctify It!**

6. While **See It!** gives a clearly defined goal or vision, **Say It!** means to speak positive things into your own life. **Pray It!** enlists the help of Almighty God to become both 'who' and 'all' He meant for you to be. And make no mistake: God has great plans to help and bless you!

## **"Pray It!"**

### ***Part 2 – How to Manifest Your Destiny Now!***

- B. Prayer is a divine partnership with God. When we pray we are actually entering into His work to create a better life.

1. When we pray, we are actively working with God to create a better life for ourselves and to assist in the administration of His will and His Kingdom.

- a. **Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)** - "Your kingdom come. Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven."
2. You see, when God is ready to do something really big, He notifies His people to begin praying. Notice the prophet Jeremiah's prayer:
  - a. **Jeremiah 32:21-25 (NKJV)** - "You have brought Your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and with great terror; [22] You have given them this land, of which You swore to their fathers to give them, "a land flowing with milk and honey." [23] And they came in and took possession of it, but they have not obeyed Your voice or walked in Your law. They have done nothing of all that You commanded them to do; therefore You have caused all this calamity to come upon them. [24] 'Look, the siege mounds! They have come to the city to take it; and the city has been given into the hand of the Chaldeans who fight against it, because of the sword and famine and pestilence. What You have spoken has happened; there You see it! [25] And You have said to me, O Lord God, "Buy the field for money, and take witnesses"— yet the city has been given into the hand of the Chaldeans."
3. Jeremiah is known as the 'weeping prophet.' He wept because God revealed that his people would be carried away into Babylon. The entire nation was about to lose their dream.
4. The book of Jeremiah records how patiently and mercifully God warned the nation of Judah about the consequences of their poor choices. But rather than repenting, they ignored God's warning and imprisoned the prophets who delivered His messages.
5. Included in God's message was that the path Judah had chosen would result in enormous pain. In essence, the bridge had washed out and the road they were traveling would lead to a huge precipice. In a final act of mercy, God warned that a foreign nation was coming to take them as

captives from their beloved promised land. When they continued to ignore God's plea, Jeremiah was heartbroken.

6. However, the people reversed Jeremiah's message to make it appear that God was responsible for the approaching destruction. But He never wanted to punish His people—or anyone else for that matter. God is never pleased when people suffer for their disobedience.
7. The laws of success and failure have been structured into the very foundation of our universe. As in Jeremiah's day, these rules apply to **everyone** who wishes to reach their promised land. But to remain there and enjoy the blessings, certain guiding principles are required. If ignored, success is no more assured than if the mathematical signs of an equation are omitted.

C. I really believe God has always wanted the very best for all of His creation.

1. Scripture is filled with passages that confirm this. The longer I live, the more I am convinced that people misunderstand who God is and how much He wants to bless us. Notice these verses:
  - a. **Psalm 23:1 (NKJV)** - "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."  
(The entire chapter is filled with similar declarations.)
  - b. **Psalm 35:27 (NKJV)** - "Let the Lord be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant."
  - c. **Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)** - "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."
  - d. **John 10:10 (NKJV)** - "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."
  - e. **Romans 14:17 (NKJV)** - "The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."
2. Contrary to what some believe and even teach, God isn't contemplating ways to punish those who ignore Him.

- a. As in Jeremiah's day, wrong choices have caused us to suffer.
  - b. Being omniscient, God knows what will happen if we continue down a certain path. Because of His great love, He gives many warnings to help us make wise decisions to avoid that path.
  - c. Consequences are irrevocably connected with both good and bad choices—whether we like it or not. It's simply a law of civilization.
3. The truth is, rather than God looking for ways to punish man, He receives the most glory and honor when our lives portray the purpose for which we were created: to reflect His image and likeness. And what is His likeness? To be complete in every way, as He is.
  4. Your destiny is important to God because of His great love for you.
- D. When those in God's Kingdom fully live and manifest their destinies, our success and happiness is the best possible advertisement for the Gospel.
1. Have you noticed how pharmaceutical companies advertise their products? It's scary enough to keep you from ever wanting to purchase them! (See <http://youtu.be/vu0rXFhsM8w> - begin at :15 and conclude at :47).
  2. If people will still buy medicine with all those severe warnings, you can be sure they'll be attracted to a Gospel with **no** negative side effects!
    - a. **Proverbs 10:22 (NKJV)** - "The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it."
    - b. 'Makes one rich' literally means: a causative agent for our increase.
    - c. 'No sorrow' means: no earthly trouble, either of body or mind.
  3. What about those who teach or believe that material blessings could place your spirituality at risk? I don't believe God is ever threatened by our success. Instead of success impairing our relationship, it should fill us with such love and appreciation, we will continually grow and never diminish.

4. Never compare yourself with brute beasts that lack the capacity to think or understand how God assists them. Nor should we imitate the pig that continually eats acorns scattered on the ground, but is never grateful for the tree that grew the acorns.
5. God's blessings should make us love and appreciate Him even more!
  - a. In fact, **Romans 2:4 (NKJV)** credits God's goodness for leading us to repentance.
  - b. But we've been taught that **God** smites us with cancer or causes us to lose our job or some other catastrophe to make us want to repent and serve Him.
  - c. Oh, no. It is God's **goodness** that makes us want to repent!

- E. Our success and destiny are inextricably linked to the success of God's Kingdom.
1. When **you** succeed, the **Kingdom** succeeds! God **wants** you to succeed!
  2. In chapter 32, Jeremiah tells God, "But Lord, this is the promised land You gave to Your people. Now they are going to be cast out and lose their promised land." Like most believers, Jeremiah was thinking that God's people would forever lose their blessing. But that's not what He said!
  3. The verses we've been reading this year from Jeremiah chapter 24 are about God's incredible promises to bring His people home after 70 years.
  4. To prove His intentions, God told Jeremiah about his cousin's plot to sell Jeremiah his land.
    - a. Of course, his relative had seen the handwriting on the wall and knew the Babylonians were about to take them all captive. So he wanted to dump his land and enjoy the money while he could.
    - b. That would be the same as finding a serious problem in your vehicle and trying to sell it at a really good price "to your close friend." Or trying to sell your house after discovering it was infested with termites.

- c. But do you know what God said? He told Jeremiah to **buy** the land! Thoroughly confused, Jeremiah tries to understand why God wants him to buy the land, knowing what is about to happen.
- d. The reason He urged Jeremiah to purchase his cousin's land was that God knew the people would return after 70 years. The property his cousin was trying to dump, would someday be extremely valuable. So, He was actually saying that Jeremiah could **bank** on God keeping His Word!

F. What I want you to understand is **how** God's promises to Jeremiah and His people were fulfilled.

- 1. Those who were carried away captive returned 70 years later, just as He had promised. And guess what? The land God had told Jeremiah to purchase was then extremely valuable. There's something to learn about prayer from this story!
- 2. This gives us a pattern for how prayer works. It also teaches that if prayer is viewed as a partnership with God, it will also fulfill **our** dreams.
- 3. Notice that Jeremiah prophesied—by the Word of the Lord—that God would restore Israel to their homeland:
  - a. **Jeremiah 25:11 (NKJV)** - "And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon **seventy** years."
  - b. **Jeremiah 29:10-14 (NKJV)** - "For thus says the Lord: After **seventy** years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. [11] For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. [12] Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. [13] And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. [14] I will be found by

you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive."

4. After God had promised it, notice what happened:
  - a. God **declared it**, Jeremiah **saw it** and then **said it**, but someone still had to **pray it**.
  - b. After carefully reading what Jeremiah had prophesied by the Word of the Lord, Daniel **prayed it**.
  - c. **Daniel 9:2-3 (NKJV)** - "In the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. [3] **Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.**"
5. How long did Daniel **pray it**? Until he broke through!
  - a. **Daniel 9:21 (NKJV)** - "**Yes, while I was speaking in prayer**, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering."
  - b. **Daniel 9:23 (NKJV)** - "At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved;"
  - c. Gabriel had to explain the meaning of Jeremiah's prophecy so Daniel could pray with greater clarity. But until he prayed, Daniel couldn't really understand what God wanted to say.

G. Were Daniel's prayers effective? Wow! ....were they ever!

1. Our mathematical system, based on the number 10, came from the Romans, who borrowed it from the Greeks, who learned it from the ancient Egyptians.
  - a. The first digit after a decimal represents multiples of 1; the second digit represents multiples of 10; the third, multiples of 100; the fourth, multiples of 1,000, and so on.
  - b. This is why we have 10 cents in a dime, 100 cents in a dollar, or 1,000 cents in ten dollars. Each is a multiple of the number ten.
  - c. This is also why we have 10 years in a decade, 100 years in a century, 10 centuries in a millennium, and so forth. The metric measures of weight and distance are also based upon this system.
2. The Jewish people have a different numbering system than the rest of the world.
  - a. For example, they think of a 'week' of 7 years, rather than a decade of 10 years.
  - b. **Daniel 9:24-25** explains that after a decree would be given, 69 weeks of years later ( $7 \times 69$  years = 483 years), the Messiah would come. The Messiah would be cut off in the middle of a 7 year period, or after 3 1/2 years.
  - c. Amazingly, in 457 B.C., Artaxerxes gave a command to Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem so the Jews could return home. **Exactly** 483 years later, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and began His earthly ministry. **Exactly** 3 1/2 years later, Jesus was crucified, or cut off in the middle of a 7 year period.
3. Daniel's book was so accurate, it was almost omitted from the Bible.
  - a. Some scholars said it was too accurate to have been a prophecy. They believed it was written **after** the described events had already occurred, rather than before.

- b. Several copies of Daniel's book have now been found among the Dead Sea scrolls in the caves of Quran, proving it was truly written in advance of the events he describes.

#### H. When God **declares** it, and we **pray** it, we can then **experience** it!

- 1. If we put God's promises to work, our destiny can be manifested **now!**
- 2. Accept nothing less than knowing what His plans are for your life!
- 3. Sometimes, as Daniel did, we may want God to first help us understand what to pray. After Daniel's prayer, Nehemiah and Ezra experienced it by leading God's people back to their homeland—just as Jeremiah had prophesied 70 years before.
- 4. This also demonstrates how **praying** the scripture is the most powerful form of prayer. Otherwise, we may ask for something that is not in alignment with God's will or plan for our lives.
- 5. When we **pray** scripture, we are praying God's perfect will, since His Word is perfect and forever settled in the heavens.
- 6. Where will His Word be contested? Under the heavens, or on earth! When we pray, what God has promised can be manifested in this present dimension. This is how we can work together or **partner** with God.
- 7. You may ask, why should we pray for something that is already His will?
  - a. Let me answer that with another question: why should we preach the Gospel if it's already God's will that none should perish?
  - b. The answer is, because He wants us to participate in what He's doing. Prayer is a divine partnership!

#### I. With this pattern in mind, what should we do?

- 1. We should partner with God in our prayers. Don't think of prayer as a way to persuade a distant, uncaring God to help us, or perhaps change His mind.

2. Consider prayer as the very thing God has been waiting on us to do, so He **can** act!
  - a. **Isaiah 45:11 (NKJV)** - "Thus says the LORD, The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: "Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons; And concerning the work of My hands, **you command Me.**"
  - b. **1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)** - "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. [15] And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."
3. The world is waiting for us to partner with God and **pray it**, so God can **do it!**
  - a. **Romans 8:19 (NKJV)** - "For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God."
  - b. **I Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)** - "Pray without ceasing."
4. What will happen if we fail to pray?
  - a. **James 4:2 (NKJV)** - "You do not have because you do not ask."

#### J. Life Application Points:

1. Identify your dream.
2. Submit to God's will.
3. Pray until your dream manifests.
4. Give God the glory!