

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, June 2, 2013
A Closet Revival 3
The Closet Catalyst

TEXT: Matt 6:5-8 / Eph 6:18-20

We pray for revival in the earth, but what does the Bible say we should be praying for? We have seen that:

- Revival starts in the closet
- Motive matters
- Empty repetitions are heathen prayers
- God will not move in the earth unless we ask Him
- God responds to the cry of His own covenant people.
- **Closet first, then open reward. Revival begins in the closet long before we see it in the streets.**
- Christian prayer is to the Father in the name of the Son.
- Christian prayer is based on a foundation of righteousness
- My prayer closet is not primarily for me.

There is a flavor, an atmosphere that should prevail in our closet.

But each day the LORD pours His unfailing love upon me, and through each night I sing His songs, praying to God who gives me life. Ps 42:8

Every cuisine is marked by certain characteristic ingredients: **Christian prayer is distinctively seasoned with thanksgiving.**

Thanksgiving is a Catalyst: A substance that modifies and increases the rate of a reaction without being consumed in the process.

❖ **Gratitude is an integral part of Christian prayer**

- Philippians 4:6. Faith in prayer is naturally accompanied by Thanksgiving, or an expression of gratitude. Colossians 4:2
- A lack of gratitude is a mark of those who are in the process of having their hearts hardened toward God. Romans 1:21 when we move from thanking God to blaming God to cursing God we are in trouble. Habakkuk 3:17-19
- Ephesians 5:20 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Gratitude accompanies prayer and rejoicing in every situation of life.
- Gratitude is the Christian alternative to the coarseness of the world. Ephesians 5:3-4
- Expressions of gratitude set the atmosphere of the closet. Ps 100:4 / Rev 4:9-11

❖ Victory comes with the voice of praise:

- 2 Chronicles 20. (Note especially 22-30)
 - Satan comes to steal the Word.

- It takes faith to put the singers in front of the warriors, the band before the tanks, sing when the enemy is screaming.
- When we praise God, He engages the enemy on our behalf. Faith believes this when it begins to praise.
- Praise brings the presence of God and the confusion of the enemy: Psalm 9:1-3.
- **This is God's favorite song!!!** "Praise the LORD, For His mercy *endures* forever." Ps 107:1, Ps 118:1, 1Ch 16:34; 2 Chron 5:13; 2 Chron 7:3 Ezra 3:11; Jer 33:11; Ps 136
- Acts 16:16-34 Trouble comes even in the will of God. What do we do? John 16:33 CHEER UP!!
 - Act 16:25 YLT And at midnight Paul and Silas praying, were singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were hearing them,
 - In the moment when complaint might seem appropriate singing praises is the way of power.
 - They sang out loud: the other prisoners heard them.
- When all else seems to have failed, when the enemy appears to have prevailed, praise to the Lord is the highest and most powerful form of prayer we can make. **A prayer life without praise is dry and lifeless, devoid of faith.**

❖ **Thanksgiving in the closet**

- Speaking: Eph 5:19 speaking to yourselves: you don't have to sing in order to speak out psalms. You can read or recite Psalms, or speak your own.
- Singing: 1 Cor 14:15. I will sing!
 - With the understanding: Psalm 34:1-3 / Psalm 71:8
 - With the spirit:
 - Col 3:16 / Eph 5:19 – spirit-songs.
 - New songs: Psalms 33:3 MSG Invent your own new song to him; give him a trumpet fanfare. Psa 40:3; Psa 96:1; Psa 98:1; Psa 44:9; Psa 149:1; Isa 42:10; Rev 5:9; Rev 14:3
- Note 1 Cor 14:16-19
 - If you want to be sure you give thanks well, do it in tongues
 - Apparently Paul blessed the Lord in other tongues when he was not in church.

I will sing!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!