

# Empire Church of the Brethren

## Sunday Service Sermons

19 January 2025

The Church's Prayer Life

Text: "A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet. . . . Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known in wrath remember mercy". *Hab. 3: 1-2*.

You know that I believe that our prayer time each Sunday is a very important part of what we do together.

Sundays are all about getting closer to God that He might be able to use us in the furthering of His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

One part of this is when we come together in behalf of each other and those we know who need a touch from God.

It pleases me greatly when I see and hear how you believe and pray for one another.

This is important work of the church and we do it well.

Prayer is the chain that binds all of God's work together.

It is the unifying element of Scripture.

It is how we become one with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Prayer proceeds blessing.

Prayer and power in the church go hand in hand.

Habakkuk was a man of prayer who appeared on the scene unannounced.

We know little about him.

His name is said to mean "ardent embracing" or "wrestling."

From his book we understand that he was a man who wrestled with God.

He interceded in prayer and stretched out in faith as he sought to rend the heavens and bring down the power of God his people so desperately needed.

The question for us is, how do we pray for power in the church?

Pray directly.

Pray like all of those in the Bible prayed.

Nehemiah just talked to God.

So did Habakkuk.

We must remember that if we need power in our lives, we need only ask God for it.

If we need help in our family, we must ask God.

Let the church simply ask the Lord for his power.

*James 4:2* says, "You do not have, because you do not ask God."

Jesus said, "Ask and you will receive."

Pray submissively.

Pray with a yielded will to the Lord.

*James 4:6-7* gives the key to God's grace, humbling ourselves before him.

*Second Chronicles 7:14* clearly spells out the importance of brokenness before God in God's word to Solomon.

King David humbled himself in such prayer when he said, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

We must deal with the pride in our lives.

Pray earnestly.

*James 5:16* says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Fervent means "Stretched out."

A track star stretches out all he has to run his race.

This picture can be applied to fervent prayer.

Praying earnestly means hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

It is reflected in the cry of the psalmist, "O God, you are my God; early will I seek you."

God gives spiritual power when his church reaches the point of desperation in prayer.

Stephen Olford says, "We will never have revival until God has brought the church of Jesus Christ to a point of desperation. As long as Christian people can trust in religious organization, material wealth, popular preaching, and promotional drives, there will never be revival."

Pray boldly.

Confident praying is found in *First John 5:14-15*.

Bold praying is faith praying, and it is faith praying because it is according to God's will.

*Mark 11:24* says, "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

Pray united.

*Acts 1:14* states, "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication."

God honors unity in prayer.

"If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them by my Father which is in heaven."

Division and dissension block revival.

Pray militantly.

*Ephesians 6:10* describes militant prayer.

After all, prayer is spiritual warfare, because Satan fights the church.

We are to wear our spiritual armor and pull down spiritual strongholds.

Pray continually.

Paul instructed his readers on how to pray: "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

Furthermore, he admonished, "pray without ceasing".

Likewise, Jesus taught, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint."

Pray thankfully.

The Spirit of the church is to be thanksgiving.

Paul wrote, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understating, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Pray responsively.

Jesus, speaking to the church in *Revelation 3:20*, said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock if any one hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to them, and will sup with them, and they with me."

Jesus is standing outside the church waiting for someone, even one person, to respond.

A man visited Wales in 1904 to learn the secret of the Welsh revival.

Leaders of the revival, stood to speak and said, "There is no secret. Ask and you will receive."

That is the answer.

Revival comes to God's church when his people prevail in prayer.

If that is true then we must be in the middle of a revival.

For we have become alive in prayer.

God, lead our prayers.

God, bless our prayers.

God, grant our prayers.

In our prayers we will bless God and others.

And His Kingdom will be felt on earth and it is in heaven.

Amen? Amen!