

Acts 2:1-4 PRAYER, PRESENCE AND POWER

Lifhack top 3 steps to bring your dreams to pass be confident and positive, visualize your dream, make every step fun. **THAT SECOND STEP HAS POPULARIZED...**

MANIFESTING: *using our thoughts, feelings, and beliefs to bring something to our physical reality.* Oprah, Connor McGregor, The Secret – not new Robert S. (PO+ thinking)

- Premise: like attracts like. When you're positive the world responds bringin + "I like to look at manifestation as just a fancy word for being a creative force in your own life," explains Natalia Benson. **IS THIS A PRACTICE FOR CHRISTIANS???**

Christians do believe in Manifesting -

MP: We believe in a Divine Creator who manifests His will in our lives through answered prayer, offered in Jesus name, for our empowering and for His kingdom.

- no conjuring – law of attraction – **IT'S GOOD OLD FASHION PRAYING**

YOU'VE READ ACTS? – what made the church strong? > PRAYING CHURCH

Together prayer has always been the key to spiritual vitality and power throughout church history.

- Our own Calvary Chapel Movement (24 hour prayer meeting) - The Great Awakenings - The London Missionary Society - The church under the Moravians (600 years unbroken prayer/ww missions) - Desert Fathers - ACTS

The church is empowered when it engages God's presence through prayer.

Acts 2:1-4 BIRTHED prayer, God's presence, God's empowering

PRAYER ENGAGES US INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

You can be in the same room with someone but not in their presence. **Arnd not With**

- **CONNOR MCGREGOR AT UFC FIGHT...**god wants 2 b engaged – in prayer
- **JESUS CLEANSED THE TEMPLE – CORRECTION..my house called**

o UR in right place engage God but ur not engaged – **EVERYTHING ELSE NOT HOUSE** of entertainment/intellect/activism/ritual/sacrifices – **IT'S PRAYER – Prayer engages your spirit with God. STEP IN EVERYONE ELSE IS ENGAGED BUT YOU.**

NO REASON NOT TO: Prayer makes no distinction between intellect, wealth, beauty, influence, network, those who don't have and those who do, in power and powerless **This is the thing about prayer. Everyone can pray and engage God's presence. Thru JC**

- o **RIGHT NOW AS YOU PRAY TO GOD.....**

Faith is the language of prayer.

THE EARLY CHURCH PRAYED BECAUSE THEY WERE DESPERATE ENGAGED >P

- **Physical presence Christ was gone – what did they have – THEY HAD PRAYER**

Acts 1:14 All these with one accord **were devoting** themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Acts 2:42 And **they devoted** themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

THEY ENGAGED GOD IN PRAYER WHEN THERE WERE PROBLEMS

Acts 12:5 So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Acts 12:12 When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

THE DEVIL PURSUED THEM WHEN THEY PRAYED

- Because even the devil knows that things happen when God's ppl pray - PAUL

Acts 16:16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.

- When you're going to pray – don't be surprised if you run across a demon

ENGAGING GOD'S PRESENCE MEANS YOUR EMPOWERING

ACTS 2:1-4 120 disciples in the upper room – empowering gifts on each of them

- Not an argument for everyone speaking in tongues – **NO ONE LEFT OUT**
 - o **SPIRIT RESTED UPON THEM – ALL FILLED – empowered**

HEARD THIS BEFORE BECAUSE IT'S A PATTERN

- **SPIRIT RESTED UPON JESUS – empowered him for ministry**

Matthew 3:16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to **rest on him.**

- **SPIRIT RESTS UPON U – empower u – ENABLE THE GIFTS ur ministry**

Everyone in this room has a ministry that God wants to empower u for.

- JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES TO PRAY....

Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

- HOW DOES GOD DO THAT? Through ur life.. UREMPOWERING – S RESTS ON U

What is that? It's where ur at right now. School, work, family, friends, platforms, influencers, networks – empower u for that

- You gotta stretch to get it – you've gotta reach – God wants to stretch you -
MANNA FROM HEAVEN DIDN'T PILE UP ON PLATES – THEY HAD TO GATHER IT – Stretch out arms get up and gather it – PRAYER IS HOW YOU STRETCH, PRAYER IS HOW YOU REACH FOR THE EMPOWERING THAT GOD HAS FOR YOU – reaching for God's presence and power...

MEANS IN THE HARD TIMES (we've got some people going thru some hard times)

PAUL AND SILAS –not just grumbling, complaining, victimizing, blaming (SILAS – Paul really) – UNITED TOGETHER - PRISON PRAYER PRESENCE POWER – KA

Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Other people can't do the praying for you – PRAY<PRESENCE<POWER