



“MAINTAINING GOD’S FIRE IN OUR HEARTS”

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Joshua 1:2 Fellowship

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MAINTAINING GOD’S FIRE IN OUR HEARTS

II Chron. 7:12-15

The word maintain means to keep in a state of repair! (The Joshua Home) Maintain means for us to keep up, preserve or sustain. V.14 says, “and **MY PEOPLE** who are called by **MY NAME HUMBLE** themselves and **PRAY**, and **SEEK MY FACE** and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” What are the steps that we are to follow that will help us to maintain God’s fire in our hearts? You must **HUMBLE** yourself - **REPENTANCE** - Acknowledge that you have drifted away from God. Your heart has turned cold towards God because of lack of Prayer.

That’s your sin before God. You must be determined that you are going to **PRAY** no matter what. Remember, someone said: No one is a firmer believer in the **POWER OF PRAYER** than the devil; not that he practices it, but he **SUFFERS FROM IT.”** You must be determined to **SEEK HIS FACE** every day and throughout the day. You begin to live the scripture, “**PRAY WITHOUT CEASING**”. I Thess. 5:17 Prayer must become your very life. Seeking God daily is your first priority! You must turn away from your sins! God said, “...**AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS...**” You must be willing to run away from sin. Prov. 28:13 - “**He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.**” **ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS FOR**

MAINTAINING GOD'S FIRE IN YOUR HEART? YOU MUST *HUMBLE*

YOURSELF BEFORE GOD Repent from your Prayerlessness! Lack of prayer is the characteristic of a backslider Christian, pastor, spiritual leader and of a backslider church! When a Christian refuses to **PRAY** he is not Trusting God but on his own Strength and Human Ability. He is literally telling God that he can make it on his own strength! He does not pray because his trust is on his own strength! I Chron. 16:11 says, **“LOOK TO THE LORD AND HIS STRENGTH; SEEK HIS FACE ALWAYS.”** You will never accomplish anything with the strength of your own flesh. Jesus said, “The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing...” John 6:63 It is the Anointing of God that breaks the yoke. Prayer is humbling work, because you are saying that you cannot do anything without the power of God!

YOU MUST BE DETERMINED TO PRAY



You have already realized that prayer is a **POWERFUL WEAPON** against the devil! The Holy Ghost flows through men and women of **PRAYER**! Prayer produces: Holiness, Courage, Faith, & Love. We must be willing to spend quality time. Much with

God alone is the secret of **knowing** Him. Jacob's victory of faith could not have been gained without that all-night wrestling. Men who are Christlike and have affected the world for Jesus, have been men who have spent much time with God!

Holy Characters are formed by the **POWER OF REAL PRAYING.**

Praying hearts are the hearts filled with the **HOLY OIL**. The apostles knew the need and worth of prayer. They understood that there was **POWER IN PRAYER!**

Acts 6:2 says, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the Word of God in order to wait on tables” ...and will give our attention to **PRAYER** and the ministry of the **WORD.** They put **PRAYER FIRST** and they surrendered themselves to praying. They gave themselves **“CONTINUALLY TO PRAYER”** The more God begins to open your eyes to the reality of the spiritual war, the more you will feel in the necessity of **PRAYER**. Someone said, “Where is now the Lord God of Elijah? **“HE IS WAITING FOR ELIJAH TO CALL ON HIM! SO START PRAYING!** Prayer affects three different spheres of existence, God, Angels, Man. It puts God to work, it puts angels to work, and it puts men to work. Prayer lays hold upon God and influences Him to work. Prayer puts God's work in His hands, and keeps it there. Prayer is faith resting in, acting with, and leaning on and **OBEYING GOD.**

YOU MUST DETERMINE YOURSELF TO SEEK GOD

II Chron. 7:14 says, “...and **PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE...**” You must have a **desire** in your heart to **SEEK GOD**. You must discipline yourself to seek (Pursue)

God because satan will try everything he can to stop you from seeking God. Desire is a deep craving and it is the will in action. Desire is a strong longing and excitement in the inner man to **SEEK GOD**. (Chase God) We must ask God to place that desire in our hearts to seek Him. Prayers must be red hot (you must desire) unto God. It is the “effectual, **fervent** prayer” that availed much. The word Fervent also means: **BLAZING, GLOWING, FLAMING, OVERHEATED, INTENSE**. Blazing, burning ...desire is the basis of **UNCEASING PRAYER**! Without desire, there is no burden for the lost soul, no vision, no strength, no glow of faith to PRAY and Seek God. You must understand that God draws mightily near to the one who is praying and seeking God. James. 4:8 – **“Come near to God and He will come near to you...”**

YOU MUST BE DETERMINED TO TURN AWAY FROM SIN.



God said in II Chr. 7:14, **“...AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS...”**

The old nature must be crucified! By Faith in what Jesus did at the Cross! Prayer, much prayer will change you! Jacob’s victory of faith could not have been gain without that **ALL-NIGHT WRESTLING**! Gen. 32:24-28 says that Jacob wrestled with God all

night and that his name was changed from Jacob to Israel. Jacob became a New Man. Jesus now had control of his life! A consistent prayer life will keep Adam crucified on the cross! The Fire of God will continue to burn in your heart! Eph. 4:22 (“You were **taught**, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” Prayer produces cleanliness of heart and purity of life. When you begin to **really pray** you quit sinning, because prayer creates distaste for sinning and so work upon the heart the evil-doing and the sinful nature begins to die! Through much prayer and faith, **man’s nature** is changed and you become more like Jesus. Are you willing to put off your old self, so that Jesus will be the one ruling your life?

CONCLUSION:

Maintaining God’s fire in our hearts is not easy, but the results are Powerful! Prayer is our only hope. God said, “and **MY PEOPLE** who are called by **MY NAME HUMBLE** themselves and **PRAY**, and **SEEK MY FACE** and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” **Revival will break out with hearts of fire leading it!** Blazing, burning ...desire is the basis of **UNCEASING PRAYER**!