

## HEARTS OF PRAYER

### *How God Breaks Through When We Have an Open Heart for Loving Prayer*

In this 5-week series, we'll consider the role of love in Prayer, and how a right love for God and love for others will move us more passionately toward the privilege and priority of prayer. Even as we ask God to break our hearts over prayerlessness in our lives, we will discover together what it means to pray for the lost, to pray in our families and to pray together.

#### THE LOVING PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER

How Prayer Opens Hearts and Opens Heavens  
(January 3<sup>rd</sup>)

#### THE LOVING PRIORITY OF PRAYER

Letting God Break Our Hearts of Prayerlessness  
(January 10<sup>th</sup>)

#### THE LOVING PURPOSES OF PRAYING FOR THE LOST

Letting God Break Our Hearts for the Wayward and Lost  
(January 17<sup>th</sup>)

#### THE LOVING PARTNERSHIP OF PRAYING IN FAMILIES

Letting God Break Into the Heart of Our Family  
(January 24<sup>th</sup>)

#### THE LOVING POWER OF PRAYING TOGETHER

Letting God Break Our Hearts of Self-Sufficiency  
(January 31<sup>st</sup>)

## HEARTS OF PRAYER

### **THE LOVING PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER** **How Prayer Opens Hearts and Opens Heaven**

January 3, 2010  
SX101

#### INTRODUCTION

The Theme of Our Ministry Year:  
"OPEN HEARTS...OPEN HEAVENS"

Three Key Truths:

1. Our God is a God of Open Heavens!
2. For Us to Experience the Full Blessings of Open Heavens, We Must Have Open Hearts.
3. Open Hearts Come from Broken Hearts!

What Are the Spiritual Disciplines?

*Activities we do by the power of God's Spirit which enable us to become different on the inside so that the things we could not previously do for Christ we now can do.*

CONTEMPLATIVE	ACTIVE
Meditation	Teaching
Study	Obedience
Confession	Absolving
Fasting	Feasting
Solitude	Fellowship
Simplicity	Service
Silence	Speaking
Grieving	Celebrating

## I. THE IMPORTANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER

Luke 19:46

My house will be a **house of prayer**.

Romans 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, **faithful in prayer**.

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but **in everything, by prayer and petition**, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Colossians 4:2

**Devote yourselves to prayer**, being watchful and thankful.

## II. PRAYER OPENS \_\_\_\_\_!

Luke 3:21

And **as he was praying**, heaven was opened...

Matthew 18:18-20

I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

In Your Bible:

Hebrews 4:14-16

(Page 1186 in the Pew Bible)

The Heaven-Opening Blessings of Prayer:

*Prayer through faith in Jesus Christ leads you into the PRESENCE, the PROCLAMATION, the PURPOSES, the POWER and the PROVISION of Almighty God.*

In Your Bible:

Daniel 9:20-23a

Daniel 9:1-3

Daniel 10:2-3

(Pages 884 & 885 in the Pew Bible)

## III. PRAYER OPENS \_\_\_\_\_!

Key Truth:

*Love is at the Heart of Prayer*

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

A Powerful Prayer Point:

*If you truly fall in love with God, you will fall in love with prayer.*

*And when you fall in love with prayer, you will fall even more in love with God.*

Richard Foster:

Real prayer comes not from gritting our teeth,  
but from falling in love.

## CONCLUSION