

Sustaining Revival: A Study on Ephesians
Lesson 24 "Breakthrough in Prayer"

I. Introduction - We are closing out our series on the book of the *Ephesians* tonight. We have focused on how to Sustain a Revival based on what Paul taught the Ephesian church.

A. The revival in Ephesus was the largest new testament reveal recorded in Acts. Over 100,000 people were saved in a city the size of Greensboro within two years. Ephesus became a revival center in the first century. Multiple churches were planted out of this church including all 7 churches in the book of Revelation.

B. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus in A.D. 60 about five years later to establish them in truth after the goosebumps had worn off so they could have a sustained experience with God and continue to increase in person revival.

C. The final thing we are going to talk about in this series is breakthrough in prayer.

1. If great moves of God begins with prayer, isn't it logical that great moves of God are sustained with prayer.
2. I'm not saying God continues the move of God because we pray in a legalistic sense, I'm saying, great moves of God like Pentecost, the Azusa Street Revival, Welsh Revival, etc. start because people get so hungry for more they tap into God's heart and they become transformed. Sometimes what can happen is we can stop doing the first works **Revelation 2:2-5** (having a great relationship and being hungry) and then top doing the things that facilitated the revival.
3. Prayer is as much about changing us as changing our circumstances. I'm not saying our circumstances won't change, but they usually change as we change.

II. Breakthrough in Prayer

A. **Ephesians 6:17-24**

1. In *Ephesians 6:11-16*, Paul tells us to put on the full armor of God - breastplate of righteousness, feet shed with the preparation of gospel of peace, shield of faith (who we are) and then he tells us in *verse 17* to use the one offensive weapon we have, *the sword of the spirit*, which establishes God's will and destroys the works of the devil. We do this in prayer.
2. *Verse 17* rhema - the declared word of God - ex: healing from Sunday. That wasn't a formula it came out of relationship I've me picking up on what God wanted to do.
3. *Verse 18* praying with all prayer
 - a. There are many kinds of prayer - Prayer of petition, prayer of authority, casting out demonic spirits, prayer of thanksgiving (worship), prayer of

consecration, praying in tongues, etc. Need to use each type in the the appropriate situation (like a tool). Knowing comes out of relationship with the Holy Spirit.

b. Pray with perseverance - ex: Daniel Nash **Daniel 10:1-14** - Daniel prayed 21 days to get his answer when in the previous chapter he got an immediate answer.

i. Demonic resistance - **Daniel 10:13**

ii. **Daniel 10:19-20** Israel's adversaries in order were Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. This passage goes to show there was a demonic spirit behind the Persians and Greeks.

iii. While not every problem is a demon, sometimes problems are demonic in nature and you can't deal with spiritual problems with natural means.

iv. How do know if a problem is demonic? **1.** Holy Spirit. **2.** When you have renewed your mind, done all the natural things there are to do and you are obeying God the best you can, when problems persist they are often demonic in nature. The spirit must be cast out. Ex: Craig Healing example and my example of casting kids out of the downstairs playroom to keep it clean. **Tonight I want to pray against a spirit of complacency (lethargy) could be rooted in fear and spirit of division in marriages.**

4. **Verses 19-20** - prayer for utterance - Paul would have the right words and be bold in preaching the gospel.

5. **Verses 21-22** Paul sent Tychicus to the Ephesians so he could inform them of Paul's activities and how he was doing. Tychicus was with Paul during his imprisonment in Rome and Paul considered hi a faithful and beloved brother.

6. **Verses 23-24** Paul closes the letter the way he began it. He closes with grace and peace! Grace and peace is how we begin in Christ and that is how we are to live in Christ.

III. Conclusion

A. Break into groups - Half the groups pray against complacency - **Revelation 2:2-5** and the other half pray for unity in our marriages according to **John 17:20-25**.

B. Offering Verse - **Proverbs 3:9-10**

C. Closing Prayer