**DOES PRAYER REALLY MATTER?**

**Mark 11:20**

*“Therefore I tell you, everything you pray and ask for—believe that you have received it and it will be yours.”* (Mark 11:24)

* **“Prayer gives believers access to a realm of communication with God that is closed to the general public.” – Dr. Tony Evans**
* **Prayer only works when it’s God’s kingdom that’s your concern rather than your personal agenda.**

**A PRAYER THAT IS EFFECTIVE IS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* *“Therefore I tell you, everything you pray and ask for…”* (Mark 11:24a)
* **We cannot expect God to answer our prayers if we come to Him haphazardly with no specific items of prayer on our hearts and minds.**
* **The Lord is interested in the details of your life, so know what you want to pray about and spare no details when you come boldly before Him to pray.**

**A PRAYER THAT IS EFFECTIVE IS DONE IN \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* *“Therefore I tell you, everything you pray and ask for—believe that you have received it and it will be yours.” (Mark 11:24b)*
* **When you are in communication with the all-powerful, all-loving God of all creation, you can have confidence that the Lord not only hears your prayer of faith, but that He responds!**
* *“The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.”* (Proverbs 15:29)
* **“We must have such a desire for the thing we want, that we will not rise until we have it—but in submission to his divine will, nevertheless.” - C. H. Spurgeon**

**A PRAYER THAT IS EFFECTIVE IS ACCORDING TO \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* *“This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of Him.”* (1 John 5:14-15)
* **Effective prayers are prayers that surrender our will to the will of our Heavenly Father.**
* Jesus - *“Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”* (Matthew 6:9-10)
* **We can certainly make our *requests* known to God, but we must be confident that His “yes” or “no” is always the right response.**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE-BREAKER**: What famous or historical person would you like to sit and dialogue with for a day?

**START THINKING (Observation):**

* What does Mark 11:24 teach us about God/The Holy Spirit?
* What are some inferred “guidelines” for prayer in Mark 11:24?
* What does the word “ask” in its original language (Greek) imply?
* What does Mark 11:24 promise to Christians?

**DIGGING DEEPER (Understanding and Application):**

* How would you describe your current prayer life?
* Who taught you to pray? Or, did you just start on your own and learn along the way?
* Why do you think so many Christians neglect to have a deeply committed prayer life?
* Why is it important to be specific in your prayers? (Names, situations, etc.)
* What would be a prayer that the Lord would not honor? What causes prayer to be ineffective?
* What does it mean to pray according to God’s will? How are you doing in that area?
* What will you do differently based on this study?

**LOVING OUTWARD**

* Who do I/you need to share Jesus with this week?
* Who do you need to have a follow-up conversation about Jesus with?
* Who are you inviting/bringing to church next week?