

“Is God Deaf?”

Written March of 2015

Scripture Reading: James 5:16

Introduction

I am very grateful for the invitation to come here today; I was told that this whole month the Church has been focusing on the topic of Prayer and today is the last Sermon of your month long focus. When my friend Tomas asked me to preach on the topic of Prayer, I immediately asked God to show me what He wanted spoken here today and one day later the Holy Spirit gave me the entire outline for this Message today. What I love about working for the Lord is that even though I am here to present this Message today, I have already learned so much more about Prayer just in preparing to give the Message today. Glory be to God!!! Let us bow our heads and invite the Holy Spirit to be here with us...

Sermon

As a small ice-breaker I would like to start-off today's Message with a brief Illustration. For this illustration I will need a volunteer to assist me please.

Illustration:

Volunteer on this piece of paper I am handing you there is a question/statement that I want you to keep asking me over and over until I stop the Illustration. (**Sample statement: I NEED AIR TO BREATHE!**) (After about a minute of volunteer asking the question over and over again the Illustration is stopped). Now volunteer does it make any sense, the fact that I didn't answer you; yet you kept on asking me the same question again over and over. I think we would all agree, that it would make no sense at all to keep asking a question over and over again; probably most of us would get frustrated hearing a question asked over and over again.

I know sometimes my daughters ask for something and even though my wife and I have given them a response, they still keep on asking as if we will change our mind from (10) seconds ago prior when they asked. I am sure you are wondering how this illustration fits into today's Message...

Let's keep moving forward so that you soon will find out. In order to truly understand the Title of today's Message: **“IS GOD DEAF?”** I would like to define for you today the key word in the title **“DEAF”**. Webster's dictionary defines this word as the following:

- **Deaf** = wholly or partly without hearing, or unwilling to hear.

The illustration we just did a few minutes ago helps us understand the word Deaf a little bit more, and in a comical way we can remember it a little bit better. However, this illustration really conveys how most people feel when they PRAY. The sad thing is that most professed “Christians” don't even know how to pray, and **that is no joke at all.**

My Brothers and Sisters most people pray the way “Religion” has taught them to pray. Let’s look at the following text that MOST “Christians” quote to pattern their prayer life after. **I Thessalonians 5:17 = “Pray without ceasing”**

By a show of hands here, how many people have heard of this text or know this text by heart, because you have heard it quoted so many times. Most religious people pray asking God over & over again for the same thing. **This is what Religion teaches:**

- **Brother just keep praying the Lord will give you a break through;**
- **Sister/Brother we will keep you in our prayers;**
- **or maybe you’ve heard we are going to keep praying without ceasing that the Lord heals one day...**

Now here is the interesting thing my dear Brothers and Sisters that only the Holy Spirit can help you understand. **Is God Deaf???? NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!**

Then why do church-folk ask for the same thing over and over and over and over AGAIN!!!! Just like in our illustration, it makes no sense. Friends, the Lord has brought for you today coal from the Altar of God so that we can **ALL** wake up. **Praying with a religious mindset will get you NO where.** Do you honestly think that God doesn’t already know what we need? Think about that for a moment. God...the Great I AM, Alpha and Omega; does He already know? Let’ see what the Scriptures say.

Turn with me to **Matthew Chapter 6, Verses 24-33.** We are going to read through these very quickly so that you begin to capture the essence of what the Holy Spirit is bringing forth here today.

Notice what **Verse 24** says: **“we cannot serve two masters; we can’t serve God and something man-made (mammon) at the same time.”** We cannot pray with a religious mindset and expect God to move in our lives.

The only way we can have an **EFFECTIVE AND FRUITFUL** prayer life, is by praying with the Mind of Christ. **Philippians 2:5** plainly tells us: **“let the mind of Christ be in you”.**

We just finished reading **Matthew 6:33**, and most you don’t even realize the power this text is giving us because we DO NOT have the Mind of Christ to understand it. It’s all about the Kingdom my dear Brothers and Sisters.

Many are most likely wondering and asking yourselves how can we have the Mind of Christ? Let’s turn to **Romans 12:2**, in my opinion the second most important text in ALL the Bible aside from **John 3:16**. Paul tells us here that we must **“renew our mind”** so that **“we may know the will of God”.**

Titus 3:5 tells us that: **“we are regenerated (recreated)”** by the Power of the Holy Spirit. We must renew or have our mind regenerated from physical Religious mindset to a Spiritual Mindset, or as we have stated earlier **“THE MIND OF CHRIST”**. Is this something that is important to God? Let’s turn to our following text and find out. **Romans 8:7 = “The carnal (or flesh, or human, or religious) mind is enmity (ill-will or hostility) against God.”**

This text clearly answers the question that having a flesh mindset is HOSTILITY OR BITTERNESS to God. If we pray with a Physical Mindset we will:

- be bound and limited to the natural laws of this World.
- Bound by what the doctor or specialist say about your health
- Bound by our finances
- And above all bound by satan himself

Brothers and Sisters our prayer lives and prayers will reflect this defeated mentality unless we are BORN AGAIN!!!

The only way that we can experience this Re-birth in our spirit, heart and mind is by the regeneration and recreation that being Baptized by the Holy Spirit can bring us through the Born Again experience. Don’t feel bad if this seems like a brand-new thing to you or an apparent brand new doctrine in your ears; I assure you that it’s not.

Nicodemus felt that same way when Christ made this very same statements to him. Let’s briefly review this encounter in **John Chapter 3**. Let’s start off with **Verse 3**.

Verse 3: “Except a man be Born Again he cannot see (or perceive) the Kingdom of God”. Interesting how that word Kingdom just keeps popping up there...we all know the story; Nicodemus thinks he has to go back into his mom’s womb and then Christ breaks it down to him and us as simple as possible in Verse 5.

Verse 5: “Except a man be born of water AND of the Spirit, he CANNOT enter into the Kingdom” There’s that word Kingdom again...In **Verses 6 & 7** Jesus tells Nicodemus not to be surprised that: **“what is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is Sprit.”**

If you wanted to do some homework later on you could look up **Romans 6:4, Galatians 2:20 and I Corinthians 5:13** which all say the same thing, but because of time we won’t review them today.

There are a lot of professed “Christians” that are afraid of this term **“BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”** because satan has used other false doctrines with other denominations to distort the Awesome Power that the Holy Spirit is in our lives. The Born Again Experience is a two part equation:

- 1). The water (*Repentance of Sin*)
- 2). The Spirit (*Regeneration*),

Sadly most “Church-folk” only complete the Baptism of Water and have an incomplete equation.

John the Baptist faced this same road-block during his Ministry. John the Baptist was providing the first half of the equation however he prophesied that Jesus would give us access to the second part of the Born Again equation in **Matthew 3:11**.

Matthew 3:11 = "He (Jesus) shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with Fire.

Let's analyze this for a moment in the physical dimension what does fire do? It consumes everything in its path right. Sometimes the Forestry service does controlled burns or fires in order to promote new growth or Regenerate the soil. Well the Fire of God, the Holy Spirit does the same thing for us in our spirit man.

When we are truly Born Again and Baptized by the Holy Spirit, the Fire of God blots out and burns out any evidence of sin; we are in essence Sanctified or made Holy by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. But what is the importance of this? Let's look at our following text: **I Corinthians 6:19 "do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit"**.

Paul is clearly telling us that the Holy Spirit lives in us when we are Born Again. However we know that if the Holy Spirit dwells in us, so does Jesus and so does God the Father. The only way that we can have a Righteous or Holy Mindset like Christ, is through the Baptism of the Spirit.

We have come full circle my dear Brothers and Sisters, let's look-up our Scripture Reading that was presented earlier today and now begin to understand it with a Spiritual Mindset. Let's read the last part of **James 5:16** again.

"The effectual fervent prayer of a RIGHTEOUS man produces great power and wonderful results. NLT

I like the way the New Living Translation translates this text from the Original Greek because it really helps us understand on a deeper level the importance of praying with the Mind of Christ.

Let's tie all the points we spoke about today together...Through the Born Again experience is the only way that we can partake of the Righteousness of Christ because we have ONENESS with the Kingdom (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit). The Kingdom (Trinity) dwells in our sanctified Temples that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit creates in us. **So, when we pray with the Mind of Christ, which is Righteous, it WILL PRODUCE GREAT POWER AND WONDERFUL RESULTS (MIRACLES)!!!!**

In Closing

Let's turn to our final text today, which is one that most people often over-look found in: **I Thessalonians 5:18**. We reviewed **Verse 17** which everybody knows by memory yet **Verse 18** actually tells us the full context of what Paul was trying to convey to the Thessalonians.

Verse 18: "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

The way that we should be praying is not asking God over and over again for something, but to pray with the Mind of Christ. God already knows what we need my dear Brothers and Sisters. We are to ask once if even that, and then continually Thank and Praise God for Him answering your petition or need even if it hasn't happened yet. This is what TRUE FAITH is all about Brethren. **Hebrews 11:1** tells us that it is the evidence of things Hoped for. In the Original Greek that word HOPE is translated to mean = **earnest expectation**. **True Faith is "Walking by Faith not by sight."**

When we ask over and over again, we are telling God that we don't trust Him and His Will for our lives. Prayer helps us live out our FAITH!!!

True Faith is not only believing that God can; True Faith is believing that God will"

Christ gave us the template for Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 (The Lords' Prayer) and Christ Himself told us the very first thing we must ask for is the Kingdom. Brothers and Sisters as Christ told Nicodemus, I tell you today **YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!!!** It is the only way we can experience the Fullness of God in our lives and allow the Holy Spirit to manifest Gods' Awesome Power in our lives.

Altar call

Through the Holy Spirit I hope all of us have truly focused on meditating on the title of today's Sermon, so that we can change our prayer life to reflect the pattern of God. I really hope you realize that: **GOD IS NOT DEAF!!!!**

If today you would like to receive a Baptism of the Holy Spirit so that God can truly begin to operate in your life please come forward for this special prayer as the final song plays.

If there is someone here who was baptized by water many years ago and has never experienced the Baptism of the Spirit, I invite you to claim your Birthright today under the Blood of Jesus Christ and walk in the Authority Christ has given us.

God bless you all!