

**THE**  
**MIGHTY HAND**  
**OF GOD**  
**PART 3**

**CONNECT NOTES**

## FOR THE FACILITATOR

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions

You will be asked questions on the topic . You open the question to the group as you reach each question

## TOPIC : THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD PART 3 : THE SOURCE OF POWER

Sermon audio: [outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/310](http://outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/310)

### READER 1

The Mighty Hand of God is a picture of the power of the Holy Spirit working through our lives

**We as Outlook church have received a prophecy:** “ You have been faithful with the revelation of His Gracious Hand. Now God wants to reveal His Mighty Hand”

What this means for us is:

1. We need a revelation that God wants to stretch out his mighty hand through us to those around us.
2. We need to position our lives under His mighty hand through the fullness of the Holy Spirit so that we can be conduits of His mighty hand.

**Question 1: Have you seen the mighty hand of God working this week? How was it evident?**

### READER 2

**In order for us to be able to identify how we stay under the mighty hand of God we need to take glimpses into the secret life of Jesus.**

Mark 1:35 (NIV)

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, **where he prayed.**

Luke 6 :12 (NIV)

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and **spent the night praying to God.**

Luke 5:16 (NIV)

But Jesus **often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.**

**Jesus built His life first around prayer and then built His lifestyle from there. He didn't try and squeeze prayer into His free time.**

He considered prayer more important than sleep.

He considered time in prayer as more important than time with people.

Jesus considered busyness a reason to pray rather than a reason to skip prayer.

**Question 2 : Is prayer built around your lifestyle, or is prayer the focus and your lifestyle built around it?**

### **READER 3**

**Even the disciples after living with Jesus connected the dots as to how He had the powerful mighty hand of God over all he did.**

They quickly discovered that Jesus spent a lot of time in prayer

Luke 5:16 -17 (NIV)

16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. **And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.**

**In their minds they started to see a pattern - prayer seems to be the secret to all the power Jesus outworked.**

Mark 9 : 26 - 29 (NIV)

26 The Spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out . The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, " He's dead".

27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

28 After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, " Why couldn't we drive it out?"

29 He replied, "This kind can come out **only by prayer**".

**In observing Jesus the disciples realized - if you want more power, you will need to invest more time into prayer.**

### **READER 4**

Let's take a look at the example of Sampson:

The secret to his power was not long hair but the submission that it symbolised.

When he lost his long hair because he failed to submit, he lost his power.  
When his hair grew and his humility and submission grew so did his power.

POWER AND SUBMISSION ARE LINKED IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

**Prayer is like Sampson long hair.**

Cutting prayer is like Samson cutting his hair.

PRAYER KEEPS US SUBMITTED AND ALIGNED WITH GOD'S PURPOSE AND PLANS

JESUS WANTED HIS DISCIPLES TO MAKE THE CONNECTION

So he started bringing them with him into his prayer times **to get them to pursue God's power through prayer.**

Luke 9:28 (NIV)

About eight days after Jesus said this , he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.

Matthew 26 :36 (NIV)

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray"

Jesus wanted them to watch him praying so that they would catch his heart of prayer.

THE DISCIPLES CLICKED: PRAYER LEADS TO POWER.

## **READER 5**

**BECAUSE OF THIS REVELATION THE DISCIPLES ASKED JESUS TO TEACH THEM TO PRAY.**

**They discovered that this is a non-negotiable habit in a life lived under God's power. They connected the habit of prayer with the power of God.**

Luke 11:1 (NIV)

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

**Leaders are wired to think ROI- Return on Investment**

Most people don't pray because they don't see the fruit of their prayers  
If prayer produces no fruit then it feels like a boring religious duty  
But when you start seeing a return on investment of the time and energy spent in prayer,  
then your mind will change!

### **The disciples saw it in Jesus.**

He invested so much time and energy in prayer  
But look at the results!

## **READER 6**

**Question 3: Have you seen the return on investment of prayer in your life? Can you share an example?**

**To see a full ROI you need to make a lifestyle adjustment.**

Acts 1:14 (NIV)

They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Based on the revelation of the return on investment of Jesus' prayer, they adopted it as their lifestyle.

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

The early church caught it from the apostles.

Acts 6:3-4 (NIV)

3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them  
4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.

The apostles realised that prayer was the most important function they had.

## **READER 7**

PRAYER LEADS TO POWER

**Question 4: Have you allowed the business of life to overshadow your prayer life? How can you make the adjustment to get prayer back as the central focus. To see the mighty hand of God in your life?**

## WHY WAS JESUS SO COMMITTED TO PRAYER?

### 1. Because Jesus only wanted to do the Father's will.

John 5:19 (NIV)

Jesus gave them this answer : " Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself, he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

**Prayer was not an option for Jesus-** it was more important than breathing. He knew in order to do the right thing, say the right thing or decide the right thing - He needed to pray first.

Prayer is the best place for God to speak to you.

YOU WILL PRAY IN PROPORTION TO YOUR FAITH IN THE VERSE: "APART FOR ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING"

#### READER 8

### 2. Because Jesus knew how weak the flesh is and how important it was to stay spiritually strong

Mark 14: 37-38 (NIV)

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon, " he said to Peter,"are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour?  
38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

**Jesus knew that good intentions are not enough in the Kingdom.** Good actions are what count!

Remember Paul's wrestle "I know the good I want to do but don't do it. And what I don't want to do, that I end up doing!"

Prayer is what helps strengthen our spirit so that we don't give into the flesh.

#### READER 9

### 3. Because Jesus knew how good the Father is.

Luke 11:13 (NIV)

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Jesus knew that prayer was not an attempt to twist God's arm. Prayer is aligning ourselves with God's plans. Prayer is how the goodness of the Father was released onto earth.

**Question 5: Do your intentions and your flesh meet up? How can prayer enable your flesh to submit to the will of God?**

### **SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT**

Take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read and why?

### **ACTION STEP**

What are the lifestyle adjustments you have to change, for your flesh to submit to the will of God?

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