

FULLNESS

ISAIAH 65:24 *Before they call, I will answer, while they are still speaking I will hear.*

A point of contact is necessary for us to experience the provision electricity has to offer. Until you flip the switch you won't get light, it's not a power problem; it's not a provision problem, it's a contact problem.

The same is true in our experience of God's fullness in our life. God's power is available, but we need a point of contact in order for us to experience what God's power has to offer. Many of us don't experience the fullness that God has to offer because we don't understand the point of contact. We're not making contact so we think there is no power or provision; but the reality is, a point of contact is missing.

The point of contact between our need and God's provision is PRAYER. A theologian once said, *Prayer is the one thing that God has established in His word to make contact with what He has already decreed.* Where there is no prayer, there is no point of contact, where there is no point of contact we do not get what God has already decreed for us to receive. Many people of us do not experience the fullness of God's decrees because we miss the point of contact.

God has already decreed His will and provision, but until we learn to flip the switch, we miss out on the fullness that God has for us. If we will just be very honest to ourselves, prayer does not play a major part in our life. For many of us, prayer is something we do before we eat! For others, prayer is reduced to just saying, "Lord, bless my day. Amen" and we think that's enough to sustain us for the day or our lives; and we wonder why we don't experience the fullness of God's power and provision. We wonder why we always end up not having enough—joy, satisfaction, happiness, provision, courage; we end up wondering "where did my income go?"

Isaiah 65:24 (NIV) says, "*Before they call I will answer...*" That means, the answer has already been made, it's just waiting on the call. Remember, the word provision means, to see ahead. God has already provided for the need you do not yet see. God has already decreed what He wants to do in your life—the fullness, the power, the effectiveness, the joy, the strength; the provision, the resilience, the courage—all that you need for life and godliness. He's decreed it even before you talk to him about it. It's like someone deposited a check to your bank account, but you need to make a withdrawal of it. The provision can sit there in the bank for the rest of your life and not be dispensed if you don't withdraw from it. God has already decreed what He wants to do in your life, but the assumption is, you have got to call on it. When you call on what God has already decreed, according to His will, you will receive it.

Prayer does not make God decree what He wants to do; He has already decreed what He wants to do, but prayer activates God's decrees in your life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:

- New York Mission Trip (November 8-16)
- Men's Conference (November 3-4)
- Dream Team Convergence (October 29)

PRAY TOGETHER FOR

- A deeper life of prayer for yourself and our church.
- Pastor Jon and Elijah as they attend a Church Planters Conference in Pullman, Washington.

GOAL FOR THIS STUDY:

To strip our mind of everything we believe or think about prayer; all your pre-conceived notions; all that we've learned from tradition, or when we were growing up; and let's ask the Holy Spirit of God, to open our spirit and fill it with new insight from God's Word about prayer. As Pastor said, "[we] really believe that one of the secrets to fullness is prayer, because it is the one thing that God has established in His word to make contact with what He has already decreed in His word." We don't just want to learn about prayer, we want to experience its power in our life.

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

Question:

Did you pray for something today, what did you pray for?

Question:

What was prayer to you and what does it accomplish?

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.

Question:

In Genesis 1:26, God said, "Let them rule." What do you think this means and how does this apply to us?

Question:

Pastor reminded us that, "Prayer is the mechanism (point of contact) that God has established that is completely necessary in order for Him to release what He intends." It is the only point of contact we have with God. How important is prayer to you?

Question:

In 1 Kings 17:1 and 1 Kings 18:1, we see God withhold and grant rain, which were both results of Elijah's prayer. Why did God withhold rain? (1 Kings 16:30-33, Deuteronomy 11:13-17)

Question:

Pastor said, "God loves all people but His favor rests on those who obey Him." What is the difference between God's love and favor? (Isaiah 66:2, 2 Chronicles 16:9, Psalm 5:12, James 5:16)

Question:

In Kings 18:41-44, what significant lessons can you learn from this part of Elijah's prayer life?

Question:

In 1 Kings 18:44, how did Elijah react and respond when his servant saw something out of nothing? What does this tell us about how God answers our prayer?

Growing in Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders.

Question:

Elijah prayed on Mount Carmel and assumed a position of birthing. Carmel means "place of fruitfulness" and that prayer position symbolizes birthing. Pastor reminded us that our place of fruitfulness is our prayer life. In all honesty, how is your prayer life?

Question:

Prayer is no joke or no simple task. It is communicating and imploring the Lord to release His decrees for your life. Prayer is labor intensive. Have you ever labored in prayer like Elijah?

Are there concerns in your life right now for which you need to labor in prayer?

What tests may you be going through today (or this season in your life)? What might God be teaching you through these tests?

Question:

Many people pray generically, which result to generic answers. God has decrees for us individually that we need to discover in His Word. Will you make a commitment to know God's Word so you'll know how to pray more intentionally?

Suggestion:

Try praying and fasting once a week (i.e. skip a meal and intentionally pray for others' concerns and God's decrees for you).