Repentance in Prayer Sermon Handout

“Teach Me to Pray, Lord.” Series # 5

It says in John 14:13 NIV, “And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

This is a huge promise. But it is not an entirely blank check.

There are several things that hinder our effectiveness in prayer. Some examples are a lack of faith, sin, unforgiveness, selfish desires, and greed.

Isaiah 59:1-2 NIV

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save,
    nor his ear too dull to hear.
**2**But your iniquities have separated
    you from your God;
your sins have hidden his face from you,
    so that he will not hear.

To be effective in prayer, we cannot have unrepented sin in our life.

David’s prayer of repentance provides us a good model.

Psalm 51:1-16 NIV

**1**Have mercy on me, O God,
    according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
    blot out my transgressions.
**2**Wash away all my iniquity
    and cleanse me from my sin.

**3**For I know my transgressions,
    and my sin is always before me.
**4**Against you, you only, have I sinned
    and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
    and justified when you judge.
**5**Surely I was sinful at birth,
    sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
**6**Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
    you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

**7**Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
    wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
**8**Let me hear joy and gladness;
    let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
**9**Hide your face from my sins
    and blot out all my iniquity.

**10**Create in me a pure heart, O God,
    and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
**11**Do not cast me from your presence
    or take your Holy Spirit from me.
**12**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
    and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

**13**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
    so that sinners will turn back to you.
**14**Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
    you who are God my Savior,
    and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
**15**Open my lips, Lord,
    and my mouth will declare your praise.
**16**You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
    you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

In this prayer we see that repentance is a whole person event.

Repentance recognizes sin as evil and agrees that we are guilty, deserving of punishment, and that God through Jesus Christ is the only way we can be freed from the eternal death and decay that sin brings.

Repentance sees that we need help not just for the sins we have committed, but for the sinful nature with which we were all born.

1. We need restoration in the covenant community.
2. We need psychological healing from sin, guilt, and shame.
3. We need God to remove our sins and blot them out, and in doing so, He casts them out of His sight to consider them no more.
4. We need the purity of heart that comes from holiness. We need to be entirely sanctified.
5. We need to be in this restored, redeemed relationship with God if we are to have power in prayer.

True, deep, and complete repentance restores joy and gladness, bolsters faith and hope, and joins us in renewed communion with God so that we can praise, worship, and pray unhindered.