

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
May 22, 2016

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Sunday Morning 05-22-2106  
You need a prayer partner.  
<http://bible.com/events/38532>

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Jesus gave us a supernatural mission.

Matthew 28:19-20 NLT

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Jesus promised us a supernatural power to carry out his mission.

John 7:38-39 NLT

Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)

Unfortunately for the last century or more, Christians in the US and Canada have attempted to carry out Jesus’ supernatural mission with human ingenuity, plans and programs.

North America is rapidly becoming the only continent where God’s kingdom is not growing.

In the early 1900’s, Methodist pastor and author, E M Bounds wrote these words about the American church and Jesus’ promise.

Here is a promise concerning the indwelling and outflowing of the Holy Spirit in us, life-giving, fruitful, irresistible, a ceaseless outflow of the river of God in us.

How God needs, how the world needs, how the church needs the flow of this mighty river, more blessed than the Nile, deeper, broader, more outflowing than the Amazon’s broad and mighty current! And yet what (meager gullies) we are and have!

O that the church, by the infilling and outflowing of the Holy Spirit, might be able to raise up everywhere [monuments] of the Holy Spirit’s power.... We need, the age needs, the church needs [monuments] of God’s mighty power...”

Citation: The Complete Works of E M Bounds, compiled by Baker Books, © 1990

1 Corinthians 2:4 NLT

And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is our problem.

We have forgotten to pray in the Spirit and so our words and acts of love are not confirmed by demonstrations of the Holy Spirit's power.

#### SYMPTOMS OF OUR PROBLEM:

- A. You and I have witnessed Christians fighting "worship wars" over the styles of music.
- B. We've leaned on our intellect, our knowledge, our communication skills, our planning abilities and our efforts trying to do what only God can do in our lives and in the lives of those around us.
- C. We have developed prayers and activities that are feeble, faulty and fruitless. We cannot even keep up with the population growth rate.
- D. Our prayers seem so small and insignificant.
- E. Many of us question the need to pray.
- F. We have mistaken intensity in prayer for connecting with God.

#### CAUSES OF OUR PROBLEM:

1. "Prayerlessness is our declaration of independence from God."

Citation: Transforming Prayer, Daniel Henderson

2. We are focusing on the activities that my friend Tim Roehl calls "necessary but not sufficient."

3. We simply are not asking God to fill us with His Spirit's presence, power and peace.

How can we overcome our problem? How can we pray in the Spirit and have our words and acts of love confirmed by demonstrations of the Holy Spirit's power?

God's overwhelming presence in our worship services and His [life changing power] making our evangelism [ventures] effective are waiting for us to have a new dimension of prayer [in] the dynamic of the Spirit.

Citation: Mighty Prevailing Prayer, Wesley L. Duewel, Zondervan (c) 1990

Romans 8:26-27 NLT

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

Sermon in a Sentence:

You need a Prayer Partner. You need the Holy Spirit to be your Prayer Partner.

In a very real way, the deepest prayers of the Spirit-filled person come from the Father, by the Spirit, to the praying one and then are returned from his or her heart back to the Father by the Spirit and are "amen-ed" by God the Son. Christians are never in closer unity with the Trinity than when they pray [in

the Spirit].

Citation: Mighty Prevailing Prayer, Wesley L. Duewel, Zondervan (c) 1990

#### Seven Secrets of Spirit Partnered Prayer

1. When He is your Prayer Partner, the Holy Spirit will teach you how and what to pray; so start your prayer times by asking him to guide your feelings, thoughts and words.
2. When the Holy Spirit is your Prayer Partner, He will give life to your dead feeling prayers; replace ignorance with wisdom; and light His fire in your prayers.
3. When He is your Prayer Partner, the Holy Spirit will invite you to pray by exposing a God-sized need to you, or by giving you a God-sized vision for the future, or by reminding you of someone He wants you to pray for.
4. As your Prayer Partner, the Holy Spirit will fill your heart with his love and concern for hurting people.
5. When He is your Prayer Partner, the Spirit will multiply your faith.
6. When you feel too tired, too distressed, too busy to pray, your Prayer Partner, the Holy Spirit will give you the power to pray until you really connect with God.
7. As your Prayer Partner, the Holy Spirit will call you to fast or to sacrifice in another way in order to give you more time to pray.

Do you feel prompted by the Holy Spirit to ask Him to fill you and to be your Prayer Partner?

Will you do it?

#### CAUSES OF OUR PROBLEM:

1. We have been prayerless in so many ways. "Prayerlessness is our declaration of independence from God."

Citation: Transforming Prayer, Daniel Henderson

2. We are focusing on the activities that my friend Tim Roehl calls "necessary but not sufficient."  
(Illustrate with physical health – all systems must be functioning for us to enjoy health)

- Good music church
- Good preaching and teaching church
- Friendly church
- Biblical theology church
- Progressive church
- New church
- Old church
- Fellowship focused church
- Outreach focused church
- Missionary sending/supporting church
- Creative, contemporary church
- Traditional church

ALL THESE ARE GOOD AND “NECESSARY BUT NOT SUFFICIENT.” No one ever commits his or her life to following Jesus because of these things. This is a supernatural thing only the Holy Spirit can do.

3. We are either ignorant of or ignoring the Holy Spirit. We simply are not asking God to fill us with His Spirit’s presence, power and peace.

Key Question:

How can we overcome our problem? How can we pray in the Spirit and have our words and acts of love confirmed by demonstrations of the Holy Spirit’s power?