

The Power of Biblical Living – 2/11/24

TEXT- Ephesians 6:18 *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

INTRO – In my early years of education I became familiar with a book titled, “The Power of Positive Thinking” The author was an American Protestant clergyman Norman Vincent Peale. He served as the pastor of Marble Collegiate Church, New York, from 1932, leading this Reformed Church in America congregation for more than a half century until his retirement in 1984.

The idea behind his book was to think positive and you can do whatever you want to do. Unfortunately, positive thinking alone does not bring everything you desire to pass.

A series of books by Southern Baptist John Bisagno were:

- The Power of Positive Praying by John Bisagno
- The Power of Positive Living
- The Power of Positive Evangelism
- The Power of Positive Preaching

The opposite of positive think is negative thinking. Negative thinking is extremely detrimental to one’s Christian walk. No one wants to be around negative people. Negative thinking brings a shadow to every meeting. It is the Eeyore, of Winnie the Pooh syndrome.

What is a believer to do? The answer is to utilize Biblical thinking and develop a biblical outlook to life.

Philippians 4:11 *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

It begins with:

I. Biblical Praying – Not positive praying

A. Praying for laborers

Matthew 9:37-38 *Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

1. Pray for your children to follow the Lord in ministry
 - a. If they are faithful in church and serving the church that is an answered prayer.
 - B. God must work in their life to guide them.
 - c. Pray that they follow God’s highest calling.

2. Pray for more pastors and missionaries

3. Pray for more servants in the local church to be

deacons, trustees, Sunday school teachers, soul-winners etc.

B. Praying for the salvation of souls

Romans 10:1 *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.*

C. Pray for the fullness of the Spirit and boldness

Luke 11:13 *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

Ephesians 6:19 *And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,*

Acts 4:29 *And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,*

D. Pray for wisdom

James 1:5 *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

E. Pray for unity

John 17:20-21 *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

F. Pray for the will of God

Colossians 1:9 *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*

G. Pray for spiritual power

Ephesians 1:16-19 *Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,*

H. Pray for protection from temptation

Matthew 26:41 *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

I. Pray without ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17 *Pray without ceasing.*

II. Biblical Living – Living according to the Bible – Not positive living

A. Christ living in us

Philippians 1:21 *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

Col. 1:27 *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*

Colossians 3:3-4 *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

B. Holy Living

1 Peter 1:15-16 *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

Ephesians 5:3 *But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;*

Colossians 3:5 *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:*

1. A godly home
2. Pleasant speech
3. Faithful in prayer and Bible reading
4. Easily instructed
5. Loyal to authority

C. Proper motives

2 Corinthians 5:14 *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:*

III. Biblical Evangelism – Not positive evangelism

A. The lost are blinded by Satan

Praying Effectively for the Lost By Lee E. Thomas

The lost will not and indeed cannot be saved unless someone prays for them. This is a shocking statement that sounds unbelievable until we view the Biblical portrayal of the lost as being: children of the devil (John 8:44), under the authority of Satan (Acts 26:18), a strong man's house (Mark 3:27), prisoners of war (Isaiah 14:17) and blinded to the gospel (II Corinthians 4:3-4).

II Corinthians 4:3-4 says, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." This passage clearly teaches that Satan has blinded the minds of the lost specifically to keep them from understanding the gospel.

Lewis Sperry Chafer says, "The blinding or veiling of the mind, mentioned in II Corinthians 4:3-4, causes a universal incapacity to comprehend the way of salvation, and is imposed upon unregenerate man by the arch enemy of God in his attempts to hinder the purpose of God in redemption. It is a condition of mind against which man can have no power"

Romans 3:9-20, 28-29 The following is the condition for every person who has lived or ever will live. 1. Under sin (v9) 2. None righteous (v10) 3. None

that understandeth (v11) 4. None that seeketh after God (v11) 5. Gone out of the way (v12)

B. We are to be a witness and preach the gospel

- It is not our place to win people to Christ
- It is not our place to bring conviction on the lost
- It is not our place to coerce people to be saved
- It is our job to preach the Word.

Proverbs 11:30 *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*

Psalms 126:6 *He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*

Ninety-five percent of professing Christians never win a single soul to Christ!

C. God draws a man

John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

John 16:8 *And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

It is God that does the saving

Isaiah 1:18 *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

IV. Biblical Preaching - Not positive preaching

A. Preach God's message not opinion

B. Preach from the Bible – The emphasis of the sermon should come from the force of the Scripture.

C. Preach the whole counsel of God.

Acts 20:27 *For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*

D. Preach Christ

CONCL – Positive thinking lacks the authority of God.

Psychology does not convert a sinner.

A change is wrought only by the power of God.