

House On The Rock Life Group Study outline 2022

April: Praying to Breakthrough

Week 1 – The place of prayer

Introduction

Asking for help from a superior power is part of our everyday reality. Think of the leader of a country being attacked by another reaching out to a third, even more powerful country – like in the case of Ukraine. How about when you want to cross the road and “invoke” the backing of a superior power (the law) in using a pedestrian crossing? But these examples are missing a personal element. How about when a child cries out to her mother or father for help, or a friend asks you for a favour? Why does the parent drop everything and rush to the help of the child, and why would you wake up late at night to answer that call from a dear friend?

Beyond asking for help, we often find ourselves wanting to belong to a network of “connected” or “powerful” people *before we even need help*. We jump at the opportunity to be friends with the Prime minister or someone from the royal family. Why? Naturally, we want to be friends with them because we are nice people. But beyond that, we gain access to greater perspectives, wider spheres of influence and even a bigger purpose. Plus, it never hurts to have a powerful person on speed dial.

These are of course poor analogies for the place of prayer in our lives. However they do show us that prayer in itself is not a choice. The choice is in who we pray to, and when we do it.

Pilot text

[Phil 4:6-7 \[AMP\]](#) 6Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. 7And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].

- Prayer basics. How would you describe prayer, and why do we need to pray?
- Types of prayer. What different types of prayer are you aware of? Consider the pilot text, your everyday experience and examples from scripture
 - [Eph 3:14-15](#), [Mk 4:39](#), [Eph 6:12](#)
- The call to prayer. Your opportunity to join a season of breakthrough prayer

Take home actions

Think about how you have been praying over the last month and consider whether you need to change anything.