

Unlock the Power of Prayer to Evangelize

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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To unlock the power of prayer means to open the power of God who hears and answers prayers according to His perfect will and timing. Prayer is a way to spend time with God, to connect with Him and align our hearts with Him. Thus, we invite Him to our lives to ask for His guidance every day.

How do we unlock the power of prayer:

1. Prayer is the act of listening with the heart.

According to St. Francis, evangelization and preaching are proclamations of the Word. More important than finding the right words, is finding the right disposition that gives power to prayer. Let us pray by giving ourselves time and space to be alone in the presence of God, and listen with our heart (Mt. 6:6)

2. A heart truly loves, truly hears and listens to the beloved.

Jesus Christ reminds us that we learn to listen when we learn to love. Without love, we can only listen to what we want to hear, and we tend to exaggerate what the Lord expects. Sometimes, we fail to ask God what He wants us to do. And yet, we expect God to bless our actions. Therefore, we need to stop, listen, and ask the Lord to help us love Him through the grace of listening.

3. Have faith in God and learn to submit to God's will.

Habakkuk prayed to God with a passionate expression of grief and lament which unlocked the power of prayer (Hab. 1:1-4; 5:17). It was a nice conversation with God, wherein Habakkuk was honest with his humanity. God responded to him like a friend. Therefore, let us not hold back our emotions when we talk with God; let us share our honest feelings with Him. God will answer our prayers according to His will.

4. God speaks back to our grumbling, lamenting and weeping.

When we express our pains and frustrations through grumbling, lamenting and weeping, we are giving the Lord a chance to enter our lives (Rom.8"26). However, God does not work if we pray just to end the negative feelings; we need to be accustomed to suffering. It is an external experience which involves difficulty/pain that is inevitable. Let us give our love without expecting anything in return.

5. God knows: He is aware; He comprehends; He feels.

God provides consolation. He is merciful and will not abandon us (Isa. 41:10). Faith is measured when we start to understand that it is enough to have someone beside us. A faith-filled prayer unlocks the power to be united with God's mind and heart; to see, to feel and think with God. It transforms us and enables us to transcend our experiences by the discovery of meaning, purpose and wisdom even amid suffering.

6. The prayer of St. Francis in time of crisis.

Most of the prayers of St. Francis are praise and worship. However, he has one prayer for crisis: he asked God to enlighten the darkness of his heart; to give him true faith, hope, perfect love, sense and knowledge, so that he would always and in all things, carry out God's holy and true command. This prayer will also unlock our hearts; we are sent to evangelize; in whatever we do and how we do it, people will sense that we are persons of prayer.

CONCLUSION: A prayerful man will always be at the right place, at the right time, to give the right word, and the power of prayer is unlocked to evangelize (Jas.5:16-18).

REFLECTION: How can you make your prayer more effective so that you may hear God better?

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