

DIALED IN

Prayer / Mark 9:21-29

Pastor Miles, Jan 21, 2018

Before there were any electronic recording devices, TV and radio shows encouraged us to "tune in" next week for the next chapter or episode. If we didn't want to miss a show, we would have to faithfully "dial in" each week to get the latest. Favorite shows were rarely missed because a routine was followed. Today's message was about tuning in to conversations God, the angels and Holy Spirit are already having about us. Do we feel bad when we miss a day of prayer? Is our prayer life as regular as we are at hearing/watching a particular show or following/checking social media?

Ice Breaker: Share about ways that you like to tune into God? Prayer? Worship? Etc.

Encouragement: Pastor Miles gave the example of a tomato frog. When scared or being eaten by a predator, the frog secretes a nasty poison from its skin and the enemy stops the attack. The problem is that the frog is already chewed up and damaged before being released by the predator. When we pray at the end of the day, we allow the enemy to attack us all day long without Spiritual protection.

What can you do to pray in the morning or pray longer/more often?

How do professional athletes train/practice differently than amateur athletes?

Do you feel that you are an amateur Christian or a fully surrendered Christian?

Share what techniques or practices will help others to overcome the excuses that we use to justify amateur prayer life.

EXERCISE:

Break into smaller groups of 2 or 3:

Often we tend to limit God. God has more for you if you let Him.

When we tune in to God, we join a positive conversation between the Holy Spirit and God that is already in progress. Take turns telling the members of the smaller groups:

- What you have been worried about.
- What lies the enemy has either tried to or has put into your head such as
"You are not _____ enough."
"You are so _____ (negative comment)."

Then have the other member(s) speak prophesy or turn those lies around into truths.

How did it feel to hear the opposite of the lies you have been telling yourself?

Scripture:

READ Mark 9:21-24

What is your biggest doubt or concern or hesitation about praying for someone else?

If there are no doubts now, was there a time when you had those doubts? If so, how did you overcome them?

What is your stronghold? In other words, what area in your life does the enemy have an advantage or temptation that God can transform?

What is a supernatural prayer request you have? Take a few moments to meditate and reflect on this question.

READ James 5:16-18. Does James give assurance or a guarantee that those prayed for in faith will be healed? How does prayer and healing happen?

LEADER NOTE: The best thing we can do is pray in humble confidence that God will heal someone. Once there is prayer, we can leave it up to God.

Next Steps: Spend a few moments in quiet reflection. Who can you invite to the Rock for Easter? Write down 3 names, and start praying for them to attend. This year, Easter is April 1st (no kidding).

The most important relationship is the one with Jesus.

How much more time will you pray to Him?

What supernatural thing will you pray for?

More prayer time with God can be as simple as acknowledging God is there and waiting quietly with pen and paper for that small still voice.

Quote from Pastor Miles: "If you do not pray for miracles, maybe you should stop praying."

The difference between FACT and TRUTH:

FACT: "I am sad that my Mom passed away."

TRUTH: "I have hope and I am confident that I will see her in heaven."

Notes:
