

LIVING AND LEADING FROM THE THRONE ROOM LESSON 1 LEADERSHIP IN PRAYER

GOALS OF THIS SERIES:

1. Help leaders bear more fruit by encouraging them in how to put prayer at the foundation of their leadership journey. Too many leaders pray as a reaction to things but not as their strategy for leading.
2. Help leaders articulate their prayer strategy so that they can inspire others beyond themselves (raise up a praying family, church, marriage, or business). If you can't articulate it, you can't multiply it.
3. Challenge us to use this pandemic time to encourage others to deepen their prayer foundation. Never waste a crisis. God has chosen this as a season of prayer.

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” (Matt. 6:6 NIV)

“What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.” (Matt. 10:27 NIV)

I. What is meant by leading from the throne room?

A. The throne room is the secret place of God's presence, that we're to come boldly into by the blood of Jesus.

“Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Heb. 4:16 NIV)

1. We have the amazing privilege of entering the control room of the universe.
2. We get to come, to move the hand that moves everything.

B. Three things I think of when I think of the throne room of God

1. His joyful presence. It is where we fully realize His love and experience intimacy with God.

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.” (Ps. 100:4 NIV)

The throne room is the place of alignment where we pursue intimacy. It is where we receive insight into God's priorities and directions, not by focusing on questions but focusing on Jesus. It is where we take our seat with Jesus in heavenly places.

2. The courtroom. It is where we intercede and stand in the gap as intercessory advocates for others.

3. The war room. This is where we gain insights into God's strategies and come in line with the offensive response to the enemy's attacks.
(We are going to learn to delight in Him, align with Him, intercede for Him, and fight for Him.)

II. In today's lesson we want to focus on "why" we lead in prayer.

A. Prayer is the most talked about but often least practiced part of strategic leadership. So many prayers are more reactive rather than proactive and prayer activators.

Billy Graham said, "There is so much that God can do through us once we've prayed, but so little he can do through us until we pray."

B. So often the stirring it takes to get movement in prayer is people really understanding why we pray and why prayer is the central focus of a leader.

III. Key things we know about why Jesus made prayer (leading from the throne room) the key strategy of His leadership.

A. It is our encounters with God in the *secret* place, that determine what happens and how we change the atmosphere in the *public* place.

1. Our chief role is to be gatekeepers for the invasion of Heaven to earth.

"Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means rock), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven." (Matt. 16:18-19 NLT)

2. One of the important parts of our identity and throne room leading is to see ourselves as citizens of Heaven, seated with Christ, partnering with Him in bringing His kingdom on earth. We are to learn to be priests with God so we can begin to operate as kings on earth!

B. Many Christians don't realize that prayer is the legal means, whereby God interacts in this world. God is not only a God of mercy but of justice. When Adam sinned, he turned over his dominion to Satan.

1. Satan is the god of this world.

"Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News." (2 Cor. 4:4 NLT)

"Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me." (Matt. 4:8-9 NLT)

2. Because authority was forfeited by man to Satan, the authority to operate and bring God's rule back in this dimension, in this dispensation, must be through humans. We are God's legal representatives, given authority by Christ to intercede in this world.

"You do not have because you do not ask God." (James 4:2 NIV)

Apart from God we can't; apart from us He won't.

3. God is passionately longing for His will to be done, through His people aligned with Him in prayer, contending for His will on earth.

“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Eph. 3:10-11 NIV)

4. Even the apostle Paul depended on the prayers of God’s people to be effective.

“...for I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ that what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.” (Phil. 1:19 NIV)

“I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.” (Ezek. 22:30 NIV)

5. It is our prayers that restrain and cut off the thief in his assaults against people on earth.

1. Our prayers have the power to block and obstruct the enemy’s attack. Our prayer shield can quench every fiery dart of the enemy. (Eph. 6:16)

2. One of the most important lessons we learn in the war room is that our battle is not with flesh and blood. People are not our enemies.

The war room is where Satan’s influence on people can be addressed and become the crucial deciding factor in victory or defeat in our personal life and our ministry.

“Prayer isn’t preparation for the battle; prayer is the battle. Ministry is simply picking up the spoils from the victories won in the battle of prayer.”

C. It is our alignment with God in the secret place that produces fruit in all of the assignments God has given us. (Examples of encounters with God in the secret place that resulted in the fulfillment of divine assignments in the earthly realm: Philippines/Zambia)

D. Time in the throne room enables us to partner with God in helping lead those God has put in our “jurisdiction” fulfill their destiny. One of the main roles of leadership intercession is to stand in agreement with God in speaking and guiding those we lead into their destinies.

“Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.” (Amos 3:7 NIV)

Our call to watch over the flock is a call to give prophetic insight and guidance that comes from time in the secret place with God.

E. Prayer is where we move from operating in our strength and wisdom into the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit.

“So he said to me, ‘This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty. What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground.’” (Zech. 4:6-7 NIV)

“I’ve seen your ministry, now I’m going to show you mine.”

F. Prayer is where we find the high ground in the Spirit and the grace to take the high road in dealing with hard people. Prayer is the only sure way to deal with problems that are bigger than you, feelings that overwhelm you, and people who try to ruin and defeat you.

“If your stage time exceeds your prayer time, you will be in trouble all of the time.” -Gerald Brooks.

“David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him... But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.” (1 Sam. 30:6 NKJV)
(Melvin Maxwell)

“The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.” (Hab. 3:19 NIV)

G. Prayer is what empowers us to minister from the inside out instead of the outside in.

Some things that change about our ministry through time in the throne room.

1. We minister out of the affection of Christ rather than our human love. (Phil. 1:8)
2. We speak from our heart and not just our head.
3. We don’t just minister knowledge but the presence of God.
4. God shows up when we speak.

“It is never our words that ultimately make the difference but how God uses our words that makes the difference.”

“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.” (1 Cor. 2:4-5 NIV)

People come and are moved at the altar because I have put myself on the altar before and during my preaching.

KEY QUESTIONS

1. Where have you had an encounter with God in the secret place that resulted in a work of God in the outer realm?
2. Have you received insight in prayer about how to lead people to their spiritual destinies?
3. How have you noticed a difference in trying to help people after you have spent time praying for them?
4. Do you have an example of a battle in your life or church, that was impossible to solve until a breakthrough came in the spiritual realm?
5. How would you explain to people why they should not expect God to move until they have let God move them in prayer?