

# Prayer and Testing

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- I. **When you become a Christian, a dramatic change happens. You become dangerous to hell as a member of the Kingdom of God and a prized, dearly loved child of God (Luke 22:28-30).**
  - A. “I confer on you a kingdom” (Luke 22:29-30). “Confer” means “to assign a thing to another as his possession” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon).
  - B. “Kingdom” means “authority or rule.” Jesus gives us authority to accomplish His objective, which is to change the hearts of all people so that entire nations are transformed (Matthew 28:18-20; 24:14).
  - C. Jesus started with Peter and gave him (and us) “the keys of the kingdom of heaven.” With that there is the binding of Satan’s purposes and the loosing of God’s purposes on the earth (Matthew 16:15-19).
  
- II. **It is important that we become aware of the seriousness of our position as believers. Notice what follows Jesus’ amazing statement of conferring the kingdom on his disciples. “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat”(Luke 22:31-34).**
  - A. The good news is that Jesus is praying for us (Luke 22:32).
  - B. Are we praying also? Jesus told his disciples in the midst of His greatest trial, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation” (Luke 22:39-46).
  - C. The Greek word for “temptation” can also be translated “testing or trial.” Our prayer life can even help avoid testing and trials altogether (Matthew 6:13).
  
- III. **A lifestyle of prayer, thankfulness, and communion with God gives us great success in dealing with the spiritual forces at work around us (John 10:10).**
  - A. Prayer keeps us from the failure of surprise. Making dumb choices in a sudden crisis is one of the biggest problems I’ve encountered. Notice Matthew 26:41 adds the word “watch” to prayer (Luke 22:60-62; I Peter 4:12-13; 5:8-9).
  - B. Prayer, worship, and thanksgiving strengthen us with heaven’s internal provision. To receive the inner fortitude that Jesus needed as He faced the cross, we find Him praying. He even had to distance Himself from the disciples who were not praying (Luke 22:41).
    1. “Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed” (Luke 5:15-16).
    2. Paul also gives us a glimpse of how he coped with trials (Phil. 4:4-9).
  - C. Prayer brings revelation for “a way out” of difficult circumstances (I Cor. 10:13).
    1. “Man does not live by bread alone” (Matthew 4:4). “Give us today our daily bread...” is not just about physical provision (Matthew 6:11).
    2. James tells us that if we ask God, He’ll give us the wisdom we need for every problem (James 1:5-8).

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*December 2 & 3, 2017*