

Prayer

Story of a young man you went to a candy store...

I. God's plans need our prayers too?

- A. God wants to accomplish great things
- B. Principal-- God often waits to accomplish His will until we ask

- Jer. 29: 10-14 GREAT PLANS - Dan. 9: He remembers that God has great plans for His people -2 Chr 36: - kept promise

- C. When we read a promise in the bible, what should that do?

II. Great prayers for great plans

- A. What did Jesus teach us to do?
- B. Remember Anna and Simeon...
- C. The way we pray is important to our relationship w/ God
- D. Our question: Is the church here experiencing the great plans of God? Or accepting the status quo?

III. Either we stay the same or we change.

- A. We need to let God out of the box and in to the church
 - 1. Pray for the healing of the sick, marriages, broken relationships in the church, stagnation
 - 2. If we pray, not believing that God can intervene, then we practice Deism.

- **The story of the women at church.**

- 3. I believe Jonah - Jericho - sea parted - virgin - 3 days - resurrection

B. Remember why the miracles of the book are there.

- **Have you heard about the bumper sticker that says "My God is alive, to bad about yours..."**

- 1. I want us to see that history is not written in stone

C. **I think that maybe I pray to much like the saints in Acts 12:1-17...**

- 1. God had bigger plans than that!
- 2. I believe that God delights in our puny little plans with his big plans!
 - Paul told us in Eph. 3.:20

D. Let me ask... do we want God's plans for the church and for our lives?

-**Look at this picture of the volumes in heaven...**

- Life and ministry of Scot Poirier vs. what I asked for
- The history of the Chelmsford church vs. what we asked for
- We need to know that nothing lies outside the reach of prayer except what lies outside the will of God
- And things are going to stay the way they are until we let God out of the box

E. We can not do supernatural work through natural power... may God forgive us for trying to

- **Hadden Robinson said that the work is prayer (Because it is God that accomplishes spiritual victory)**

- 1. Moses... Joshua... Nehemiah...
- 2. Our first priority is to pray for God to become involved, not our last.
- 3. Acts 4 (Shook the house)
- 4. We need God to shake the house in our life! In the church! in this lost world!

(The Church of God's Intent, the living Body of Christ)

F. What would happen if we vowed to pray daily for the spiritual growth of this congregation?

- 1. I believe that God so desperately wants to do more than what we are doing

Conclusion: What I want to ask this morning is: What would you claim for the church here that only God can deliver?

A. Or better, what are you praying for the church whose answer is so big and so awesome that only God could get the glory for it?

- **Arnold Palmer... Saudi Arabia (King) -When you are asking the King, don't ask puny!**

B. The tomb is empty!

- Pray in a way as if it only depended upon God and then work in such a way as if it only depended upon you
- **God moves mountains and prayer moves God!**