

A Life of Intercession

IV. The Spirit of Prayer – Contending for Fullness

A. Getting a vision for fullness

1. A lofty vision is the single greatest thing that God can give us to equip us in our pursuit of Him.
Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no revelation [prophetic vision], the people cast off restraint
2. Our prayer life, and our walk with God, changes substantially when it becomes centered around His vision for our fullness.
 - a. Prophetic vision is what enables to come to God with requests rather than preaching or pointing.
 - b. Prophetic vision is what empowers us to see something other than this present darkness.
 - c. Prophetic vision is what takes us into the realm of reaching for what is not, rather than just managing what is.
 - d. Prophetic vision is the only way to maintain prayer longterm.
 - e. His vision for us is much bigger than our vision for ourselves – it lifts our faith level to ask for things we would never think to ask for otherwise.
Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
3. God has a vision for fullness. Do we?
Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ
Colossians 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.
Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
Colossians 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. 29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.
Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
4. One of the reasons for the giving of the Holy Spirit was to reveal that fullness to us.
2 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God... 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...13...you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. 15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe... 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

5. This is what makes the Spirit a much better intercessor than we are. And He will both intercede for us, and teach us to pray.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

6. A vision for fullness is what causes us to hunger and to break out of our apathy.

Revelation 3:14 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked — 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.””

B. Three areas where God desires to bring fullness

1. Gold refined in the fire – the riches of our inheritance in God through the indwelling of His Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

John 14:12 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

Apostolic Prayers – Lk 24:49, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:17-21, 1 Cor 4:8, Acts 4:29-31

2. White garments – the righteous acts of the saints.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of

water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Apostolic Prayers – Phil 1:9-11, Jn 17:15-17

3. Eye salve – the opening of the eyes of our understanding.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

Jeremiah 31:33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD.

Apostolic Prayers – Eph 1:17-19, Eph 3:16-19, Col 1:9-12, Acts 2:17-21

C. Contending for fullness

1. When God makes a promise it's an invitation to rise up and fight for its fulfillment.

1 Timothy 1:18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare

2. Our inheritance is ours courtesy of God's gift of adoption – we cannot earn it. But we must guard our hearts to not despise it by treating it lightly.

Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; ... like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

3. God has promised the Holy Spirit, but still only gives as we ask.

Luke 11:13 ...how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

4. What it looks like to contend for the breakthrough – the prayer meeting that birthed the Holy Spirit and the church.

Acts 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. 4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father... 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem... 13 ...they went up into the upper room where they were staying... 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication... **2:1**

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place...

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...

D. Living in the days before fullness

1. We want to develop eyes of faith – to begin to see the way that God sees – not what is lacking, but what He is perfecting.
Romans 4:17 God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did
 We see our past failures and our present shortcomings, God sees our future glory.
 2. We must be grateful in the days of small beginnings.
Zechariah 4:10 For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth.”
 3. We must fully embrace the paradox of living hungry while living satisfied.
Psalm 63:1 O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. 2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. 3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. 4 Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. 5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.
 4. We must set our hearts for a journey from glory to glory. Tomorrow's glory does not make today's glory any less significant, and neither does today's glory make tomorrow's glory any less necessary.
2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.
Psalm 84:5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage. 6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools. 7 They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion.
 5. We must be faithful in the small things.
Matthew 25:23 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’
 6. We must set our hearts after 100% obedience to the revelation and grace that He has given us thus far.
Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. 14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16 as you hold out the word of life
- E. God will reward those who earnestly seek fullness.
1. God rewards, not according to what we achieve, but according to what we seek.
Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
 2. Let us earnestly seek the best things:
 - a. Acquiring a vision for them
 - b. Earnestly contending for them in prayer
 - c. Gratefully giving thanks for today's measure
 - d. Faithfully stewarding the day of small beginnings
 - e. Setting our hearts on 100% obedience