PRAYER FOUNDATION 2023

Life in the Spirit

THE IMPORTANCE OF

Prayer

Matthew 21:12-13

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Introduction

- We have had a good time praying this week.
- God can do great things in our lives but it starts with prayer.

Introduction

- **2023 will be challenging but the way to involve God in your journey is through prayer!**

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1) House of Prayer

[12] Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

Matthew 21:12-13 (NKJV)

13 And He said to them,
“It is written,
‘My house shall be called a
house of prayer,’ but you have
made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ”

Matthew 21:12-13 (NKJV)

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1) House of Prayer

- **Why was Jesus angry?**
- **Merchants made the house of God into a marketplace and exploited God's people.**
- **They made the house of God like a 'den of thieves'.**

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1) House of Prayer

- **Do you think Jesus would be happy if the house of God was engaging in honest marketplace activities?**

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1) House of Prayer

- **God intended for the temple to be a house of prayer.**
- **How about our temple in LSBC?**
- **Is LSBC known as a house of prayer?**

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1) House of Prayer

- **We may not fully understand the importance of praying together.**

a) Some prayers are meant to be prayed together by the whole body.

“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)

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1) House of Prayer

a) **Some prayers are meant to be prayed together by the whole body.**

- **God wants our Church to be united in responding to him.**

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1) House of Prayer

b) There is power in corporate prayer

19 “Again, truly I tell you that if two of
you on earth agree about anything
they ask for, it will be done for
them by my Father in heaven. 20 For
where two or three gather in my
name, there am I with them.”

Matthew 18:19-20 (NKJV)

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1) House of Prayer

b) There is power in corporate prayer

- **when we pray together, there is power in agreement**

1) House of Prayer

c) Some battles are meant to be fought together

- **Some personal battles cannot be won if we fight alone.**
- **We need the corporate anointing to obtain the breakthroughs.**

1) House of Prayer

c) Some battles are meant to be fought together

- **In the prayer meetings in 2023, we are going to devote a segment to praying for the needs of our people.**

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Life in the Spirit

1) House of Prayer

c) Some battles are meant to be fought together

- **Let us make LSBC a House of Prayer by coming together to pray.**

2) Jesus made time to pray

2) Jesus made time to pray

- **Prayer is essential for life and we must incorporate prayer into our lifestyle.**
- ***Luke 5:16*: Jesus would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.**

2) Jesus made time to pray

- **Some of you might say that Jesus is special and that's why he could do it but we have gotten it wrong.**
- **We are not so special that we need to pray more.**

2) Jesus made time to pray

- **Life is filled with challenges and that's why we need God.**
- **I have no time but yet I still indulged in a pastime.**

2) Jesus made time to pray

- I sort of rested physically but my spiritual energy was not replenished.
- With every battle I won, I grew more tired.

2) Jesus made time to pray

- **Not just survive this year, I want to thrive!**

2) Jesus made time to pray

- **I will need God to see me through the year.**
- **By praying, I am plugged into the power source.**



“The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself …”

1 Corinthians 14:4 (ESV)

2) Jesus made time to pray

- **The Mountain or Wilderness should be a place without handphone or Wifi signals.**

3) Ask and you will receive

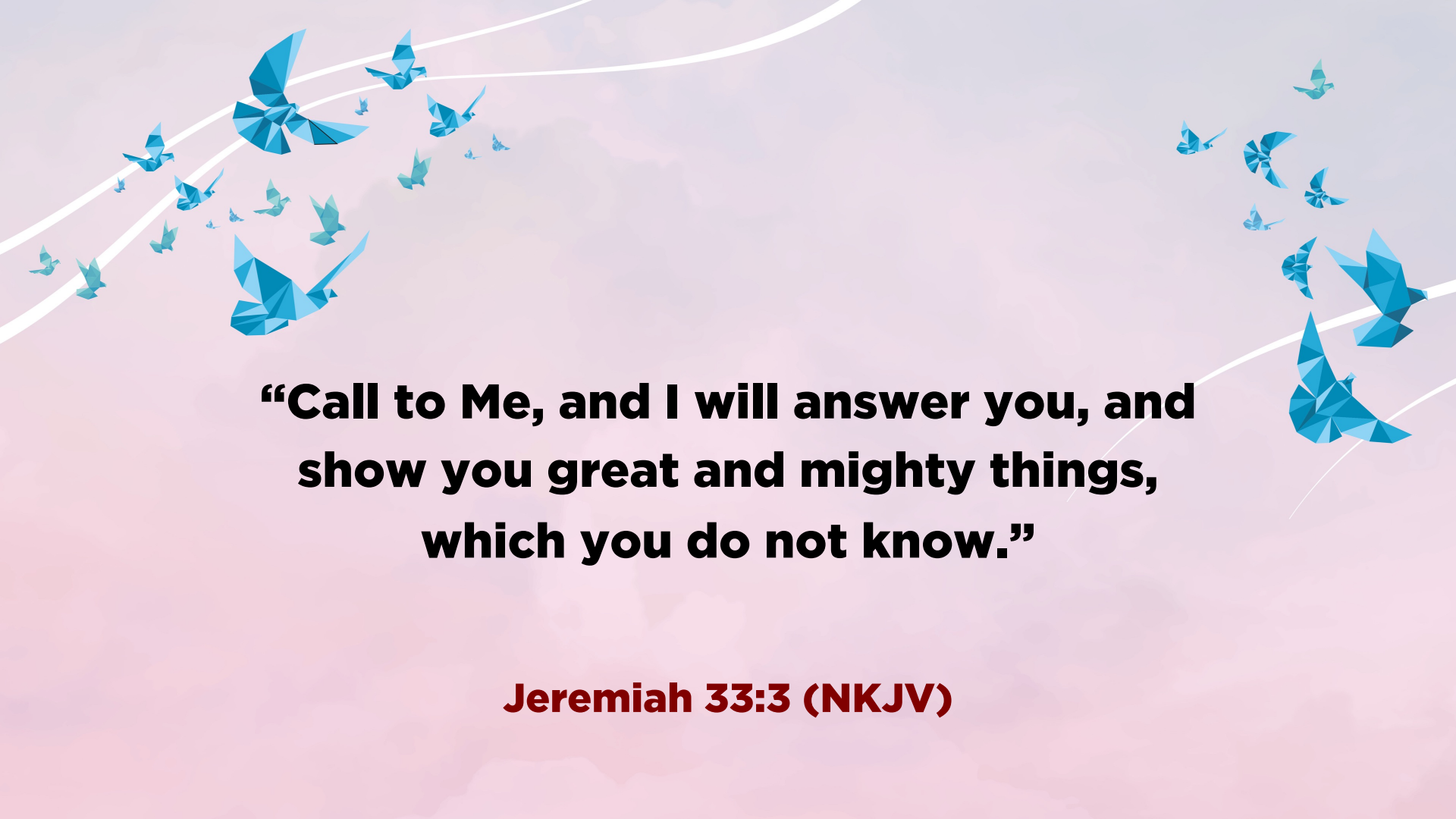

Until now you have not asked for
anything in my name. Ask and you
will receive, and your joy
will be complete.
John 16:24 (NIV)

- **The key word is “ASK”.**
- **The Bible did not say “Hope and it will be given” or “Wish and it will be given”.**
- **If you want God to move in your life, you have to pray in Jesus’ Name.**

3) Ask and you will receive

- **God answers every prayer but the answer may not be “yes” all the time.**

3) Ask and you will receive


“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and
show you great and mighty things,
which you do not know.”
Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)

Conclusion

Pray for Ourselves

- The Lord will touch and change our hearts
- Our character will change as we grow in the Fruit of the Spirit
- Our environment will change because we carry his presence and anointing
- 2023 will be an amazing year because we are full of the Holy Spirit

Pray for Church

Pray for
Brothers & Sisters

Pray for our Leaders