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**DGM Message Title: Protective Custody**

**Concept: The Importance of Why & How to Pray**

**Sermon Date: 2/04/18**

**Message Summary:** It doesn't matter what is going on in our lives; if we take our issue, crisis, or problem to God in prayer, He will either change us or change our circumstances. When we learn to go to God in prayer first, He will provide us with the strength and peace we need to see our situations through.

**Scriptures: (NKJV)**

- **Philippians 4:4-7**
- **Mark 11:24**
- **2 Corinthians 1:20**
- **1 John 5:14**
- **John 16:23**
- **2 Peter 1:3**
- **Matthew 15:36**

**Key Points**

- Phil. 4:4
  - Rejoice in the Lord...
    - You may not always be able to rejoice over your situation, but even when things go from bad to worse, you can always rejoice in the Lord!
    - God is always faithful, more than enough, a help and ever present!
    - Our inner attitudes don't have to control our outward circumstances.
    - For every minute we spend in bitterness, we lose 60 seconds of happiness.
    - It is not what happens, it is the way we view what happens.
- Phil. 4:5
  - Let your gentleness...
    - The Greek word for gentleness translates to being "appropriate and balanced."
    - Don't explode and go from 0 to 100 in a matter of seconds.
  - All men...
    - Speaks of your reputation to be known
    - You don't want a reputation where people hide from you or stay away from you.

- Sometimes you need to handle anger with a pair of sneakers and a long walk. It can help you gain perspective.
    - The Lord is at hand...
      - Keep your head and your eye on the big picture.
      - Jesus is coming back and will handle everything in the long term.
  - Phil 4:6
    - Be anxious for nothing...
      - Worrying doesn't take your troubles away, but it will steal today's peace.
      - Worrying doesn't empty tomorrow of its troubles; it just empties today of its strength.
      - Your future hinges on your dreams, so go to sleep.
      - Stop being anxious for everything and learn to give it to God.
    - But in everything by prayer...
      - Turn your worries into prayer.
      - If Jesus can turn water into wine, He can turn your fear into faith.
      - Everyone who runs to God will make it!
      - There is nothing too small in our lives that God isn't concerned with.
      - Take it all to God in prayer.
        - ✓ Prayer is the most important conversation you will have every day, all day!
        - ✓ Without prayer we can be like Samson without his hair; David without his stone; Moses without a staff, Elijah without his mantle.
        - ✓ Without prayer we can be Superman without the telephone booth.
      - Prayer is where you take your anxieties and worries.
      - When you pray, go into your closet and close the door behind you.
        - ✓ It's normal to feel anxiety. Don't judge each other but encourage one another.
        - ✓ When you deny your anxieties, you don't bring them to God.
        - ✓ Find your closet and allow God to transform you to be able to handle your situations.
        - ✓ Your strength is in your Prayer Closet.
        - ✓ Don't deny your "CAN'T." Just bring it into the closet.
      - We tend to use prayer as a last resort, but God wants it to be our first line of defense – Oswald Chambers.
    - Prayer will not always be an emotional experience.
      - You are not always going to pray at the top of our lungs.
      - You are not always going to feel it or like it, but prayer is **FIRSTLY** about BELIEF.
  - Mark 11:24
    - ...When you pray, believe...
      - You cannot believe further than what you think about someone.
        - ✓ What you believe about God will determine whether you will come to Him in trouble.
      - Pray begins by learning the true nature of God and His promises.
      - Many of us don't pray because of our concept of God.

- ✓ When we truly understand and know Him then we freely bring everything to Him.
    - ...Receive them ...Have them
      - You don't have to feel it, just believe and receive it.
    - Faith stands for [Forwarding **All Issues to Heaven**]
    - Prayer is the Key, but faith in the door handle.
  - 2 Corinthians 1:20
    - If God promised it, the short answer is "Yes," you can have it in Jesus... AMEN!
    - When God says AMEN, it is done!
      - All the promises of God are YES & AMEN.
      - God gets glory when He answers our prayers.
    - To trust God is to also trust His timing.
  - 1 John 5:14
    - If you are part of the heavenly family, there should be a certain level of swag that represents the family.
      - God is EVERYTHING, not YOU!
      - Have confidence in what God tells or promises you according to His will – He hears you!
      - Our general prayers don't have to rise any higher than a believing heart and a moving mouth for God to hear.
      - Prayer will either change your situation or change you! **Prayer changes things!**
  - John 16:23
    - Jesus gave everything at the cross. We have no business asking Jesus for anything else!
      - Jesus' only assignment was REDEMPTION – to seek and save that which was lost.
      - You must NOW pray to the FATHER in Jesus' name.
        - ✓ The Father didn't go down to the cross.
        - ✓ The Holy Spirit didn't ask the Father for a body.
        - ✓ Jesus' role was redemption; when He said IT IS FINISHED, there was nothing left for Him to do.
    - NEVER ask the Father based on anything you have done, but only on the GREATNESS of Jesus!
      - We oftentimes don't get our prayers answered because we come based on our own merit and not because of Jesus.
  - John 16:24
    - Before the cross, Jesus didn't mind being asked for things.
    - It is an insult to ask Jesus for anything now, like He somehow withheld something from us.
    - Jesus has already done everything He is ever going to do!
      - He paid for your sin, situation, sickness and disease, issue, challenge, and problem!
      - Jesus has already given us everything as it pertains to life and Godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

- Don't ask Jesus for anything, He has already done His part; engage the Father in Jesus' name and allow the Holy Spirit to be the hand of God on the earth.
        - ✓ You can have conversations with Jesus, but when it comes to a request, take it to the Father.
- Phil. 4:6
  - ...Prayer and supplication
    - Supplication is different from prayer.
    - General prayers are to obtain good, but supplication is a deeply felt and intensely vocalized prayer to avoid harm – Socrates
    - In the meaning of the word supplication you have a “bowing down and crying out.”
    - If supplication were the only mode of prayer, we would be emotional wrecks – You can't be crying and carrying on all day long.
      - ✓ There are certain moments for that.
    - Most of the time in, we TRUST in the PROMISES OF GOD.
    - God will build a hedge about you in general prayers.
- Matthew 15:36
  - Jesus feeds the four thousand
    - Jesus took the little He had and gave thanks.
    - This is the power of THANKSGIVING: when you don't have enough, thank Him ANYWAY!
    - **Be thankful for what you do have—then God will show up and show out for you!**
    - **Be thankful for what you have, and you will have more.**
      - ✓ When you only concentrate on what you don't have it will never be enough.
      - ✓ The real problem is attitude and NOT SUPPLY.
- Phil. 4:6
  - Reflect on the words to the song, “Oh what a friend we have in Jesus.”
    - What a friend we have in Jesus
    - All our sins and griefs to bear
    - And what a privilege to carry
    - Everything to God in prayer
    - Oh, what peace we often forfeit
    - Oh, what needless pain we bear
    - All because we do not carry
    - Everything to God in prayer
- Phil 4:7
  - ...peace of God...
    - The “of” says we are talking about the peace of God, not human peace.
    - God knows the end from the beginning. He is not flipping out watching the craziness going on in the earth.
    - **This peace doesn't mean that troubles are absent, but that God is present.**

- ...surpasses all understanding...
  - In your prayer closet, God will give you peace – He will put His SUPER on your natural.
  - It happens because you go to God in prayer and pray through... not because you are a Christian.
  - There is a protection and a keeping to encourage you and build you up on Him.
    - ✓ Transformation occurs when you allow God to be your strength to go out of the closet and move forward despite what you might be facing.
  - God's peace is not dependent upon whether we can figure it out or not – God has already figured it out.
- ...guard your hearts...
  - God's peace will guard your heart.
  - This peace means to keep your heart in a strong place like a castle surrounded by a motte filled with alligators – Clark (commentary)
  - God wants to surround you with peace like a river, too broad for any person or issue to cross, but you must pray through it until something changes on the inside.
    - ✓ God will put your sanity in protective custody even when everyone else and everything is going crazy.
    - ✓ When you pray through... God will...
    - ✓ Sometimes we do everything but pray, we watch tv or eat, but we should go to God in prayer.
  - Bring yourself to God and allow Him to change YOU into His image from Glory to Glory.
  - **As we remember to pour out our bitterness, God will remember to pour out His peace!**