

## The Power of Corporate Prayer

- Aunt Olive, our dear friend and sister-in-Christ, is alive and well today because of our prayers! Praise the Lord!
- When Aunt Olive was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance on August 29<sup>th</sup>, she was in bad shape:
  - o Extreme dizziness
  - o Her left side was like a magnet, trying to drag her to the ground; eventually she was unable to walk at all
- She was being completely ignored at the Black Diamond hospital, until one of the nurses recognized her
  - o The nurse that recognized her was a friend of Aunt Olive's son, Gord (***Miracle #1***)
  - o She was not an emergency nurse, but just happened to walk in at the right time (***Miracle #2***)
- the Black Diamond nurse recognized the severity of the situation and had Aunt Olive rushed to see a doctor right away
- God had spoken to Aunt Olive's daughter-in-law, Ginger, "Do not let her out of your sight!"
  - o When Aunt Olive saw the doctor, Ginger was able to talk to the doctor about her medical history (***Miracle #3***)
  - o A CAT scan was ordered because of Aunt Olive's inability to walk
- It was determined that Aunt Olive had suffered a stroke
  - o There is a 4-hour window in which a small stroke can turn into a massive stroke, and usually kill a person. Aunt Olive went for 12 hours, and still no massive stroke happened (***Miracle #4***)
  - o Aunt Olive is diabetic, and therefore must keep her blood sugar levels constant in order keep going. It had been 12 hours since she had eaten anything, and yet she did not go into a diabetic coma and her blood count remained normal! (***Miracle #5***)
- In the meantime, Aunt Olive's family called everyone they know to pray
  - o On the morning of Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, our UChurch family prayed corporately for Aunt Olive's health
  - o It became clear that this is what God had been waiting for, because on Monday morning, Aunt Olive tried to walk, and she could! (***Miracle #6***)

*The doctors have told Aunt Olive, on several occasions, that she has an amazing body. She realizes that it is not her amazing body; it's her amazing God!*

- God had been lining up the miracles that would lead to Aunt Olive's healing (count them – there were at least six and probably many many more that we don't know about!), but He was waiting for His faithful people to cry out in prayer

- Perhaps one of the most incredible things about this experience was that throughout it, Aunt Olive was able to remain peaceful.

## **Aunt Olive's three things that bring peace:**

1. LOVE Him and SURRENDER all to Him

### **Psalm 91:14**

<sup>14</sup> "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name."

### **Matthew 11:29-30**

<sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

### **Mark 12:29-30**

<sup>29</sup>"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.' <sup>30</sup>Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

### **Luke 10:25-28**

#### ***The Parable of the Good Samaritan***

<sup>25</sup>On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup>"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

<sup>27</sup>He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

<sup>28</sup>"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

2. LISTEN to Him; listen for His voice

### **Psalm 46:10**

<sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."

## **Ecclesiastes 5:1**

### ***Stand in Awe of God***

<sup>1</sup> Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong.

## **John 10:1-18**

### ***The Shepherd and His Flock***

<sup>1</sup>"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. <sup>3</sup>The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

<sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup>The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

<sup>14</sup>"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

3. When you hear the voice of God, OBEY it!

## **1 Samuel 15:22**

<sup>22</sup> But Samuel replied:  
"Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices  
as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD ?

To obey is better than sacrifice,  
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

*God wanted to teach UChurch something in this, and we are NOT to forget it. God is teaching us that we have the authority to access the power of God, but it takes faithful prayer to activate this power. Jesus taught us how to pray in the “Lord’s Prayer”:*

**Matthew 6:9-13**

<sup>9</sup>"This, then, is how you should pray:

" 'Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup>your kingdom come,  
your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup>Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup>Forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.'

Take time to think about what this prayer really means. Write it in your own words, and contemplate how it is applicable to each and every prayer that you pray.