

MEN Communicating with GOD

By *Paul Subritzky*,
National Director, Promise Keepers (NZ)

"I believe God wanted me to hit rock bottom to make me finally sit up and take note of him, because nothing else was working."

"I come from a Christian background [and] upbringing. But I chose a life of drugs, violence, alcohol, pornography, and sexual identity. I have just come out of an eleven year relationship with a guy. I have also been suffering from an illness which has cost me everything I had."

Every year for seven years, Dean's brother wrote his name on a "prayer fish: at the Promise Keepers events, and he and others faithfully prayed for his salvation. Dean's story is a powerful illustration of the impact of prayer. Dean testifies, "All his and your prayers were answered on Saturday night at PK... After years of personal issues and battles with God I was finally able to surrender to him and say, 'take me Holy Spirit and fill me with your love.'"

With staggering changes globally, it is more critical than ever to know how to communicate with God. We need to know where to draw our strength from; where to gain the wisdom and guidance to handle these challenges. Most of all, we need to hear his "still, small voice" so we don't end up making wrong choices and living a life of regrets.

Two of the most fundamental avenues for communicating with God are through prayer and Bible reading.

Personal Prayer

A personal prayer life is vital for effective communication with God.

1 John 5:14 says, "Now this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of him."

Yet 26 percent of churchgoing men in New Zealand today report that they pray less than one or two days a week.¹

Prayer with & for your Wife

A 1997 Gallup poll revealed that while an average of 1 in 3 couples in America would divorce, of the couples that prayed together daily and attended church regularly, this number decreased dramatically to one in 1,152 couples that divorced. But surveys by Promise Keepers reveal that 42 percent of churchgoing Kiwi men rarely or never pray with their wives.²

There is an unlimited potential for both strengthening our marriages and seeing answers to prayer that praying with and for our wives could release. As the famous adage goes, families that pray together, stay together!

Prayer for your Children

Leading men's ministry consultant Brian Doyle discovered a whole new aspect to fatherhood when he started laying hands on his children, regularly praying for each of them individually. He claims the verse "but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15) as the spiritual stake for his family.³

Children learn by what they see



modelled. Praying with and for them, affirming them and leading them in family devotions has a dramatic result on their lives.

Prayer For Your Brothers & others

Regularly praying together as men strengthens each man through friendship, provides great accountability and grows them spiritually. James 5:16 says, "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

1. Promise Keepers Church Surveys, 1219 men
2. Promise Keepers Church Surveys, 1219 men
3. Brian Doyle, New Man Magazine, "Me and My House", April 21, 2009 Vol 16: No. 16.

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