

Did anybody exchanged any Christmas gifts this year? It’s great to able to take something back to the store for your money back or to exchange it for something better.

In these series “Pray With Me” we have learned:

- That prayer is powerful and effective because God hears us when we pray. “Hear Me”
- Last week we talked about letting God speak to us as we listen to Him in prayer. “Speak To Me”

But, prayer is also a trading up. “Exchange With Me”.

Prayer is a way to seek the presence of God and participate in what I like to call the Divine Exchange.

I don’t know about you, but I often get tired and weary. I often feel inadequate in my knowledge and realize that I don’t always know what to do.

But, through prayer and the divine exchange, I’m able to trade up and receive strength and wisdom that is well beyond by own.

Through prayer, our relational communication with God, we are able to appeal to the God of unending strength and wisdom.

Isaiah 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

Job 12:13 NLT “But true wisdom and power are found in God; counsel and understanding are his.

STRENGTH AND POWER

- God is willing to give the strength in His hands to all. (David Blessing the assembly)

1 Chronicles 29:12 Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

- In prayer, we should look to the Lord for His strength.

1 Chronicles 16:11 Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.

This is where the “Divine Exchange” comes in.

The key is spending time with the Lord...

Isaiah 40:29-31 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

31 but those who hope in the LORD (But those who wait on the LORD, NKJ) will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

HOPE / WAIT - qavah (kaw-vaw'); a primitive root; to bind together (perhaps by twisting), i.e. collect; (figuratively) to expect: KJV-- gather (together), look, patiently, tarry, wait (for, on, upon).

Spending time with the Lord in prayer will renew your strength.

- As we go to the Lord with our weakness, **we exchange our weakness for His strength.**
- With His strength, we will soar like eagles, we will run and not grow weary, and we will walk and not faint!

We exchange our weakness and inabilities for God’s strength and enabling power.

- David understood the Divine Exchange!

Psalms 19:14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock (my strength) and my Redeemer.

Psalms 29:11 The LORD gives **strength to his people**; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

Psalms 18:1 I love you, LORD, **my strength**.

We may find ourselves weak and powerless, but we take all of our weaknesses and what little strength we have to the Lord, and we exchange it for His power and His strength. As the Lord told Paul...

2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

After the exchange, we can say...

Philippians 4:12-13 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. **13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.**

In the Divine Exchange, we understand what **Nehemiah 8:10** said, “Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

UNDERSTANDING AND WISDOM

Isaiah 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow **tired** or **weary**, and his **understanding** no one can fathom.

Isaiah is saying, God has ultimate strength and is **full of wisdom and understanding**.

Unsearchable understanding.

Isaiah 40:13-14 Who can fathom the Spirit of the LORD, or instruct the LORD as his counselor?
14 Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way?
Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding?
(Certainly not us!)

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

Isaiah 55:6-9 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.
7 Let the wicked **forsake** their ways and the **unrighteous their thoughts**. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.
8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.
9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and **my thoughts than your thoughts**.”

EX: God doesn’t think like us!!! (EX: STEVE HILL)

**This is where the “Divine Exchange” comes in.
The key is spending time with the Lord...**

We go to the Lord with our lack of understanding. As we spend time with Him, we bond together with Him in prayer and studying the Word of God.

We exchange our confusion and lack of understanding for His wisdom and understanding.

We exchange our thinking for the mind of Christ, rather than a mind of confusion and turmoil.

**1 Corinthians 2:16 for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?”
But we have the mind of Christ.**

We don't give God a piece of our mind; He gives us a piece of His!

Operating in the Strength of Christ with the Mind of Christ

I can guarantee you that you will get more done and work more effectively in the Kingdom of God with the strength of Christ and the mind of Christ than you will using your own strength and wisdom.

Grace is defined as God's unmerited favor, and not only favor, but also God's ability and enabling power. *Not saving grace alone, but also growing grace.*

God will grace us with His strength and wisdom. **Why live without it?**

Psalms 61:1-2 Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. 2 From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

Never Too Busy for the Divine Exchange

Christ Jesus, the Holy and Sinless One, no matter how busy He was, no matter how many needed His healing touch, no matter how important His mission to seek and save the lost was...

He made it His top priority to spend time with the Father everyday!

So, through Paul, Jesus spells out the bottom line for us as believers.

Philippians 4:13 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

1 Corinthians 2:16 But we have the mind of Christ.

Today's Next Step: The Divine Exchange Sunday 02-19-23

Today, I exchange:

My Lack of Wisdom

My Lack of Understanding

My Abilities

My Worries

My Pain

My Sickness

My Sorrow

My Depression

My Grief

My Hate

My Pride

My Control

OTHER: _____

I exchange it for the strength, wisdom, and Joy of the Lord!