

## 30/30 Prayer Ministry (Sermon Resource)

### Luke 3:21-22

*“When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the **heaven was opened**. And **the Holy Spirit descended** in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and **a voice came from heaven** which said, ‘You are My beloved Son; in you I am well pleased.’”*

- This is the first recorded instance of Jesus praying in the New Testament.** (Luke is the only Gospel writer to record this.)

Luke writes more about Jesus praying than any other Gospel writer.

When Luke shows someone praying, it is nearly always right before something significant happens.

### **Three things happened as He prayed:**

1. **Heavens Opened** – This represents blessing.

A. Open Heaven in Scripture: (4 Examples)

1. **Genesis 28:13** – Jacob fell asleep – angels ascended and descended.
  - His perspective was changed about himself and his life, and God’s purpose (His assignment for his life).
2. **Ezekiel 1:26-28** – Ezekiel sees the manifestation of the glory of God.
  - The result is worship and hearing the voice of God.
3. **Acts 7:54-55** – Stephen saw Jesus standing at the right Hand of God.
  - There was revelation and invitation.
4. **Acts 9:5** – Saul had an encounter with God.
  - His life was dramatically changed.

### **See also Deuteronomy 28:1-11 – Blessings of an Open Heaven**

- Open Heaven** – God will be near and heaven will be manifest in the natural world.
- Prayer is the key to an Open Heaven.**

2. **The Holy Spirit Came** – This represents His presence in your life

A. The Holy Spirit is preeminent in Luke's writings.

1. Luke penned this Gospel and the book of Acts.
2. The Holy Spirit descends on Jesus before He begins His ministry.
3. Jesus is empowered for His ministry assignment.

B. Remember Jesus' last words to His disciples:

1. **Luke 24:49**, *"Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued (clothed), with power from on high."*

2. **Acts 1:4-5**, *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which he said you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

**Prayer is the key to the Holy Spirit in your life.**

3. **The Father Spoke** – This is the voice of God the Father, and He indicates Jesus is His Son and God is proud to be His Father

A. It's not only important THAT the Father spoke, but also WHAT He said and WHEN He spoke.

1. It was a word of **affirmation** and **confirmation** of vocation as the Messiah.
2. It was spoken just before the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to begin 40 days of spiritual warfare

B. The Father spoke the right (needed) word at the right time.

1. When we talk to God (pray), God talks to us.
2. Prayer is a dialog, not a monolog.
3. People who don't take time to talk to God usually don't take time to listen to God either.

**Prayer is the key to hearing God.**

### **30/30 Prayer Ministry**

Praying 30 minutes a day for the next 30 days.

Pray the 3 things outlined in Jesus' first recorded prayer.

## **1. Ask God to Open Heaven – Bless your life, family, and ministry.**

- God's blessing in your life will look different than God's blessing in someone else's life.
  
- Ask God For An Open Heaven over YOUR life – That's an O.K. way to pray.
  1. It's not the only way or the only thing to pray about.
  2. You have not because you ask not, James said.
  
- Ask God For An Open Heaven over your family – to bless your family.
  1. Bless your spouse.
  2. Bless your children.
  3. Both need LESS preaching from us and MORE praying from us!
  4. Prayer is one of the ways we involve God in our life and the life of our family.
  
- Ask God For An Open Heaven over Your Ministry
  1. It is an acknowledgement of HIS calling and YOUR dependence on HIM.
  2. The result will be God will be near and heaven will come to earth – which is the heart of the Father. (See Matthew 6 – The Model Prayer)
  3. Don't complain, pray!

## **2. Ask/Invite the Holy Spirit to Come Upon You Daily In A Fresh New Way**

- Asking the Holy Spirit to DAILY come is an acknowledgement of importance of the Holy Spirit in your life.
  
- Don't settle for an "experience" of or with the Holy Spirit and miss a RELATIONSHIP with the Holy Spirit.
  1. "Good Morning, Holy Spirit"
  2. Our familiarity with the Spirit can become a substitute for the priority of a relationship with the Spirit.
  
- Ask the Holy Spirit To Manifest Himself In Your Life Daily
  1. This is how ministry and miracles occur.
  
- Pray In The Spirit Daily, BUT Do Not Restrict The Holy Spirit To An Expression In Tongues
  1. Come Holy Spirit I Need You

### **3. Ask The Father To Speak To You and Receive His Affirmation.**

- God has a “word” when you need a “word” – Most of the time His word is found in His WORD – the Bible.
  
- Give An Opportunity To Speak In Prayer By Being Silent In His Presence
  1. Silence is not only an opportunity for God to speak, but also an indication of an EXPECTATION to hear from Him.
  
- Hearing God Is Key To Spiritual and Personal Victory In Our Life
  1. The Father spoke a word of AFFIRMATION – before the attack of Satan in the wilderness.
  2. Every spiritual attack has an element of ACCUSATION.
  
- **Spiritual Principle:** The Affirmation of the Father is greater than the Accusation of the Devil.

### **Conclusion:**

For the next 30 days, spend 30 minutes in prayer:

1. Ask God to bless your life, your family, and your ministry
2. Ask/invite the Holy Spirit to come upon you daily in a fresh way.
3. Ask the Father to speak to you, and receive His affirmation.

When should you do this? Whenever is the best time for you!!