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The Naz Prayer Ministry



The Connected Prayer Life

I'm not an electrician by any stretch of the imagination, but I did wire a house once. Well, really a cargo shed converted to a "house" for a one of our local mission clinic staff. Of course, there were no local codes or inspectors, so I forged ahead as if I knew what I was doing with nothing to worry about – except setting the place on fire.

After capable helping hands had gutted the place, put in a ceiling, set up some walls, and added some windows along with a back door, I took it on myself to put some lights and outlets in the place. I carefully thought it all through using my best eighth-grade shop memories, then strung some lights, installed switches and a handful of receptacles, and, of course, flipped the switch. And light filled the rooms. *In my dreams.*

I racked my brain, retraced my work. Then I racked and retraced a couple more times. Finally it dawned on me. I had left out one step. It was such a small thing: the connection to the generator.

Ok, enough with the collective "Duh's" and the eye rolling. At least I didn't burn anything down.

Connectedness is also key in understanding prayer. The power of connected living lights our lives with the glow of a passion not our own, but from the heart of God.

Prayer as a reflection and an extension of our relationship with God is about being tuned in to the heart and mind of God. In prayer we are confronted by God's invitation to share His perspective.

While God indeed invites us to cast our cares on Him, a prayer life that matures becomes at least as concerned about being attentive to God as how attentive He is to us. Without learning to listen to Him, the practice of prayer is stunted by the agenda of the seeker instead of the passion and delight of the One we seek.

God calls us to experience Him. He invites us to live in relationship with Him, so we can be transformed into His likeness. He seeks to share Himself with us. The psalmist wrote:

My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me, O my people." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming." – Psalm 27:8 (The Living Bible)

A connected prayer life is one in which by His grace God tunes our hearts to the prompting of His own and births within us the child-like eagerness to run to Him and allow the warmth of His presence to envelope us.

Yet how often does the busy-ness of our daily lives, the insistence of the work place, the crowded calendars with places to go, the demands others place on us, along with a host of other distractions, drown out the call of God to spend time letting Him bare His heart to us. There is a natural tendency for prayer to be driven by the urgency of our issues, the agenda of our heaviness and concerns, but God longs for us to come into His presence with a hunger to pause and listen, to discover His agenda.

*Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know (Jeremiah 33:3, NLT).
Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit (Revelation 3:22a, NLT).*

Taking Our Next Step Together

Father, quiet our busy minds and anxious hearts. Fill us with a longing to hear You. Let the passion of Your heart redefine our relationship with You and the longing of our hearts reflect the pulse of Your own.