

ENJOYING YOUR TIME WITH GOD

Part 2

Praying Doubles

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I have heard countless testimonies of how a light switched on inside of people as they read certain texts in the word of God. I can certainly testify to this truth as I read Mathew 18:19 early in my Christian life: "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven." Something leapt inside of me as I read it and I began to pray then for a partner in prayer. Soon the Lord showed me a woman who, in accurate detail, paralleled what was going on in my life at the time. For many years we have shared intimate time with the Lord in prayer

It is very vital that we are consistently praying as God wills it! We therefore must partner with Jesus in prayer. We need a move of God during the pandemic facing our nation. Having another person to pray with is especially necessary at this crucial time of fear and uncertainty. Look at the advantages of praying doubles.

Prayer partners produce power. "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:19-20 NIV) Agreement can only take place when prayer involves more than one person

Having a prayer partner has great benefits. You are not limited by what your mind entertains. You are not bound by your view of how God works. Prayer partners develop a spontaneous desire to not only hear God, but hear Him together. One pastor I know remarks that when his adult children come home to visit their childhood friends, they take over his basement and have a noisy time. When the pastor goes downstairs to check on the young people, he finds them deep in prayer, jubilant in praise, and enjoying the presence of God. Its like they catch up on latest "gossip" from heaven!

Prayer partners bring accountability to our God-ward relationship. This is like going to the spiritual gym. Each person brings their weaknesses and their strengths to the table. One can fight for the other through prayer to bolster both partners to a new level in God.

Prayer partners become better witnesses. As prayers are answered for each partner, there is more material to boast on the Lord. (See 1 Corinthians 1:31) The more stories one has on what God is currently doing, the more opportunities are

given to use those testimonies for God's glory.

How can you find a prayer partner? Look around and ask God to speak a name to your heart. Just like He did for me, it doesn't necessarily have to be someone you are close to in the natural realm. That way, the agenda is clear and not disrupted by chitchat.

At first, praying with someone can be a little intimidating. But think of what you want to get out of your time together, and go for it! Don't talk much before praying. You know, how some prayer circles go around and everyone tells their issue before everyone prays about it. Just pray, instead. You can always follow up the prayer time with details, if your partner wants to.

Set a specific time that becomes a weekly (daily, bi weekly) appointment for prayer. Set a specific place for the prayer. It's best if you can pray in person, but if not, be sure to find a place where you will not be distracted by computer, chores, or other people. Determine a specific length of time you will commit to being prayer partners. Try a three-month commitment at first and then go from there.

I recommend that you don't pray a paragraph before your partner chimes in. A few sentences can leave room for your partner's prayer of agreement or further revelation. The back and forth conversation also needs to allow time for God to speak to both of you on each subject you bring up. As you talk with the Lord, be sure to pray scripture when it applies. Allow the Word of God to penetrate the prayer, it is pure and of divine substance.

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help...A threefold cord is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9,10,12 NRSV)

Find a sister, and let your prayer duet begin!