

Pastor Ron Case
1/24/16

“Prayer Surprises”

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

“I don’t even know what I need” prayers – Cornelius

Acts 10:1-4 – (1) “At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, (2) a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. (3) About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, ‘Cornelius.’ (4) And he stared at him in terror and said, ‘What is it, Lord?’ And he said to him, ‘Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.’”

Lunch Time Prayers – Peter

Acts 10:9-11, 17-20 – (9) “The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. (10) And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance (11) and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. (17) Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon’s house, stood at the gate (18) and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. (19) And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Behold, three men are looking for you. (20) Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.’”

Long Shot Prayers – The Church

Acts 12:5, 11-16 – (5) “So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. (11) When Peter came to himself, he said, ‘Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.’ (12) When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. (13) And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. (14) Recognizing Peter’s voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter

was standing at the gate. (15) They said to her, ‘You are out of your mind.’ But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, ‘It is his angel!’ (16) But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed.”

Anticlimactic Prayers – Isaac & Rebekah

Genesis 25:21-23 – (21) “Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she *was* barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. (22) But the children struggled together within her; and she said, ‘If *all is well, why am I like this?*’ So she went to inquire of the LORD. (23) And the LORD said to her: ‘Two nations *are* in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; *one* people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger.’”

People of Prayer are prone to reap God-given Surprises

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Do I realize that God is always active even if I am not seeing results in connection to my prayers?

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)