



PASSIONFORTRUTH

WHERE NEW LIFE BEGINS

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Jim Staley's sermon, "[How to Get Your Prayers Answered](#)," begins by addressing the common frustration of unanswered prayers. He suggests that understanding and applying principles from the Torah, specifically the first five books of the Old Testament, can lead to divine responses. The need for holiness and alignment with God's will to truly connect with Him is emphasized throughout this teaching.



[How to Get Your Prayers Answered](#)

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOLINESS

Highlighting the holiness of God and the significance of being set apart, explaining the Hebrew term "*kadosh*" which means holy, he draws from Leviticus chapters 21 and 22. In those scriptures he explores the specific instructions given to the priests, the sons of Aaron, emphasizing that these instructions are still relevant to believers today. Paralleling the priests' need to

avoid defilement with the New Testament concept of believers being a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9).

THE TORAH PORTION: EMOR

The Torah portion "Emor" (Leviticus 21-22) is central to Pastor Staley's message. The Hebrew word "*emor*" means "to speak," which he interprets as God's intent to communicate with believers through these passages. Encouraging listeners to deeply understand these scriptures as they contain principles for spiritual cleanliness and intimacy with God.

AVOIDING DEFILEMENT

Pastor Staley stresses the importance of avoiding spiritual defilement. He explains that the instructions given to the priests about not defiling themselves by touching the dead symbolize broader spiritual principles. Believers must be careful about their associations and avoid intimate connections with those who are spiritually unclean, as these can corrupt their holiness and relationship with God.

CULTURAL PRACTICES AND PURITY

The sermon addresses the cultural practices prohibited for the priests, such as making bald spots on their heads, shaving the edges of their beards, or making cuts in their flesh. He explains these practices were associated with pagan mourning rituals, and God wanted His people to remain distinct and pure. This distinction is likened to modern believers maintaining spiritual purity and not adopting worldly behaviors.

THE ROLE OF BELIEVERS AS PRIESTS

Pastor Staley draws parallels between the Old Testament priests and modern believers, stating that Christians are a kingdom of priests (Revelation 1:6). This role demands a higher standard of behavior and spiritual cleanliness. Believers must recognize their identity in Christ and live in a manner that reflects their holy calling.

THE EXAMPLE OF MOSES

Using Moses as an example, he illustrates the consequences of misrepresenting God. When Moses struck the rock twice out of anger, he misrepresented God's character to the people and lost his privilege of entering the Promised Land. This serves as a warning to believers about the importance of accurately reflecting God's character in their lives.

MAINTAINING SPIRITUAL CLEANLINESS

The latter part of Leviticus 21 outlines physical defects that disqualified priests from serving, which Staley interprets as symbolic of spiritual defects. Believers must strive for spiritual wholeness and purity to effectively serve and connect with God. This includes not just outward behavior but inner attitudes and motivations.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, he emphasizes the necessity of spiritual maturity and cleanliness for those seeking to hear from God and have their prayers answered. He challenges believers to evaluate their lives, remove any defilement, and fully embrace their identity as God's holy people.

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