

KEYS TO A GOOD PRAYER LIFE

Introduction

I. MEMORY VERSE: I Thessalonians 5:17

II. No study of “Bible Basics” would be complete without a study of prayer.

A. Why is this so? It is so because our lives as Christians demand communication with God.

B. Prayer is one of the greatest blessings a Christian has in this life. When one prays, he is talking to God, and God is listening to him.

1. God speaks to us through _____ (Romans 10:17; I Peter 4:11).

2. We speak to God through prayer.

C. Just as no earthly relationship can be healthy without open, continued communication, so also, our spiritual relationship with God cannot be healthy without communication.

D. God wants us to speak to Him. God wants us to pour out our hearts to Him. God wants us to lean on Him. Let us have the humility to do so.

III. Let us take some time and study the subject of prayer and may this encourage us to pray more.

Discussion

I. PRAYER IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

A. The first time we read of a prayer being offered to God was when God told _____ to have _____ pray for him that he might live (Genesis 20:7).

1. On this occasion, _____ was called a “prophet,” too! (Remember our lesson from two weeks ago?)

2. Was the prayer offered? _____ (See Genesis 20:17)

3. This is an example of an **intercessory** prayer. One was praying on behalf of another for their well-being. Numbers 11:2 and 21:7 are other examples of intercessory prayer.

B. Obviously, Abraham had a good influence upon those in his household, because the second prayer we read in the Bible is a prayer **requesting assistance** of God.

1. This prayer was prayed by _____, who was Abraham’s servant. What was the reason he was praying this prayer? (See: Genesis 24:12-14). _____

2. Another prayer of this type was prayed by _____ when he asked that God deliver him from _____ (Genesis 32:9-12).

C. Gideon, the judge, prayed to God, eventually asking for two signs to prove he was the one God had chosen to deliver the people from Midian (Judges 6:36-40). What were the two signs? _____

D. Hannah prayed to have _____ (I Samuel 1).

E. King Hezekiah prayed to God for **protection from enemies** (Isaiah 37:14-20). After receiving a threatening letter from the Assyrian general, he went _____ and “*spread it (the letter) before the Lord.*”

F. In captivity, Daniel prayed:

1. For God’s **help** in interpreting the king’s dream (Daniel 2:17-23)

2. In a **consistent manner**, _____ daily as he had always done (Daniel 6:10).

3. **Confessing** his sins and the sins of the nation, **praising** the greatness of God, and **asking for forgiveness**. (Daniel 9:4-19).

G. Nehemiah prayed for **restoration/rebuilding** of Jerusalem’s walls (Nehemiah 1:4-11), and before making his request to the king (Nehemiah 2:4).

II. PRAYER IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:

A. In the New Testament, we read about several characters who were known for prayer. Also, we find that God’s people are encouraged to pray on several occasions. In fact, in the New Testament, it is

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- assumed that the Christian is doing this anyway. (Example: Philippians 4:6)
- B. Some noted for their praying:
1. Jesus:
 - a. Prayed early: He prayed to God _____ (Mark 1:35).
 - b. After feeding the 5000: He went to a _____ to pray (Mark 6:46).
 - c. Prayed before He chose the apostles, i.e., making “major” decisions (Luke 6:12).
 - d. Prayed before His trial and crucifixion (_____).
 2. The apostles:
 - a. The apostles made it clear that their time was needed for _____ and _____ when they had seven men appointed to see to the Grecian widows’ needs (Acts 6:1-4).
 - b. Paul made mention of his prayers he offered for the brethren in the different congregations
 - i. Paul prayed for the salvation of folks (Romans 10:1-2).
 - ii. Paul mentions two specific prayers offered for the Ephesians: 1. For their _____ (1:16-18). 2. For their _____ (3:14-19).
 - iii. Paul mentions his prayers for the Philippians, Colossians, Corinthians, etc.
 3. Early Christians prayed:
 - a. Acts 4:24-31 is a prayer to God for _____.
 - b. Acts 12:5 describes prayers of the saints offered on behalf of _____.
- C. In the New Testament, the writers encouraged folks to pray, and then asked for them to pray from certain things.
1. Pray for the welfare of others (James 5:15-16; Hebrews 13:18; II Thessalonians 3:1). _____
 2. Pray that the gospel might be spread (II Thessalonians 3:1). _____
 3. Pray to God and ask for forgiveness of sins (Acts 8:22-24). _____
 4. Pray to God when we are “afflicted” (suffer troubles, James 5:13).
- D. In all of this, we are encouraged to pray on a continual basis (I Thessalonians 5:17). _____
1. What has Ephesians 6:18 to do with this discussion of prayer? _____
 2. Sadly, prayer is a neglected part of a Christian’s life. How sad this is when we know that prayer does so much (James 5:16). “The _____ fervent _____ of a _____ availeth _____.”

ASSIGNMENT: (Hint: Assignments increase in difficulty. While some may not be able to answer each question, please challenge yourself and do the best you can!)

1. Do you know the books of the Bible? (You should know Genesis-Philippians. Memorize the next 10 books of the Bible.)
2. Name some different types of prayers we find in the Bible.
3. Can you name the Old Testament prophet whom God told NOT to pray for the people? In fact, God told this prophet not to pray a total of _____ times!!!
4. Name some people who were known for praying. What characteristics did these people show?

- Jarrod Jacobs