

D1, D2, D3: THE HEART, THE HOME, MINISTRY: Cultivating a Life of Prayer

Introduction:

I. Prayer and its Purpose

"Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God has promised according to His Word, for the good of the church, with submission in faith to the will of God." -John Bunyan

John 14:13

B. Paul's Petitions 1:9-14

Paul sets forth four components of his prayer for the Colossians:

1. Thinking (9)

2. Decisions (10)

3. Steadfastness (11)

4. World View (12-14)

III. Hindrances to a life of dependent prayer:

A. Lack of _____ (Prayer is an act of faith)

What are some things we must believe?

1. We must believe God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Heb 11:6)

2. We must believe God is there and interested in your prayer (Ja 4:8a)

3. We must understand His answer may not be what, when or how you expect it but His ways are always best (Ps 18:30)

B. Lack of _____

1. We are used to immediate responses in day-to-day life.

2. Not receiving an immediate response will give us long-term needs to be prayerful over
 - God draws us to Himself in regular communion through our needs over which we pray continually.

 - At times, God does not give us what we ask for because we will spend it on ourselves. (Ja 4:3)

C. Lack of _____

1. Distractions abound

- New dynamics are thrown at you every day.
- The struggle now is more difficult than in years past.
- Technology, hobbies, etc are not the problem.
- We neglect the discipline of biblical meditation. (Ps 1:2)

IV. Aids to a life dependent upon prayer:

A. Readiness

“Pray at all times in the Spirit” (Eph 6:18)

There is great readiness implied.

B. Devotion and _____ in prayer (Col 4:2)

1. We are too often self-reliant.
2. We must be spiritually desperate. (Ps 42:1)
3. We need God's power, grace and strength every day. (Col 1:9)
4. We need God's wisdom to walk worthy. (Col 1:9-10)

C. Submissiveness and _____

1. Prayer that is consistent with what you know about God and His will (Mt 6:10)
2. Prayer that seeks to be obedient to what God says.
 - This is a yieldedness to the Lord, particularly a yieldedness to the Holy Spirit (Eph 6:18, Jude 20)
 - You cannot be selfish in prayer. A prayer in which you lord yourself over God is not a prayer that honors God.
 - You cannot pray in the Spirit and be submissive if you have become stubborn against truth. (Ja 5:16, 1 Jn 5:14)
 - God wants our pride crushed. (Pr 3:34)

D. Spiritual _____

1. We must cultivate a concern for what really matters: spiritual growth and maturity.
 - Pray with a concern for others to stand complete (Col 1:28, 4:12-13)
 - Pray with the same intensity as Paul demonstrated (Col 2:1-10)
 - Don't always pray for relief from the trial but rather how you can grow through it (Ja 1:2-4)

How do you pray for friends who are going through trials?

If God uses trials to produce Christ likeness, should we pray for relief from trials?

When is it right to pray for healing from sickness?

2. We must cultivate a concern for discernment. (Phil 1:9)

V. Prayer and the Wellspring Disciplines

A. Prayer and my Heart

B. Prayer and my Home

C. Prayer and my Ministry

APPENDIX - Resource for Praying Scripture

Passage:

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. (1 Cor 10:13)

1. What is the promise/truth in this text?

- God is faithful
- God will not allow believers to be tempted beyond what they are able
- God will provide a way of escape from temptation

2. For whom is the promise/truth applicable?

- Written to the Corinthians as a truth for believers

3. How might this promise/truth inform my prayers?

- Reflect on the reality of God's faithfulness
- Pray that God would not allow me to be tempted beyond that which I can endure
- Pray that God would provide and that I would take the way of escape when tempted

4. Prayer

- "God, I am being tempted, I know You are faithful. Would You please allow Your faithfulness to abound in my life right now? I know You do not allow believers to be tempted beyond what they are able. And I plead with You now to help me withstand this temptation. I know there is a way of escape from this temptation and I pray that You would help me to take it. Help me to endure this temptation that I might be pleasing to You and not sin."

Passage:

Romans 8:35-39

2 Peter 1:3

Titus 2:11-14

Ephesians 2:8-10

1. What is the promise/truth in this text?

2. For whom is the promise/truth applicable?

3. How might this promise/truth inform my prayers?

4. Prayer