

Prayer

Concept:

In Luke 11, we see the disciples asking the Lord to teach them to pray and the Lord responds with what is called the Lord's Prayer. It is important for us to ask why His disciples wanted the Lord to teach them to pray. We realize that there may be more than one answer to that question. We are sure that one safe conjecture is that they saw the consequence of prayer in Jesus' life. Jesus had an intimate relationship with the Father, which the disciples had to be desirous of as well as a miracle flow in His life that always pointed toward His Father. There is little doubt that the disciples equated the power flow in Jesus' life to the prayer life that Jesus modeled.

Jesus was certainly a model of someone devoted to prayer. Luke 6:12 states that Jesus prayed all night. How is that for a challenge? Mark 1:35 states, that Jesus rose early to pray and it also shows us that Jesus sought a solitary place. He desired to be alone with His Father and have intimacy. The classic example of prayer is of course in the garden. His intensity of prayer was so great that drops of blood were coming out of His pores. That shows a tremendous amount of pressure coming from the inside and the outside. Wow, that is serious warfare!

The entire bible challenges us to pray. Isaiah 56:7 says that the Lord's House is to be a House of Prayer for all nations. Jesus chased everyone with a wrong attitude out of the synagogue because they were not being obedient in prayer. I wonder if He would chase anyone out of our churches today! Paul states in I Thessalonians 5:17, to pray without ceasing, there is a high goal. I Timothy 2:8 shows us that the Lord wants men everywhere lifting hands and interceding. That would be a stretch for most believers! James 5:13 shows us that if we are in trouble then our first response should be to pray. That alone should keep us praying without ceasing.

Hebrews 5:7 shows us Jesus was heard because of His reverent submission. He demonstrated a respect and honoring of His Father. This allowed Him to have access to His Father. We of course need the same attitude and must realize that the only reason that we can come into the presence of the Father is because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. We have a confidence because of the grace given to us at new birth. My sonship affords me the privilege of entering the very throne room of the God of creation. Not only can I come in but also I have an audience of one. The Father is always listening to my request and answering when I call. Wow! I can be confident but not arrogant, bold but not brash, and expectant but not cocky. The fellowship that is extended to us because of the blood of Jesus is gigantic. I have the potential of abiding in the Father at all times. As I learn to abide and depend on Him, I can ask anything and receive according to John 15:7. I John 4:7-8 reinforces this by saying if I ask anything in His will He hears me (God hears me) and answers.

Prayer as we know is fellowship with God. We communicate our heart to God and He communicates His heart to us. What an opportunity for all of us that live here on this earth to communicate with the creator of the universe. We know that the Lord is a Spirit and our spirit receives from the Spirit of the Lord. He also communicates through His Word, which is

spirit and life. We have an open invitation to fellowship with our Father any place or anytime. We are truly a blessed people. The obvious question is why don't we use this privilege more. Hopefully, we will after our study.

Definitions:

A lifetime of prayer will be reflected in a depth of understanding of who you are praying to.

Deesis: 1162 (Greek): petition, supplication, and asking. Stresses our needs, our inability to meet needs, and God's willingness to meet those needs. James 5:16, Luke 1:13, Luke 5:33, Acts 1:4, II Corinthians 1:11

Deomai: 1189 (Greek): implies an intense request. I Thessalonians 3:10, Matthew 9:38, Galatians 4:12, Acts 4:31

Erotao: 2065 (Greek): Ask questions, confident that answers will come, to ask favor, seek information. John 4:31, John 17:20, John 16:26, Acts 3:3

Parakaleo: 3870 (Greek): to call to one's side to help, comforting, earnest appealing for urgent support, exhort. Mark 1:40, Luke 8:31, Matthew 26:53, Acts 16:9, Acts 14:22, Titus 1:9

Enteuxis: 1783 (Greek): Meeting of people by pre-arrangement or by chance, Catching up with someone you were looking for, invited into presence of a king, freedom of access into the Almighty and receiving all of His resources. I Timothy 2:1, I Timothy 4:5, Hebrews 7:25.

Palal: 6419 (Hebrew): To judge, intreat, make intercession, make supplication.

I Samuel 1:12, Job 42:10, Psalms 5:2, Jonah 2:1-9

Na: 4994: (Hebrew): entreaty, I beseech, go to, now. Genesis 13:9, Exodus 4:13,

Joshua 2:12

Types of Prayer:

Ephesians 6:18 states that we are to use all kinds of prayer. Let's look at a few types.

Prayer of Faith:

John 11:41,42

John 16:23,24

Matthew 21:21,22

Mark 11:22-24

Prayer of Worship:

Acts 13:1-4

Acts 16:22-26

Luke 24:50-53

Acts 2: 46,47

II Chronicles 20:15-17

II Chronicles 20:21-25

Luke 11:2

Luke 2:37

I Samuel 1:19

Corporate Prayer:

Acts 4:23-31

II Chronicles 5:6,7, 11-14

II Chronicles 7:1-3

Prayer of Commitment:

I Peter 5:7

Psalms 37:5

Matthew 6:25-27

Philippians 4:6

Praying in the Spirit:

I Corinthians 12:7-11

Acts 2:4

Romans 8:26-27

Prayer of Agreement:

Matthew 18:19

Leviticus 26:8

Deuteronomy 32:30

James 5:16

Scripture Application:

I Kings 18:42

I Kings 17:19,20

I Kings 8:22

Psalms 37:4,5

Psalms 5:3

Psalms 55:17

Psalms 66:18-20

Psalms 119:47

Psalms 145:18,19

Isaiah 38:2,3

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Jeremiah 33:3

Daniel 6:10

Matthew 5:44

Matthew 6:6

Matthew 7:7-11

Mark 1:35

Luke 18:1

Luke 21:36

Luke 22:44

John 14:13-16

John 15:7

John 17:20

Acts 7:60

Acts 10:9

Acts 10:30

Acts 12:5

Romans 1:9

Galatians 6:7-9

Ephesians 1:15-23

Ephesians 3:14-19

Ephesians 6:12-19

Philippians 1:3-6

Philippians 1:9-11

Colossians 1:9-14

I Thessalonians 3:10

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

I Timothy 2:1-4

Hebrews 4:16

James 4:3-8

James 5:14,15

I Peter 3:12

I John 5:14-15

Jude 20,21

Summary:

The concept that is being stressed is communication, which enhances fellowship. If we love someone, we will communicate and fellowship with them. The Lord desires our communication and fellowship. Prayer is more than just asking for our needs, although that is certainly part of it. We should be spending time in worship and praise and listening as well as asking. Listening is probably the weakest area in our lives. We talk and don't wait for a response. The Lord will answer when we inquire of Him. Prayer is not just talking on our part but allowing the Lord to talk to us. He will speak to our spirit and it will surface in our mind as an idea. He will speak to us through His word as we underline a scripture. He will cause our heart to remember a scripture. He will show us a picture, or He can give us a dream. These are a few ways that the Lord communicates with us. Scripture tells us to be slow to speak and quick to listen. The Lord has an answer for us before we have a question.

Action:

Organize your prayer time and be disciplined in spending time with the Lord. Also make a conscientious effort to spend time listening. Journaling is an excellent way to listen. As you are writing the Holy Spirit will carry you along and out of your spirit the Holy Spirit will speak to you. Take a few minutes each day to write down what the Lord is saying.