

PRAYER

What is Prayer? Partnering with God.

You might ask what is Prayer? Prayer is communication between man and God. It is God revealing His heart, mind, thoughts to us as we commune with Him using His Word. "Let me put it to you this way, it's like you get up in the morning and you call God and you leave Him on speaker phone all day until you go to sleep that night. That God is always there and He is ready to listen to you and He's ready to speak to you.

Quotes

Christian history named Melancthon:- He said, "Problems and perplexities drive me to prayer, and prayers drives perplexities and problems away."

"Christ's soldiers fight best on their knees" – D.L. Moody.

"No Man is greater than his prayer life" – Leonard Ravenhill

"God does nothing but in answer to prayer" – John Wesley

*"Our God is not only prayer hearing God but also a prayer answering God. God's telephone number is Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me and you will get a answering machine' -- no- no- He says, call unto me and **I WILL answer.**"* – Satish Raiborde

"Prayer is partnering with God for His will to be unfolded in our lives" – Nicky S. Raiborde

Introduction

Prayer is natural to a person. Even people, who don't believe in God, pray in times of crisis. Prayer is one of our greatest privileges.

Even Jesus had unlimited confidence in prayer. Alone in the wilderness he prayed and faced down Satan. He spent all night in prayer to make the right choice in selecting the twelve disciples. He prayed in order to heal the sick. He prayed away demons who were tormenting sick people. In the Garden of Gethsemane he prayed for the power to endure the cross. And on that cross prayer was how he ended his life, "Father, forgive them Into your hands I commit my spirit."

Matthew 14:22-23 *"And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. 23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone."*

The Apostles were men of Prayer

Acts 1:14 *"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren"*

Acts 12:5 *"Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him."*

1. God delights to answer our Prayer.

Proverbs 15:8 says, *"the prayer of the upright is his (God's) delight"*

Proverbs 15:29 *"But He hears the prayer of the righteous"*

2. There are rewards for prayer

Matthew 6:6 *"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly"*

3. Prayer transform us into the image of Jesus

Luke 9:28 *“And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. 29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering.”*

4. Prayer is the vehicle that brings the power, blessing and victory of Jesus in our lives.

John 14:13-14 *“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. Ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”*

Acts 16:25-26 *“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.”*

5. One of the major purposes of the Church of Jesus Christ is prayer

Matthew 21:13 *“...It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer”*

As we can see the Scriptures put a great importance on prayer. The Bible exhorts every believer to **be faithful in prayer (Romans 12:12)** and **keep on praying always (Ephesians 6:18)**. Prayer keeps our focus right. Prayer helps us check our motives. Prayer keeps our thought life controlled.

Prayer is man partnering with the Father God. Prayer is fellowship with God. Prayer is agreeing with God's will. Praying is allowing God to unfold His will and purpose for our lives. Prayer is **seeking** God. In the book of Chronicles there is a great illustration of a man that is serious about seeking God.

2nd Chronicles 15:12-15 *“Then they (King Asa and his people) entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; 13 and whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel was to be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. 14 Then they took an oath before the LORD with a loud voice, with shouting and trumpets and rams' horns. 15 And all Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and sought Him with all their soul; and He was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around”*

Just picture this. It's Sunday and you are ready for church. You get all excited and ready to meet people and meet with God. There is great praise and worship, they take the offering, there is testimony and now it's time to hear the word of God. The Pastor comes and says, “Listen people, It's time we make a Covenant to Seek God, whoever does not enter into this covenant will be put to death, whether you are a child or adult, woman or man. You better enter into this covenant. WOW! You might say that's crazy but the Bible is that serious about your prayer life----you seeking the heart and mind of God and fellowshiping with Him.

The possibilities of prayer are evident in the Scriptures. Prayer obtains the promises of God for our lives; it removes hindrances and put priorities back in our lives. **Prayer is vital to our life. Prayer is vital to our city. Prayer is vital for our nation. Prayer licenses God to operate on this earth. When you pray, you license God to unfold His will for your life, your city, and your nation. This generation will change if we pray.**