

Lesson # 9 -- The Promises, Exhortations and Warnings Regarding Prayer.

Introduction

- A. One of the clearest indication of God's loving concern for His people is the provision He has made for us to speak with Him.
- B. Prayer is a necessary element in almost every facet of the Christian life. Through prayer the believer becomes a recipient of all that God has promised his people.
- C. In considering the promises, exhortations and warnings regarding prayer it is important to keep in mind that these are spoken to us by God.
  - 1. God is faithful to His Word. This means that He will carry out His promises, He expects us to give heed to His exhortations and He will execute the warnings.
  - 2. These promises, exhortations and warnings are of a personal nature. God, as a person, has spoken His Word to us as individuals. These Biblical statements apply to all believers.
  - 3. These promises, exhortations and warnings are of a practical nature/ God expects us to make specific applications of these statements in the activity of daily life. When we do this then we become the recipients of the power of God's grace.

I. A sample of the Promises Regarding Prayer.

II Chronicles 7:14 -- The promise of restoration.

Psalms 50:15 -- The promise of deliverance for God's glory.

Psalms 145:18 -- The promise of God's presence.

Matthew 6:6 -- The promise of reward.

Matthew 7:7-11 -- The promise of good things.

Matthew 19:19,20 -- The promise of an answer.

John 14:13,14 -- The promise related to the name of Jesus Christ.

John 16:24 -- The promise of joy.

II Corinthians 1:11 -- The promise of cooperative help.

Hebrews 4:14-16 -- The promise of mercy and grace.

I Peter 3:12 -- The promise of a heavenly response.

I John 5:14,15 -- The promise of confidence.

II. A Sample of the Exhortations Regarding Prayer.

Matthew 5:44-48 -- Pray for your persecutors.

Matthew 6:6 -- Pray in secret.

Luke 11:1 -- Pray according to the divine blueprint.

Luke 18:1-8 -- Pray instead of fainting.

Ephesians 6:18 -- Pray in the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 4:6,7 -- Pray instead of worrying.

Colossians 4:2-4 -- Pray for God's servants.

I Thessalonians 5:17 -- Pray without ceasing.

I Timothy 2:1-3 -- Pray for those in authority.

Hebrews 10:19-22 -- Pray with boldness.

James 1:5-7 -- Pray with faith and honesty.

James 5:13-16 -- Pray with confidence as the occasion demands.

### III. A Sample of the Warnings Regarding Prayer.

Psalm 66:18 -- The warning regarding dishonesty.

Isaiah 1:15 -- The warning regarding mere religious profession.

Ezekiel 14:3,4 -- The warning regarding idolatry.

Matthew 23:13 -- The warning regarding pretense.

Mark 11:24-26 -- The warning regarding bearing grudges.

Hebrews 11:6 -- The warning regarding faith.

James 4:2,3 -- The warning regarding selfishness.

I Peter 3:7 -- The warning regarding unresolved family problems.

Conclusion.

A. Now is the time for honesty before God.

B. How have we responded to these promises, exhortations and warnings?

1. Have we responded with a passive, don't-care attitude? Then we must repent and " . . . do the first works . . . " Rev. 2:1-5.

2. Have we responded with decisions of faith and love? Then we can be assured of divine enablement to implement our decisions.

C. God invites our trust. He will respond to our honest desire to do His will. It is absolutely necessary, however, that our response be more than words. We must put the Word of God into action by deliberate choice and continual trust in God, Hebrews 4:1,2.