

Lesson # 9 – The Priorities Regarding Prayer.

Introduction

- A. We are reminding ourselves, in this series, that the Holy Scripture is like a blueprint. As such we are guaranteed spiritual success - if we follow the pattern.
- B. In this ninth lesson I want to talk with you about prayer.
 - 1. The greatest promises in all of Scripture has to do with prayer.
 - 2. Among all the privileges which God has graciously given to the believer, one of the greatest is that of being able to talk with Him.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.
Ephesians 3:20

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh.
Hebrews 10:19,20

- C. Our prayer life is high on the list of God's priorities.

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is His delight. Proverbs 15:8

- I. The Importance of Prayer. (The following is only a sample and related to those things that accompany prayer.)

- A. Prayer is associated with the ministry of the Holy Spirit, Romans 8:26.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

- B. Prayer is associated with fruitbearing, John 15:16,

Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you.

- C. Prayer is associated with Joy, John 16:23,24.

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name, ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

D. Prayer is associated with pleasing God, Proverbs 15:8.

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

E. Prayer is associated with peace and thanksgiving, Phil. 4:6,7.

Be careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

F. Prayer is associated with success in temptation, Matt. 26:41.

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation, the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

G. Prayer is associated with success in persecution, Matt. 5:44

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

H. Prayer is associated with bringing help to others, Eph. 6:18.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with ail perseverance and supplication for all saints

I. Prayer is associated with confidence in God, I John 5:14.

And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us.

J. Prayer is associated with receiving good things from God, Matt. 7:7-11.

Ask, and it shall be give you, seek, and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you . . . if ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?

II. The Instruction Regarding Prayer.

A. We are to have a "secret" prayer life, 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.

B. We are to pray according to a plan, Matthew 6:9.

After this manner therefore pray ye

C. We are to believe God when we pray, Matt. 21:22.

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

D. We are to pray instead of fainting, Luke 18:1.

And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

E. We are to pray in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 6:18.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

F. We are to pray instead of worrying, Phil. 4:6,7.

Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

G. We are to maintain an attitude of prayer and trust, 1 Thess. 5:17.

Pray without ceasing.

H. We are to pray with confidence and receive, Hebrews 4:16.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

I. We are to pray with faith and honesty, James 1:5-7.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

III. The Promise Regarding Prayer.

A. The promise stated, I John 5:14,15.

And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us. And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.

B. The promise exemplified, Colossians 4:12.

Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

C. The promise applied.

1. It is the will of God that believers cooperate in spiritual ministry, II Cor. 8:5.

And this they did not (merely) as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

2. It is the will of God that believers be delivered from the world, Gal. 1:4.

Who (Jesus Christ) gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.

3. It is the will of God that believers be sanctified, I Thess. 4:3.

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.

4. It is the will of God that believers rejoice, pray and give thanks, I Thess. 5:16-18.

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you,

5. It is the will of God that believers have a good testimony, I Peter 2:15.

For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

IV. The Warnings Regarding Prayer.

- A. Known sin will hinder our prayer life, Psalm 66:18.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.

- B. Any form of idolatry will hinder our prayer life, Ezekiel 14:3,4.

Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face; should I be enquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the Lord will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols.

- C. Failure to forgive people will hinder our prayer life, Mark 11:25.

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any; that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses

- D. Praying selfishly will hinder our prayer life, James 4:3.

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

E. Family problems will hinder our prayer life, I Peter 3:7.

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered.

F. Disobedience to God will hinder our prayer life, I John 3:22.

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Conclusion: Suggestions regarding Prayer.

A. Establish and maintain a daily time for Bible reading and prayer.

B. Utilize the Lord's Prayer, the attributes of God, the names of God, the works of God, the Psalms and the hymn book as a basis for prayer.