

That Amazing Privilege – Prayer

Introduction

- A. One of the most amazing privileges that belongs to the Christian – is his right and ability to talk with God!
- B. Not many of us have talked with our president, not many of us could call him on the telephone – but all Christians can pray and talk with God.
- C. The Bible is filled with encouraging illustrations to motivate us to pray.

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

I. The Promises Concerning Prayer.

- A. God promises to respond to our prayers, Matthew 7:7,8.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

- B. God promises a cooperative ministry through prayer, II Cor. 1:11.

Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

- C. God promises to give us mercy and grace through prayer, 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.

- D. God promises to bring peace to us through prayer, Phil. 4:6,7.

. . . 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.

- E. God promises that we can put our confidence in Him through prayer, I John.5:14.

This is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us.

II. The Instructions Concerning Prayer.

- A. God expects the believer to have a "secret" prayer life, Matt. 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. God expects us to be serious and believe Him when we pray, Matt. 21:22

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

C. God expects us to depend on Himself for help in prayer, Ephesians 6:18.

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

D. God expects us to be prayerful and thankful about everything, Phil. 4:6.

Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

E. God expects us to live in an attitude of prayer, I Thess. 5:17.

Pray without ceasing.

III. The Warnings Concerning 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.