

Scripture in Prayer

Introduction

- A. Prayer is one of the most important things we can do for a person.
 - B. The Biblical attitude regarding prayer is radically different from our own.
 - Phil 4:6 — “Do not be anxious about anything”
 - James 5:15 — “The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well”
 - James 5:16 — “Pray for each other so that you may be healed”
 - C. True prayer is born in love and faith -touching the Father’s heart in obedience.
- I. The Biblical Context (Prayer operates in a context).
- A. Prayer is not addressed to a person’s mind particularly — an intellectual relationship.
 - 1. Prayer is addressed to the heart — spirit — inner spiritual life of the person.
 - 2. Example: Ephesians 3:16-21 — — “Inner being” — “hearts.”
 - 3. Therefore: Prayer should be a spirit to spirit relationship.
 - B. Prayer is related to power — spiritual activity. A way the Holy Spirit can reach the person.
 - 1. Ephesians 3:16-21 (Note power words) “Strengthen.” “Power.” “Power,” “To grasp,” “To know,” “Be filled,” “According to His power that is at work within us.”
 - 2. Colossians 3:10,11 — “Strengthen with all power according to his glorious might.”
 - 3. Job — when trial over — he was to pray to release “comforters” from God’s anger.
 - C. Prayer is the work of the Holy Spirit through us. “Pray in the Spirit” — Eph 6:18; Jude 20
 - 1. Means to pray by the enablement of the Holy Spirit. Gifts of I Corinthians 12,14
 - 2. Means to pray in harmony with the Holy Spirit’s will for the person at that moment.
 - 3. Means to pray for the reason the Holy Spirit came — to glorify the Lord Jesus.
 - D. Prayer is a vital part of God’s one single plan of the ages. (Glorify Jesus Christ, Col 1:18)
 - 1. Note John 14:12-14 Savior be involved in our prayers for Father’s glory!!
 - 2. Note — We are expected to pray. Matthew 6 — “After this manner”
- II. The Biblical Requirement.
- A. Since prayer via the Holy Spirit — we must be filled, anointed, and gifted by the Holy Spirit. All forms of grieving, lying, quenching must be laid aside. We must be honest.
 - B. This is the real key — YOU — the one praying. To be in tune with — filled with — walking in harmony with the Holy Spirit. **CONSIDER IMPORTANCE OF PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT.** Invite the Holy Spirit to be a part of your prayer time. Without His presence and help -- no genuine work will be done.

- C. Since prayer is designed to glorify God — we must pray for His glory. All self-centeredness, fear, embarrassment, getting attention, reputation must be laid aside.
- D. Since prayer is the “Prayer of faith” James 5:16 — we must understand faith and so live.
- E. Since prayer that is effective is via “the righteous person” we must be righteous.
(Do right)
- F. Since prayer has to do with a “clear-mind” and “self-control” in 1 Peter 4:7 — we must know dedication Romans 12:1,2, Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22,23, Holiness Rom. 6-8
- G. Since prayer is the leading of a person into Scriptural truth — we too must obey God.
Note I John 3:22 -- obey His commands and please Him

III. The Biblical Instruction — Use Scripture in Prayer for a Person.

- A. Ask God to help you be aware of all non-Biblical activity.
 1. Self-centered - pray for the glory of God.
 2. Unconfessed sin - pray for a clean heart.
 3. Bitterness and unforgiveness - pray for a loving forgiving spirit
 4. Young Christian - pray for filling of Holy Spirit, hunger for worship and Bible.
 5. Acceptance of error - pray for the Holy Spirit to lead them into truth.
 6. Any work of the enemy - pray on the armor and its principles.
- B. Ask God to help you be aware of where they are spiritually.
 1. Use the Disciples prayer — perhaps tell them — ask what part they need.
 2. Use prayers in Ephesians and Colossians and go point by point - develop each section.
- C. Pray the person may obey God — Love (Matthew 22; John 15); service (Matthew 28); surrender (Romans 12); prayer (Luke 18:1); obedience (Luke 6:46); etc.
- D. Pray the person may enter into worship — Church fellowship — home groups — be in the home, school, business, marriage, -- walking with God and be what they ought to be.
- E. Pray they would be like some people in the Bible: Philip; Samuel; David; Joseph.
- F. Pray the names of God, of the Lord Jesus, of the Holy Spirit.
- G. Pray the attributes of God, will of God (get a list), exhortations, commandments.
- H. Model how to pray, exercise faith, confess, forgive, worship, dedication,
(use Daily Affirmation and Warfare Prayer).

Conclusion: **Praying is not a time for preaching or harshness. Be loving and kind.**