

Prayer

Lorne Sanny

I. Introduction.

A. A helpful promise to claim for children who have not accepted the gospel is in Isaiah 29:45. God makes it hard for those who kick against the goads. God also works long after we are gone.

B. Text: Psalm 5:3.

C. Many wonder if prayer is really any good for today.

1. Prayer is an anecdote to worry. (Philippians 4:6)
2. Prayer is a way of drawing near to God. (James 4:8)
3. Prayer is the way to get help from God. Grace is undeserved help from God.

D. Prayer is a mystery that is supremely an act of faith.

II. Three elements of effective prayer.

A. You hear my voice.

1. Prayer is talking to God—something has to be said.
2. When we pray about problems it is uncanny how God can quickly reveal the solution to us.

B. I lay my requests.

1. The idea is to lay out needs in a well ordered way.
2. Two key things for the development of laborers: quiet time and Scripture memory.
3. Spending seven minutes a day with God.
 - a. Start with a small amount of time and then let it grow. If discipline gets ahead of desire, it will kill the desire.
 - b. The heart of seven minutes with God is a half a minute in prayer, four minutes in the Word, and two and a half minutes in prayer (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication—A.C.T.S. or Confession, Adoration, Thanksgiving and Supplication—C.A.T.S.)
 - b. Write down your prayer requests. You have not because you ask not. Be specific concerning your needs, and He will be specific with you. (James 4:2)
4. We have confidence by faith.

C. I wait in expectation.

1. When you pray, you look up for answers. Expect an answer.
2. You need to look around what is happening for the answer.
 1. Abraham looked for how God would answer the need for a sacrifice.
 2. Jesus looked for answers to feeding the five thousand through a boy with five loaves.
 2. Moses looked to God to fulfill his request.
3. We need to be surrendered to God first.
4. We need to wait.

III. What to do when you hit a time in you feel overwhelmed.

A. The Holy Spirit leads with a gentle tug, not distress. (Psalm 61:2)

B. The Devil is the one who overwhelms. (Isaiah 11:12)

C. How to handle the overwhelming situations.

1. Cast your burden upon the Lord. (Psalm 61:22)
2. Make a list of your heavy burdens.
3. Take the burdens one by one and hand them over to the Lord.
4. Re-surrender yourself to God and tell Him, if You want me to do anything about these issues prompt me by Your Holy Spirit to do it.

Application questions

1. How are we to pray according to the speaker?

2. What elements are necessary for waiting in expectation?

3. How does your life reflect one surrendered in prayer? What can you do to practice these principles regularly?
