

Prayer's Frontiers

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Chronicles 6:12-40.
- B. Setting: the inauguration of the Temple by Solomon.

II. Solomon quotes God's promise that David's throne will always be occupied.

- A. This is a picture of the New Testament believer.
- B. The believer will reign in life through Jesus Christ.
- C. God's promise requires a response from us: obedience.

III. Solomon's request.

- A. The people were to face the temple wherever they prayed.
 - 1. The believer is the temple of God today as an individual and as a collective.
 - 2. We ought to have increasing confidence in prayer because God promises to meet his people in the place of prayer.
- B. The test of faith is whether one needs anything in addition to God.
 - 1. We are the holy place.
 - 2. Our word ought to be enough--God will sustain us as we are faithful to His indwelling presence in our lives.
- C. Prayer is the only proper response to failure in one's life.
- D. God brings drought to make us conscious of sin--we can restore ourselves when we face spiritual drought.
 - 1. God deals with people differently.
 - 2. The problem is some toleration of evil that God exposes.
- E. God awakens His concerns through some kind of tragedy. God has a personal way of getting at things that touch us.
- F. Strangers also have a place in God's program--God is at work in the world drawing men to Himself.
- G. Prayer is a recognition of the basis for answering evil and problems around us.

H. If one is carried away by lusts, desires and lack of self-control, prayer becomes the place of release.

Application questions:

1. How does the Spirit's indwelling strengthen the power of prayer for the believer?

2. Has God brought spiritual drought to you to reveal something about your life or Himself? What did you learn?

3. How would you counsel a believer struggling with sin concerning his prayer life? Explain.
