

Grace Bible Fellowship
Distinctive - Continual Corporate and Individual Prayer

Attitudes Towards Prayer

Effects of Prayer

Biblical Examples of Prayer

David: Psalm 51 (also 17 and 86)
Jesus: Matt 14:22-23, Luke 6:12-13,
Matthew 26:36-37
Apostles: Acts 2:42, Acts 6:1-4
Paul: Phil 1:9-11, Col 1:9-12,
2 Cor 12:7-10, 2 Cor 1:10-11

Further Teaching on Prayer

Hebrews 4:14-16
Phil 4:4-7
Matt 6:5-8
1 Thes 5:17
Luke 18:1-18

Introduction

Prayer is a huge topic. The word “pray” or “prayer” is mentioned 365 times in the OT and NT. We could spend the whole year teaching on this topic.

There are many items we can discuss: the mechanics of prayer, Why should we pray?, the Lord’s prayer, godly examples of prayer, etc.

I also know that a lot of people struggle with their prayer life. They feel guilty that they aren’t praying enough, they feel that they are too busy, not sure what to pray about. They feel like they are missing out. I’m not going to ask for a show of hands, but I feel that way as well. I’ve been asking myself these questions:

Opening Questions

- Do you pray before you start something or after you’ve finished?
- Do you pray less when times are good?
- How do you spend most of your prayer time? Is it asking for things, or listening to God?
- Do you have a regular time of prayer set aside? Quiet, private?
- Can you recount specific prayer items and answers to prayers over the past few months?
- When was the last time you prayed individually or corporately?
- Do you view prayer as a privilege or a burden? Do you enjoy the time spent with God? Do you look forward to it?
- Are you persistent in prayer? Are there items that you’ve praying about for years? Praying persistently? Or do you give up if you haven’t seen any results?

When looked at the wrong way, many of the pillars of Christian life can be burdensome: attending church, tithing, and praying.

For today, I don’t want to focus on mechanics. Rather, I want to look at our attitudes during prayer and the results of prayer. Look below the surface. Results not so much in what happened, but how did it affect the people praying.

Definition: Prayer is a conversation with God. Talking and listening. Asking, confessing, thanking, pleading, etc.

What we do here on earth has immediate consequences in heaven. See Rev 5:6-8 and Matt 6:6

Closing

C.J. Mahaney. From the Shepherd’s Conference – Starting the day with prayer, worship, and scripture acknowledges our dependence upon God. If we don’t, then we are telling God, “I can handle this day myself.”

Compare Saul and David. Saul is only mentioned praying once!