

Prayer "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." Luke 11:1

I. At its basic level, prayer is you talking/communicating with God.

375X's- 201 OT, 174 NT

A. Pray must be a priority!

"The only thing we can do is pray."

1 Tim 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--

Eph 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Jude 1:20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

B. I Thess. 5:17 Pray continually

C. Prayer keeps us "God focused".

1) Devil focused

2) Seed sown among thorns

Mk. 4:18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word;

19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

D. Prayer is the believer's method of communicating with God.

2) People are looking for a formula. God is not a heavenly genie. Incantations- Ippedy...

E. God wants to hear from His children

Psa 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry;
repeats in 1 Peter 3:12

Psa 5:1 Give ear to my words...

Heb 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

F. Prayer is a privilege. "what a privilege to carry" God says, "Call Me!"

G. We don't need an intermediate. Mary, saints, priest, preacher

1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

H. In Christ, God doesn't have favorites.

1) God does not answer pray according to how much he likes you or if you are one of his favorites.

2) Sometimes it is just a matter of proximity. I was at my grandmother's more than my brother.

Ps. 84 and 27

II. Why is prayer important?

A. Communication is key

1) A key objective in war is to disrupt the communication of the enemy. The first goal is to take away the enemy's ability to communicate.

2) When we pray, we engage the spiritual realm. When we pray, things happen in the spirit realm that cannot be observed with the physical eyes. We can only experience the physical effects in the spirit world.

Daniel 10:10-13/Ephesians 6:12-20

B. God's answers are: yes, no and not right now.

Would a loving father give you something that would harm you or harm your relationship with Him? Sometimes God has to work things out before you get your answer.

*David's response for the Lord not answering his prayer.

2 Sam. 12:19 "Worship"

C. All things work together for our good. Romans 8:28