

Prayer Ministry

The Call to Prayer

Lesson 1

Introduction:

"Whatever good may be done is done and brought about by prayer, which alone is the omnipotent empress. In human affairs we accomplish everything through prayer. What has been properly arranged we keep in order, what has gone amiss we change and improve, what cannot be changed and improved we bear, overcoming all the trouble and sustaining all the good by prayer. Against force there is no help but prayer alone." --Martin Luther

Prayer is our most important line of communication with our Heavenly Father. It is His communications network surpassing in power and complexity anything our modern technologists dream of on the "information superhighway."

It is a source of learning, a source of influence, a source of comfort, a source of action, a source of all that is needed to maintain our lives in peace, harmony, and productivity.

After faith, it is one of the most important ingredients of our religious life.

All of us pray several times a day. Our intention in this course is to give you an opportunity to enrich your prayer life and help you to organize it to a specific end. That is; the ministry of this church and your pastor.

A term we are going to be using often is "intercessory prayer." That is we are going to ask in a persistent and consistent manor for God to intercede in the events and life at (name of congregation) and Pastor (name) with regard to God's plans and countering Satan's plans.

In this study we are going to look at Prayer from a historical point of view as God revealed it to us in examples from the Old and New Testament and in the modern church. The purpose of this study is to help you to have an unshakable faith that our Father will answer your prayers and assurance that He wants and calls us to constantly, frequently, orderly and relationally pray for the church, the state, each other and ourselves.

This is also our own church heritage. Dietrich reported about Luther: "I cannot admire his extraordinary joy, steadfastness, faith, and hope enough in these miserable times; but he nourishes them constantly by zealously busying himself with the Word of God. No day passes by without him spending at least three hours in prayer, hours which would seem best suited for studying."

God's Plan for Conducting our Affairs

(The Jethro Principle)

Exodus 18:19-23

- 1) Verse 19: "May God be with you" and Verse 23: "and (if) God so commands,"

What does it mean for God to be with us. Indeed He is with all believers at all times.

What advice does Christ give to us?

Matthew 28:18-20 _____

John 15:9-17 _____

John 14:23 _____

- 2) Verses 19b: "Be the Peoples Representative Before God"

All endeavors of the church must begin with prayer and be constantly guided by prayer.

What were the actions of the Early Church?

Acts 1:14 _____

Acts 6:3-4 _____

Ephesians 6:18 _____

1 Timothy 2:1 _____

- 3) Verse 20: "Teach them the decrees and laws, show them the way to live."

What did God tell us to do?

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 _____

- 4) Verse 21: "Select the most capable, trustworthy, and honest."

How did the Early Church apply this action?

Acts 6:3-4 _____

Framework for Prayer

A. Biblical

1) The Place of Prayer in the Old Testament

Comment on the Prayer life of the following:

Adam: Gen 3:8 _____

Enoch: Gen. 5:22-24 _____

Abraham: Gen. 12:8; Gen. 15:1-6; 18:23-33; James 2:23 _____

Moses: Exodus 3:5; 4:10-15; 17:10-13; 32:11-14; 33:12-13 _____

David: Ps. 6, 8 _____

Solomon: 1 Kings 17:22ff _____

Daniel: Daniel 9:23 _____

(Just for reference)

Hannah 1 Sam. 1:10, 15-18; 2:1-10

Elijah: 1 Kings 18:36-37

Elisha: 2 Kings 6:15-17

Hezekiah: 2 Kings 19:14-19

Nehemiah: Nehemiah 1:4-11

Isaiah: Isaiah 26:7-9; 33:2

Jeremiah: Jeremiah 14:7-9; 20-22

Ezekiel: Ezekiel 3:17-21; 11:13-21

2) The Place of Prayer in the New Testament

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, prayed frequently. We should have even greater need. (Observe when Jesus prayed and for what he prayed in the following passages.)

Matthew 6:5-6 _____

9:37-38 _____

14:23 _____

Mark 1:32-35 _____

John 17:1-26 _____

Heb. 5:7 _____

(Others)

Luke 5:15-16

Luke 6:12

The Apostles: Comment on the Apostles Prayer Life

Ephesians 1:15-18 _____

3:16 _____

6:19 _____

The Early Church: For what did the Early Church pray?

Acts 2:42 _____

4:24 _____

13:3 _____

4:6-7 _____

12:5 _____

James 5:13 _____

What are some of the results that you think will happen in prayer?

1

2

3

The Cost

1 Commitment to Bible Study (daily)

2 Commitment to Weekly worship

3 Commitment to financially support congregation in giving and tithe

4 Commitment to set time aside to pray

4 Prayer Partner Ministry

5 Commitment to Openness to God's Word and the Spirit's leading.

Prayer Time (Possible outline for prayer time.)

A _____

C _____

T _____

S _____

BIBLICAL REFERENCES

House of Prayer

Isaiah 36:7

Matthew 21:13

Is. 58:1-9

Solomon's Prayer

1 Kings 8:22

Taught by God

Jer. 31-34

Daniel 9:3, 23; 10:2-3,12

Paul's Prayers

Phil. 1:9ff

Col. 1:9ff

2 Th. 1:11

Eph. 3:16-19

Ask in My name, I will give

John 16:23-24

Pray for Workers to step forward

Matthew 9:37-38

Pray with thanksgiving,

Phil. 4:6

Pray for effective evangelism

Col. 4:2-6

2 Thess. 3:1-5

Pray with confidence

Jas 5:15