

Prayer Ministry

Biblical Characters of Prayer

- I. Opening
- II. Ministry Prayer
- III. Lesson: Biblical Characters of Prayer

Your unique relationship to God. Recall some of the names of God. Write two or three of your favorites.

Write the way you actually relate to God in most circumstances:

"I think my usual relationship to God is as a child, worker, disciple, hiker, musician, team member, crew, servant, subject, student

to a Father, boss, teacher, guide, conductor, coach, captain, master, king, professor

Your "Twenty-third Psalm" (Using the following outline write six verses of your own 23rd Psalm expressing who God is in your life and how He has cared for you. Describe the relationship you identified in the previous question.)

verse 1: Who God is in relation to me, in two phrases. _____

verse 2: Where He puts me, in two phrases. _____

verse 3: The walk I have with Him, in two phrases. _____

verse 4: Potential danger and His protection in three phrases. _____

verse 5: God's provision, in three phrases. _____

verse 6: My future in relation to this special relationship with God, in two phrases. _____

When you have finished, keep this available in your prayer notebook.

Bible Prayers

The Bible is the record of Salvation. It is also the record of prayer fellowship of men and women with God. We see how they walked with their Creator.

John White says, "You learn to pray by watching prayer warriors."

Three important aspects of Characters of Prayer.

1. Each had a prayer identity.
2. Each had a prayer activity.
3. Each saw God in a special way.

The key to the following exercise is to place yourself in their position and sometime "read between the lines."

CORNELIUS

Read Acts 10:1-8, 30-33

Luke described the Gentile Cornelius with four phrases: He was a devout man, he feared God, he gave many alms to the Jewish people, and he prayed to God continually.

What was the prayer identity of Cornelius? a God-fearer:

What was his most important prayer activity? He was not a Jew, but he sought the God of the

Jews by pray Thus, he pursued an important prayer activity, seeking God.

Who was God for Cornelius? He had already claimed an allegiance to the God of the Jews.

God was for him the True God

Cornelius's prayers must have been very effective with God; because the angel declared, "Thy prayers and thin alms are come up for a memorial before God." God moved in a way that was to change the history of the world. His prayers effectively opened the door of Christianity to the Gentile world.

DANIEL

Daniel's enemies wanted to get rid of the competition. They knew of his consistency in prayer. And so they decided this was the one aread in which they could trap him (Dan. 6:5). What trap did they set?

What word describes Daniel in Daniel 6:10? _____

Verses 4:17 and 5:18 shows us what Daniel believed that God was. What was that?

So the three questions can be answered:

identity loyal follower

activity being faithful to God

Who was God for Daniel? The Most High God

Application

Cornelius desired a relationship with the one True God. He renounced the gods of his homeland and sought after the True God. Perhaps he knew the prayer promise of Jeremiah.

Read Jeremiah 29:13. What are some times when you might want to seek the True God?

Considering Daniel: What are some occasions when you might want to assume an identity and prayer activity like Daniel's?

How would you describe

your primary prayer identity? _____

your most important prayer activity? _____

Who is God for you? _____

Finally I would ask you to consider the following questions

- 1) How do your needs or circumstances affect your identity?*
- 2) What are the strengths of your prayer activity?*
- 3) Does your main prayer activity keep you from other types of prayer that are important?*
- 4) What kind of feelings to you have when you think of who God is for you?*

Next Month: Using the Bible in prayer.