

WHY PRAY

"MORE LOVE TO THEE, O LORD"

"... in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves...lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God"

~ 2 Timothy 3:4

1. Things We Don't Know...

- a. We know not what should pray for as we ought ... - Rom 8:26
- b. In suffering prayer is natural, but usually to remove it, not get through it - Phil 4:7
- c. Elizabeth Prentiss suffered through health problems, and wrote this as her prayer.
- d. Ask & receive promises were for Spirit filled NT Israel - Mat 7:7, 21:22, John 14:13
- e. We pray to get what we need, but the need may be different in God's will - 1Tim 2

2. Those That Love God

- a. We do know how all things work together ... - Rom 8:28, Phil 4:11-14, Eph 1:10
- b. The Spirit teaches us (through his word) what God has prepared - 1 Cor 2:9-10
- c. *"if any man love God, the same is known of him"* ... perhaps in prayer - 1 Cor 8:3
- d. Prayer is a work, but we are God's workman created to do good works - Eph 2:10
- e. Those that love God do his will, prayer is God's will concerning you - 1 Thess 5:18

3. Why Pray

- a. Why talk to your spouse? Spend time with your children? Visit your parents?
- b. We pray for more love toward our great God and Saviour - Titus 2:13, 2 Tim 4:8
- c. We pray to know the love of Christ ... filled with the fullness of God - Eph 3:16-20
- d. Perilous times shall come because people do not pray - 2 Tim 3:1-4
- e. We pray to love God more than we love ourselves.

4. More Love to Thee

- a. We know the first commandment is to love God with all your heart - Mark 12:30
- b. We also know that none of us can keep it all the time, right?
- c. More love is a good prayer similar to "help thou mine unbelief" - Mk 9:24
- d. *"earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest"* - the best of God is not this.
- e. *"let sorrow do its work, come grief or pain"* - its work to salvation - 2 Cor 7:10-11
- f. *"sweet their refrain"* if it is more love to thee - 2Cor 2:14-16; 12:9-10
- g. *"This be the parting cry..."* whether by life or by death → Phil 1:20
- h. When we don't know what to pray, don't want to pray, or feel we just want to be left alone, we can pray for More Love to Thee.
- i. There is a curse on any man who thinks that prayer to God is not something we need to do... - 1 Cor 16:22
- j. Faith comes by hearing the word of God; love, hope, charity require prayer.