

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

Pastor's Bible Hour – May 18, 2008

Tabernacle of Praise – Pastor G. Richardson

www.topmanteca.org

1. **The Early Church:** Only existed and survived the onslaught of persecution because they knew how to pray.

Act 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Act 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Act 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

JESUS OUR EXAMPLE

1. **At Mount Transfiguration:**

Luk 9:29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment *was* white *and* glistening.

Luk 9:30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elijah:

Luk 9:32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

2. **Jesus Offered up Prayers and Supplications:**

Heb 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Heb 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

3. The Disciples need to be taught how to pray:

Luk 11:1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

1. Payer is the offering up of **our desires** in the name of Jesus for the things that are agreeable to his will.
2. **Oxygen of the Soul:** Prayer is as vital to our Christian walk and existence as breathing is to our physical existence.

Luk 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

3. **It is a Two Way Communication with God.** A good relationship between a father and child will require thorough communication.
4. **Oral Expression of Desire:** The deeper the desire the stronger the prayer.

Psa 61:2 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock *that* is higher than I.

Psa 61:3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, *and* a strong tower from the enemy.

Psa 61:4 I will abide in thy tabernacle forever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah.

5. **Prayer is returning to the Souls Habitat:**

1Pe 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

PRAYER BUILDS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. **Prayer is a conversation between us and God.** It is a time where we speak with Him, and He speaks with us. It is the means

whereby we get to know God in a more intimate way and start to become more like Him because we have spent time in His presence.

2. **Prayer unleashes God's power** so that He is able to work in our behalf.
3. **Prayer creates Fellowship**: Relationships are built by quality time together. Prayer alone with God creates special fellowship together.
4. **Prayer renews us Spiritually**: Prayers refreshes us in the presence and glory of God: "For this cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day, (2 Cor. 4:16).

EXAMPLES OF ANSWERED PRAYERS

I sought the Lord, and He heard me:

Psa 34:4 I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Psa 34:5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

Psa 34:6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard *him*, and saved him out of all his troubles.

Formula for Your Prayers to be Answered: (John 15:7). If you abide in me (Jesus) + His Word in you + asking and receiving.

1. **Daniel Prayed**: Three times a day, overcame a decree, lion's den and prevailed as a prophet of God.
2. **Jacob**: Overcame the anger of his brother. God had to tame Jacob before he could rename him.
3. **Hannah**: prevailed and brought forth a child.
4. **Elijah**: Prevailed and overcame the prophets of Ball.

5. **Nehemiah**: Prevailed and rebuilt the walls of the temple.
6. **Hezekiah**: Prevailed and 15 years were added to his life.
7. **Jesus**: Prevailed and overcame death, Hell and the grave.

STEPS IN HELPING YOU WITH YOUR PRAYER LIFE

Luk 11:2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

Luk 11:3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

Luk 11:4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

1. **Start with Worship**: (Hollowed be thy name)

Psa 18:46 The LORD liveth; and blessed *be* my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

Psa 34:1 ... I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.

Psa 34:2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear *thereof*, and be glad.

2. **Repentance and Forgiveness**:

Psa 66:17 I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue.

Psa 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*:

And he was extolled with my tongue - I praised him; I acknowledged his supremacy. I recognized my dependence on him, and looked to him as that God who had all things under his control, and who could grant me the deliverance which I desired.

Mar 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mar 11:26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Mat 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee;

Mat 5:24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

3. **Petition:**

Psa 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.

Phi 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

4. **Intercession:**

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Rom 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

5. **Thanksgiving:**

Psa 116:17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

1Th 5:16 Rejoice evermore.

1Th 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

1Th 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

6. **Meditation:**

Psa 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Psa 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psa 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

7. **Praying the Word:**

Pro 4:20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

Pro 4:21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

Pro 4:22 For they *are* life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Pro 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Joh 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

