

Prayer For The Purpose Of Godliness

DECEMBER 11, 2022

Prayer

- We cannot overemphasize prayer.
- If the end goal is godliness, then we must spend time in prayer. And grow in prayer.
- It is the second most important discipline.

Prayer Is Expected

- Matthew 6:5 “And when you pray...”
- Matthew 6:9 “Pray then like this....”
- Colossians 4:2 “Continue steadfastly in prayer.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”

Why We Don't Pray:

- We do not plan our prayer time.
- We doubt anything will happen.
- We fail to sense the nearness of God.
- We think we can make it on our own.
- We are not in awe of the greatness of God.

Prayer Is Learned

“Reading a book about prayer, listening to lectures and talking about it is very good, but it won’t teach you to pray. You get nothing without exercise, without practice. I might listen for a year to a professor of music playing the most beautiful music, but that won’t teach me to play an instrument.” (Murray)

Prayer Is Learned

- Luke 11:1 “Lord, teach us to pray.”
- The best way to learn how to pray is to pray.
- Like a child, we must learn and grow in discipline.

“Lord, Teach Us To Pray...”

- The Lord's Prayer. Matthew 6:5-15.
- **Don't pray like the hypocrites.**
- Hypocrites were the religious people of the day.
- Religious on the outside, wicked on the inside.

“Lord, Teach Us To Pray...”

- The Lord's Prayer. Matthew 6:5-15.
- **Don't pray like the pagans.**
- The heathen prayed with vain repetition.
- They used a lot of words without a sincere heart.

“Lord, Teach Us To Pray...”

- 6:6, we need to get alone with God and pray.
- Your prayer life must be anchored in your private prayer time.
- If we only pray in public, we will have a weak prayer life.

“Lord, Teach Us To Pray...”

- In the Lord's Prayer, what does Jesus say we should do? What should we ask for? Matthew 6:9-13.
- Praise God, long for Christ's return (to consummate the kingdom), ask for God's will to be done, for daily bread/provision, ask for forgiveness, restored relationships with others, deliverance from evil.

Prayer Is Learned

- **By praying with others.** Jesus would pray with his disciples; demonstrating to them how to pray.
- **By reading about prayer.** (This is not a substitute for prayer, but can help us grow.)

Prayer Is Answered

- “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

Prayer Is Answered

- What happens when we pray (ask) and do not receive an answer immediately?
- Keep praying! Persevere in prayer.
- What happens when we pray (ask) and do not receive the answer we were expecting?
- Praise God that He did not give us what we asked for!

Application

- 1. Spend 30 minutes in prayer this week.
Uninterrupted prayer; with your Bible.
- 2. Plan intentional times during the day to pray.
Put it on your calendar. Make it a priority!
- 3. Worship and thank God for hearing our prayers
and answering them in His perfect timing.