

Power of Prayer

Today we will talk about prayer and the power it possesses when it is done correctly. I say when it's done correctly but does that mean that prayer can be done incorrectly? The answer is yes. Prayer can be done incorrectly and could very well lead to unanswered prayers or missed answers to your prayers. Before we get too deep into correct or incorrect prayer let us answer another question; what is prayer. According to the dictionary prayer is a form of spiritual and personal communication or petition addressed to a deity, in the form of supplication, adoration, praise, contrition, or thanksgiving. The practice of prayer is the solution to human problems. It is a form of devotion of time spent mainly on praying. In a nut shell prayer is like a telephone call. If you needed or just wanted to talk to a friend or family member you could simply call them on the phone and talk to them for as long or as short a time as you like. A telephone call is a connection where two or more people can talk to each other without being in the same place at the same time. Prayer is like this because you can call on God and when you make a connection you can talk to him for as long or as short of time as you would like to. The difference is when you call on God you won't have a phone bill to pay. As a matter of fact instead of you having a phone bill to pay God will pay you when you call on him. God will pay you in the form of answering your prayers or simply being there to guide you and offer you his favor. Like a telephone call when you call someone you can talk to them and they can talk back to you. When you call on God in prayer you can talk to God and God can talk back to you. A problem is, however that when many people pray to God for something when they finish saying what they have to say they hang up the phone without giving God a chance to say anything. It's like God has to stop what he's doing and listen to us but we don't have to stop what we are doing and listen to God. **WRONG!** We must listen to God. When we finish praying stay on your knees a little longer keeping that telephone connection open, allowing God time to respond to your call. Would you call a friend, say what you wanted and then hang up. That would be rude. If you called someone and asked for a favor and hung up before they could speak you don't really know how that person feels about your request or if he or she is physically able to help you out or not. But if you allowed your friend to respond you know exactly what and how the friend can assist you if possible. Likewise if you hang up on God before he gets a chance to say anything in the conversation you don't know God's plans to help you. There may be something God requires of you first, there may be something you are doing or not doing that's hindering you from receiving what you are asking for. This is one way of praying correctly, by making your prayers two way conversations with God.

Another way of praying correctly is according to **MATTHEW 6:9-13** which says after this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. Now every time you pray you don't have to pray this exact prayer as for this is a model prayer for those just learning how to pray. It's a prayer starting point. This prayer started by acknowledging God as sovereign. It teaches us to pray for God's will to supersede our own self-will. If not careful, self-will can lead to selfish. You are definitely not going to get very far with God being selfish. Though the bible gives several examples of prayer we are going to focus on just one more for today. PSALM 100:1-5 which says make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: **come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: *it is he that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name.** For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations. We should not come to the Lord God with prayer requests and the end or amen. We should come to God in prayer with joy and gladness. We should be happy to come to God because we serve a good God who wants to bless us. Can you imagine blessing someone with \$1000.00 one morning and when you see them again they look sad and depressed because of unpaid bills. Well God is saying people keep coming to him in prayer looking sad and depressed over things he has already done for them. Can you imagine God saying what gives? When we come to God in prayer let us come to him happy for what he has already done for us and excited for what he's going to do for us. Let's come to God praising him for what he's done for us even before we physically have it. See yourself with it. See yourself using it. See yourself being blessed by it and praise God for it.

Why Do We Pray?

PSALM 55:22-23 says cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee. The Lord doesn't want us worrying or suffering needs all our lives. We need to learn to obey scriptures and cast our burdens on the Lord and leave them there and not go back for them. If we do this God will sustain us. He will lift that burden away and when people come against us God will protect us. Stop trying to fight this battle because it's not yours. You don't belong to Uncle Sam you belong to God. Let God fight all battles that come your way. Any kind of battle. War, pressures of life, depression, sickness and diseases, wayward children, hateful in-laws, anything. Turn it over to Jesus and he will work it out. This is how we pray to God and this is why we pray to God. Because he and he alone is able to supply us with all of our needs. Friends and family can only do so much for us but God has no limitations.

When And How Often Do We Pray

In the bible Jesus says unto them, when ye pray...There is no command to pray every night before going to sleep. There is no command to pray every morning when you awake. The bible simply says when you pray or as often as you pray; therefore this leaves us the opportunity to pray at will. It is recommended that you do pray at these times but if you don't or if you miss it sometimes that does not guarantee you a ticket to hell. The thing is not how often you pray but that you pray and that you pray correctly or effectively. As far as how to pray simply let God's Holy Spirit guide you into prayer. Say what comes upon your heart. It doesn't matter if your prayer is 1 hour or one minute as long as it is sincere and effective. It can be effective simply by meaning what you say to God in prayer, doing what you promise God you would do, listening to God's response and obeying it exactly as he instructs you without adding your own or anyone else's two cents into it. Mean what you say and do not be afraid to pray. Do not let sinful guilt hinder your prayer. Satan would have you think you are not worthy to speak to God. Some people will tell you that you can't go to God for yourself you must come through the church leadership. I say you can come to God for yourself any time of day or night. You don't have to come through a pastor, bishop, apostle, deacon, etc... These people are there to touch and agree with you and to help you if your prayers are going unanswered, but try it on your own first. When you see God answering your personal prayers this will help increase your faith in him and God said that it is through faith that he delivers.

FINDING TIME TO PRAY

It angers me to hear people say that they don't have much time to pray and ask me to pray for them. I don't mind praying for anyone who asks of me but I am going to attempt to teach you all how to pray for yourself. I don't have time is not a ligament excuse. What if God said he doesn't have time for you? How would you feel if God didn't take any time to hear your prayers and to answer them? This would probably turn you against God. Likewise you not spending time with God anger him. God is a jealous God who says that we are his creations and we should have no other god before him. I want you to know that anything you put before God become a god to you rather you realize it or not, rather you believe it or not. Money, cars, jobs, family, children, spouses, friends, TV, Facebook, MySpace, shopping. ANYTHING! When time to pray, come to church or do something the Lord has instructed you to do and you say man I'm tired and you don't do it. God is displeased. Don't you know the book of Isaiah says that they who wait upon the Lord shall be renewed in strength? Even the strongest of us get weak and weary sometimes but we got to hold on. We got to let go and let God. Besides if you are just as tired and your employer says come to work or you will be fired you will carry your tired but to work. Rather you realize it or not you are obeying man over God. Talk about your ticket to hell! Last but certainly not least: when God answers your prayers do not be surprised if God's answer is no. God does not always give us what we ask for however when we do ask for something we need to be specific and be certain of what we ask for because sometimes we ask God for something and when we get it we find out that we don't really want or need it yet we have a hard time getting rid of it. Prayer is a very powerful tool that we have which helps us survive this sinful world we live in. Through prayer we can be healed and delivered. Through prayer we can be free in Christ and receive God's wisdom in our lives so that we don't have to believe what someone says just because they wear a robe and speaks from the pulpit. Please don't get me wrong because I take nothing away from a good pastor or spiritual leader, but some of these people, I have serious doubts about. Not everybody that cries Lord, Lord, is holy. When you learn to call upon God for yourself you will begin to develop a discerning of spirits and will be able to see through the fakes, and dwell among the true worshippers of God who's in it for souls not for the money or prestige. Through prayer we can learn to discern right from wrong, good from evil and live a life pleasing to God. Prayer is a two way communication between mankind and God. A wonderful lifeline for those who take advantage of it and learn to pray correctly and boldly before others, not to be seem of men but to the glory of God.