

Developing and Maintaining a Consistent Prayer Life, Pt. 1, # 3
Selected Scriptures, Monday, June 15, 2015

Introduction: I'm sure that we all pray. The problem is praying consistently.

I. The Priority of Prayer.

A. Reasons for making prayer of priority:

- 1. Prayer was a priority in the life and ministry of Jesus (Mark 1:35; 6:46; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 11:1; 23:34; John 17:1-26).**
- 2. Prayer was a priority in the ministry of the leaders of the early church (Acts 6:3-4).**
- 3. Prayer was a priority in the early Church (Acts 2:42; 4:31).**
- 4. Prayer was a priority in the life of David (Psalm 5:1-3; 55:17; 63:1-8).**
- 5. Prayer was a priority in the life of Daniel (Daniel 6:10)**
- 6. Prayer was a priority in the life of Paul (Acts 16:13, 14, 25; 20:36; Ephesians 1:15-23).**
- 7. Prayer was a priority in the life of Peter (Acts 3:1; 10:9).**
- 8. Prayer was a priority in the life of Luther, who said "I have so much to do today, I will have to spend the first three hours in prayer, or the devil will get the victory."**
- 9. Prayer was a priority in the life of John Wesley, who rose at 4:00 a.m. each morning and spent two hours every day in prayer.**
- 10. Prayer was a priority in the life of A. W. Tozer, who said, "as a man prays, so is he."**

B. Requirements for making prayer a priority:

- 1. Recognize that prayer is a privilege.**
- 2. Remember that quality time spent with in prayer with God is never wasted.**
- 3. Recognize Who it is to Whom we are praying:**
 - a. The God Who is omnipotent Who stepped out on nothing and made a world out of nothing and hung it out on nothing (Genesis 1:1-5; Job 26:7; Hebrews 1:3).**
 - b. The God Who is sovereign (Psalm 135:6; Isaiah 40:15, 17; 46: 9-10; Daniel 4:35; Acts 4:25-28).**
 - c. The God Who is omniscient (Psalm 139:1-4; Hebrews 4:13).**
 - d. The God Who is omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-12; Jeremiah 23:24).**
 - e. The God Who holds our breath in his hand (Daniel 5:23; Acts 17:28).**
 - f. The God Who holds the king's heart in his hands (Proverbs 21:1).**
 - g. The God Who sees all of the past, all of the present, and all of the future (Isaiah 46:9-10).**

- 4. Remember the reasons for praying.**

C. Results of making prayer a priority:

- 1. Peace within (Philippians 4:6-7; cf. Isaiah 26:3).**
- 2. Power to face whatever life sends our way.**

II. The Period of Prayer (Mark 1:35).

III. The Place of Prayer (Mark 1:35).

IV. The Postures of Prayer:

A. Pray in a posture that contributes to humility and concentration (2 Chronicles 7:14; James 4:6).

B. Some of the different postures in which Jesus prayed:

- 1. Jesus prayed with his eyes lifted up to heaven (John 17:1; cf. Matthew 14:19).**
- 2. Jesus fell on his face and prayed (Matthew 26:39).**
- 3. Jesus knelt down and prayed (Luke 22:41).**

C. Some of the different postures in which St. prayed in the Bible:

- 1. David prayed while sitting before the Lord (1 Chronicles 17:16-17).**
- 2. Nehemiah prayed while standing (Nehemiah 9:5).**
- 3. Elijah prayed with his face between his knees (1 Kings 18:42-44).**
- 4. King Solomon knelt down and prayed with his hands lifted toward heaven (2 Chronicles 6:12-13; cf. 1 Timothy 2: 8).**
- 5. Paul frequently prayed on his knees (Acts 20:36; 21:5; Ephesians 3:14).**

V. The Plan for Prayer:

A. Practice praying with a prayer list.

B. How to pray for yourself:

- 1. Pray for wisdom**
- 2. Pray for grace**

C. How to pray for others:

- 1. Note the things for which Paul prayed for others.**
- 2. Note the things for which the Bible tells us to pray.**

D. Praying the acts acronym:

- 1. Adoration**
- 2. Confession**
- 3. Thanksgiving**
- 4. Supplication**

Pastor-Teacher, Julius R. Malone

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