

A Sermon On Prayer

June 15, 2008 (AM) - Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

Luke 6:12 *And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*

Introduction

Few things are more important than prayer. I suppose the purpose and work of God is more important than prayer. I would say that the work of Jesus Christ is more important than prayer. Even salvation is probably more important than prayer. But prayer is on a very high list as far as priority is concerned, especially for those of us who know Jesus Christ as personal Savior.

1 Thes. 5:17 says, "Pray without ceasing." This means that we should always sustain the practice of praying regularly and often. Prayer brings power that nothing else in our Christian lives can bring. It also brings understand and love toward God and an incentive to obey his commandments.

Today let's look very generally at prayer, a subject that is very details and has many points which could be considered.

I. WE HAVE A GOD WHO HEARS

- A. 2 Chron 7:14 *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*
 - 1. Several conditions are here put upon prayer
 - 2. Prayer is not simply asking and receiving
- B. Isa 41:17 *[When] the poor and needy seek water, and [there is] none, [and] their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.*
- C. So prayer assumes that there is someone to hear. Why would I call out to someone if I did not think there were someone to hear me?
- D. Why would I call your name if I did not think you were close enough to hear me?
- E. We have a God who is in Heaven and who has said he will hear us when we pray.

II. SOMETIMES GOD WILL NOT HEAR US

- A. But sometimes God will not hear, but that is not because he is not there but because we are sinful.
 - 1. Isa 1:15 *And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.*
 - 2. Prov 1:28 *Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:*
 - 3. John 9:31 *Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.*
 - a. There are two types of sinners—saved and lost.

- b. Psalm 66:18 *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear [me]:*
- 4. Job 35:13 *Surely God will not hear vanity, neither will the Almighty regard it.*

III. WE HAVE AN OPEN DOOR THROUGH PRAYER

- A. Lu 11:9 *And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*
 - 1. Here we assume that God is a gracious God and that he will open doors to us, give us what we ask for, and reveal to those of us who seek after him.
 - 2. Matt 21:22 *And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*
 - 3. Jer 29:13 *And ye shall seek me, and find [me], when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

IV. ANSWERS TO PRAYER

- A. Not only in scripture but in personal lives of people who now live on the earth are found many answers to prayer.
- B. How many of you have had prayers answered?
- C. Jer 42:4 *Then Jeremiah the prophet said unto them, I have heard [you]; behold, I will pray unto the LORD your God according to your words; and it shall come to pass, [that] whatsoever thing the LORD shall answer you, I will declare [it] unto you; I will keep nothing back from you.*
- D. Psalm 65:5 *[By] terrible (awesome) things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; [who art] the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off [upon] the sea:*

V. WE HAVE A NEED TO PRAY

- A. Psalm 70:5 *But I [am] poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou [art] my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying.*
- B. Isa 41:17 *[When] the poor and needy seek water, and [there is] none, [and] their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.*

VI. COMMANDMENTS TO PRAY

- A. Mt 9:38 *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*
- B. Mt 26:41 *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak.*
- C. Mr 13:33 *Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*
- D. Lu 18:1 ¶ *And he spake a parable unto them [to this end], that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*
- E. Lu 21:36 *Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*
- F. 1 Thes 5:17 *Pray without ceasing.*

VII. THE UNIVERSAL PRACTICE OF PRAYER

- A. If you could visit all the cultures of the world, you would find that there is some type of prayer practices among the inhabitants.
- B. Prayer assumes the existence of God, and the existence of God is put into every man's heart when he is born.
- C. Ro 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:
- D. So, if you do not pray, you have forgotten that there is a God

Conclusion

So continue to pray every day of your life. Do not forget God! Be in tune with him, because prayer is the tune-up to God and a way to have fellowship with him in an intimate way.

Do you be afraid to confess your sins to God through prayer.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.