

XLV. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS
LESSON FORTY-FIVE
... PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this lesson is to learn to appreciate prayer as communication with our Father God, a very special time in our Father's presence, and to learn the how to, of effective, powerful. Holy Spirit energized prayers.

James 5:16 says,

"... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
Prayer lies at the root of all personal godliness. To pray is to change. God uses prayer to transform us. If we are unwilling to change, we will abandon prayer as a noticeable characteristic of our lives. The closer we come to the heartbeat of God the more we see our need and the more we desire to be conformed to the image of Christ. Thus when we pray our Father God graciously reveals to us our hiding places, that we might repent and be set free.

James 4:3 says concerning prayer,

"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts (passions)."
To ask "rightly" involves transformed passions and renewing of the mind. In prayer we begin to think God's thoughts after Him desiring the things He desires, loving the things He loves. Progressively we begin to see things from His point of view.

All who have walked with God have viewed prayer as the main business of their lives. Mark 1:35, stands as a commentary on the life-style of Jesus.

"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed."
David's desire for God broke the self-indulgence of sleeping late: "early will I seek Thee" (Psalms 63:1). Acts 6:4 tells us that when the apostles were tempted to give their energies to other important tasks, instead they determined to give themselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

We, likewise need to view prayer as the main business of our lives. Like the disciples (Luke 11:1) we need to ask the Lord Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray."

PRAYER HABITS OF JESUS

Since Jesus is to be the pattern for our life which also includes our prayer life, we need to take a look at the prayer habits of Jesus. According to the following Scriptures, what godly habits of prayer do we see in the life of Jesus?

Mark 1:35

Luke 5:16

Matthew 14:23

Luke 6:12

Luke 9:18

Luke 22:32

Luke 22:41-44

Luke 11:1

THE PRAYER OF FAITH

If prayers are to be effective, powerful, Holy Spirit energized prayers, one must pray the PRAYER OF FAITH. What is the PRAYER OF FAITH?

James 5:15

Mark 11:23-24

John 11:41-42

Romans 10:17

Conclusions: The PRAYER OF FAITH is the prayer that faith prays - FAITH which has its roots/foundation in the Word of God for it is impossible to have faith apart from the Word of God or a Word from God. God's Word is His will and creates faith in which there is no doubt. Thus you are praying the PRAYER OF FAITH, when you know that you have that for which you have prayed because you are praying according to God's will.

FOUNDATION STONES OF THE PRAYER OF FAITH

To consistently pray the PRAYER OF FAITH, there is a FOUNDATION that must be laid in ones life. And like all foundations there are certain Ingredients that must be present if it is to be sure and firm.

According to the following Scriptures, what are the ingredients, foundation stones of the PRAYER OF FAITH?

1. Hebrews 11:6
Luke 1:45
Numbers 23:19
Matthew 6:33
Luke 6:46
2 Corinthians 1:20
Matthew 7:7-11

2. **Matthew 6:9-10**
I John 5:14-15
John 4:34
John 5:30
John 17:17
3. **John 15:1-8**
1 John 3:21-22
1 Peter 3:7
James 5:16

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that the FOUNDATION STONES, INGREDIENTS of the PRAYER OF FAITH ARE:

1. Faith in (towards) God - believing and trusting in the integrity of God;
2. Seeking and praying according to the will of God;
3. Looking to Jesus and His Word for life and walk.

FIVE STEPS OF PRAYER

From the following Scriptures what are the five steps of the life changing PRAYER OF FAITH.

1. **Romans 10:11**
Matthew 4:4
Psalms 119:105
2. **John 16:23-24**
Mark 16:17-18
Matthew 28:18
Philippians 2:9-10
Mark 13:34
3. **Psalms 100:4**
Psalms 95:2
Psalms 136:1
Psalms 22:3
Psalms 150:2
4. **Acts 3:19**
Isaiah 59:2
I John 1:9
Mark 11:25
5. **Matthew 7:7-11**
Luke 11:5-10
Luke 18:1-8
James 4:2

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that the five steps of prayer are:

1. Being full of the Word of God;
2. Praying in the Name of The Lord Jesus Christ;
3. Coming into God's presence with praise & thanksgiving;
4. Repenting of the sin in one's life;
5. Asking with persistence and unashamed boldness (importunity).

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

Our Father God desires that each one of His children have good habits of prayer. Do you have good prayer habits?

Yes ___ No ___

Are the ingredients of the PRAYER OF FAITH a viable part of your life-style?

Yes ___ No ___

Do you include in your prayer time the word, praise, thanksgiving, confession of sins and repentance?

Yes ___ No ___