

Title: In Everything Give Thanks

Text: I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to I Thess. 5:16..(Read Vs 16-18)

Prayer

I want to share with you some principles of PRAYER...

(1) Number one, the Bible teaches that we should pray according to need.

Pray List

When you have a need, God wants you to come to Him. Some people feel bad that the only time they go to God in prayer is when they have a need. Now, let me tell you something. Don't feel bad about that. God wants you to come to Him with all your needs.

I don't feel bad when my children come to me with a need. In fact, I want them to come. I love my children. And God loves us. And he wants us to come to him. The Bible says in Hebrews 4:16 that we are to come with "confidence" or "boldness" to the throne of grace. So that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

So, it is important when you talk about prayer to realize that God wants you to come to Him with all your needs. He wants you to come and talk with him about those things that concern you.

In fact, it is a good rule not to talk with anyone else about your need until you first talk with God. Talk to God first. I find the common temptation within my life is to first seek the advise of other people before I go to the Lord in prayer. And dear friends, that is a great mistake. The Lord should be first. Share your burdens with the Lord for he cares for you
 "Commit they way unto the Lord. Trust also in Him and he will bring it to pass." God wants you to bring all your needs to Him. Cast all your burdens on the Lord for He cares for you....

So, The Bible teaches that we should go to the Lord in times of need.
 and friends, don't hesitate. No matter what the need, run to the Lord....

To you it may seem unimportant and not to spiritual in light of someone else's need. But, listen, everything you feel and desire and want and need, God wants to hear about. And don't you ever let anyone convince you otherwise. God invites us to come to him in times of need.

(Share needs)

(2) Secondly, the Bible teaches that prayer should be a matter of habit.

The thing that I have experienced is that faith builds on faith. When you exercise faith you can exercise it more the next time. When I believe something and God does it, I am more able and likely to believe it again. Faith builds on Faith.

(Now)

And the reason why a lot of us don't see the uniqueness of faith in prayer is because we have never exercised faith. We are afraid for some reason. We are afraid to step out and believe something that our minds or our training says couldn't happen. And when you do that you engore the principle of faith. And you then decide what ~~can~~^{can} be done and what cannot be done...And that then becomes your problem in prayer. You see, God wants you to come and believe that He is able to do abundently more than you could every think or ask...

But, if you are like me, you seat there and struggle with yourself as to what you think God can do. And you evaluate the whole problem. "Well, I think God can do this....But if I don't do something myself the person will not get any help."....

Do you see our problem?.... God wants us to believe....And I know that the only way to develope a prayer life that is trusting and believing is by having a regular habit of prayer.

David wrote in Psalms 55:17 "evening and morning and at noon, I will pray unto the Lord and He will hear me."

Morning...noon...and evening. Three times daily. The same thing is indicated by Daniel. In Daniel chapter 6 verse 10 we see that Daniel prayed unto the Lord three times a day. He was kneling, praying and giving thanks before the Lord, God.

Would you turn in your Bibles, please, to the Gospel of Mark. The Gospel of Mark chapter 1. Mark chapter 1 verse 32. It seems from Mark chapter 1 that this has been one of the busiest days in the life of our Lord. He really had a long day. He did many things and he healed many people. I would like to begin reading at Vs 32 in order to get the flow of things.

(Read Mark 1:32-35)

Now, I wish the Bible gave us more details regarding those early morning prayers. But, throughout the N.T. we read that Jesus departed early to pray.....He had a habit of prayer....

And I have experienced that a habit of prayer is very, very important to Faith in God and confidence in God's desire to handle our needs....

3) The third ^{principle} thing that is involved in developing a good prayer life is the matter of attitude.

You know, I don't really think we will see God work in the way we want to see Him work, if we are not in an attitude of prayer. The Bible teaches in I Thess. 5:17 that we are "to pray without ceasing."

Now, what does that mean?.....I don't think it means that we should be on our knees all day long talking with God. Although that probable would hurt us non. But, I don't think it means that. I believe the meaning is dealing with "an attitude of prayer." That at any moment within our conscienceness, we are aware of..and having fellowship with the Lord.

For example:..... I have already been talking with God while I have been talking with you....

Now, that is not difficult. It is possible for you to be in a consent attitude of prayer all day long. Prayer is mental talking and communicating with the Lord....

And I believe that the Bible teaches that our attitude is very important in building the confidence and faith that we need in the Lord.

SOFTLY

Many times we engore His greious hand throughout the day. We don't see Him. And yet he is answering prayers. And we don't understand that. Because we are not praying faithfully. We are not in an attitude of prayer. And we don't see ^{The answers} ~~the~~. Then, we throw up some big thing that we know God knows we don't need anyway. And so, He doesn't answer our prayer in the wayd we want Him to answer. And then we assume the whole subject is for the birds...

and

That faith is not really a principle of the christian life. Yet, the Bible says that ~~the~~ the righteous live by faith. Their daily life is by faith. Faith is a characteristic of being a ^{Christian} ~~believer~~...

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So, attitude is very important. In Ephesians 6:18 Paul says, "with all prayer and petitions, pray at all times in the Spirit." We are told to pray in the spirit, not in the flesh. *But in the Spirit*

of you,

O.K. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PRAY IN THE SPIRIT?....Well, it means "inside" rather than outside. It means to pray to the Lord within your own mind and thoughts, rather than for others to hear you.

In fact, the Bible teaches that verbal prayer can be very dangerous if you do it in the wrong attitude. If we pray in public with the desire and attitude of being heard by others, God says that we will not be rewarded in heaven because we will have received our reward. And that is, being heard by others.

The Bible also says that there is a danger in vain repetation. Not really saying anything to God. Just going over and over the same old phrases. So, we need to be aware of these dangers.

Now, God does admonish us to pray together as a group. But we need to pray to God; and not for the approval of man.

And the Bible teaches that God looks to your closet to see the real battle. He said to go into your closet when you pray..then your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

The attitude of prayer...Praying always...in the spirit....inside of yourself, rather than ~~public prayers~~ *to seek ^{the} man's approval*

(4) Fourth Principle

Jesus said in Luke 18:1 that we at all times ought to pray and not to lose heart. Here is a very important principle about prayer.

Growing discouraged, giving up, having problems in your life, Jesus taught that all of this happens as a result of a lack of prayer.

When we are not praying, we are not being sustained and reinforced by God's presence. Instead we lose heart, we get discouraged, we grow weary, we get depressed, and we don't understand why things are happening the way they are. ~~help~~ Jesus said that is why we ought always to pray.....Always pray... Just keep on praying....

It will give you an understaind of all things....It will sustain you in moments of depression and defeat.....

Friends, this is very very important. Faith is at the very heart of prayer.....

So, when you pray, keep these ^{Four} ~~three~~ principles in mind.....

- (1) The Bible teaches we should pray according to needs....
- (2) We should pray as a habit of life. ^{daily} ~~daily~~, constantly prayer life.
- (3) ~~and~~, ^{Third}, the Bible teaches the matter of attitude.
- (4) ^{and Fourth}, ~~and~~ ^{Don't} ~~not~~ ^{right} ~~right~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{pray} ~~pray~~ ⁻ ~~but~~ ^{we} ~~lose~~ ^{heart} ~~heart~~

Shall we close in prayer

- Result =
- a) prayer power
 - b) things will happen
 - c) people will be saved
 - d) people will be build up in the land
 - e) worship - new manner
 - e) achieve new purpose