

Prayer

Keith Dixon
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Gray

Introduction

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:25
2. One of the best things that any member can do is to pray for his/her congregation.
3. Paul complimented the Corinthians just for praying for them. 2 Corinthians 1:11
4. What a privilege is prayer
 - a. It is not an emergency ripcord, it is the parachute
 - b. It is not an optional rider on an insurance plan, it is the policy.
 - c. It is not leather seats and power steering, it is the steering wheel and the drive train
 - d. It is not the plush carpet and chandeliers, it is the foundation and the roof!
5. God will listen if we will express our desires in prayers. 1 Peter 3:12
6. Why should we pray?

II Discussion

1. Because His house is a house of prayer
 - a. Matthew 21:12-13; Isaiah 56:7
 - b. The church today is the house of God. Ephesians 2:21; 1 Corinthians 3:16
 - c. Thus the church needs to be, ought to be a “house of prayer.”
2. Because our founder was a praying man.
 - a. At His baptism Luke 3:21
 - b. When His fame was spreading abroad 5:15-16
 - c. Before naming the 12 apostles 6:12
 - d. Before feeding the 5,000 9:16
 - e. Before asking His disciples who he was 9:18
 - f. Before He was transfigured 9:28-29
 - g. When He rejoiced in spirit 10:21
 - h. When His disciples asked for instruction on prayer 11:1
 - i. For Peter’s faith not to fail 22:32
 - j. Before His arrest in the Garden 22:41-45
 - k. While on the cross 23:34
 - l. Before eating bread with the disciples at Emmaus 24:30
3. Because history shows us the benefits of praying
 - a. Acts 2:42 Continued steadfastly... prayers.
 - b. 3:1; 4:31; 6:4,6; 8:15
 - c. The elders prayed Acts 20:36
4. Because we want to follow the Bible
 - a. Bible things in Bible way 1 Peter 4:11
 - b. We cannot add to nor take from Revelation 22:18-19
 - c. Then we must practice prayer
 - d. The new testament used prayer 163 times Luke 18:1
5. Because there is a need for workers
 - a. Matthew 9:37-38
6. Because doors are opened when we pray
 - a. Colossians 4:2-3; Romans 10:1

- b. Revelation 3:7-8
- c. Acts 14:27; 2 Corinthians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 16:9
- d. God watches from Heaven can see these things better than we can
- 7. Because prayer will give us the courage to stand
 - a. Acts 4:29
 - b. Ephesians 6:18-20
 - c. Napoleon at Austerlitz
 - d. Leviticus 26:8; Numbers 14:9; Joshua 23:10
- 8. Because prayer will unifies believers
 - a. John 17:20-21
 - b. Acts 1:14
- 9. Because we will have wisdom in answer to prayer
 - a. James 1:5; Ephesians 1:16-17; Philippians 1:9
 - b. Wisdom to do the Lord's work
 - c. Wisdom to say the right thing to set up studies, handle problems in the church and home

III Conclusion

1. Now we need to implement prayer into our lives. James 4:17
2. Great things will happen if we pray for the church
 - a. to grow,
 - i. for workers
 - ii. for those needing the Gospel
 - iii. Bible school, teachers
 - iv. Elders, deacons, preachers
 - b. to heal,
 - i. The sick physically and spiritually
 - ii. The broken hearted,
 - iii. Marriages
 - c. to have wisdom
 - i. How to say the right thing to those who are lost
 - ii. How to heal the broken hearted
 - iii. How to heal the hurting marriage
3. Will you pray? How often and how long, start now?
4. Are you where God will hear your prayers John 9:31; 1 Peter 3:12
5. You can be tonight, right now come

Source: Church Growth: Man's ways or God's way, MSOP 00 lecture Allen Webster