

THE NECESSITY OF PRAYERS IN A CHRISTIAN LIFE

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OUTLINE OF THE LESSON

- 1) Lesson Objectives.
- 2) Gods mandate to Man
- 3) Some key Prayers from the Scriptures
- 4) Benefits of Prayers
- 5) Conclusion

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- 1) To understand that, effective ministry in the Kingdom of God requires consistency in prayers
- 2) To realize that God is interested in our prayers and answers them.
- 3) To appreciate that, prayers should be a lifestyle and leads to victorious Christian living

Quotes about Prayer

“What brought power to the lives of men like Luther, Wesley, Finney, and Moody can also bring you power. It does not matter if you are an ordained minister or a housewife. Your level of Education or your station in life is of no Consequence when it comes to prayer” Dr. David Yonggi Cho

Read Acts 10:34 God does not show favoritism

“However, all of us have enough time to sleep, eat and breathe. As soon as we realize that prayer is as important as sleeping, eating and breathing, we will be amazed at how much more time will be available to us to pray”. Dr. David Yonggi Cho

Read Daniel 6:10 As Prime minister of Babylon, Daniel had time to Pray. He prayed three times a day.

“When you have tasted honey, you can never again be satisfied with sugar syrup. The taste and flavor of honey is different! It is the same with prayer once you learn to touch God. Casual prayer loses taste and meaning”. Laban Jjumba

Psalms 34:8 Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

Prayer is meant to be a relationship with God.

I would like us to look at the justification of prayer from the scriptures and this we do by looking at Gods original mandate for man during creation

GODS MANDATE FOR MAN

Genesis 1:26-28 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

The book of Genesis chapter 1 gives an account of how God created the heavens and the earth and the fullness thereof. He created day and night, sun, moon and the stars, the seas, creatures in the sea, birds of the air, seed bearing vegetation, trees bearing fruits. It simply indicates that God created everything that exists.

In the scripture we have read, God was in the 6th day of His creation work which He concluded by creating man.

God gave man authority to rule over His creation. In other words, He gave Adam and Eve and their Descendants dominion over the entire earth and all creation

In Psalms 8:4-8 the Psalmist emphasizes on the mandate that God gave man to rule over His creation.

Psalms 8:4-8 (NASB)

⁴What is man that You think of him, And a son of man that You are concerned about him? ⁵Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! ⁶You have him rule over the works of Your hands; You have put everything under his feet, ⁷All sheep and oxen, And also the animals of the field, ⁸The birds of the sky, and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

In Psalm 8:6, the word “rule” come from the Hebrew word marshal, which means:

- a) Manager, steward or governor.
- b) Mediator, go-between or a representative.

This means that:

- 1) Adam (and His descendants) was God’s manager, steward or governor.
- 2) Adam was God’s mediator, go-between or a representative.

The Earth was Adam’s assignment: Adam was the watchman or Guardian.

Psalms 115:16 The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to man.

LESSONS FROM GODS MANDATE TO MAN

- 1) The earth and the fullness thereof belongs to God. He is the owner of creation.
- 2) Man was given responsibility by God to manage His vast estate of creation.
- 3) Man is responsible of the good and bad that happens in the vast estate given by God to manage.
- 4) For productive and orderly management of Gods vast estate, man need to seek God for wisdom, counsel and knowledge.

Realizing that, we are stewards of Gods creation draws us to depend on God in order to accomplish the God given mandate. This is the genesis of prayer

SOME KEY PRAYERS FROM THE BIBLE

1. The prayer that births

Elijah had declared drought in 1 kings 17 before king Ahab. In 1 kings 18:1, God instructed Elijah to go and present himself to King Ahab and then God was to send the rain.

1 kings 18:1 After a long time, in the third year, the word of the LORD came to Elijah: “Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land.”

It was God’s idea to send rain and not Elijah’s idea.

1 kings 18:41-45 And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain.” ⁴²So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees. ⁴³“Go and look toward the sea,” he told his servant. And he went up and looked. “There is nothing there,” he said. Seven times Elijah said, “Go back.” ⁴⁴The seventh time the servant reported, “A cloud as small as a man’s hand is rising from the sea.”

So Elijah said, “Go and tell Ahab, ‘Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.’” ⁴⁵Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain came on and Ahab rode off to Jezreel.

Elijah knew that God had promised to send the rain. He prayed 7 times
Until the rain was birthed.

- 1) The birthing prayer is based on the knowledge of Gods promises for your life, your family, the Church, the Nation etc
- 2) We must pray until the task is accomplished. Seven is the biblical number of completion.
- 3) God has chosen to work through people like you and me!

2) Prayer of Deliverance from captivity

Daniel 9:1-3 In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom - ²in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. ³So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

- 1) Daniel learnt from the scriptures, the captivity of the children of Israel was to last for 70 years.
- 2) He turned to God in prayer, repenting of the sins of the Israelites and asking God to remember His promises to them
- 3) King Cyrus of Persia ordered the return of the Jews to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple
- 4) How many promises of God have gone unfulfilled because there is no one to pray?

3) Persistent prayers

Luke 18:1-3 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ²He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ ⁴“For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

- 1) This is a parable of contrast: The uncaring Judge contrast our caring Father, the widow did not have any standing before the law contrasts with our access to our God at all the times, the widow did not have promises to claim but we have the promises of God.

- 1) We should pray always. There is no season of prayer. Prayer is for all seasons.
- 2) Prayer must be a lifestyle. Pray without ceasing. The way breathing is normal and happens without our realisation, that's how pray should happen to us.
- 3) First and foremost, prayer should be a fellowship with the loving Father.

THE BENEFITS OF PRAYERS

1) Prayer invites God to act. Mathew 7:7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

2) Prayer helps a believer to overcome temptation.

Mathew 26:41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

Prayer and sinning cannot keep company with each other. One must stop: either Prayer or Sin!

We should allow Prayer to continue rather than Sin.

3) Prayer promotes righteous living, and is the one great aid to uprightness of heart and life. The fruit of real praying is right living.

Praying enables him who prays to: “work out his salvation with fear and trembling”; “puts him to watching his temper, conversation and conduct”; and enables him to “walk worthy of the calling”.

4) **Prayer is weapon of Spiritual warfare.**

Ephesians 6:10-11 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

5) Prayer will bring you health not only spiritually but also mentally/physically.

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Conclusion

- 1) For us to serve God and bear fruit in His vineyard, we must exercise the spiritual discipline of prayer
- 2) Our deliberate engagement in prayers will cultivate a deeper relationship with our Father
- 3) A lifestyle of prayer will activate our spiritual alertness. We will be able to hear Gods voice clearly and discern His will.

THANK YOU

GOD BLESS YOU