

Prayer

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I. Introduction. Prayer is like respiration.

II. Four Areas considered.

A. Worship and adoration

1. Worship and adoration is the occupation of heart with God Himself.
2. Give unto the Lord the glory due His name and worship Him. (Psalm 96:8-9)
 - a. Glory is displayed excellence.
 - b. Giving glory to God is talking to Him about His Person and work. (Psalm 104:1, Revelation 4:11)
 - c. Worship is 'worthship.'
 - d. Worship is rehearsing how we feel about God in His presence. (Psalm 40:5)

B. Praise.

1. Praise is the occupation of the heart with blessings.
2. We are to thank and praise Him. (Psalm 100)
3. The example of "Praying Hyde," who was adamant about praying for people to come to Christ. When he failed to worship God, his prayers were not answered.
4. God is more concerned that one talks about the things He has done than ask Him about the things He will do.
5. We are to honor God with the magnitude of our requests.

C. Petition.

1. Petition is occupation of the heart with needs. Petition is as simple as asking. (James 4:2, Philippians 4:6, Malachi 3:8) There are some things that we would have been able to use that we will never receive since we never asked.

D. Intercession.

1. Intercession is the occupation of the heart with spiritual warfare.
2. God has purposed and therefore He has promised certain things to His people. Prayer is not the office to change God's plans or purposes. Prayer is the office by which we lay hold of God in harmony with His promises.

a. Christ prayed to show to us that God will do in answer to prayer what otherwise He could not and would not do. God has limited Himself voluntarily to prayer. (Exodus 17:10-13)

b. The deliverance of the Israelites was dependent upon prayer. (Genesis 15:13, Exodus 12:40, Deuteronomy 16:7-8)

c. The instant Daniel prayed was possibly the moment that God was ready to send the Jews back from exile. (Daniel 9)

3. In intercessory prayer we counteract dangers and pitfalls of the one we are praying for often at the moment they need it the most. (Luke 18:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8, Ephesians 6:18)

4. The enemy is constantly constructing road blocks to one's salvation, but the believer can pray away any objections they have to Christ with the exception of their own sovereign will.

III. The mystery of unanswered prayer (*no such thing*).

A. God does often answer prayers even when they are not good for us - we must pray with the right motives. (Psalm 106)

IV. Conclusion.

A. It is by prayer more than counsel that your spiritual children will be kept close to the heart of God.

B. "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees."

C. If we are sold on the importance of prayer, we will find time for it.

Application questions.

1. Summarize the four areas of prayer. Choose which one you find to be most important and explain.

2. What does intercession look like? Why is it so important?

3. What is the nature of God's interaction in the world through prayer? How does this explain "unanswered" prayer according to the speaker? What do you think?
