

Psalm 5:3

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I. Introduction.

A. The Bible summarizes great truths in just a few words.

B. Many wonder if prayer is really any good for today.

1. Prayer is an anecdote to worry. (Philippians 4:6)
2. Prayer is the way to get help from God. (Hebrews 4:16)
3. Prayer is the way to get things from God.
4. Prayer is the key to being useful or fruitful in ministry.

C. Text: Psalm 5:3.

II. Three elements of effective prayer.

A. You hear my voice.

1. Prayer is talking to God—it is more than meditative thinking.
2. Be definite with God, and He will be definite with you.
3. Apart from God we can do nothing. (Psalm 90)

B. I lay my requests.

1. The idea is to lay out needs in a well ordered way.
2. There are several ways to order your prayers: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (A.C.T.S.) or Confession, Adoration, Thanksgiving, Supplication (C.A.T.S.)
3. Start with a small amount of time and then let it grow.
4. Write down your prayer requests.
5. Make application as you go.

C. I wait in expectation.

1. When you pray, pray to get answers. Expect an answer.

2. You need to look around for the answer.
 1. Abraham looked for how God would answer the need for a sacrifice.
 2. Moses looked to God to fulfill his request.
3. We need to be surrendered to God in this. God is not our servant—we are his.
 1. One of the greatest problems in prayer is in the failure to be surrendered to God.
 2. We are too ready to believe that what God has for us is something that we do not want.
4. We need to wait.
5. We may not need an answer for a particular thing.

Application questions

1. How are we to pray according to the speaker?

2. What elements are necessary for waiting in expectation?

3. How does your life reflect one surrendered in prayer? What can you do to practice these principles regularly?
