

PRAYER

PART 1 – PRELIMINARIES

Introduction:

1. “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1).
2. Didn’t the Jews know how to pray?
3. They wanted to learn to pray like Jesus.

I. Implications of Prayer

- A. Prayer implies the existence of God (Heb. 11:6).
- B. Prayer implies the personal nature of God (Gen. 20:17; 2 Kings 20:2, 5; Psalm 4:1).
Personal, Rational, Intelligent, Powerful
- C. Prayer implies the compassion of God (Phil. 4:6-7; Psalm 66:16-20).
- D. Prayer implies the dependence of man upon God (1 Kings 3:7; Jer. 10:23).
- E. Prayer implies submission to God (Ecc. 6:12; Luke 22:42).

II. Definitions of Prayer

1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;

- A. Prayer – prayer addressed to God; emp. on worship
- B. Supplication – petition, request; a seeking, asking or entreaty
- C. Intercession – petition to God on behalf of others; conversation or coming together
- D. Thanksgiving – grateful language; gratitude to God
- E. Prayer is an act of faith (Heb. 11:1; Rom. 10:1).
- F. Prayer is a spiritual exercise (Matt. 6:7; Dan. 6:10).

III. Misconceptions about Prayer

- A. Prayer is merely a psychological exercise.
- B. Praying to God is like talking to Santa Claus.
- C. Prayers cannot be answered because miracles have ended.

IV. Requirements for Prayer

- A. Be a child of God (Matt. 6:9; Acts 17:26-28; John 3:3-5; 1 Pet. 1:17, 22-23)
- B. Be an obedient worshipper (John 9:30-31; Prov. 28:9)
- C. Be holy and clean (1 Tim. 2:8; Isa. 1:15; Jam. 4:8)
- D. Be righteous (Jam. 5:16; 1 Pet. 3:12)
- E. Be faithful and pleasing (1 Jn. 3:22)
- F. Be penitent (Acts 8:22)