

Prayer Is Essential

Text: 1 Chronicles 16:7-11

INTRODUCTION:

1. Upon bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, David presented a psalm to be sung in gratitude to the Lord.
2. In it, he encouraged the nation to seek God's face continually.
 - a. Seek – “to search out (in worship or prayer); to strive after; to ask, beg, desire, enquire, request”
 - b. Continually – “to stretch; thus, constantly or regularly; continually”
3. This instruction makes it clear that prayer is essential to the life of a child of God.
4. We have been considering how important prayer is in our lives.
5. Let us learn why we must understand that prayer is essential...

I. PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF GOD

- A. The act of prayer is founded upon the existence of God (Hebrews 11:6).
- B. Praying is dependent upon the nature of God – namely, that He is a personal God (cf. Genesis 20:17; 2 Kings 20:2, 5; Psalm 4:1). {*Yet, He is also **intelligent, rational, and powerful.***}
- C. Prayer is centered in the compassion of God (Philippians 4:6-7; Psalm 66:16-20).
- D. God desires and deserves man's prayers.

II. PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE OF THE NEEDS OF MAN

- A. Man is unable to find his way to salvation and heaven on his own (1 Kings 3:7; Jeremiah 10:23).
- B. God knows the way for man to live his life (Ecclesiastes 6:12; cf. Luke 22:42).
- C. God knows the needs of man in this life (Psalm 38:9; Matthew 6:7-8, 31-33).
- D. Therefore, men should pray. {*“Ye have not, because ye ask not” (James 4:2).*}

III. PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE OF THE NURTURE OF THE SOUL

- A. Prayer strengthens the soul because it is an act of faith (cf. Romans 10:1).
- B. Prayer strengthens the soul because it is a spiritual exercise (Daniel 6:10; Mat. 6:7).
- C. Prayer strengthens the soul because it is a daily discipline (Luke 18:1, 8; Matthew 7:7; Acts 2:42; Romans 12:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).
- D. Prayer is necessary for the strength and growth of every Christian.

CONCLUSION:

1. How essential is prayer in my life?
2. What do I allow to hinder me in my prayers?
3. What change will I make to give more time to prayer?

Practical Prayer

Exercises

Prayer Is Primary

1. Read Daniel 6:10-13. How often did Daniel set aside time for prayer? Why?
2. Read Psalm 55:1-2, 16-17. How often did David have set time for prayer? Why?
3. Read Psalm 5:2-3; 86:3; 119:62, 147-148. Make a note of when prayer was made.
4. Read Mark 1:35; Acts 2:1, 15; 3:1; 10:9, 30. Do these passages indicate that we should have set times of prayer?
5. Did the individuals read about view prayer as a last resort or a daily practice? How do you view prayer?
6. Prayer requires action on our part. What can you do to remind yourself to pray daily and consistently?