

Prayer Is Primary

Text: Daniel 6:10-13

INTRODUCTION:

1. The faithful child of God knows that prayer is of supreme importance in life.
2. Throughout Scripture, examples are given of those who prayed diligently and systematically because they recognized the primacy of prayer.
3. Because prayer is essential, it also must be primary...

I. PRAYER IS THE PLAN

- A. "Prayer is not a back-up plan. Prayer is the battle plan!"
- B. Consider prayer in the life of Nehemiah:
 1. He prayed in reaction (1:4).
 2. He prayed in anticipation (1:6).
 3. He prayed in preparation (1:11).
 4. He prayed in execution (2:4).
- C. His entire plan was saturated with prayer – from beginning to end.
- D. Consider further:
 1. It was an earnest prayer (1:4).
 2. It was a reverent prayer (1:5).
 3. It was a persistent prayer (1:4, 6; 2:1).
 4. It was an honest prayer (1:6-7).
 5. It was a scriptural prayer (1:8-10).
 6. It was a dedicated prayer (1:11).
 7. It was a faithful prayer (2:1-6).

II. PRAYER IS A PRIORITY

- A. The faithful servants of God have always been men and women of prayer.
- B. They worked to make prayer a habit – often setting aside time during their day to focus on prayer.
- C. Daniel risked his life to keep his habit of prayer (Daniel 6:10-13)!
- D. David also made prayer a habit three times each day (Psalm 55:1-2, 16-17).
- E. The psalms record prayers being made in the morning (5:1-3; 88:13), daytime and nighttime (22:2; 42:8), at midnight (119:62), before the dawn (119:147-148), and all day long (86:3).
- F. Jesus prayed in the morning (Mark 1:35), during the day (Luke 5:16), at the close of day (Matthew 14:23), and sometimes all night long (Luke 6:12).
- G. The Apostles were gathered in the morning, likely to pray (Acts 2:1, 15; cf. 1:14).
- H. Peter also prayed at noon (Acts 10:9) and at evening (Acts 10:30; 3:1).
- I. Clearly, prayer was of primary importance and treated as a priority.

CONCLUSION:

1. Is prayer a priority in my life?
2. What can I do to form a habit of daily prayer at set times?
3. What change will I make to give more time to prayer?

Practical Prayer

Exercises

Prayer Is Precious

1. Read John 11:41-42. What was Jesus' opinion of prayer? Did He value opportunities to speak to His Father in Heaven?
2. Do I view prayer the way Jesus did? Do I value the privilege of communication with God? In your prayers today, thank God for allowing you to pray and for hearing you.
3. Read Matthew 14:23 and Mark 1:35. Why do you think Jesus sought times to spend alone in prayer?
4. Read Matthew 6:5-6. Should we seek opportunities to pray in solitude? Why?
5. Read John 12:27-28. How did this prayer help Jesus face the cross?
6. If I do not value prayer, I will not pray as I should. How can I learn to view prayer as more than an item on a checklist? What does Jesus teach about the precious nature of prayer?